

EuroMedMig



EuroMed Research Network on Migration



Universitat
Pompeu Fabra
Barcelona



***EuroMedMig Policy Paper
Series Number 4, February 2021***

***When North African emigration
turns into diasporas***

*Migration dynamics, collective action and
State responses*

Prepared by

Hassan Bousetta

*FNRS Research Professor (University of Liège,
CEDEM), Liège, Belgium*



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



JEAN MONNET
ACTIVITIES
30 YEARS
OF ERASMUS+
IN EUROPE

IMISCOE

The *EuroMedMig Policy Papers Series* aims to promote knowledge exchange and dialogue among actors working on a particular topic on Mediterranean Migration, comprising of international and Mediterranean organizations, stakeholders, civil society organizations, policymakers and politicians at all levels of government.

This Policy Paper is a summary of the National Workshop entitled “When West Mediterranean Emigration Turns into Diaspora: Migration Dynamics, Collective Action and State Responses” organized by CEDEM, University of Liège, on November 5th 2020 and held online, the recording is available [here](#). The agenda and list of participants of this Workshop are in section XI.

The main objective of this Policy Paper is to summarize the premises put forward during this National Workshop with the purpose of sharing what was considered as substantial policy-relevant arguments and recommendations for the development of *MedMig* policies.

The views and opinions reproduced do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Experts.

Contents

I.	Introduction.....	3
II.	From emigrant communities to global diasporas.....	4
III.	Demographic outlook of North African diasporas	4
IV.	The economic significance of North African diasporas	6
V.	The challenge of minimising brain-drain costs and simultaneously maximizing diaspora-led transfers of knowledge and technology.	6
VI.	Collective action aimed at mobilizing diasporas politically.....	7
VII.	Diasporic healthcare consumption strategies before and during the COVID19 pandemic	8
VIII.	Will North African diasporic cultural identities turn into diasporic creative cultural industries?	9
IX.	Concluding remarks and final recommendations	9
X.	References.....	11
XI.	National Workshop Program	12

Suggested citation:

Bousetta, H. (2021). “When Western Mediterranean diasporas turn into diasporas: migration dynamics, collective action and State responses”. *EuroMedMig Policy Paper Series*, no.4 (January): URL: <http://hdl.handle.net/10230/46488>



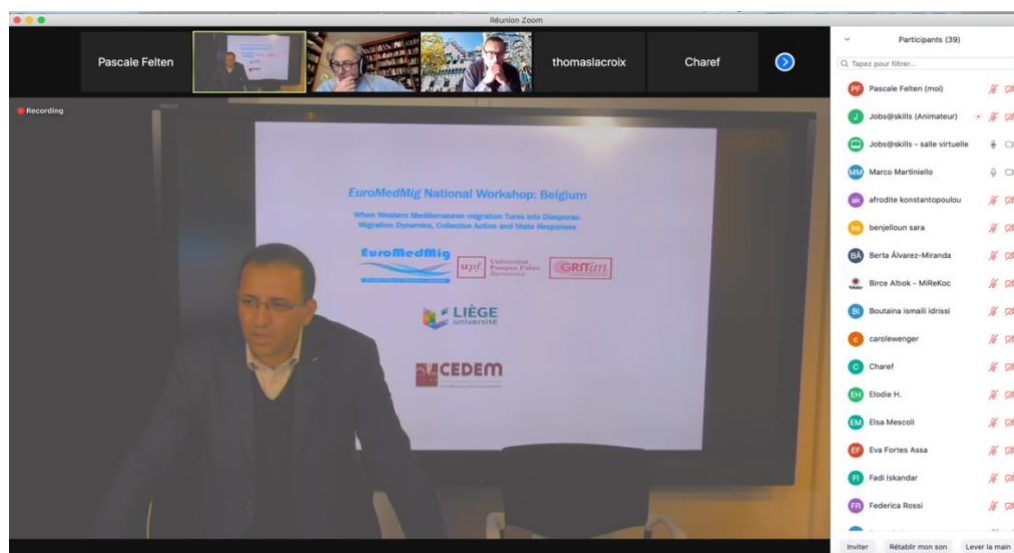
This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License. Click [here](#) to view a copy of this license.

I. Introduction

This policy-paper is the outcome of a workshop jointly organized by the Euromedmig network and the CEDEM (University of Liège). The meeting dealt with the role of migration and diaspora-formation in the Western Mediterranean region. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, this event was held online on November 5th, 2020. The initial guiding argument of the Belgian National Workshop was that processes concerned with redefining the links between home societies and so-called diasporas lie at the crossroads of new migration dynamics, new modes of collective action among emigrant communities and new State responses to these demands.

The Belgian National Workshop looked at the transformations of Western Mediterranean migration from both the perspective of host and home societies. The idea was to look at how and why Western Mediterranean migrant communities are being redefined as diasporas. What does this turn mean in terms of integration dynamics and home/host country relations? What are the issues at stake for both home and destination societies? What are, on the one hand, the implications in terms of remittances, circulation of care, brain drain for home societies, and on the other hand, the consequences in terms of “living together” in host societies?

In order to address these questions in a meaningful way, the workshop offered papers that addressed old and new migration patterns towards North West Europe. It firstly looked at conceptual issues such as the difference between diasporas and transnational migrant communities. It also looked at how gender inequalities are generated by migration and settlement patterns in destination societies. The working conditions of Mediterranean migrant women in labour intensive sectors such as agriculture was a case in point. The workshop also looked at new patterns of diaspora formation within the diaspora. Here, the focus was placed on how the generational experience of the second-generation West-Mediterranean migrant is giving rise to new aspirations and global mobilities (Montreal, Dubai, etc.). The meeting also analysed the claims-making activity of settled migrant communities. What are their expectations in terms of integration in host countries and reintegration in home countries? Finally, the meeting looked at how State responses are formulated toward migrants and diasporas’ demands.



Hassan Bousetta hosting the EuroMedMig National Workshop in Liege, Belgium, on the 5th of November 2020.

II. From emigrant communities to global diasporas

Immigration towards North West Europe from and through the West Mediterranean is a well-established and well researched phenomenon. Colonial ties between the region, on the one hand, France and Spain, on the other hand, have set the stage for the creation of a migration corridor that has been active for more than a century. This has generated a complex web of long-distance connections and networks. Transnationalism and diaspora are two notions developed and discussed within academia to refer to these phenomena (Bauböck & Faist, 2010). These distinct concepts are however sometimes used in confused, unclear or inadequate ways.

Although both diasporas and transnational collectives are social formations giving rise to shared identification, the sense of groupness associated to both should be clarified (Lacroix, 2018b). Generally, there is a difference to be made in terms of historical depth and geographical spread. While diasporic identities are seen as forged by long histories and, for some, by traumatic memories of dispersion, transnationalism is associated with more recent time-frames where individuals and collectives are simultaneously active in two or more different places. As Lacroix (2018b) suggests, transnationalism is about constructing and sustaining identities and social, economic, cultural and political practices across borders. He goes on arguing that the geographical outlook of diasporas is characterized by multipolar ties between an imagined homeland and a variety of places of settlement. Transnationalism is more evidently associated to the duality of the countries of origin and destination. Transnational actors tend to develop multiscalar ties, where translocal connections between places of departures and arrivals are central.

In recent years, the notion of diaspora has been strongly pushed forward through the rhetoric of Maghrebian State representatives. It has become commonsense to talk about a Moroccan, Algerian or Tunisian diaspora. While this is part of a broader global movement towards reshaping and renaming the nature of the relationships between international migrants and their home countries, it tends to conflate different notions leading to a form of conceptual confusion. How should we do justice to these complex understandings and nuances in practical and operational terms. While some are tempted to dismiss the use of diaspora for recent emigrant communities, others, in the footsteps of Robin Cohen (1997), are adopting and justifying the use of a modern view of diasporas that goes beyond the classical model of the forcibly dispersed diaspora.

With international institutions ranging from the World Bank to the OECD joining officials from emigration countries in the diaspora debate, the restrictive definition of diaspora already belongs to the past. No one can miss the increasing centrality the concept has acquired globally in policy-discussions dealing with migration and international development. This institutional push is of course no compelling reason for academics to abandon their quest for conceptual clarity. But there are also good reasons to keep using both notions of diasporas and transnationalism. Both are social formations evolving with their time. Recent scholarship tends to show this empirically so that no one can dismiss the case of transnational communities increasingly characterized by processes of diaspora-formation.

III. Demographic outlook of North African diasporas

Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria have large shares of their population residing abroad. Estimating their size is methodologically uneasy. To a large extent, Maghrebian diasporas take their roots in labour migration. Recent data indicates that 3 Million Maghrebian nationals live outside their country which represent half the size of Indians abroad, the largest group of international migrants worldwide. As indicated in Table 1, Moroccans are the largest group of migrants from the Maghreb region, with 1,7M settled abroad. Algerians come in second with

0,9M individuals. Tunisians make up half of the Algerian migrant population in the world with 0,4M people settled outside the country.

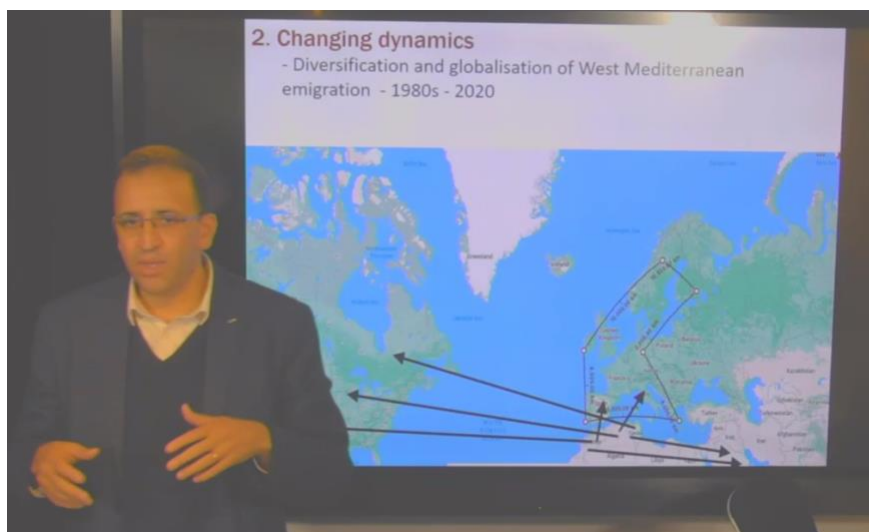
Table 1 - Stock of emigrant population from the Maghreb in 2019

	Total population	Stock of emigrant population	% of country's population
Algeria	43.851.000	921.727	2,1%
Morocco	36.911.000	1.748.251	4,7%
Tunisia	11.819.000	465.576	3,9%
Total	92.581.000	3.135.554	3,4%

Sources: United Nations. Retrieved from: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. International Migration, International migrant stock 2019.

Even though they overlap to a certain extent, diasporas are distinct and potentially broader entities than migrant populations as many migrants have acquired citizenship of their country of residence and mixed with local populations over the years. This lies at the basis of the statistical discrepancies observed in social and political discourses. With more than a century of emigration towards France and other destinations, the diasporas of the Maghreb are particularly difficult to estimate. In July 2020, the Algerian President Abdelmajid Tebboune mentioned the figure of 6 Million Algerians abroad ([See here](#)). Other estimations from the academic literature points to a lower size estimated at 4 Million (Labat, 2010). For Morocco, the same variations are observed. Estimations range between 3 and 5 Million residents overseas, which represent the 10th largest diaspora in the world. The Tunisians diaspora is estimated to represent more than a million people, one percent of the country's population.

While the diaspora remains predominantly associated with the social representation of the classical economic migrant, the reality is of increasing complexity and internal differentiation. This can be illustrated by the higher level of professional diversity and the emergence of highly-skilled categories trained in the countries of residence or brain-drain, those who have left North Africa for better job opportunities elsewhere. This is also reflected in the emergence of diasporas within the diasporas. As Jérémy Mandin has shown, new mobilities are currently driven by the second-generation giving rise to new mobilities towards global cities such as London, Dubai, Montreal, etc. (Mandin, 2020).

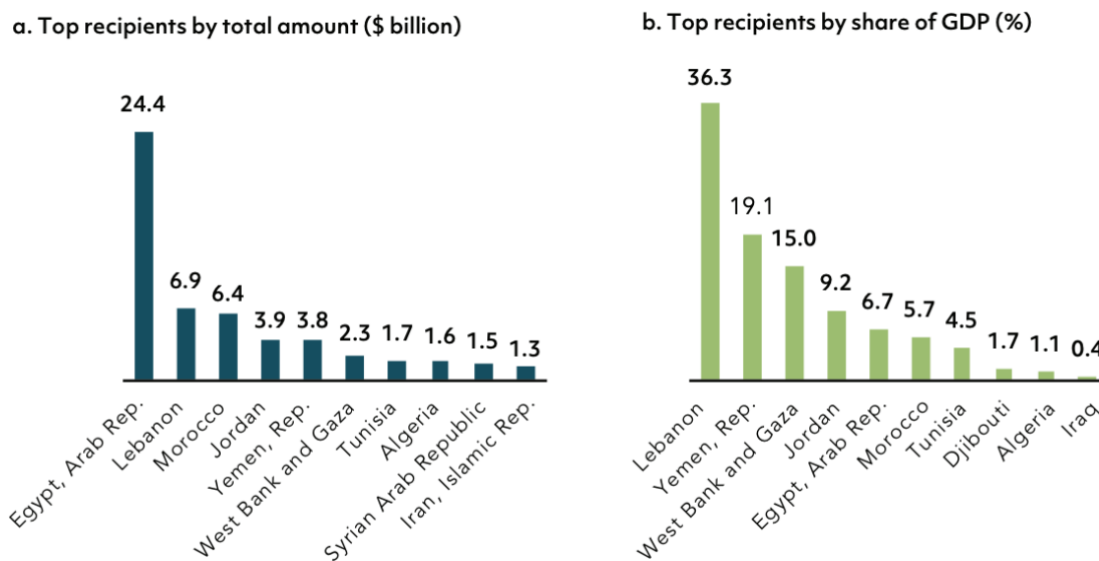


Hassan Bousetta at the EuroMedMig National Workshop in Liege, Belgium, on the 5th of November 2020.

IV. The economic significance of North African diasporas

The important role played by diasporas in the life of their countries of origin is illustrated by the size of the remittances sent back home. Nearly 10 billion USD have been transferred to three Maghreb countries in 2020 despite the overall negative impact of the COVID19 pandemic on migrant remittances. The volume of transfers is of particular significance for Morocco and Tunisia (5,7% and 4,5% of their GDP respectively). Remittances contribute to alleviate poverty and it has a positive effect on a wide range of variables including health and education.

Top recipients of remittances in the Middle East and North African Region, by total amount (Panel a) and share of GDP (Panel b), in 2020.



Sources: World Bank-KNOMAD staff estimates; World Development Indicators; International Monetary Fund (IMF) Balance of Payments Statistics.
Note: GDP = gross domestic product.

Maghrebian diasporas are expected to play a bigger role in the economic development of the region than they currently do. A recent study published by the OECD indicates for instance that Morocco does not take sufficient advantage of the economic potential of its diaspora. These weaknesses need to be tackled more offensively. There is a need to increase the policy coherence between diaspora policies and strategies dealing with domestic issues such as employment, education, environment, etc. (OECD, 2017). There is also a need for internal coherence at the level of policy-implementation. A better developmental impact of diasporas goes hand in hand with a better professional integration of non-migrant workers in the home country. The costs of the brain-drain for example may directly dwindle the benefits of diasporas development contribution.

V. The challenge of minimising brain-drain costs and simultaneously maximizing diaspora-led transfers of knowledge and technology.

On a regular basis, the North African media echoes the concerns of Maghreb leaders about the costs of brain drain. No later than in January 2020, a debate was raised on the matter in the Moroccan Parliament. It was announced that 10.430 Moroccan professionals had left the country in 2018, including 1.200 businessmen and women, 600 engineers and 630 medical doctors.

During the debate, the Prime Minister Salah Eddine El Othmani acknowledged the reality of the issue stating that Morocco is the third most impacted country in the world by the brain-drain. The Global Talent Competitiveness Index indicates that Algeria performs even worse in this respect. The two most populated countries of North Africa are also those most likely to lose a fraction of their educated elite.

The brain-drain is also part and parcel of the process of diaspora formation. Once abroad, highly skilled migrants tend to reconnect to the homeland in a variety of ways. This raises the challenge on how to foster the role of diaspora in supporting technology and knowledge transfer to countries of origin. North African governments have all begun a political dialogue with developed countries and within international policy circles on how to maximise the role of their diasporas. Discussions in the region are more advanced when it comes to remittances than when it is about strategies of knowledge and technology transfer. Part of the difficulty lies with an incomplete identification of the developmental projects carried out by diasporic actors. Morocco and Tunisia have developed bilateral projects aimed at stimulating the entrepreneurship of their diaspora in partnership with development agencies of countries such as France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, the UK and Germany, to name but a few. Mapping and sorting out typologies of diasporic investors, monitoring their activities and evaluating their impact is an exercise that remains difficult, for there is a lack of available data. Most often than not, transfer of knowledge and technologies towards North African countries play out below the radar of State institutions.

Indians which make up one of the largest diasporas in the world are often quoted as a successful example of diaspora mobilization. The professional success of Indian professionals of the Silicon Valley have permitted the development of offshoot projects back in India. This begs the question of whether North African countries are able to emulate the Indian model. It is true that there are important contextual differences which make it difficult to answer positively. However, the COVID19 crisis has shown the intellectual and scientific dynamism of Mediterranean diasporas. One should underline the role of people such as Moncef Slaoui, Belgian Moroccan researcher for the pharmaceutical company Moderna and the German Turkish couple, Özlem Türeci and Ugur Sahin, from BIONTech Pfizer. Their role in discovering the COVID19 vaccine is an illustration of the potential of Mediterranean diasporas, both from the Eastern and Western sides of the region. What their example illustrates is that diasporas have the potential to develop economic activities and sustain innovation simultaneously in different countries and continents.

VI. Collective action aimed at mobilizing diasporas politically

Understanding the logic of diasporic collective action aimed at mobilizing diasporas politically necessitate the elaboration of a periodisation linking each time-frame to the internal logic of emigration from the Maghreb, to the domestic political context in the three countries concerned and to the political situation in the countries of residence. Now, the collective action and transnational political activity of North African diasporas dates back to the colonial period. Anti-colonial Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian liberation movements all had mobilizing activities outside the colonised territory, and often specifically in the French metropolis. There is a historical depth to the collective action of North Africans beyond borders. It is a very rich history, by and large, unwritten. It is beyond the scope of this paper to offer a historical analysis of the different generations of movements and actors who contributed to shape a sense of transnational critical political consciousness among emigrants.

In recent years, the Arab Spring protests have been carefully scrutinized by the diasporas. They have also been concerned by the other political after-effects of these protests. In 2016-17, Morocco faced the emergence of protests in a traditional emigration region in the North East, the

Rif (Bousetta, 2018). Since February 2020, the Algerian State has also been shaken by a powerful protest movement, the Hirak, which is also carefully observed and supported from abroad. This illustrates the supportive role diaspora often play in echoing the political conflicts of the homeland.

Migration-related conflict within societies of residence is also mediated by long-distance networks. The struggle of the Strawberry Ladies (Dames de Fraise) studied by Chadia Arab offers an example of a local protest of female Moroccan migrant workers which ended up receiving wide public attention in Europe and Morocco. This was the result of the political amplification provided by Moroccan voluntary associations elsewhere in Spain and in Europe. These transnational claims-making offered a decisive strategic support to the female workers engaged in a local conflict with their abusive employers.

One should finally mention the question of external voting for diasporas that has been debated and dealt with in different terms in the three central Maghreb countries. Tunisians extended the right and possibility to vote from abroad after the Jasmin Revolution of 2010. Algeria, on its side, had a long practice of extending voting rights to their citizens abroad. The situation is more complex and conflictual in Morocco. While Moroccans are allowed to participate in referendums, they are not entitled to vote from abroad. All Moroccans have voting rights but only within Morocco. Voting from afar is not permitted although it has been the basis of a strong claims-making activity among diasporic associations since 2006.

VII. Diasporic healthcare consumption strategies before and during the COVID19 pandemic

Securing access to social rights and healthcare entitlements is an important preoccupation for any internationally mobile individual upon settlement in a new destination country. There is sizeable literature documenting the various linkages between immigration and health. What is less known is the increasing role played by healthcare-driven mobilities sometimes also called 'medical tourism'. These are well known in North Africa but they were generally of a South North nature. What is at stake today is the reverse. New cross-borders health practices are re-shaping how medical care is accessed transnationally both within the East Mediterranean (i.e. Turkey) and West Mediterranean (ie. Tunisia). With the increasing globalization of healthcare governance, migrants are responding to these new geographies of medical care opportunities as much as non-migrants do. In the North African context, the PhD study of Carole Wenger is pioneering in this respect. Tunisia being a major destination for medical tourism in the region, her ongoing research shows how Tunisians are balancing healthcare opportunities between here and there. In contrast to non-migrants, the consumption of medical care by Tunisians in their country of origin give rise to the production of new bonds with Tunisia and to the emergence of a diasporic model of medical mobilities. In other words, pre-existing ties with Tunisia are shaping a transnational way of consuming medical care while the latter shape new affective ties which have sometimes been described as expressions of medical patriotism.

The COVID19 pandemic has temporarily disrupted the model but other highly interesting practices are also emerging in parallel. Diasporic Tunisian organization have allowed a range of solidarity initiatives to blossom during the crisis. They range from collecting funds for vulnerable groups to offering online medical assistance. Similar dynamics have been observed among Moroccan and Algerian diasporic organization. The transnational consumption and provision of medical care offers a promising new area for studying how diasporas position themselves in relation to healthcare. It remains however, difficult to compare the Tunisian case with the Algerian and Moroccan one, as this remains an under-researched area in these countries.



EuroMedMig National Workshop in Liege, Belgium, on the 5th of November 2020

VIII. Will North African diasporic cultural identities turn into diasporic creative cultural industries?

Diasporic lifestyles are a source of richness for themselves as well as for others. Diaspora are permanently in touch with cultural negotiations involved in migratory and transnational experiences. How can North African diaspora promote the role of cultures and interculturalism for leveraging increased transnational cooperation and development.

This is a broad and complex debate that is dependent on our conceptions of culture. From the vantage point of receiving societies, it is now well established that a diverse workforce is an economic asset. There is evidence of increased productivity and economic impact for companies open and welcoming of cultural diversity. There is however an alternative way to look at the cultural role of diasporas, from the standpoint of the country of origin this time.

Culture can also be apprehended as an element of the creative economy rather than as a factor of distinction and identity. In France, the economy of cultural goods represents more than the car industry. With the breakthrough of digital communication, the creative sector is now worth more than 1000 billion USD worldwide. Diaspora and transnationalism also have importance in this respect. Cultural goods have always been intensively exchanged between homelands and the destination countries. Some made an impact thanks to the support of a diasporic base and went on to succeed independently of any diasporic support. The global success of the Raï Algerian popular music is a case in point. The same holds true for the successful Moroccan music producer Red One whose biography is one of a formerly undocumented emigrants becoming a world-acclaimed popstar as well as an iconic representative of the Moroccan diaspora.

The question now facing North African countries of origin is whether they will be able to transform these diasporic successes into economically sustainable cultural industries.

IX. Concluding remarks and final recommendations

The analysis of the North African emigrant community's transnationalism and processes of diaspora formation have highlighted the significance of both diaspora formation processes and the dynamism of transnational activities. Diaspora and transnationalism studies are not contradictory epistemological gazes. Both are useful resources for understanding the

contemporary changes affecting, among others, North Africans abroad. By way of conclusion of this overview, we offer a number of policy recommendations.

Stimulate a multi-level approach to diaspora policies and transnationalism

- All too often, diaspora management are only dealt with at the level of national governments in the countries of origin. In line with the principle of subsidiarity, more responsibilities should be endorsed locally by local authorities such as the Regions, Provinces, Wilayah and municipalities. While there is good reason to maintain the access to the territory, the regulation of the legal status of foreigners to the national level, other aspects such as diaspora return and development policies should have a strong territorial component.
- All too often, migration and diaspora management are instrumental to other policy objectives. Diasporas and transnational migrant communities should be dealt with as a stand-alone question.
- The role of intergovernmental cooperation whether bilateral or multilateral should be fostered and increased.

Improve the quality of policy implementation:

- Most North African States have well devised policy plans in print. The weaknesses to be observed lies at the level of policy implementation.

Improve the institutional capacities of State and non-State actors:

- The institutional capacities of State and non-State actors should be increased in order to better identify the opportunities and resources generated by diasporas and transnational activities. There is a lack of data on existing projects, among others in terms of transfer of knowledge and technologies.
- Improving the institutional capacity goes hand in hand with the need to increase participatory opportunities for the diasporas, including the right to vote from afar.

Improve the operational capacities of diasporic actors:

- North African countries have generated a range of institutions to accompany their increasing citizenry established overseas. Most governments have designated a Minister in charge of their residents abroad. Specific institutions have also been set up. While Tunisia, for instance, established an Office for Tunisians Abroad (Office des Tunisiens à l'étranger – OFE), Morocco has created a Council for Moroccan abroad (Conseil de la Communauté Marocaine à l'étranger - CCME). There is also a variety of policy initiatives aimed at dealing with the issue. All these are valuable efforts that need to be amplified.
- One may wonder why all the countries of the Maghreb are missing a strategy to connect with their scientific and high-tech diaspora. What the three countries are badly missing is a specific agency betting massively on diaspora-led scientific and technological innovation. Organizing an institutional interface between the national economy and the highly skilled elite abroad is a policy-gap to urgently fill.

X. References

- Alioua, M., & Ferrié, J. (2017). *La nouvelle politique migratoire marocaine*. Rabat: Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung.
- Arab, C. (2018). *Dames de fraises, doigts de fée, les invisibles de la migration saisonnière marocaine en Espagne*. Casablanca: En Toutes lettres.
- Bousetta, H., & Martiniello, M. (2003) Marocains de Belgique: du travailleur immigré au citoyen transnational. *Hommes et Migrations*, n°1242, p. 94-107.
- Bousetta, H. (2018). Hirak, l'âme du Rif marocain. *Revue Politique*, 106. Retrieved from: <http://hdl.handle.net/2268/244554>
- Bauböck, R., & Faist, T. (2010) *Diaspora and Transnationalism: Concepts, Theories and Methods*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press (IMISCOE Research).
- Benjelloun, S. (2020). Morocco's new migration policy: between geostrategic interests and incomplete implementation. *The Journal of North African Studies*. Retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629387.2020.1800207>
- Bernes, L.A., Bousetta, H., & Zickgraf, C. (eds) (2017). *Migration in the Western Mediterranean: Space, Mobility and Borders*. London: Routledge.
- Labat, S. (2010). *La France réinventée. Les nouveaux bi-nationaux franco-algériens*. Paris: Publisud.
- Lacroix, T. (2018a). Migration marocaine, régionalisation avancée et développement local, in Mohamed Berriane (coord.). *Marocains de l'Extérieur*, pp. 115-130. Retrieved from : <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-02157164/document>
- Lacroix, T. (2018b). Unravelling the conceptual link between transnationalism and diaspora. In T. Lacroix, *Routledge Handbook on Diaspora Studies*. London: Routledge. Retrieved from: [doi/10.4324/9781315209050-21](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315209050-21)
- Lafleur, J.M. (2015). *Transnational Politics and the State. The External Voting Rights of Diasporas*, London: Routledge.
- Mandin, J. (2020). Aspirations and Hope Distribution in the Emigration of Maghrebi Europeans in Montreal. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, pp. 300-312. Retrieved from: [doi/abs/10.1080/15562948.2020.1766163](https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2020.1766163)
- Natter, K. (2014). *Fifty Years of Maghreb Emigration: How States Shaped Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian Emigration*. International Migration Institute No 95: Oxford. Retrieved from: [migrationinstitute.org/publications/wp-95-14](https://www.migrationinstitute.org/publications/wp-95-14)
- OECD (2017). *Interactions entre politiques publiques, migrations et développement au Maroc, Les voies de développement*. Éditions OCDE : Paris. Retrieved from : <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264279193-fr>

ANNEX

XI. National Workshop Program



EuroMedMig National Workshop: Belgium

“When Western Mediterranean migration Turns into Diasporas: Migration Dynamics, Collective Action and State Responses”

Date: 5th of November 2020

Time: 14:00 – 17:30 GMT+2

About this workshop:

This National Workshop is a working activity that forms part of the EUMedMi, *EUMedMi: "Mapping European Mediterranean Migration Studies"* (September 2019 - August 2022). Funded by the Erasmus + Jean Monnet Network Program. (Ref: 611260-EPP-1-2019-1-ES-EPPJMO-NETWORK).

Scientific Organizers:

Ricard Zapata-Barrero - Director of GRITIM-UPF and Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Network EuMedMi.

Hassan Bousetta - Member of the EuroMedMig Steering Committee, FNRS (National Fund for Scientific) Research Associate at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Liège, Belgium.

Pascale Felten - Doctoral researcher at the CEDEM, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Liège, Belgium.

Background

1. Conceptual framework of the national workshop

The Belgian national workshop will look at the transformations of Western Mediterranean migration from both the perspectives of host and home societies. The idea is to look at how and why Western Mediterranean migrant communities are being redefined as diasporas. What does this turn mean in terms of integration dynamics and home/host country relations? What are the issues at stake for both home and destination societies? What are, on the one hand, the implications in terms of remittances, circulation of care, brain drain for home societies, and on the other hand, the consequences in terms of “living together” in host societies?

In order to address these questions in a meaningful way, the workshop will call for a paper that addresses old and new migration patterns towards North West Europe. It will firstly look at the gender and generational dimensions of contemporary migration, including the mobility of unaccompanied minors and labour-work conditions in labour intensive sectors. Secondly, it will analyse the claims-making activity of settled migrant communities. What are their expectations in terms of integration in host countries and reintegration in home countries? The third dimension of the analysis will look at the State responses to migrants and diasporas' demands.

2. Summary of the National Workshop: Guiding arguments

The guiding argument of the Belgian national workshop is that processes concerned with redefining the links between home societies and so-called diasporas lie at the crossroads of new migration dynamics, new modes of collective action among emigrant communities and new State responses to these demands.

3. Concluding remarks: Final recommendations

The workshop will seek to bring new light to the well-established phenomenon of West Mediterranean migration towards North West Europe and North America.

4. References

Bernes, L. A., Bousetta, H., & Zickgraf, C. (2017). *Migration in the Western Mediterranean: Space, Mobility and Borders*. London: Routledge.

The workshop speakers should address the main following questions:

- What is the theoretical relevance of concepts such as diasporas and transnational communities?
- What is the specificity of Western Mediterranean process of diaspora formation?
- How are West Mediterranean migrants and diasporas (re)defining the link to their country of origin?
- What forms of institutional and non-institutional solidarity are being developed through diasporic networks?
- What are the strategies implemented by the States of origin to sustain the involvement of diasporas with the homeland?
- What are the modes of collective action initiated by migrants and diasporas?
- How do the new mobilities of second and third generation Mediterranean migrants complexify the classical notion of transnational communities and diasporas?

Program

14h – 14h10

Welcome and opening,

Prof. Marco Martiniello, Director of CEDEM, University of Liège

Prof. Ricard Zapata, Coordinator Euromedmig, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

14h10-14h30

Introduction and framing of the afternoon,

Dr Hassan Bousetta, FNRS, CEDEM, University of Liège

14h30-15h00

From transnational communities to diasporas: a theoretical perspective,

Dr Thomas Lacroix (CNRS, France)

Discussant: **Dr Jean-Michel Lafleur**, FNRS, CEDEM, MITSOPRO Team, University of Liège

15h00-15h30

Emigration and transnational social protection among Tunisians

Carole Wenger, CEDEM, MITSOPRO Team, University of Liège (Belgium)

Discussant: **Prof Riadh Ben Khalifa** (University of Tunis)

15h30-16h00

Leaving Europe: Emigration, aspirations and pathways of incorporation of Maghrebi French and Belgians in Montréal

Jérémy Mandin, KU Leuven

Discussant: **Dr Shaima Jorio**, University of Quebec in Montreal – UQAM

16h00-16h30

La diplomatie migratoire du Maroc

Dr Sarah Benjelloun, chercheure associée au laboratoire PACTE, unité mixte de recherche du CNRS de l'Université de Grenoble et de l'IEP de Grenoble

Discussant: **Pierre Beaulieu**, University of Liège

16h30 -17h00

Femmes marocaines : les invisibles de la migration saisonnière en Espagne,

Dr Chadia Arab, University of Angers (France)

Discussant: **Dr Elsa Mescoli**, University of Liège

17h00-17h30

Policy reactions, exchanges and feedbacks

Dr Sonia Gsir, Policy officer Enabel (Belgian International Development Agency)

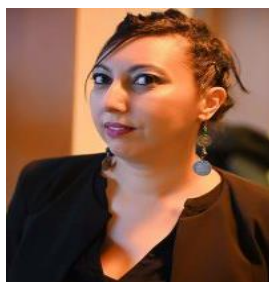
Prof. Mohamed Charef, University of Agadir, Member of the UN Commission on migrant workers and of the Moroccan National Council for Human Rights

17h30 End of the workshop

List of experts (presented in alphabetical order)

- Dr. Chadia Arab, University of Angers
- Pierre Beaulieu, University of Liège
- Prof. Riadh Ben Khalifa, University of Tunis
- Dr. Sarah Benjelloun, Institut Royal des Études Stratégiques (Morocco), University of Grenoble
- Dr. Hassan Bousetta, University of Liège
- Dr. Mohamed Charef, UN commission on migrant workers
- Dr. Sonia Gsir, Enabel, Belgium International Development Agency
- Dr. Shaima Jorio, University of Quebec in Montreal – UQAM
- Dr. Thomas Lacroix, CNRS, France
- Dr. Jean-Michel Lafleur, University of Liège
- Jérémy Mandin, KULeuven
- Prof. Marco Martiniello, University of Liège
- Dr. Elsa Mescoli, University of Liège
- Carole Wenger, University of Liège
- Prof. Ricard Zapata, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Bios of Speakers (in alphabetical order)



Chadia Arab (chadia.arab@univ-angers.fr) is a geographer and researcher at the CNRS UMR ESO (National Centre for Scientific Research). Her works focus on international migration and specifically on Moroccans in France, Spain and Italy, as well as in the Gulf countries. She is also interested in gender in migration. She teaches at the University of Angers. Her latest book is entitled “Dames de fraises, doigts de fée. La migration saisonnière des Marocaines en Espagne”, published in 2018 by En Toutes Lettres. For more information about her research activities and

publications see [here](#).



Pierre Beaulieu (pierre.beaulieu@uliege.be) is a PhD researcher and assistant at the OMER research center (Observer les Mondes En Recomposition) of the Faculty of social sciences at the University of Liège. He holds a master’s degree in "Population and Development Studies" from University of Liège. He is particularly interested in the socio-anthropology of the Arab-Muslim world as well as new forms of mobilisation and inequalities of access to the political public space in Belgium and the Mediterranean region. For more information about his

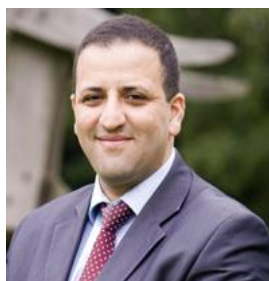
research activities and publications see [here](#).



Riadh Ben Khalifa (ben.khalifa.riadh@gmail.com) is a historian, assistant professor at the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences of the University of Tunis. He is also a member of the History of Mediterranean Economies and Societies laboratory, an associate researcher at URMIS-Nice and a member of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research (Codesria). Since 2017, he has been editor-in-chief of the “Sciences humaines et sociales” series of the Cahiers de Tunisie, a magazine founded in 1953. For more information about his research activities and publications see [here](#).



Sara Benjelloun (sara.benjelloun@sciencespo.fr) received her PhD in Political Science from the University of Grenoble-Alpes in 2019 and has a Master's degree in Political Science - International Relations from the Doctoral School of Sciences Po - Paris in 2015. Her doctoral thesis is entitled: "Migration Diplomacy of Morocco. La nouvelle politique migratoire ou la formation d'une politique publique engagée pour soutenir la politique étrangère du Maroc". Her current work and interests focus on migration, human rights and Euro-Mediterranean relations. She has taught at the International University of Rabat and at the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EUIC - Venice) and has provided several training courses for academics and associative actors. She has also worked on several research projects related to migration and Euro-Mediterranean relations. She currently works as a political scientist at the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies in Rabat and is an associate researcher at the social science research laboratory PACTE (Politiques publiques, ACTION politique, TERRITOIRES) UMR 5194 (Grenoble). For more information about her research activities and publications see [here](#).



Hassan Bousetta (hassan.bousetta@uliege.be) is member of the *EuroMedMig* Steering Committee and a FNRS (National Fund for Scientific) Research Associate at the University of Liège, Belgium. He joined the CEDEM at the University of Liège in February 2003. He was previously at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven where he completed his Ph.D. and is a former Marie Curie Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship in the Department of Sociology of the University of Bristol, UK. Hassan Bousetta has also collaborated in a number of consultancy projects both for private foundations (King Baudouin Foundation), international organization (Council of Europe), cities (Paris, Antwerp, Bristol) and networks of cities (Eurocities). He is the main researcher for CEDEM's line of research focused on the Mediterranean and Islam. He has published several books and articles on Mediterranean migration as well as on the place of Islam and Muslims in the public. For more information about his research activities and publications see [here](#).



Mohamed Charef (anicharef@hotmail.com) holds a PhD in planning geography from the University of Poitiers and a PhD in science from the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He is professor of geography at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences in Agadir and director of the Laboratory of Studies on Migration, Anthropology, Spaces and Societies (LEMASE). He is a member of the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH) of which he chairs the Agadir Region Commission. He is a visiting professor at several foreign universities and is also a consultant and expert on migration issues for the United Nations Population Fund, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Population Division and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR). For more information about his research activities and publications see [here](#).



Sonia Gsir (sonia.gsir@uliege.be) holds a PhD in political and social sciences and a MA Degree in International Relations and European Politics from the University of Liège. She is associate member of the Hugo Observatory on Environment and Migration (University of Liège), associate member of the Laboratory Research on History of Mediterranean Economies and societies (University of Tunis), and research associate at the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (University of Liège). Her PhD dissertation focused on European labour immigration policy. Previously, she carried out and coordinated researches on local integration policies, new migrations in Belgium, attitudes towards asylum seekers, foreigners' political participation. She collaborated to several networks such as the Belgian Migration Dialogue, CLIP (Cities for local Integration Policies). She is currently working as policy officer and migration expert for Enabel (Belgian International Development Agency). For more information about her research activities and publications see [here](#).



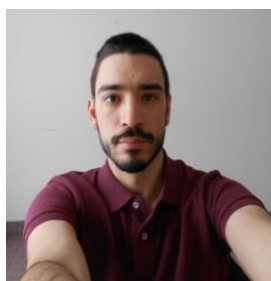
Shaima Jorio (shaimae.jorio@gmail.com) holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Québec in Montréal (UQÀM). During her graduate studies in political science at Sciences Po Paris and Toulouse, and in sociology at the University of Québec in Montréal, Shaima Jorio conducted several research projects on modes of governance, mainly related to the themes of social violence, exclusion, racial and gender-based discrimination. Her research interests focus on the security and criminalising logics of immigration and asylum policies in France and Europe, as well as their effects on human rights.



Jean-Michel Lafleur (jm.lafleur@uliege.be) is Research Professor at the University of Liège, Associate Director of CEDEM and a Research Associate at the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research (FRS-FNRS). He also teaches different courses on Migration at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Liège. He holds a joint PhD in Political Science and International Relations from Sciences Po in Paris and the University of Liège (2008). Jean-Michel's areas of expertise are the transnational dimension of contemporary migration, EU mobility, social protection and the political participation of immigrants. He currently holds a Starting Grant from the European Research Council (ERC) to work on a project entitled "Migration and Transnational Social Protection in Post-crisis Europe". During his career, Jean-Michel received different grants and scholarships to teach and conduct research in foreign institutions such as the Mora Institute in Mexico City, the European University Institute in Florence, the City University of New York (as a Fulbright scholar) and the City University of London. For more information about his research activities and publications see [here](#).



Thomas Lacroix (thomas.lacroix@cnrs.fr) is a CNRS research fellow at the Maison Française d'Oxford and an associate researcher at CERI, Sciences Po (for the period 2018-2020 and 2020-2022), at Migrinter, University of Poitiers, and at Compas, University of Oxford. He is also a member of the Convergence Migrations Institute and Kellog College. He received his PhD in Geography and Political Science in 2003 and his Habilitation to Conduct Research in 2018. Thomas Lacroix is currently a member of the editorial board of the journal *Migration Studies* published by Oxford University Press. His work focuses on migrant transnationalism with a particular focus on North Africa and India. More recently, his research focuses on the mobilization of cities and their insertion in an international governance of migration. He analyses the effects of recent decentralisation policies in immigration and emigration countries on the formation of transnational city networks and the construction of new forms of multi-level governance. He is also a member of the Inclusive Cities programme at Oxford University and of the ANR PACE programme at CERI. For more information about his research activities and publications see [here](#).



Jérémy Mandin (jeremy.mandin@uliege.be) is a PHD student and a researcher in social sciences. Since 2011, he is affiliated to the CEDEM where he worked on several research projects focusing on urban dynamics, social cohesion and migration policies. He is currently doing a joint PhD with the KULeuven addressing the emigration practices of young Europeans of Maghrebi background toward Montreal (Canada). Building on the concepts of aspiration, hope and disposition, the research provides an analysis of “North-North” migrations by questioning the role of structural dynamics such as ethnic and religious discriminations and socio-economic instability in the emergence of emigration desires in Europe. Jérémy has also collaborated to publications focusing on far-right movements in Italy. For more information about his research activities and publications see [here](#).



Marco Martiniello (m.martiniello@uliege.be), is Director of Research at the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FRS-FNRS) and Director of CEDEM (Centre d'Etudes de l'Ethnicité et des Migrations) at the University of Liège. He teaches the sociology of migration and interethnic relations at this university. He is also Director of the Institut de Recherches en Sciences Sociales of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Liège. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the European Research Network IMISCOE. He was President of the research committee "Sociology of Migration" of the International Sociological Association until 2014. He has been a visiting professor or visiting researcher at Columbia University, New York University, Cornell University, University of Malmö (Sweden), Sciences Po Paris, University of Warwick (UK), University of Queensland (Brisbane, Australia), University of Kwazulu Natal (Durban, South Africa), European University Institute (Florence, Italy), Colleague Europe (Natolin, Poland), City University of New York, University of Geneva and University of Warwick. His work is in the field of political sociology. It deals with the relations between the arts, culture, sport, immigration and ethnicized and racialized minorities. In addition, he is interested in transnationalism as well as issues of migration policy, citizenship, multiculturalism, racism and the political mobilization of immigrants and minorities in Europe and North America. For more information about his research activities and publications see [here](#).



Elsa Mescoli (e.mescoli@uliege.be) is affiliated to the CEDEM since 2011. She is currently post-doctoral researcher and assistant lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences, where she teaches courses related to migration and intercultural issues. She holds a PhD Degree in Political and Social Sciences from the University of Liege (in co-tutorship with the University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy) with a thesis on the culinary practices of Moroccan women living in Milan (Italy). She conducted extensive ethnographic research in the domain of migration studies both in Europe and outside, with a particular focus on migrants' cultural practices. She holds a MA in Anthropology and a BA in Intercultural communication from the University of Milan-Bicocca (Italy). Her research interests include food and migration, artistic practices of migrants, gender issues, discrimination of Muslims, public opinion and citizens' initiatives on refugees and asylum seekers, socio-cultural practices of undocumented migrants, policies and practices of integration of newcomers. For more information about her research activities and publications see [here](#).



Carole Wenger (ca.wenger@uliege.be) completed a BA in Ethnology and Human Geography from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland and a MA in Migration and Diaspora Studies from the Faculty of Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Before joining the CEDEM, she worked within the Migration and Development Research Group at the United Nations University (UNU-Merit/MGSoG) in Maastricht, in the Netherlands. Prior to that, she worked as for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Cairo (Egypt) as well as for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tunis (Tunisia) on migration and development programs. She joined the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM) at the University of Liège in September 2018 as a PhD Candidate within the European Research Council (ERC)-funded project "Migration, transnationalism and social protection in (post-) crisis Europe" coordinated by Dr Jean-Michel Lafleur. Her research focuses on Tunisian women migrants and the transnationalisation of healthcare practices between Tunisia and Europe. Her research interests include transnationalism, social protection, anthropology of health, gender and the Maghreb region. For more information about her research activities and publications see [here](#).



Ricard Zapata-Barrero (ricard.zapata@upf.edu) is Coordinator of [EuroMedMig](#) and of EUMedMi Jean Monnet Network. He is Full Professor at the Department of Political and Social Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain). Director of [GRITIM-UPF](#) (Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration) and the Master Program in Migration Studies. He is also member of the Board of Directors the European Network IMISCOE (International Migration and Social Cohesion in Europe) and Chair its External Affairs Committee. Additionally, he is a member of editorial boards of several academic journals and an occasional contributor to media and policy debates. His lines of research deal with contemporary issues of liberal democracy in contexts of diversity, especially the relationship between democracy, citizenship and immigration. He is currently working on Mediterranean Migration, Cities of Migration and developing the Intercultural Citizenship Paradigm. For more information about his research activities and publications see [here](#).