

2026

FEMISE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Speakers' Bios

Navigating Disruptions & Transitions in the
Mediterranean

Tarragona, Spain | 7–9 October 2026



56 SPEAKERS · 10 SESSIONS

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Welcoming Remarks



H.E. Amb. Senén Florensa

Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Spain & Vice President, FEMISE, France

H.E. Amb. Senén Florensa is the Executive President of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the vice president of FEMISE (the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences). He also serves as Chair of the EuroMeSCo General Assembly and Director of the quarterly *afkar/ideas* and the *IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook*.

A career diplomat with the personal rank of Ambassador, he previously served in various high-level diplomatic and academic positions. Ambassador Florensa holds degrees in Economic Science and Law from the University of Barcelona and completed his PhD in Economics at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, after doctoral studies at Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and New York University as a Fulbright scholar.

His distinguished career reflects a lifelong dedication to Euro-Mediterranean dialogue, development cooperation, and cultural exchange.



Raed Safadi

President, FEMISE, France & Managing Director, The Economic Research Forum (ERF), Egypt

Raed Safadi is the Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum and the president of FEMISE. He brings over three decades of senior international experience in macroeconomics, labor markets, economic development, trade policy, and international cooperation.

He has held leadership roles at major international and public institutions, and has advised governments, regional development banks, and UN agencies on fiscal sustainability, employment, trade, crisis response, and structural reform. A long-standing member of the ERF community since its inception, Dr. Safadi has published widely in refereed journals, books, and policy volumes on development, trade, globalization, global value chains, and economic reform. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Georgetown University.



Santiago Castellà

President, Port Authority of Tarragona, Spain

Santiago J. Castellà Surribas has been President of the Port Authority of Tarragona since October 2024.

He holds a degree in Mathematics from the University of Barcelona and brings extensive experience within the Port Authority of Tarragona, where he has held several senior positions.

Over the course of his career, he has played a key role in strategic planning, notably as Head of the Economic and Administration Department and later as Director of the Strategy, Quality and Innovation Department. Prior to his current role, he served as Director of the Port Authority of Tarragona.



Francesc Homs

President of the Spanish Committee of LECE (the European League for Economic Cooperation), Spain

Francesc Homs Ferret is a Spanish economist, corporate advisor, and former politician who currently serves as the President of the Spanish Committee of the European League for Economic Cooperation (ELEC). An alumnus and former professor of Spanish Economics at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, he built an extensive legislative career as a member of Spain's Congress of Deputies (1989–1999) and later served as the Minister of Economy and Finance for the Government of Catalonia from 2001 to 2003.

After transitioning to the private sector, Homs Ferret assumed prominent corporate governance roles, currently serving as the Executive Chairman of INEO Corporate, a Board Director for CriteriaCaixa, and a Board Trustee of the "la Caixa" Foundation. Additionally, he champions regional academic and civic initiatives as the Chair of the University Advisory Board for the International University of Catalonia (UIC) and as a member of the Círculo de Economía.



Vale Pino Lara

Delegate for European Projects, Provincial Government of Tarragona, Spain

Vale Pino Lara is Delegate for European Projects at the Provincial Government of Tarragona and a member of its governing board. He also serves as Mayor of Torredembarra, bringing strong experience in local governance and regional development.

In his role, he oversees European project initiatives and contributes to strategic areas including public service delivery, talent development, and territorial cooperation. With a background in chemical analysis and experience in the environmental services sector, he combines technical expertise with a long-standing career in public service.

He has been actively involved in municipal politics since 2007, holding various leadership positions, including First Deputy Mayor and councillor responsible for public services and infrastructure. He also represents the Provincial Government in several national and European networks related to local development and external relations, contributing to strengthening regional cooperation and engagement with European institutions.

The Mediterranean at a Turning Point: Resilience, Transformation and Regional Cooperation

SPEAKERS



H.E. Rania Al-Mashat

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Lebanon

Rania A. Al-Mashat is an Egyptian expert in economic diplomacy with over 25 years of experience in macroeconomic policy, central banking, development cooperation, and climate finance, with a strong focus on advancing climate action and gender equality through international partnerships. She served for eight consecutive years (2018–2026) as a minister across key portfolios, including tourism—becoming the first woman to hold the position—as well as international cooperation and planning and economic development.

Before her ministerial roles, she was Sub-Governor for Monetary Policy at the Central Bank of Egypt (2005–2016), where she played a central role in modernizing the bank's monetary policy framework. She also held positions at the International Monetary Fund as Advisor to the Chief Economist and later as Senior Economist. Throughout her career, she has operated at the intersection of policy, finance, and international cooperation, leading reforms and managing complex economic and institutional transitions.

A strong advocate of multilateralism, Al-Mashat has advanced innovative, partnership-driven approaches to development finance and international cooperation. She has published with institutions such as the IMF and the London School of Economics and has received numerous international awards recognizing her leadership. She holds a PhD and MA in Economics from the University of Maryland and a BA from the American University in Cairo, along with executive training from Harvard Kennedy School and Oxford's Saïd Business School.



Andrea Tinagli

Senior Associate Fellow, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Spain

Andrea Tinagli has over 30 years of experience in international finance, infrastructure investment, and European development cooperation. At the European Investment Bank (EIB), he held several senior roles, including leading delegations in Spain and Italy and overseeing operations across Europe. He has worked extensively on financing large-scale infrastructure, energy, and innovation projects.

His expertise covers development and blended finance, financial instruments, and sustainable investment strategies, with a recent focus on EU external cooperation and sustainable infrastructure in the Mediterranean, particularly the blue economy. He also co-created and co-chaired the Blue Mediterranean Partnership.

Tinagli studied at Bocconi University, HEC Paris, and ESADE, and regularly contributes to policy discussions and lectures on development finance and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.



Ouyoussef Lahoussine

Head of the Division for Economic Outlook Analysis and Economic Competitiveness, Directorate of Studies and Financial Forecasts (DEPF) at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Morocco

Ouyoussef Lahoussine is Head of the Economic Monitoring and Competitiveness Analysis Division at the Ministry of Economy and Finance. He is currently responsible for monitoring and analysing national economic and financial developments; monitoring the international economic environment and assessing its impact on the Moroccan economy; examining the implications of international agreements; and assessing the competitiveness of the national economy.

Mr. Ouyoussef holds a Master's degree in Public Economic and Financial Engineering from Mohammed V University, an MBA from the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM), and a degree in Statistics Engineering from the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (INSEA). Throughout his career at the Directorate of Studies and Financial Forecasts (DEPF), he has held several positions of responsibility including sectoral policy evaluation, economic impact analysis, monitoring of national and international economic developments, and analysis of economic competitiveness.



Juan Lugo

Ambassador, Mediterranean Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain

Juan Lugo is Ambassador for Mediterranean Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain. A graduate in Law from the Complutense University of Madrid, he joined the Spanish Diplomatic Service in 2001 and has held a number of senior positions within Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other public institutions.

His previous positions include Deputy Assistant Director General of the Diplomatic Information Office, Advisory Member in the Directorate General for International Relations of the Ministry of the Interior, Counselor in the Directorate General for Economic Diplomacy, and Deputy Assistant Director General for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (2022–2025).

Abroad, he has served as Consul and Deputy Chief of Staff at the Spanish Embassy in Equatorial Guinea, Cultural Counselor and Consul at the Spanish Embassy in Greece, Deputy Consul General in Uruguay, and Counselor at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union in Brussels.

Throughout his diplomatic career, he has focused particularly on Spain's relations with the Mediterranean and neighbouring regions, as well as EU neighbourhood and security policy and foreign policy toward the former Soviet republics. He has been awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic, the Officer of the Order of Civil Merit, the White Badge of the Order of the Civil Guard, and the Gold Cross of the Officer of the Order of the Phoenix of Greece.



H.E. Ahmed Rostom

Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt

H.E. Ahmed Rostom is Egypt's Minister of Planning and Economic Development. He brings extensive experience in international finance, financial sector policy, and economic development, with a career spanning national institutions and international organisations.

Prior to his appointment as Minister, he served as a Financial Sector Expert at the World Bank, working on global finance and markets and previously covering the East Asia and Pacific region. In Egypt, he held senior positions in financial sector policy at the Ministry of Investment, where he led the Financial Sector Policy Unit and Financial Services Policy Unit, and served at the Central Bank of Egypt as Head of the International Cooperation Unit at the Anti-Money Laundering Unit. He also gained experience in credit risk management at Egyptian Gulf Bank.

H.E. Ahmed Rostom holds a Master's degree in Economics and Social Policy Analysis from the University of York in the United Kingdom, as well as a Master's degree and Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University.

His areas of expertise include economic and financial policy, infrastructure development, financial markets, exchange rates, interest rates, fiscal policy, and the development of the green economy. His professional work has included contributions across several African countries, particularly in infrastructure sectors such as energy, transport, and ports, as well as efforts to strengthen economic policy and diversify sources of financing.



H.E. Amb. Fadi Hajali

Acting Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Spain

Ambassador Fadi Hajali has been appointed Secretary General Ad Interim in July 2026.

A career diplomat with over three decades of experience, Hajali has held senior diplomatic positions for Lebanon, including Head of mission to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg, as well as to Russia, Iran and Rome. He has also served as Head of Cabinet to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director of the MENA Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants in Beirut.

Throughout his career, he has focused on multilateral diplomacy, institutional coordination, and strategic engagement with European and regional partners. His tenure in Brussels was marked by sustained interaction with EU institutions and Mediterranean stakeholders, strengthening cooperation frameworks and dialogue mechanisms.

Reconfiguring Trade, Value Chains and Economic Integration in the Mediterranean

MODERATOR



Maryse Louis

General Manager, FEMISE, France

Maryse Louis is the General Manager of the FEMISE Network, an EU-Mediterranean research and policy network of more than 100 member institutes. She oversees FEMISE's programs and partnerships aimed at strengthening EU-Med dialogue through research, outreach, and communication strategies.

Prior to her current role, Dr. Louis served as General Secretary of FEMISE and Programs Officer at the Economic Research Forum (ERF). She holds a PhD in Economics from Aix-Marseille University (France), an MA in Economic Development, and a BSc in Statistics from Cairo University. Her research interests include innovation and knowledge economies, Water-Energy-Food nexus policies, entrepreneurship, migration, and inclusive development. She has co-authored several publications and serves as a reviewer for academic journals.

SPEAKERS



Ibrahim Saif

CEO, Jordan Strategy Forum; Former Minister of Energy & Mineral Resources and Former Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan

Ibrahim Saif is a Jordanian economist and former Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources (2015–2017) and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation (2013–2015). He is currently an independent consultant based in Amman, serving on several boards, as a Fellow at the Jordan Strategy Forum, and as Chairman of Rased.

He previously held senior roles including Vice President of Manaseer Group and CEO of the Jordan Strategy Forum, and has worked with institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, and Carnegie Middle East Center. Dr. Saif has also held academic positions at the University of London and Yale University. His current work focuses on energy transition and the evolving energy sector in the MENA region.



Walid Gamal El-Din

CEO, Algebra Capital Investment Company & Former Chairman of the Suez Canal Economic Zone, Egypt

Walid Gamal El-Din brings over 30 years of experience across both the public and private sectors, with a strong track record in investment, infrastructure, manufacturing, logistics, real estate, ports, and services across the MENA region. Most recently, he served as Executive Chairman of the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) for four years, where he played a pivotal role in enhancing its investment performance. Under his leadership, the SCZone significantly strengthened its position as a leading destination for manufacturing, value-added logistics, and port services, attracting major investments and reinforcing its regional and global competitiveness.



Jordi Torrent

Secretary General, MED Ports, Spain

Jordi Torrent is the Strategy Director of the Port of Barcelona, where he leads the development and implementation of the Port's IV Strategic Plan, aligning its priorities with evolving global and regional trade and logistics trends. With over 15 years of experience in the port, logistics, and rail sectors, he has played a key role in advancing intermodal transport, notably through the design and implementation of public-private partnership projects for inland terminals and rail services across Spain and France.

He also serves as Managing Director of B2B Logistics Busan Barcelona Hub and sits on the boards of several companies managing intermodal terminals in Spain and France. In addition, he is Secretary General of Medports and represents the Port of Barcelona in major international organizations, including WPCAP and ESPO. Jordi Torrent holds a Law degree from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, a Master's degree in International Affairs from the University of Barcelona, and has completed an advanced management program at ESADE Business School.



Lilia Hachem Naas

Senior Consultant and Expert in International Trade and Sustainable Economic Development

Lilia Hachem Naas is a senior expert in international trade and economic development with nearly 30 years of experience across Africa, the Arab region, and South Asia. She has held leadership roles at ITC and UNECA, managing large programmes and building partnerships with governments and institutions.

She is a strong advocate for women's entrepreneurship, having pioneered ITC's first e-commerce programme for women in Africa and similar initiatives in MENA. Her work focuses on trade policy, export strategies, and strengthening MSME competitiveness and regional integration. She holds graduate degrees from the University of Maryland.

Accelerating Green Transformation, Resilience and Competitiveness in the Mediterranean

MODERATOR



Hala Abou-Ali

Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), Cairo University, Egypt

Hala Abou-Ali is Head of the Economics Department at FEPS, Cairo University, and a Research Fellow at ERF, specializing in environmental and development economics. She holds a PhD from the University of Gothenburg and has extensive experience in valuing and modelling environmental resources in developing countries.

She has held several senior academic and policy roles, including Vice President of the Institute of National Planning, leadership positions at the University of London and LSE programmes in Egypt, and Secretary General of the National Council of Childhood and Motherhood. A former Member of Parliament, she has also led major research initiatives at ERF and worked with international organizations such as UNDP, WHO, and the World Bank on issues including climate change, poverty, and sustainable development.

SPEAKERS



Jauad El Kharraz

Water Energy Climate Experts Network, Morocco

Jauad El Kharraz is CEO and Founder of WECEN in Morocco and a leading expert in water, energy, and climate, with over 25 years of international experience across more than 60 countries. He serves as Co-Chair of key regional initiatives, including the Mediterranean Clean Energy Network and TERAMED, and advises major international organizations such as IRENA, IEA, FAO, and UN ESCWA.

He previously held senior leadership roles as Executive Director of RCREEE and Head of Research at MEDRC, where he managed large-scale programmes and mobilized over \$150 million in climate and donor funding. His expertise covers the water-energy-food-ecosystems (WEFE) nexus, renewable energy, innovative desalination, green hydrogen, and climate policy.

Dr. El Kharraz holds a PhD in Physics (Earth Sciences) from the University of Valencia and a diploma in management and strategy from SKEMA Business School. He is widely published and a frequent keynote speaker at major global forums, including UN Climate Conferences (COP26–COP30) and international energy summits.



Ghada Darwish

Chair of the Egyptian Renewable Energy Association, Egypt

Ghada Darwish is a senior energy executive with over 24 years of experience in renewable energy, infrastructure, and sustainable investment across Egypt, Africa, and Europe. She currently serves as Chair of the Egyptian Renewable Energy Association (EREA), where she works with policymakers and industry stakeholders to advance Egypt's energy transition and strengthen a competitive electricity market aligned with national renewable targets. She is also Egypt Country Director at Globeleq and Managing Director of DEM Co., with previous leadership roles in major renewable projects, including large-scale solar developments at Benban Solar Park.

Throughout her career, she has contributed to the development and financing of landmark energy and industrial projects across the region. Ghada serves on several boards and has received international recognition for her leadership, including participation in the Fortune/U.S. State Department Most Powerful Women program and being named among the Top 50 Women Shaping the Egyptian Economy.



Alexia Faus

Programme Manager, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Spain

Alexia Faus is Programme Manager at the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), leading the institute's work on climate change. Previously, she spent almost five years at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) in Bonn, conducting policy research and providing policy advice on Just Transitions, climate governance and policy coherence. She has also worked with UNESCWA and consulted for the ILO.

Her research has been published in leading peer-reviewed journals, including *Applied Energy*, *Climate Policy*, *Environmental Policy & Governance*, *Sustainable Development*, *Journal of Integrative Environmental Sciences* and *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*. She has presented her findings at international academic conferences and policy fora, including the UNFCCC and the Global Environment Facility.

Alexia will be defending her PhD at Utrecht University this month. She holds an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Oxford (pursued with a full scholarship from 'la Caixa' Foundation), and a First Class Honours BA from Durham University.

Digital Transformation, Innovation and Competitiveness in the Mediterranean

MODERATOR



Joan Rosàs

Director of International Institutional Affairs, CaixaBank, Spain

Joan Rosàs is Head of International Financial Institutions at CaixaBank and oversees its representative offices abroad. He joined “la Caixa” in 1993 and has played a key role in its international expansion, after earlier roles at BBV New York.

He is actively involved in several international organizations, including the Club of Rome, where he serves on the executive committee, and holds positions with the Spain-India Foundation, Spain-US Council, and Spain-China Foundation. He also contributed as an expert for the European Commission on financial services integration.

SPEAKERS



Adel Ben Youssef

Professor of Economics, Université Côte d'Azur, France

Adel Ben Youssef is Professor of Economics at Université Côte d'Azur and a researcher at the CNRS laboratory GREDEG (UMR 7321). He is also an associate researcher at the Economic Research Forum (ERF) in Cairo and the Global Labour Organization (GLO) in Bonn. An international expert on digital and ecological transitions, he regularly advises international institutions on issues related to technological change, sustainability, and economic development.

He is also a founding member of the African Association of Artificial Intelligence and Industry 4.0 (AISMA). Professor Ben Youssef served as a negotiator for Tunisia on climate finance at the UN Climate Conferences (COP23–COP29) between 2017 and 2024. He has authored more than 100 academic publications in leading international journals and serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Platforms* (MDPI) and Associate Editor of *Development and Sustainability in Economics and Finance* (Springer) and *Green and Low-Carbon Economy*. His research impact places him among the top economists globally according to RePEc and ScholarGPS rankings.



Inmaculada Martínez-Zarzoso

Director, Institute of International Economics, Jaume I University, Spain

Inmaculada Martínez-Zarzoso is a professor at the University of Göttingen and director of the Institute of International Economics at Universitat Jaume I. She is president of INFER and affiliated with several research centers in migration and data science. A highly prolific scholar, she has authored four books and over 150 academic articles in international trade, development, and environmental economics.

She has advised major global institutions such as the World Bank, OECD, and regional development banks. Her research appears in leading journals, and her current work focuses on trade agreements, migration, networks, and sustainable global value chains, with active dissemination through media and public platforms.



Amira Qarqash

Digital Skills Development Manager, Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Jordan

Amira Qarqash is the Digital Education and Skills Development Manager at Jordan's Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, where she leads national initiatives aimed at strengthening digital skills, education digital transformation and creating stronger pathways between education and employment under the Youth, Technology and Jobs Project. Her work includes leading the development and nationwide rollout of Jordan's Digital Skills Curriculum for public schools, reaching more than 1.6 million students annually and introducing learners to areas including AI, data, cloud computing, IoT, and emerging technologies.

She also leads programs connecting university students and job seekers with industry-recognized skills and professional certifications, working across 28 Jordanian universities and in partnership with global technology providers including Microsoft, AWS, Oracle and others. Her portfolio extends to large-scale training-for-employment programs, university-industry partnerships, and international collaborations designed to improve the relevance of education to evolving labor market needs and expand employment opportunities for Jordanian youth.

With an MBA from the University of Jordan and more than 15 years of experience across education, training, and workforce development, Amira has focused her career on translating technology and private-sector demand into scalable skills-development programs.

Employment Transitions, Skills and Inclusive Labour Markets in the Mediterranean

MODERATOR



Roger Albinyana

Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) & General Secretary, FEMISE, France

Roger Albinyana is the Managing Director of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the general secretary of FEMISE. Roger has been working at the IEMed since 2016 as director of the Euro-Mediterranean Policies department until he was appointed Managing Director. He's also an associate professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Barcelona, where he teaches international economic policy.

Roger is also a member of the Advisory Council of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) and he was a board member at CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs) from 2017 to 2025. Since 2025 he is the co-chair of the Enabling Innovation Ecosystem Stakeholder Board of the future for PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area).

Prior to joining the IEMed, Roger served as Secretary General for Foreign and EU Affairs of the Government of Catalonia (2013–2016) and was a member of the EU Committee of the Regions. From 2010 to 2013 he served as advisor on private sector development at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean. He holds a PhD in Economic History from the University of Barcelona and a MA in Economic History from the same university, a BA in Economics from Pompeu Fabra University and a BA in Business Administration and Management from the Open University of Catalonia.



Anda David

Senior Economist and Scientific Coordinator, EU-AFD Research Facility on Inequalities, AFD, France

Anda David is a Senior Researcher at the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), currently based in Mexico City, with previous postings in Paris and Johannesburg. She holds a PhD in Development Economics from Université Paris Dauphine, along with a postdoctoral fellowship from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and advanced degrees from leading French universities. Her research focuses on inequality, labor markets, migration, and just transitions in developing and emerging economies, with particular regional expertise in South Africa, Egypt, Tunisia, and more recently Mexico.

Working at the intersection of research and policy, she translates empirical findings into operational strategies and development finance instruments. At AFD, she provides scientific and strategic coordination for the Research Facility on Inequalities, leading multi-country research agendas and policy dialogue on the social dimensions of the green transition. She also contributes to the design of policy-based loans and frameworks addressing inequality, employment, social protection, and territorial disparities. She has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and international reports, and serves on advisory boards and expert panels focused on inequality research in Africa and Latin America.



Nikola Radovanovic

Senior Innovation & Human Capital Policy Expert, European Training Foundation (ETF), Italy

Nikola Radovanovic is a senior innovation and human capital policy expert and currently serves as a Human Capital Development Expert at the European Training Foundation (ETF). His work at ETF focuses on skills ecosystems, vocational excellence and the integration of skills into investment and economic development. He holds a PhD in Organisational Sciences and an MSc in Economics, both from the University of Belgrade.

His research interests include smart specialisation, innovation ecosystems, human capital development and the contribution of skills and innovation to competitiveness and sustainable economic transformation. His expertise spans innovation and skills policy, policy evaluation, stakeholder engagement, institutional capacity building and cooperation between education, business and public institutions.

Nikola brings more than 20 years of experience working with European institutions and partners across EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood countries. Before joining ETF, he led the Smart Specialisation and Innovation Ecosystems team at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, guiding policy work across 13 countries. He has also led evaluations of smart specialisation strategies and advised on the design and implementation of innovation policies. Throughout his work, he has focused on translating evidence and dialogue with stakeholders into practical reforms and partnerships.



Amal Mowafy

Jordan Country Coordinator & Regional Employment Policy Specialist, International Labour Organization (ILO), Jordan

Amal Mowafy is an Egyptian international development professional with over 25 years of experience in leadership, management, and advisory roles, delivering high-impact, evidence-based interventions to advance social justice, particularly in employment and education. Since July 2024, she has been serving as Jordan Country Coordinator and Regional Senior Employment Specialist for Arab States at the International Labour Organization (ILO). Prior to this, she was Chief of Party for the USAID-funded Egyptian Pioneers program, a USD 86 million workforce development initiative.

She has also held academic roles as an Adjunct Faculty member in the Economics Department and as a research fellow at the Access to Knowledge for Development (A2K4D) center at the American University in Cairo (AUC). Her career spans diverse sectors, including the United Nations (ILO), development partners (USAID), the Government of Egypt, the private sector (Procter & Gamble), and academia, alongside continuous engagement with civil society. Within the ILO, she has held several key positions, including Senior Programme Officer for North Africa, Chief Technical Advisor for a Canada-funded youth employment project in Egypt, and Regional Youth Employment Specialist for Africa.

Amal Mowafy holds a Master's degree in Public Administration with a specialization in International Organizations and a BA in Economics from AUC, both with highest honors. She has also completed all but dissertation requirements for a PhD in Public Administration at Cairo University.

Regional Integration, Trade Reconfiguration and Resilient Value Chains

MODERATOR



Amirah El-Haddad

Senior Economist & Professor of Economics, IDOS, Germany

Amirah El-Haddad is a Senior Economist in the Department of Transformation of Economic and Social Systems at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), and Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University (on leave). She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Maryland at College Park (2005), during which time she also worked for the World Bank. She is a Research Fellow of the Economic Research Forum and serves on the board of a number of organizations.

El-Haddad specializes in industrial organization, industrial policy, informality and the political economy of the Arab World in general and of Egypt in particular. She has published on firm behaviour, dispute resolution, gender wage discrimination, informality and telecommunication regulation. She published on the social contract in *World Development* and in *Studies in Comparative International Development*, the role of political connections in COVID policy response in the *Journal of Development Studies*, on political patronage in textiles and clothing in the *European Journal for Development Research*, on the link between informality and inequality in *Applied Economics* and on the welfare effects of institutional and regulatory reform in public utilities in the *Journal of Development Effectiveness and Utilities Policy*.

PRESENTERS



Lewoye Bantie Baylie

Department of Economics and Statistics (DISES), University of Salerno, Italy

Lewoye Bantie is a PhD student in Public Economics at the University of Salerno. His research interests broadly include international trade, environmental and climate policy, and development economics. He holds an MSc in Economics and a BA in Economics from Addis Ababa University.

Lewoye has previous experience in teaching, research, and policy analysis, and has worked with both academic and applied research institutions. His work aims to contribute to policy-relevant economic analysis, with a particular focus on trade, sustainability, and economic development.



Sylvana Wafik

PhD Student, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University; Assistant Lecturer, University of London – European Universities in Egypt

Sylvana Wafik is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, and an Assistant Lecturer at the London School of Economics – European Universities in Egypt (EUE). She holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics (with a minor in Statistics) from Cairo University and a Master's in Development Economics from Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Her research focuses on international and development economics, with particular interest in trade, global value chains, labor markets, and sustainable development. She has strong expertise in applied econometrics and quantitative methods, using tools such as Stata, EViews, SPSS, and Python.

Her work has been presented at international conferences, including FEMISE events, and her research on global value chains and social upgrading is forthcoming in the *Montenegrin Journal of Economics*. She has also gained research experience with CAPMAS and international exposure through the Erasmus+ program at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Spain.



Rafaa Mraihi

Full Professor and Associate Researcher at MOCFINE, Higher School of Business of Tunis, University of Manouba, Tunisia

Rafaa Mraihi is a Professor of Transport and Logistics Sciences at the Higher School of Commerce of Tunis (ESCT), University of Manouba. He coordinates academic programs in transport and logistics and teaches courses in transport economics, supply chain management, and international trade.

He holds a Ph.D. in Economics, specializing in transport economics and logistics. His research focuses on transport and maritime economics, logistics performance, digital transformation, and global supply chains, with recent work examining geopolitical risks, climate change, and disruptions in maritime corridors.

Professor Mraihi has strong expertise in advanced quantitative methods, including panel data econometrics and efficiency analysis. He has published in international journals and actively contributes to academic conferences and collaborative research on sustainable and resilient transport systems.



Doaa Salman

Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, MSA University, Egypt

Doaa Salman is Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences at MSA University and a Professor of Economics. She holds a Ph.D. from Ain Shams University and is a Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy (FHEA).

Her research focuses on economic policy, financial management, sustainable development, and Mediterranean integration, with expertise in macroeconomics, financial governance, and academic leadership. With over 25 years of experience, she has held several senior roles at MSA University, including Vice Dean and Head of the Economics Department.

Professor Salman has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and serves as Chief Editor of the *MSA-Management Sciences Journal*. She is actively engaged in international academic networks and policy advisory work, contributing to leadership training programs and supervising numerous postgraduate theses.

DISCUSSANTS



Yasmine Eissa

Assistant Professor of Economics, AUC, Egypt

Yasmine Eissa is an assistant professor of economics specializing in international trade. She has teaching experience at different universities at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. At the undergraduate level, she teaches international trade and econometrics. At the graduate level, she taught advanced international trade at the joint masters in development program between Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and Cairo University.

Her research interests are at the intersection of global value chains, innovation, and labor markets. Her studies focus on emerging regions and are published in refereed journals on international trade. She received multiple recognitions on her work, including the Ibn Khaldun prize award 2023 and the EMANES 2023 best paper award. At present, she is working on global value chains and female employment in the Middle East and North Africa jointly with the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS).



Anna Ferragina

Associate Professor, Department of Economics & Statistics, University of Salerno, Italy

Anna M. Ferragina is Associate Professor of Economic Policy and PhD Supervisor at the Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Salerno (Italy). She is a Member of the FEMISE Board and Scientific Committee, serves on the Scientific Committee of the Mediterranean Economies Report, and is a Board Member of the *Journal of Economic Integration*. She has coordinated and participated in research projects funded by the World Bank, European Commission, CNR, and other international and national institutions, and currently acts as Erasmus mobility coordinator at DISES (UNISA).

Her research interests include trade, innovation economics, knowledge-intensive services, regional economics, firm dynamics, and foreign direct investment (FDI), with a particular focus on the MENA region. Dr. Ferragina has published widely in peer-reviewed journals such as *World Economy*, *Journal of Technological Transfer*, and *Applied Economics*, and co-edited the book *Innovation, Globalization, and Firm Dynamics: Lessons for Enterprise Policy* (Routledge, with Erol Taymaz and Kamil Yilmaz).

Sustainability Transitions, Resource Resilience and Green Transformation in the Mediterranean

MODERATOR



Stella Tsani

Associate Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece & FEMISE Board Member

Stella Tsani is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, with expertise in energy and natural resource economics, sustainable development, and economic policy, applying systems-based and quantitative approaches to sustainability transitions. She is the 2025 EUSEW Women in Energy Award winner, recognized by the European Commission for her outstanding contributions to Europe's energy transition.

She is actively engaged at the science-policy interface, contributing to major international processes such as IPBES, UNEP GEO-7, and UNESCO's 8th Science Report. She has also contributed to the work of the IPCC and international organizations such as the IEA. She is a member of international scientific networks, including the Global Young Academy and the Young Academy of Europe.

PRESENTERS



Oussama Neffati

Mohammed V University, Morocco

Oussama Neffati is a PhD candidate in Economics at the Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences (FSJES Agdal), Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco. His research focuses on environmental economics, applied macroeconomics, and climate policy, with particular emphasis on carbon taxation, ecological transition, and Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) modeling. He holds a Research Master's degree in Economics from Mohammed V University, where his thesis examined the macroeconomic effects of carbon tax policy in Morocco.

His work combines macroeconomic modeling with empirical evaluation methods, including Difference-in-Differences (DiD), Synthetic Control Methods (SCM), and panel data econometrics. He is proficient in R, MATLAB/Dynare, LaTeX, EViews, and SPSS. His current research explores the macroeconomic, environmental, and distributional impacts of carbon pricing and sustainable transition policies in Morocco and the Euro-Mediterranean region.

In addition to his research, he has contributed to workshops on impact evaluation methods and has participated in several academic conferences and research events. His broader interests include green growth, public policy evaluation, economic complexity, sustainable development, and evidence-based policymaking.



Andrés Artal-Tur

Technical University of Cartagena, Spain

Andrés Artal-Tur, PhD, is Full Professor in the Department of Economics at Technical University of Cartagena (Spain) and Research Associate in the Institute of International Economics, University of Valencia (Spain). His main research interest is in International, Regional, and Tourism Economics.

Research topics in International Economics include the study of trade and migration topics, economic integration processes and factors leading to socio-economic inequalities. Regional Economics include the analysis of location choices of economic agents (firms, people) and the role played by external effects/spillovers in this setting. He is also a user of Spatial Econometric techniques to better understand the role of geography in shaping economic processes.

Finally, he shows expertise in Tourism Economics and Marketing, including the analysis of tourists' behaviour, tourism marketing and destination planning. More recently he has been developing new research in the field of tourism sustainability and systems of indicators. Prof. Artal-Tur has extensively published in international impact journals, edited books and attended international conferences.



Tunç Durmaz

Department of Economics, Yıldız Technical University, Türkiye

Tunç Durmaz is a Professor of Economics at Yıldız Technical University, İstanbul, specializing in energy economics, climate policy, and the economics of mitigation pathways. His research covers the economics of climate change; Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS); technological change and green growth; circular economy; electricity markets; and environmentally-extended input-output models. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH) and was previously a Postdoctoral Fellow at the City University of Hong Kong, a Visiting Professor at the Solar Academy Graduate School (INES, France), and a Visiting Fellow at the Toulouse School of Economics.

Bridging theory and practice, he has advised national planning bodies and international organizations, serving as Rapporteur for the Green Growth Commission of Türkiye's Twelfth Development Plan and as a consultant to the IFC-World Bank and TTGV. He co-leads Working Group 1 of the EU COST Action TrANsMIT on the techno-economic analysis of carbon mitigation technologies, is Work Package Leader and YTU Principal Investigator in the Horizon Europe CETPartnership project INTACT on CCS infrastructure, and is Principal Investigator of a TÜBİTAK project analyzing the impacts of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism on the Turkish economy.

Recognized as a Climate Pioneer by TTGV's Climate Lab Program, he has published in journals including *Energy Economics*, *Energy Policy*, *Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews*, and the *Journal of Macroeconomics*.



Hadjer Boulila

Faculty of Economics, Abou Bekr Belkaid University, Tlemcen, Algeria

Hadjer Boulila is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Tlemcen, Algeria. She holds a Ph.D. in Financial Econometrics from the same university, with a doctoral research mobility at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa.

Her research examines how resource-dependent economies in the Arab and Euro-Mediterranean region navigate disruptions and sustainability transitions, with a focus on macroeconomic resilience, climate policy design, and inclusive finance. She uses DSGE and CGE modeling, applied econometrics, and data-driven tools to inform policy in contexts of fiscal and environmental constraint. She has published in peer-reviewed journals, authored policy papers, and presented her work at international conferences. She also serves as an Economic and Data Analyst for the UNESCO Chair on Genomics and Biotechnologies.

DISCUSSANTS



Abeer Elshennawy

Professor of Economics, AUC, Egypt

Abeer Elshennawy received a bachelor of arts in economics from Cairo University, a master of arts in economics from The American University in Cairo (AUC) and a PhD in applied economics from the University of Minnesota in the United States. She is currently a professor at the Mohamed Shafik Gabr Department of Economics at AUC. She has taught a variety of courses in the area of environmental economics, growth and development, and macroeconomic and microeconomic theory.

She also worked as a senior economist at the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies in Cairo. She helped conduct applied research to promote the private sector's role in the Egyptian economy's development and identify the constraints that might impede this role. Her research interests are in international trade, the environment, and growth and development. She has published several articles addressing the issue of adjustment costs to trade liberalization and water pollution.



Majd Al Naber

Expert in Integrated Water Resources Management, Sustainability & WEFE Nexus, Jordan

Majd Al Naber is a specialist in sustainability and integrated water resources management and governance with more than 15 years of experience in programme management and regional engagement and collaboration across the WANA region and the north Mediterranean countries. Her work focuses on developing evidence-based research and policy, particularly in water and food security, water governance, climate resilience, the WEFE Nexus, human security and social justice.

She has extensive experience leading a royal policy think tank, supervising multidisciplinary teams, inspiring policy makers and engaging with governments, international organisations, donors and research institutions.

Digital Ecosystems, Firm-Level Innovation and SME Digitalisation in the Mediterranean

MODERATOR



Rafael de Arce

Professor of Econometrics, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

Rafael de Arce is Professor of Econometrics at the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM), where he has been teaching since 1993. He currently serves as Dean of the School of Economics and Business. A founding member of FEMISE through the AGREEM-UAM team, he has been actively engaged in the network's research activities since 1999.

Over the years, Professor de Arce has contributed to more than ten FEMISE research projects, focusing primarily on digitalization, the green economy, and migration flows. Together with the AGREEM-UAM team, he has produced over 40 publications within FEMISE, including policy briefs, project reports, academic articles, and monographic contributions. In addition to his research contributions, he served as FEMISE Treasurer for seven years and is currently a member of the FEMISE Board of Directors, representing the Spanish teams.

PRESENTERS



Dmitry Erokhin

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria

Dmitry Erokhin is a Research Scholar in the Cooperation and Transformative Governance Research Group within the Advancing Systems Analysis Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). His work focuses on the use of digital data, online public discourse, and search behavior to understand societal responses to climate risks, disasters, misinformation, and policy challenges. He holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Bonn, and a master's degree and a PhD in Economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business.

His interdisciplinary background combines economics, digital methods, governance analysis, and applied policy research. His recent work examines how digital traces can serve as early-warning signals for public concern, vulnerability, and emerging narratives around climate-related hazards. This expertise is particularly relevant to inclusive climate resilience in the Euro-Mediterranean region, where understanding public attention and discourse can support more responsive, participatory, and anticipatory adaptation governance.



Anis Lachiheb

Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management of Sousse, Tunisia

Anis Lachiheb is a university lecturer and researcher at the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management, University of Sousse, affiliated with the Laboratory of Economy, Management and Quantitative Sciences (LAREMFIQ) since 2005. He holds a PhD in Management Sciences (Higher Institute of Management, University of Sousse, 2012–2017) and a Master's degree in Money, Banking and Finance (Higher Institute of Business Studies, University of Carthage, 2003–2005), with WES equivalencies for his degrees.

His main research interests include labor market dynamics and unemployment forecasting, transport and logistics modelling, and applications of quantitative finance and predictive analytics in economic policy. Anis's areas of expertise cover econometrics, statistics and probability, predictive modelling and AI techniques, plus enterprise systems such as SAP; he is proficient with R, STATA, SPSS and EViews. He has multiple academic publications — for example work on unemployment decision-support systems and a 2022 article on parking-type choice behaviour — and holds a patent for a simulator of unemployment duration.

Relevant professional experience includes serving as Senior Employment Consultant at the National Agency for Employment and Self-Employment (ANETI, 2018–2020), consultancy and project-management training with the Agency for the Promotion of Industry, and leadership of the Association of Development and Technological Innovation (ADIT). He is an active member of FEMISE and a peer reviewer for journals such as *African Development Review*.



Rania Roushdy

Associate Professor, The American University in Cairo, Egypt

Rania Roushdy is an Associate Professor (Adj.) of Economics at the American University in Cairo and a Technical Advisor with the Population Council-Egypt office. Her research focuses on labor market dynamics, including school-to-work transitions, education-occupation mismatch, informality, and social protection, as well as poverty and inequality, women's empowerment, child labor, migration, and displaced populations.

Roushdy has led several impact evaluations of development programs targeting youth education and employment. She also directed major nationally representative longitudinal surveys in Egypt and Sudan. Prior to joining AUC, she served as Senior Research Manager of the Poverty, Gender, and Youth Program at the Population Council's Egypt Office. She holds a PhD and MA in Economics from SUNY Stony Brook and an MSc and a BSc in Statistics from Cairo University.



Sara El Yahyaoui

Assistant Professor, Rabat Business School & Adjunct Faculty, Université Moulay Ismail, Morocco

Sara El Yahyaoui is a Fulbright alumna and holds a Ph.D. in Finance. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Rabat Business School. She also serves as an Adjunct Faculty member at Université Moulay Ismail in Morocco, where she teaches undergraduate courses in finance and accounting.

Her research focuses on financial technology, competition, and bank performance, with a particular emphasis on emerging economies. She has presented her work at several international conferences and serves as a reviewer for academic journals. Her research combines advanced econometric methods with policy-relevant analysis to explore the evolving dynamics of the banking sector.

DISCUSSANTS



Cristina Boboc

Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

Cristina Boboc is a Full Professor of Statistics at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies and a Senior Researcher at the Institute of National Economy, Romanian Academy. She leads the Master Program in Applied Statistics and Data Science at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies.

With extensive experience in national and international research teams, her work spans migration, labor market vulnerabilities, and gender inequalities. Passionate about teaching and data exploration, she has authored over 30 scientific papers.



Nora Aboushady

IDOS, Germany

Nora Aboushady is Associate Professor of Economics at Cairo University, Associate Researcher at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), and Research Fellow at the Economic Research Forum. She obtained her BA of Economics from Cairo University and her MA and PhD from Sciences Po Paris.

Nora is a consultant to several regional and international organizations and was engaged in policy advice to the European Commission and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. She has a range of publications including articles in peer-reviewed journals, policy reports, and book chapters. Her areas of interest include international trade and trade policy, aid for trade, global value chains, food security, and digital and energy transitions, with a regional focus on the Middle East and North Africa.

Labour Market Transformation, Inequality and Inclusive Transitions in the Mediterranean

MODERATOR



Yasmine Fahim

Research & Programs Director, ERF

Yasmine Fahim has been the Director of Research and Programs of the Economic Research Forum (ERF) since January 1st, 2018. In this position, Fahim leads the implementation of the ERF's research agenda, managing multi-year research programs and the micro data collection and sharing program, as well as forging partnerships with like-minded institutions.

Prior to this, Fahim was the Programs Manager at the ERF. Fahim has over 20 years of experience working in development research management and micro data collection in the Middle East and North Africa.

PRESENTERS



Mounir Dahmani

Department of Economics, Higher Institute of Business Administration, University of Gafsa, Tunisia

Mounir Dahmani is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Gafsa, Tunisia, where he teaches at the Higher Institute of Business Administration (ISAEG). He holds a PhD in Economics from Université Paris-Sud and has conducted postdoctoral research in information economics at École Polytechnique, Paris.

His research focuses on the intersection of energy transition and digital transformation, with particular attention to green finance, environmental policy, eco-innovation, and the decoupling of growth from emissions. He also works on digitalisation, human capital, and inequalities in access to the digital economy in the Arab region.

Professor Dahmani specialises in advanced panel econometrics and has contributed to international research programmes on climate change, energy transition, and the future of work. He is affiliated with the Economic Research Forum and collaborates with GREDEG-CNRS, Université Côte d'Azur.



Chrysoula Chitou

University of Ioannina, Greece

Chrysoula Chitou is a PhD Candidate in Economics at the University of Ioannina, Greece. Her research focuses on the economics of climate change, energy, natural resource management, and political institutions.

Chrysoula contributes to academic and policy-oriented discussions through research publications, conference participation, and engagement in European and international initiatives. She is an IRDR Young Scientist and an active member of the Generation Youth Energy Network. She also serves as a Scientific Advisory Board member for the Climate Justice and COP31 portfolio of Youth and Environment Europe.



Rabeh Morrar

Associate Professor in Economics, An-Najah National University, Palestine

Rabeh Morrar received his Ph.D. in Innovation Economics from Lille 1 University, France, in 2011 and is an Associate Professor of Economics at An-Najah National University, Palestine. He currently serves as President (Head) of the National Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NTC). He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Development Economics at Northumbria University, UK, in 2019, and previously served as Director of Research at the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) (2020–2023).

His research focuses on innovation, public policy, TVET, labour markets, and sustainable development. He has published more than 30 articles in international peer-reviewed journals and is a Fellow of the Economic Research Forum (ERF), the Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS), and the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA).



Jérémie Fosse

eco-union, Spain

Jérémie Fosse is co-founder and Director of eco-union, an independent environmental think-and-do tank based in Barcelona. He leads research, policy advocacy, and international cooperation projects supporting a fair and sustainable ecological transition in Europe and the Mediterranean.

With a background in engineering, management, and public policy, he focuses on climate and energy policy, sustainable tourism and mobility, the green and blue economy, and environmental governance. He has over 20 years of experience working with public institutions, research organisations, civil society, and the private sector across Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Jérémie has coordinated numerous European and Mediterranean initiatives, advised on sustainability policies, and regularly contributes to international conferences and expert dialogues on climate and environmental issues.



Mona Said

Professor of Economics, The American University in Cairo (AUC) & FEMISE Board Member

Mona Said is a professor of economics at The American University in Cairo (AUC), where she previously earned her BA and MA, and later completed her MPhil and PhD at the University of Cambridge, focusing on labor market dynamics and institutional change in Egypt. She has held academic positions at SOAS, University of London, and brings extensive policy experience from roles with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, as well as consultancy work with organizations such as UN Women, the ILO, the European Training Foundation, and FEMISE.

She currently serves as a board member of FEMISE, is an academic affiliate at the London Middle East Institute (SOAS), and a research fellow at the Economic Research Forum. Her research centers on labor and human resource economics, inequality, gender disparities in employment, and the social and economic impacts of trade and finance. Her work has been widely published in leading international journals and academic books.



Moundir Lassassi

Research Director, CREAD, Algeria & FEMISE Board Member

Moundir Lassassi is a Research Director at the Research Centre in Applied Economics for Development (CREAD), Algeria, where he has been conducting research since 2006. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Aix-Marseille School of Economics (France) and a Ph.D. in Applied Economics and Statistics from the National School of Statistics and Applied Economics (ENSSEA), Algeria. In 2016, he obtained his Accreditation to Supervise Research.

Dr. Lassassi specializes in labour economics and development economics, with a particular focus on labour market dynamics in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. His research covers youth employment, women's economic participation, informal employment, school-to-work transitions, and social protection. He has extensive experience collaborating with international organizations on applied research and policy-oriented studies and has authored numerous publications on labour markets, economic development, and social policy.