



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN  
NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES  
الشبكة الأورو-متوسطية للدراسات الاقتصادية

# EURO-MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES

A Renewed Vision for  
Socio-Economic Development  
in the Mediterranean region

## Activity Report March 2015 - March 2020



EMNES was set-up with the financial support of the European Union – under Grant Contract no. ENPI/2014/354-488 (2015-2019) – and the EMNES Partners and Associates.



# ABOUT US

## Our Vision & Mission



The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES) is a collaborative and innovative regional network of thirty economic and policy research institutions and think tanks from 19 Countries of the Mediterranean and beyond working towards a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the region.

EMNES mainly focuses on sustainable development, employment creation, social inclusion and regional integration.

EMNES is built on four core principles: independence, excellence, policy relevance and expertise.

## EMNES: 30 Partners

- Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) (Belgium)
- Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) (Spain)
- University of Cairo - Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS) (Egypt)
- Institut des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (IHEC) (Tunisia)
- Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes (UEMF) (Morocco)
- Yarmouk University (YU) (Jordan)
- Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) (Slovenia)
- Free University of Berlin (FUB) (Germany)
- Institut Tunisien de la Compétitivité et des Etudes Quantitatives (ITCEQ) (Tunisia)
- Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV) (Morocco)
- Institute of Computers and Communications Systems - E<sup>3</sup>MLab, National Technical University of Athens (ICCS) (Greece)
- Istanbul Policy Center - Sabanci University (IPC) (Turkey)
- Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems (ISINNOVA) (Italy)
- University of Barcelona Regional Quantitative Analysis Group (UB-AQR) (Spain)
- Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes - Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari (CIHEAM) (Italy)
- Forum for Euro-Mediterranean Innovation in Action (FEMIA) (France)
- Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) (Italy)
- Bureau for Economic Theory and Application at University of Strasbourg (BETA) (France)
- Research Center in Applied Economics for Development (CREAD) (Algeria)
- Tunis Business School (TBS) (Tunisia)
- Université Internationale de Rabat (UIR) (Morocco)
- Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) (Palestine)
- Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) (Spain)
- Jordan Strategy Forum (JSF) (Jordan)
- Centre for Banking Research (CBR) (United Kingdom)
- European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) (Spain)
- Libera Università Maria SS. Assunta (LUMSA) (Italy)
- Università degli Studi di Firenze (UNIFI) (Italy)
- Policy Centre for the New South (PCNS) (Morocco)
- German Jordanian University (GJU) (Jordan)

# A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Rym Ayadi**

EMNES DIRECTOR

"The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES) has evolved to become a leading collaborative and innovative regional network of thirty economic and policy research institutions from both shores of the Mediterranean. EMNES involves a younger generation of economists and policy experts to contribute to the economic policies of the Euro-Mediterranean region. EMNES produces policy research, surveys, policy papers and policy-graphics that contribute to a renewed vision and innovative models for socio-economic development in the region. The vision and models are anchored in the Blue Transition Scenario for a multi-dimensional and differentiated regional integration approach and a Transparent, Responsible, Inclusive and Sustainable (TRIS) model for socio-economic development. From 2020, EMNES is coordinated by the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) headquartered in Barcelona. EMNES will continue growing and contributing with innovative economic policy proposals and targeted actions to achieve socio-economic prosperity in the Mediterranean region and beyond."

## LANDMARKS

### 2015

- EMNES established (with co-funding of the European Union under Grant Contract no. ENPI/2014/354-488 and EMNES Partners and Associates)

### 2016

- First phase research completed
- First EMNES Annual Conference in Tunis, Tunisia
- Launch of the Tunisia Economic Policy Group 2017

### 2017

- Launch of EMNES working papers, studies and policy papers
- Joint EMNES-EMEA-IEMED study on Youth Employment and Regional Integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region
- Second phase of research completed
- Second EMNES Annual conference in Cairo, Egypt
- EMNES welcomes new members from Algeria and Tunisia

### 2018

- Publication of two studies and 18 working papers
- First EMNES Policy Conference in Amman, Jordan
- EMNES Summer Policy Workshop, Brussels, Belgium
- EMNES Autumn Policy Workshop, Piran, Slovenia

### 2019

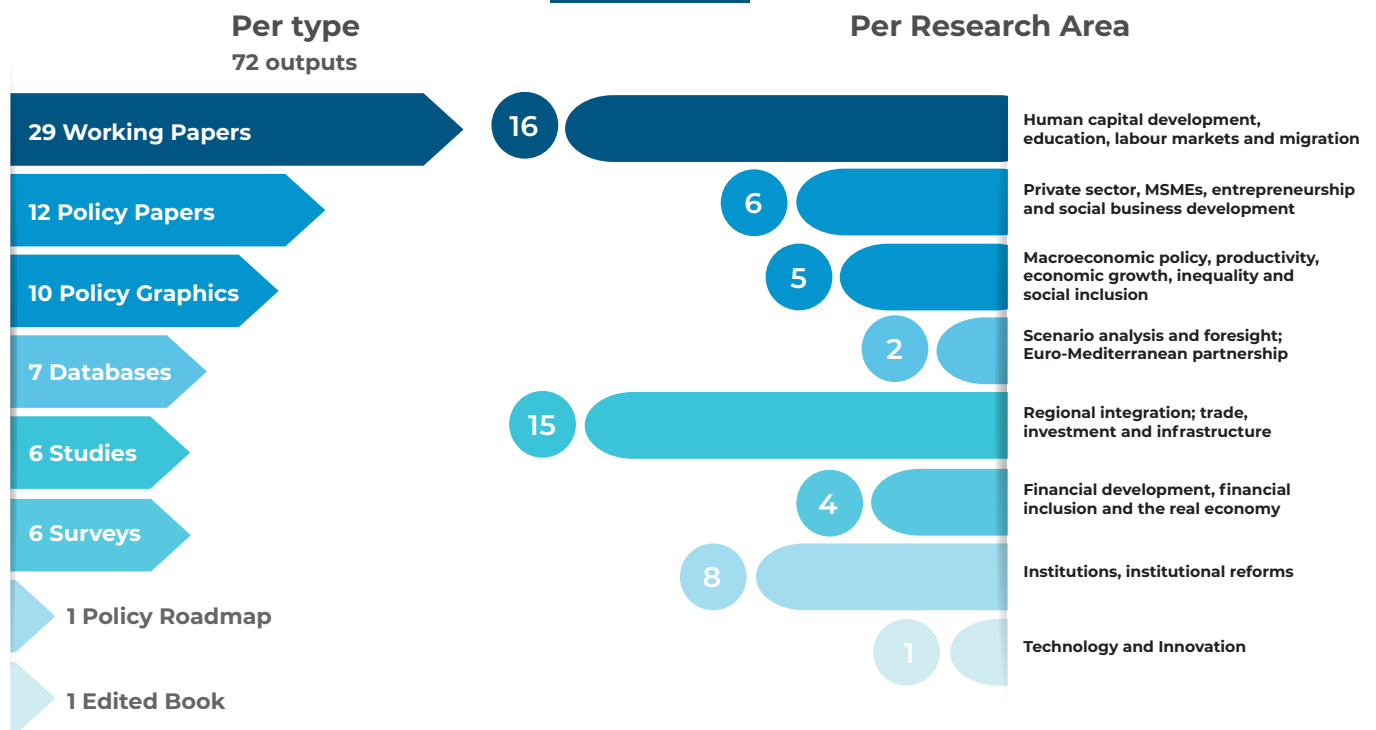
- EMNES Strategy Seminar at CEPS Ideas Lab in Brussels, Belgium
- EMNES welcomes new members from Palestine, Jordan, Spain, UK and Morocco
- Third EMNES Annual Conference in Brussels, Belgium
- EMNES Summer Policy Workshop, Brussels, Belgium
- Launch of EMNES Policy Graphics

### 2020

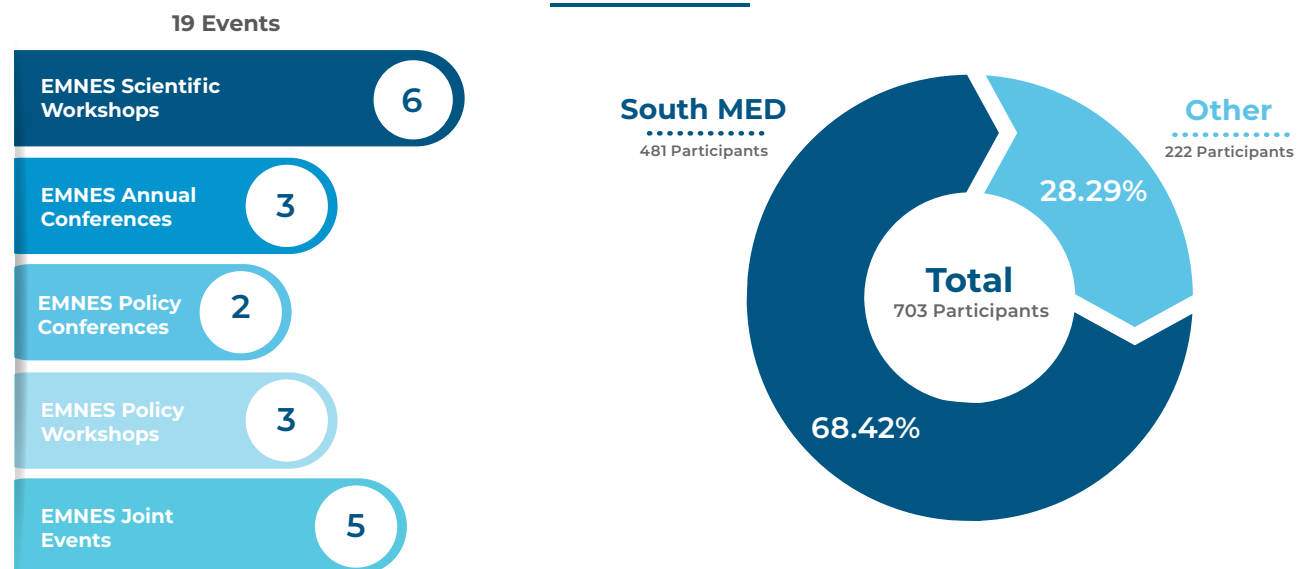
- EMNES coordinated by the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA)

# EMNES IN FIGURES

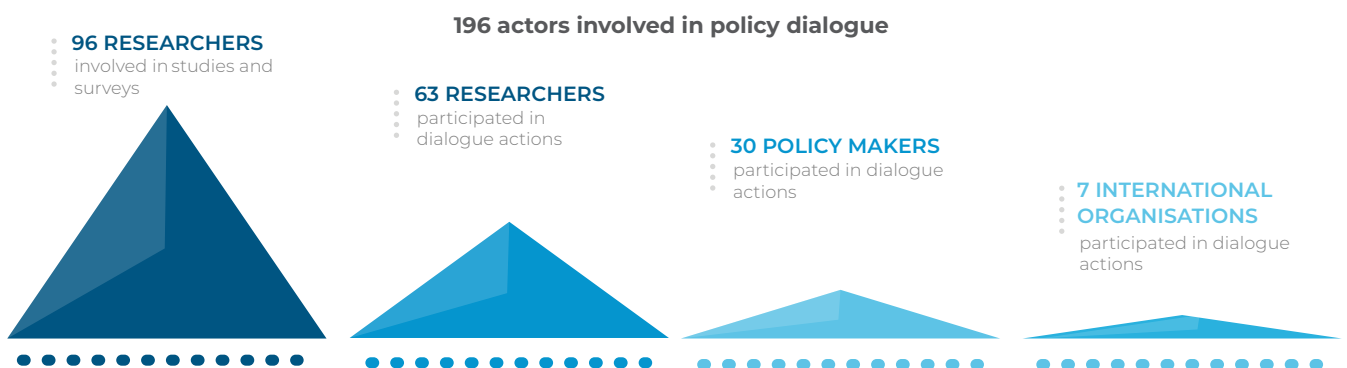
## Publications



## Events

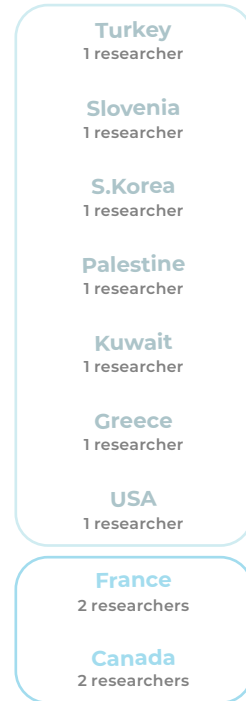
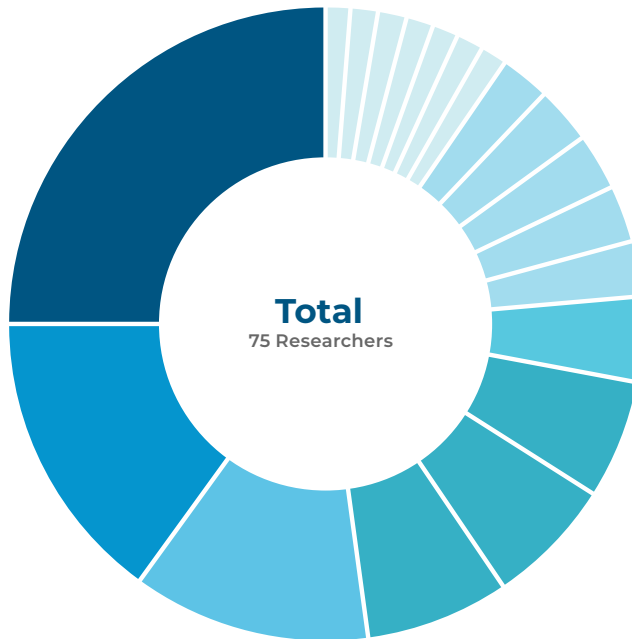
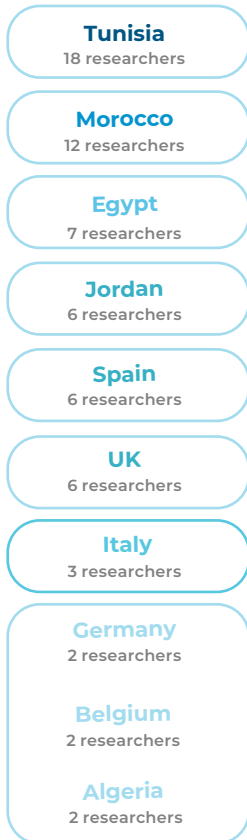


## Policy-Research Dialogue: Key Actors

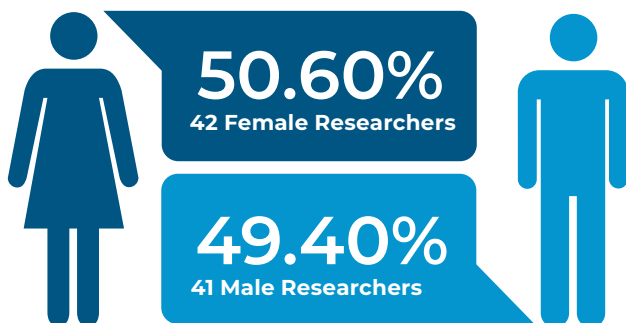
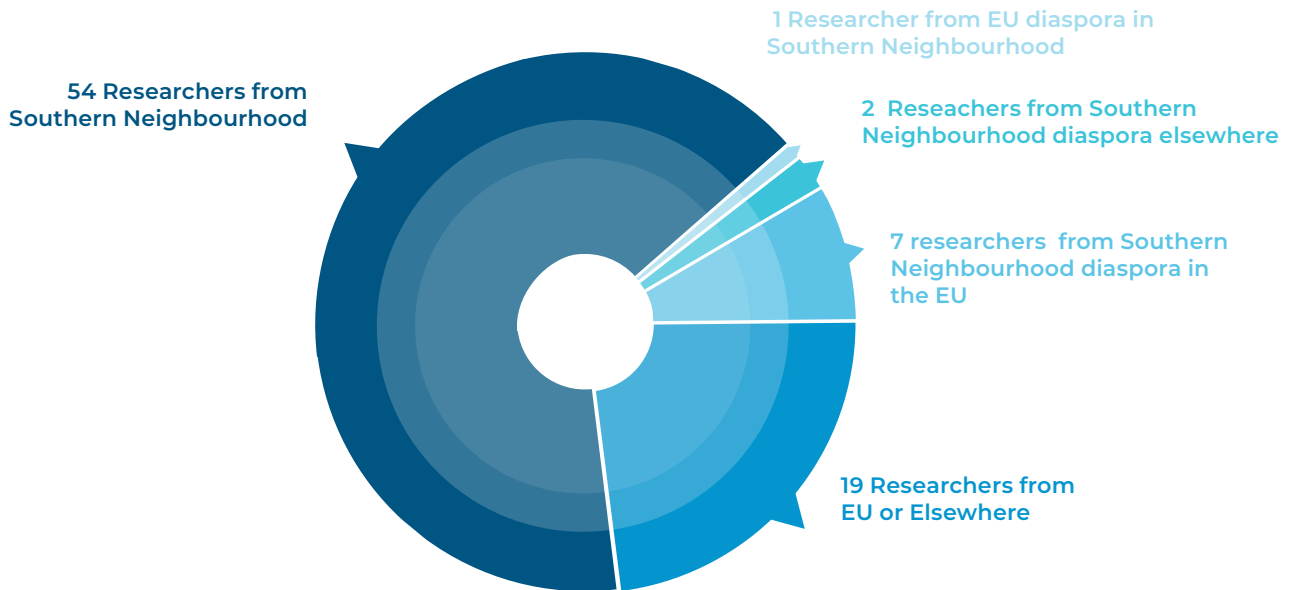


## Researchers

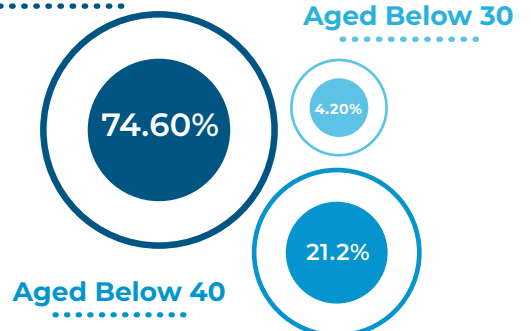
### Per Country



### Origin

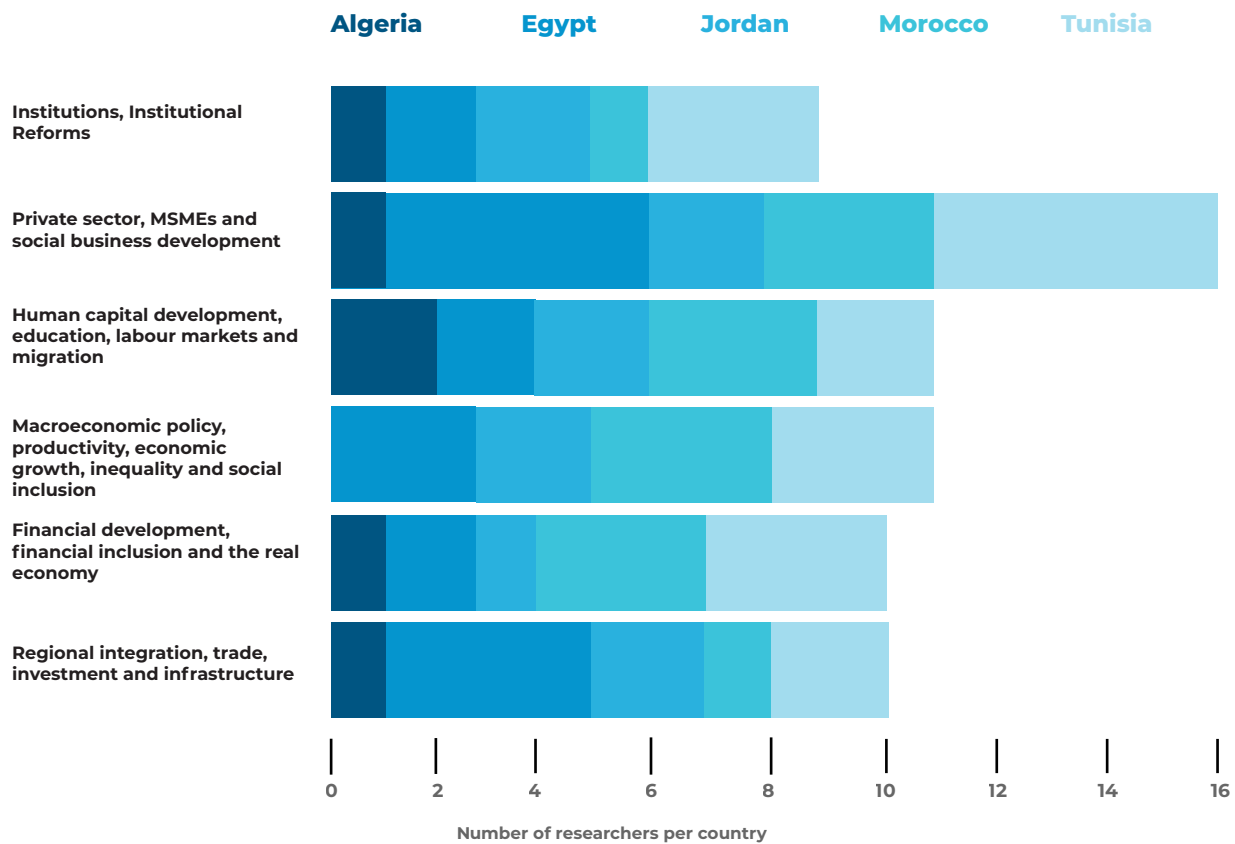


### Aged Below 50

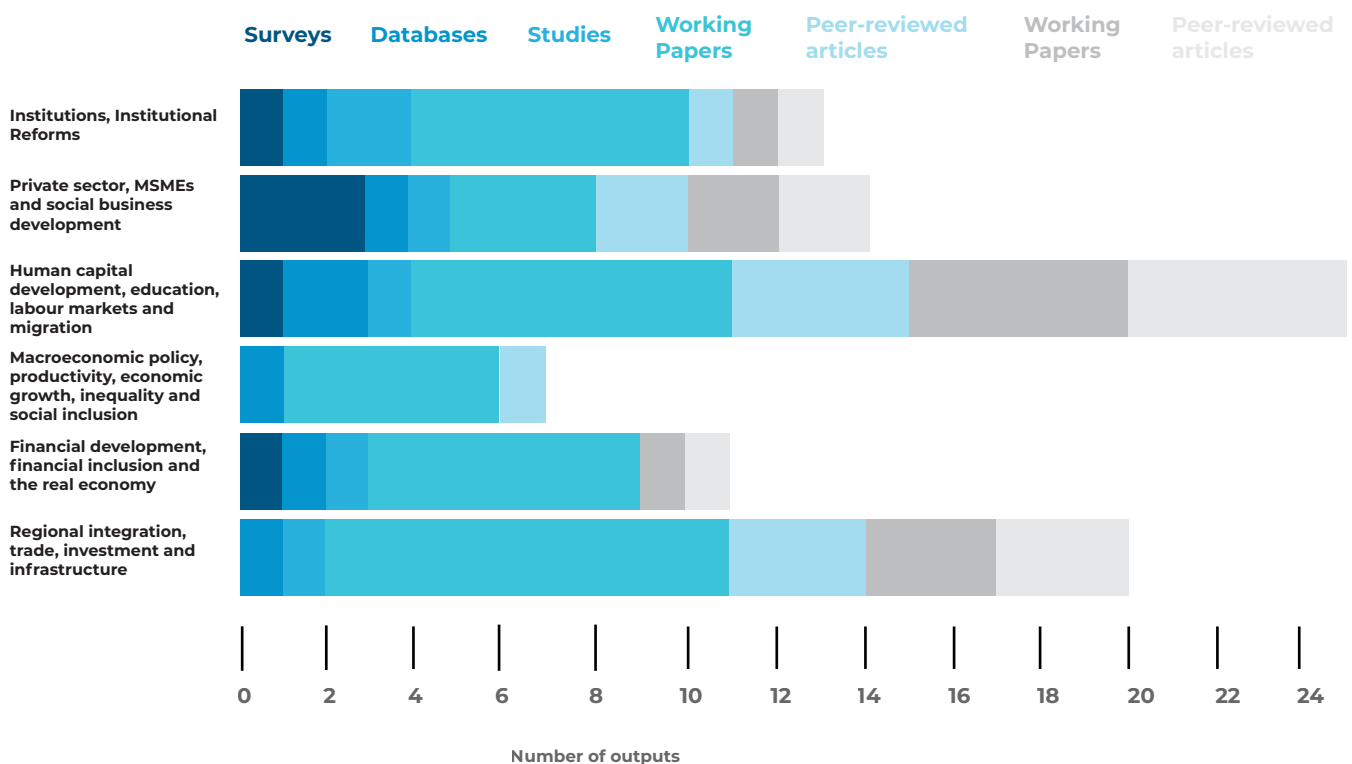


# EMNES RESEARCH

Southern Neighbourhood Countries were actively engaged in research:



A number of outputs were produced:



## Surveys and databases on:



Institutional uncertainty



Financial inclusion



Entrepreneurship and innovation



ALMP and MISMES



Social business and Informality



Credit guarantees

## Studies on:



Institutions and labour market in South MED



Human capital, labour market friction and migration in South MED



Trade and Investment in South MED



Financial development and inclusion in South MED



MSMEs – Structure, Obstacles and Policies



Youth employment and regional integration in EUROMED

## Peer-reviewed articles\*:

- 1 Ezzat, A., Nazier, H. and Ramadan, R. (2019). Do Institutions Matter for Informal Employment in Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia?, *International Journal of Economics and Business Research*, (forthcoming).
- 2 Zaki, C., Alshayab, N. and Selem, N. (2019). Employment Intensity and Sectoral Output Growth: A Comparative Analysis for MENA Economies”, *Mediterranean Journal of Economics, Agriculture, and Environment – New Medit* (forthcoming).
- 3 Goaid, M. and Sassi, S. (2019). The effect of ICT adoption on labour demand: A cross-region comparison. *Papers in Regional science* 98 (1), 3-16
- 4 Biltagy, M. (2019). Human capital, labour market friction and migration in Egypt, *Journal of Applied Econometrics and International Development*, AEID – Volume 19-2.
- 5 Ramzy, M. and Zaki, C. (2018). Do Environment Regulations Matter for EU-MENA Trade, *Applied Economics*, 50(39), 4197-4221.
- 6 Kamal, Y and Zaki, C. (2018). How Do Technical Barriers to Trade Affect Exports? Evidence from Egyptian Firm-Level Data”, *Journal of Economic Integration*, 33(4):659-721.
- 7 Biltagy, M. (2018). Gender wage disparities in Egypt: Evidence from ELMPS 2006 and 2012, *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, 10.1016/j.qref.2018.11.010
- 8 Alshyab, N., Sandri, S. and Abu-Lila, Z. (2018). Differences in the returns to education in Jordan: Gender and public-private sector analysis. *Malaysian Journal of Economic Studies*, 55(1).
- 9 Ghazo, A.; Alshyab, N.; Sandri, S., 2017. Causality between Human Capital, Investment, Openness, and Economic Growth: An Empirical Investigation for Jordan. *International Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 11(4), 162-174.
- 10 Sandri, S., Alshyab, N. and Ghazo, A. (2016). Trade in Goods and Services and Its Effect on Economic Growth –The Case of Jordan. *Applied Econometrics and International Development*, 16(2).

\*10 EMNES Working Papers accepted in peer-reviewed journals out of 29 and more EMNES Working papers are under review (as of 25.02.2020).

## EMNES-EMEA-CEPS published book:

Authored by H.E. Fathallah Sijilmassi  
 “The Future of Europe is in the South”.





# EMNES PUBLICATIONS



Studies

Working Papers

Policy Papers

Policy Graphics

Institutions, Institutional Reforms

1

5

1

1

Private sector, MSMEs and social business development

1

4

2

2

Human capital development, education, labour markets and migration

2

6

5

5

Macroeconomic policy, productivity, economic growth, inequality and social inclusion

0

5

0

0

Financial development, financial inclusion and the real economy

1

2

1

1

Regional integration, trade, investment and infrastructure

1

7

3

3

Total Publications

6

29

12

10

# TESTIMONIALS FROM EMNES COLLEAGUES

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**Hala H. Elsaid**

Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform of Egypt

The Euro-Mediterranean Network of Economic Studies - EMNES is a very important network tackling policy relevant issues for the region.



**Fathallah Sijilmassi**

EMNES Advisory Board member, Former Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean

EMNES has a very innovative and forward looking approach to Euro-Mediterranean key challenges. It promotes inclusiveness and broader ownership with a large and growing number of talented young economists and researchers from Southern Mediterranean countries as well as from Europe. EMNES also succeeds in finding the right balance between long term strategy analysis, prospective new trends and patterns, policy recommendations and field studies.



**Cinzia Alcidi**

EMNES Administrative Coordinator, Head of the Economic Policy Unit, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

EMNES is a network of researchers committed to fact-based analysis to address economic and social issues in the Euro-Med region. But above all, EMNES is people! Men and women open to debate and dialogue, eager to learn and engaged in shaping a better future for the region.



**Roger Albinyana**

EMNES Advisory Board member, Director of Mediterranean Regional Policies and Human Development, IEMed

EMNES stems from a very innovative approach to research and policy formulation, which is very much needed in the Euro-Mediterranean region nowadays. We live in troubled times, where reality based on evidence is confronted with fake information that hinders collective progress. EMNES can greatly contribute to offering solutions at the academic level.



**Heba Zaki**

EMNES Researcher, Assistant Professor of Socio-Computing, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, Founder & CEO, FEPS Business Incubator

The diversification of the academic and cultural background of the researchers has made EMNES a very unique experience for me on an academic and personal level.



**Rim Mouelhi**

Professor, LEFA HEC Carthage, Tunisia

EMNES is a forum of independent researchers sharing experiences and engaged in developing innovative ideas and suggestions for a more inclusive socio-economic model in the Euro-Med area.



## Chahir Zaki

EMNES Researcher Associate Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University

EMNES for me is not just the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies but it is more about: Embracing innovative approaches in research, Monitoring economic policies, Networking with a brilliantly diversified team, Empowering young economists and Strengthening research capacities. I am really lucky to be part of this network and I do really hope it will last as long as we are able to produce sound and policy-relevant research.



## Nooh Alshyab

EMNES Researcher Assistant Professor, Yarmouk University, Jordan

The think tank Euro Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies, EMNES, is a great cooperative effort to pave the way to sustainable and equitable development in the Southern Mediterranean countries. EMNES cares for the future of the Southern Mediterranean, it builds on the capacity of the region and aims at suggesting new models of development and ways ahead.



## Racha Ramadan

EMNES Researcher, Assistant Professor - Faculty of Economics and Political Science - Cairo University

Euro Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies is not only a network that provides high quality policy relevant research, it is a tool for empowering young multi-disciplinary researchers in the Mediterranean region, especially females.



## Sandra Challita

EMNES Researcher, Assistant Professor, ESDES Lyon Catholic University

As a young researcher, EMNES is for me much more than a research network. It is a unique opportunity to learn, interact and share knowledge and ideas with other researchers, policy makers, and key actors. Working with "the EMNES family" makes me feel that my theoretical work can have a positive contribution towards a better future in the region.



## Aya Elewa

EMNES Fellow Researcher, Economics PhD

The Euro-Mediterranean Network of Economic Studies - EMNES provides an effective and dynamic network for researchers and economists in the region. It plays an important role in drawing policy implications for the region.



## Serena Sandri

EMNES Researcher, Assistant Professor, German Jordanian University, Jordan

The Euro Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies, EMNES, aims at making the difference in suggesting models of development, policies, and ideas to unveil the potential of the Southern Mediterranean. It reminds us that we live in an interconnected world and that the wellbeing of Europe is deeply linked to sustainable development and equity in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean, of the Middle East, and North Africa. This message is now more important than ever.



## Emanuele Sessa

EMNES Assistant Scientific Coordinator

EMNES genuinely brings together senior and junior researchers from countries on both shores of the Mediterranean, something having entailed a number of challenges in the process of building the network but that represents an opportunity of the utmost importance in a region where the youth has been all too often excluded from the formulation and implementation of policies, which in turn proved to be mutually beneficial for the countries involved only to a certain extent.

# EMNES EVENTS

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**15 December 2016, Tunis, Tunisia**

## **First EMNES Annual Conference “Towards inclusive, sustainable and employment driven socio-economic models in the Mediterranean: What roles for institutions, micro-small and medium sized enterprises and finance?”**

4 expert panels debated on:

- Challenges and opportunities in the region
- Institutions, economic growth, social welfare and labour market
- Private sector development, MSMEs and employment creation
- Finance, regulation and the real economy

1 policy panel on:

- Challenges and scenarios for inclusive socio-economic development in the region



**20 July 2017, Barcelona, Spain**

## **Presentation of the study “How regional integration leads to youth employment in the Euro-Mediterranean region”**

Presentation of the study available at: <https://emnes.org/publications/>

Key issues debated at the event:

- Adequate policies needed in all UfM countries to manage displacement of workers in transition phases
- Policies preparing the economies to engage in regional integration to maintain employment levels in transition phases



**6-7 December 2017, Cairo, Egypt**

**Second EMNES Annual Conference “Towards an inclusive, sustainable and employment driven socio-economic models in the Mediterranean: What roles for institutions, micro-small and medium sized enterprises and finance?”**

High-level policy makers, EU delegation representatives, academia and representatives of research organisations, think tanks, international organisations, financial institutions and other regional stakeholders came together to engage in policy-research dialogue built on the outputs of two years of collaborative research:

- **2 papers on “Institutions, growth and employment”**
- **3 papers on “Firm productivity and job creation”**
- **4 papers on “Human capital, skills mismatches and migration”**
- **3 papers on “Micro, small and medium firms and entrepreneurship”**
- **2 papers on “Financial development, growth, employment and inequality”**
- **2 papers on “Economic integration and employment creation”**

Two **policy panels** debated:

- Inclusive growth and economic reforms in the Mediterranean region
- Private sector dynamics and social business



**9-10 May 2018, Amman, Jordan**

**First EMNES Policy Conference “Job Creation in the Southern Mediterranean – Perspectives and Challenges”**

This conference was a platform for discussion on the socio-economic roots of unemployment, perspectives and challenges for job creation in the region. Exchanges and dialogue initiatives with policy makers, academia and researchers, investors and private sector representatives allowed EMNES to take significant steps towards developing a policy roadmap to tackle unemployment.



**16-18 November 2018, Tunis, Tunisia**

### **EMNES participation in the Conference “Rethinking the Euro-Mediterranean cultural partnership”**

The EMNES booth was visited by a large number of participants in the event, including journalists, young entrepreneurs and students. EMNES representatives explained the vision and aims of the Network, and also listened to the problems and issues that young people of the region face.



**21-22 February 2019, Brussels, Belgium**

### **EMNES panel discussion at the IdeasLab organised by CEPS: Panel: A new role for the EU in the Mediterranean?**

Ideas Lab is the most high-profile annual event on EU policies. It is a forum that brings together Europe’s top decision makers and thinkers to discuss the major issues confronting the EU and to explore innovative solutions. In 2019, the theme was “Europe’s Choice”.



**27-28 June 2019, Brussels, Belgium**

### **Third EMNES Annual Conference “Towards a Regional Integration and Employment Driven Socio-Economic Model in the Mediterranean: A Comprehensive Policy Roadmap”**

EMNES Annual Conference 2019 debated what future model of economic development and cooperation can be envisaged. The conference brought together the views of the EU, the South Med countries and the main players active in the region. The EMNES Research team contributed to the discussion by featuring key findings on how labour markets can become more dynamic and help delivering shared prosperity as well a comprehensive policy roadmap towards new models of regional integration and employment creation in the Mediterranean.



**14 November 2019, Brussels, Belgium**

### **Lunch time meeting “How important is the Southern Neighbourhood for the future of Europe?” co-organised by EMNES, EMEA and CEPS**

The event, organised to launch the book “The future of Europe is in the South” authored by H.E. Fathallah Sijilmassi, former Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean and member of EMNES Advisory board, published by EMNES, EMEA and CEPS, discussed on how to look at the future of the region and the Euro-Med relations in a strategic and constructive way.

### **Workshops co-organised by EMNES in the region:**



**17 October 2019, Fes, Morocco**

### **Workshop on “Migration, Mobility and Development” co-organised with the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes**

The workshop aimed at bringing a new vision of the realities and the different parameters around the topic of migration, which has become one of the most important issues in the international agenda.

**24-25 November 2019, Cairo, Egypt**

### **Seventh Joint Research Workshop in Economics by the Faculty of Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, Cairo University and Paris 1 University**

In partnership with EMNES, FEPS held a workshop providing a platform for approximately 40 economists (and professionals in related disciplines) to discuss their recent research work. EMNES researchers presented the working paper “Does Trade Policy Matter for Wage Disparities in the MENA region?” at the workshop.

# EMNES ONLINE PRESENCE

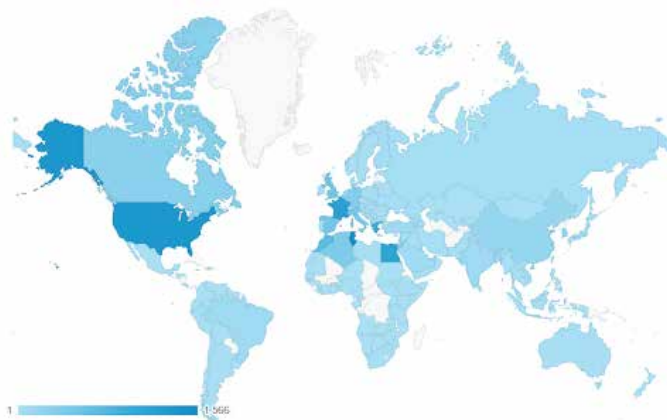
## Visibility Impressions

  
**FACEBOOK**  
Impressions: 946,538

  
**TWITTER**  
Impressions: 346,800

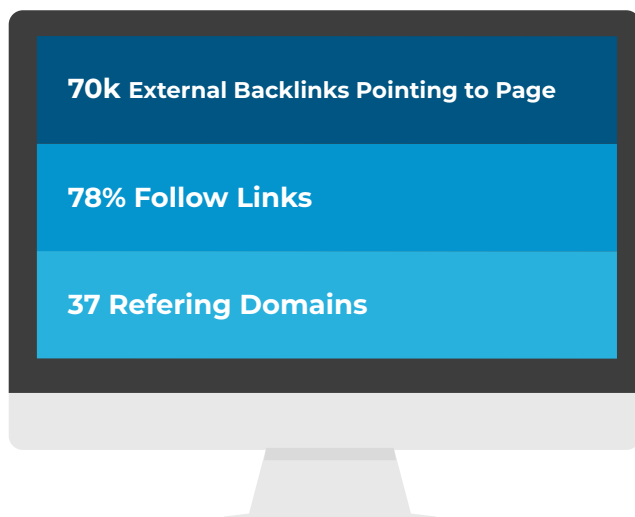
  
**TOTAL**  
Impressions: 1,293,338

## EMNES Website Reach



.....  
**46 Entries**  
.....  
EMNES publications indexed by Google Scholar


.....  
**TOP 5**  
.....  
Top 5 results for the terms "EMNES", "EMNES org", "Euro-Mediterranean network"



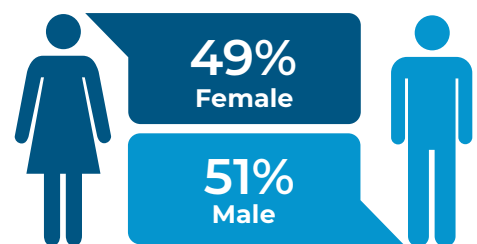
## Communication Intensity

**EMNES WEBSITE**  
 **14.29%**

**EMNES NEWSLETTERS**  
 **42.86%**

**EMNES SOCIAL ON MEDIA**  
 **42.86%**

**Gender of followers:**  
Mainly from Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt, 18-34 years old



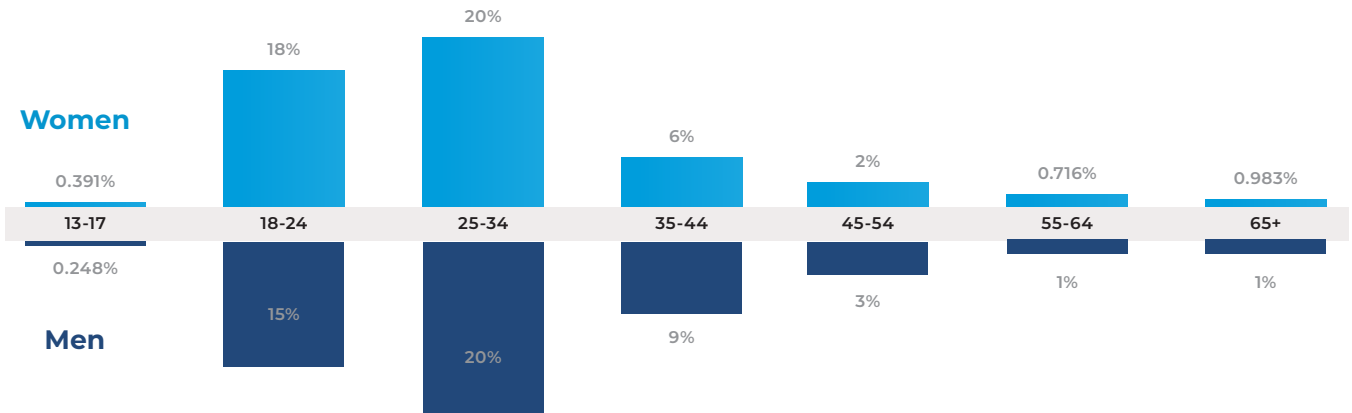
## Newsletter editions:

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS**  
**138**

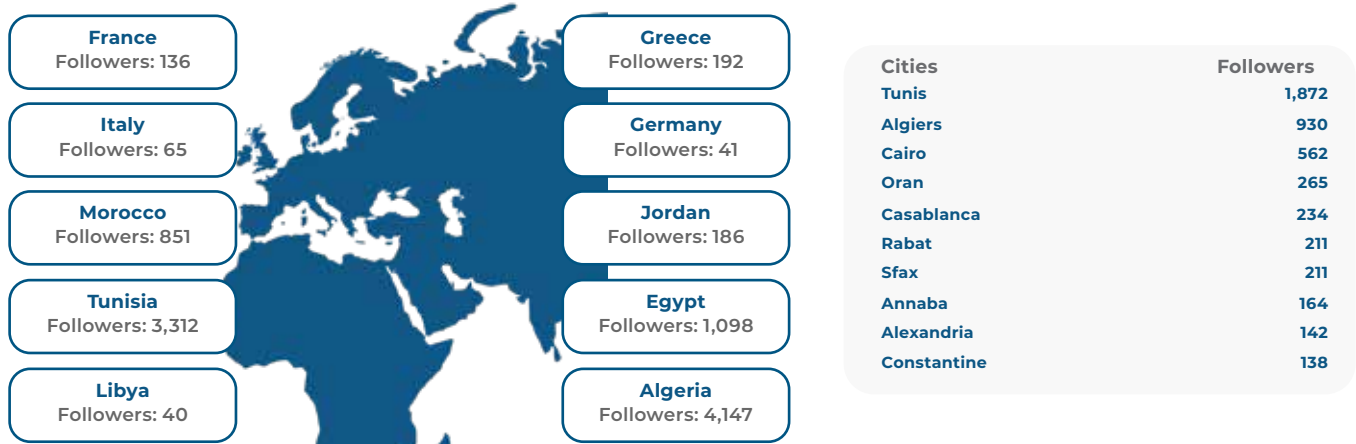
**ANNUAL NEWSLETTERS**  
**3**



## Facebook Outreach



## Facebook Outreach

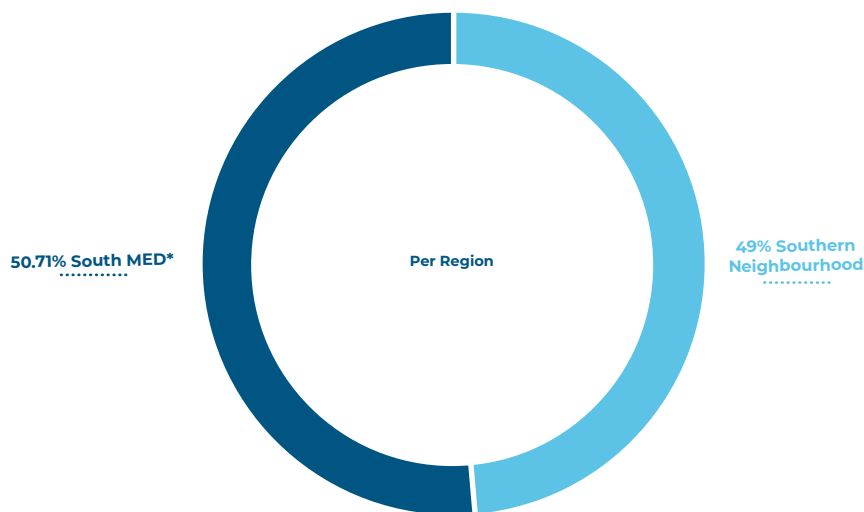


**TWITTER**  
Followers: 420  
Impressions: 346,800

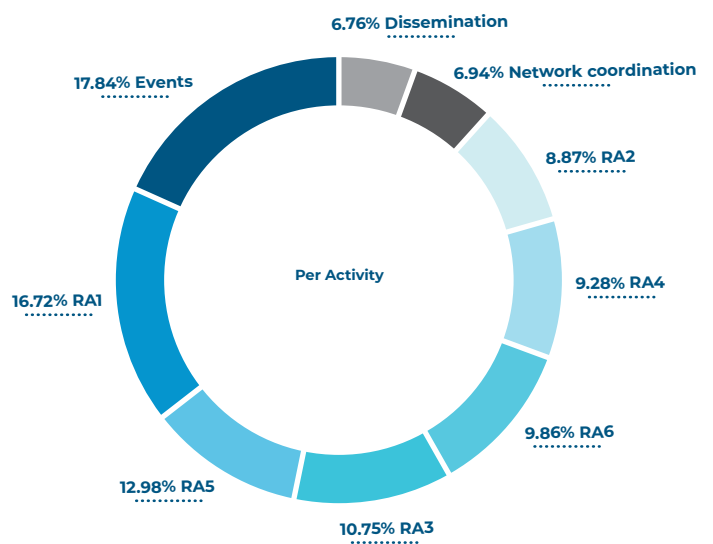
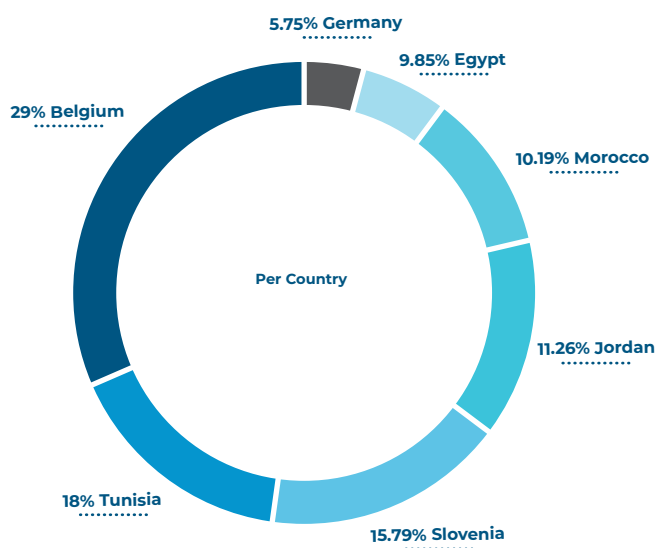
**FACEBOOK**  
Followers: 10,500  
Impressions: 946,538

**LINKEDIN**  
Followers: 411  
Impressions: 22,122

# EMNES BUDGET DISTRIBUTION



\*EMNES budget covers research activities, dissemination and network coordination conducted in the following Southern Neighbourhood and EU Countries: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Belgium, Germany and Slovenia.



- RA1 – Institutions, institutional reforms
- RA2 – Private sector, MSMEs and social business development
- RA3 – Human capital development, education, labour markets and migration
- RA4 – Macroeconomic policy, productivity, economic growth, inequality and social inclusion
- RA5 – Financial development, financial inclusion and the real economy
- RA6 – Regional integration, trade, investment and infrastructure

EMNES budget was 2.5 M EUR (80% co-funded by the European Union and 20% by EMNES Partners and Associates) in the period between 2015 and 2019.





The Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies - EMNES aims to provide a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the Mediterranean region.



EMNES was set-up with the financial support of the European Union – under Grant Contract no. ENPI/2014/354-488 (2015-2019) – and the EMNES Partners and Associates.

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## FOLLOW US ON

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[emnes.org](http://emnes.org)