



EU-MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICAN
NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

8th Issue: Jan - Dec 2023



In 2023, the world continued to grapple with the aftermath of the challenges posed in 2022, a year defined by the war in Ukraine and substantial economic disruptions from soaring energy and food prices, particularly affecting the Mediterranean and African regions. These regions, already constrained by limited fiscal resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, faced additional stressors. The ongoing struggles included a mix of immediate economic hardships due to persistent inflation and the long-term effects of climatic hazards, leading to escalating government debt and fears of disorderly defaults. Issues of inequality, poverty, and high unemployment, especially among youth and women, remained acute, with insufficient safety nets for the most vulnerable.

EMANES, consistent in its efforts, further expanded its research and dissemination activities in 2023. Building upon the 11 studies, working papers, and policy papers produced since December 2022, EMANES continued to develop and propose new socio-economic models for the Mediterranean and African regions. These efforts were particularly focused on navigating the post-COVID-19 landscape and the ongoing impacts of the Ukrainian conflict, with a strong emphasis on job creation, social inclusion, private sector development, financing the real economy, sustainable development, and regional integration and partnerships.

Highlighting their ongoing commitment, EMANES organized its Eighth Annual Conference in 13-15 December, 2023, following the successful Seventh Annual Conference on Social Inclusion and Social Protection Mechanisms for the Mediterranean and Africa held from December 14-16, 2022. This latest conference featured a broader array of research papers, reflecting the evolving challenges and opportunities in these regions, and continued to attract diverse participation from across the globe. The 2023 conference further cemented EMANES's role as a pivotal platform for discussing and shaping the future socio-economic landscape of the Mediterranean and African regions.

RYM AYADI
EMANES Director

<http://emnes.org/>

THE NETWORK

ABOUT EMANES



The EU-Mediterranean and African Network for Economic Studies (EMANES, formerly EMNES) is a network of research institutions and think tanks working on socio-economic policy in Europe, the Mediterranean region and Africa.

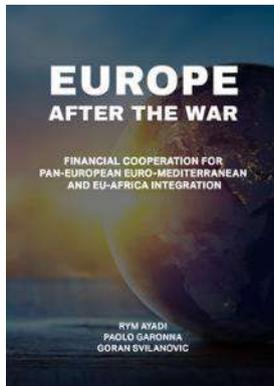
It builds on the research work of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association and the Mediterranean Prospects Network. EMANES - formerly EMNES), has been co-funded by the European Commission – under Grant Contract N° ENPI/2014/354-488 (2014-2019) and the EMNES Partners and Associates.

EMANES is supported from 35 Universities and Research Institutions from Algeria, Belgium, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and the UK. It consists of a core team of over 100 experts in all economic fields, including the members of the steering, associate and advisory committees, as well as the main EMANES researchers and fellows. Half of EMANES researchers are women and most of the researchers and fellows are less than 45 years old.

Since January 2023 EMANES published 1 Book, 1 Study and 9 Working Papers, all related to socio-economic developments of the Euro-Mediterranean region and Africa.

EMANES PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS



EUROPE AFTER THE WAR

Authors: Rym Ayadi, Paolo Garonna, Goran Svilanović - February 2023

EMEA - EMANES - CEPS Book, 2023

The book "Europe After the War: Financial Cooperation for Pan-European, Euro-Mediterranean and EU-Africa Integration" is a collection of papers which discuss the impact of the war in Ukraine on Europe spanning a wide range of areas from geopolitical scenarios to economic prospects, sustainable energy to logistics, and the Eastern European dimension to EU-Africa relations. The authors of this book believe that we are living an unprecedented 'European moment', and that this moment can and should be seized upon to respond to present and future shocks. Both the papers collected in this volume and the manifesto presented point out the most promising directions of the leap forward that is required: more assertive and unified policies towards Eastern Europe, the Euro-Mediterranean region and Africa; a federalist drive towards more effective and fairer economic and social governance; the fight against polarisation and the strengthening of liberal democracy.

STUDIES



THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID IN THE EU-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP: GOVERNANCE, ACTORNESS AND EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS

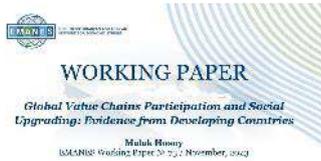
Authors: Rym Ayadi, Sara Ronco - February 2023

EMEA - EMANES - TRIGGER Study 2023

This study provides an in-depth analysis on the EU-Africa partnership with a focus on governance, actorness and effectiveness. The research was undertaken between 2020 and 2022 under the TRIGGER Project.

The European and African continents are historically connected. The European Union has always reserved a central role for Africa in its international relations. Development and cooperation between the European Union and Africa have been built on various partnerships and agreements. This study aims at analysing the evolution of the relationship between the European Union and the African continent through the analysis of international governance and the EU's governance, actorness and effectiveness.

WORKING PAPERS

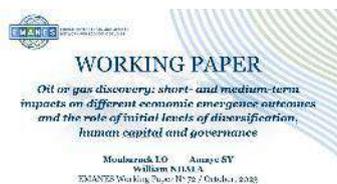


GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL UPGRADING: EVIDENCE FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Authors: Malak Hosny – November 2023

WP N°73 - Regional integration, trade, investment and infrastructure

This paper explores the effect of Global Value Chain (GVC) participation on social upgrading, which is captured by skill upgrading and working condition measures. Based on comprehensive firm-level data from the World Bank Enterprise Survey (WBES), this study provides a dataset of 84,191 firms in 117 developing countries.



OIL OR GAS DISCOVERY: SHORT- AND MEDIUM-TERM IMPACTS ON DIFFERENT ECONOMIC EMERGENCE OUTCOMES AND THE ROLE OF INITIAL LEVELS OF DIVERSIFICATION, HUMAN CAPITAL AND GOVERNANCE

Authors: Moubarrack Lo, Amaye Sy, William Ndala – October 2023

WP N°72 - Macroeconomic policy, productivity, economic growth, inequality and social inclusion

The empirical relationship between hydrocarbon wealth and each of the dimensions of economic emergence is not clearly understood. This research aims to contribute to the debate on the economic impacts of oil and gas resource development.

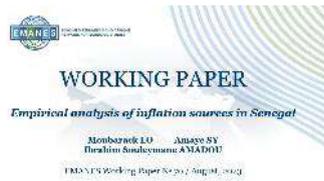


REVISITING TFP REGIONAL CONVERGENCE IN THE EU

Authors: Georges Harb, Charbel Bassil, Zouheir El Sahli – September 2023

WP N°71 - Regional integration, trade, investment and infrastructure

Using recent data on 155 NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) regions across EU member states, the paper estimates region-specific production functions to generate regional TFP (Total Factor Productivity) series from 1996 to 2018.



EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF INFLATION SOURCES IN SENEGAL

Authors: Moubarrack Lo, Amaye Sy, Ibrahim Souleymane Amadou – September 2023

WP N°70 - Macroeconomic policy, productivity, economic growth, inequality and social inclusion

The objective of this study is to explain the dynamics of inflation in Senegal. To this end, a Structural VAR model on monthly data covering the period January 2015 – July 2022 was used.



DEEP TRADE AGREEMENTS, INSTITUTIONS AND GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS: EVIDENCE FROM EGYPT

Authors: Fatma Aly, Chahir Zaki – June 2023

WP N°69 - Regional integration, trade, investment and infrastructure

The paper investigates the nexus between deep trade agreements, institutional quality and global value chains (GVCs) in Egypt.



AID FOR TRADE AND EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF RECIPIENT COUNTRIES: THE MODERATING ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS

Authors: Nora Aboushady, Georges Harb, Chahir Zaki – April 2023

WP N°68 - Regional integration, trade, investment and infrastructure

The paper highlights how institutions matter for the impact of aid for trade on exports.

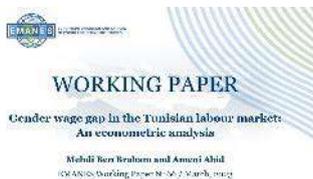


FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND BARRIERS TO FUNDING MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS IN MENA COUNTRIES PRIOR TO AND DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Authors: Imène Berguiga, Philippe Adair – March 2023

WP N°67 - Private sector, micro, small and medium sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and social business development

The paper examines females micro-entrepreneur self-selection prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as discrimination prior to and during the pandemic.



GENDER WAGE GAP IN THE TUNISIAN LABOUR MARKET: AN ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS

Authors: Mehdi Ben Braham, Ameni Abid – March 2023

WP N°66 - Human capital development, education, labour markets and migration

This paper is based on the explanation of the pay differences between women and men in the Tunisian labour market. The theoretical framework of the research is articulated around the economic theory of gender discrimination in the labour market.



FOSTERING DECENT JOBS IN MENA COUNTRIES: SEGMENTED EMPLOYMENT, OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY AND FORMALISING INFORMALITY

Authors: Philippe Adair, Vladimir Hlasny – February 2023

WP N°65 - Human capital development, education, labour markets and migration

The paper examines why is there persistent labour market segmentation, as evidenced by gender patterns in employment and occupational mobility, and what is the impact and potential of various formalisation policies in MENA countries.

EMANES EVENTS

CONFERENCES & WEBINARS



19th International Conference on Pensions, Insurance and Savings Tokyo, 11-12 May 2023

The conference "Pension, Insurance and Savings" is dedicated to models and methods that explain/develop different ways to mobilize savings, to invest pension assets, to finance and manage retirement regarding demographic trends, old-age dependency risks and other tools helping a better management of financial and non-financial risks.



The main topic of the 19 edition of the conference was "Ageing and Well-being over the Life Course". Prof. Najat El Mekkaoui, research fellow at the economic department, Université Paris Dauphine-PSL, LEDa DIAL and EMEA senior research fellow, opened the conference. EMEA researcher, Yeganeh Forouheshfar, presented the paper entitled "A Regional Comparison of the Elderly Well-Being". She also moderated the session on 'Elderly Wellbeing,' while Prof. Doriana Cucinelli, EMEA research fellow, presented her paper titled "Life and Non-Life Insurance Holdings: Does Individual Insurance Knowledge Matter?"



Furthermore, EMEA hosted a Policy Roundtable entitled, "Brain capital & health inequality, gender, life cycle course, moderated by Prof. Najat El Mekkaoui. The panel included EMEA President, Prof Rym Ayadi, Harris Eyre MD PhD – EMEA Advisor and fellow with Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, and Prof. William Tov Associate Professor of Psychology at Singapore Management University.



EMEA, EMANES, CEPS webinar: “Europe After the War: What Next for Pan-European, Euro-Mediterranean and EU African Integration?”

Online, 26 March 2023

The webinar presented the main conclusions of the book "Europe After the War: What Next for Pan-European, Euro-Mediterranean and EU African Integration?" and discussed the future of Europe after the war with the focus on the role of finance and capital markets and the future of partnership and integration towards EU wider neighbourhood. The book was published and pre-launched at CEPS Ideas Lab 2023.

Moderator: Cinzia Alcidi, Director of Research at Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and Executive Board Member, EMEA

Panellist(s):

Paolo Garonna, Professor of Political Economy, Luiss Guido Carli, University of Rome

Goran Svilanović, Former Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council
Pietro Carlo Padoan, Chairman of the Board, Unicredit S.p.A.

Rym Ayadi, President and Founder, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA)



EMEA and EMNES participation to CEPS IdeasLab 2023

Brussels, 28 February – 01 March 2023

IdeasLab is the most high-profile annual event on policies of the EU. It is organised by the Centre for European Policy Studies – CEPS, one of Europe’s leading think-tanks, a partner of EMEA and co-founder of EMANES. EMEA was again in 2023 of the sponsors of the event. IdeasLab 2023 was a very successful event, with 700+ registered participants -among them renowned researchers, policy makers and representatives of international organisations.

EMEA and EMANES organised the PRIME talk “**The green energy transition in the EU and Africa: is a win-win strategy possible?**” which was moderated by the EMEA President, Prof. Rym Ayadi. The panellists were Marc Sadler, Program Leader, Sustainable Development, World Bank, Luca Giansanti, Head of European Government Affairs, Eni, and Assaad Saab, Senior Advisor to the World Energy Council.

During the event, Prof. Rym Ayadi announced the timely publication of the book “**Europe After the War**”, co-authored with Paolo Garonna and Goran Svilanović. The book is a collection of papers which discuss the impact of the war in Ukraine on Europe spanning a wide range of areas from geopolitical scenarios to economic prospects, sustainable energy to logistics, and the Eastern European dimension to EU-Africa relations. The book is co-published by the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association – EMEA and the Centre for European Policy Studies – CEPS

Additionally, the EMEA team also joined the debate held as part of the 40th Anniversary of CEPS “The Europe we want – The Europe we need” with Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-president, Commissioner for Competition, European Commission as the keynote speaker, along with Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Head of the United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus and Karel Lanoo Chief Executive Officer of CEPS.



EMANES Annual Conference 2023

EMEA HQ Barcelona, 13 - 15 December 2023

The EMANES Annual Conference 2023 **"Novel approaches for regional partnerships in the EU-Mediterranean and Africa"** took place at EMEA HQs at Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site on 13-15 December 2023. The conference was organized by EMEA in collaboration with CEPS, and brought together EMANES Researchers and members, international economists, policy experts and policy makers.

For this year's conference 45 papers were received from 29 countries at the call for papers. 18 papers were accepted by the scientific committee and were presented & discussed at the conference, in 6 Academic Sessions.

The first day of the conference opened with a welcome speech by EMEA President and EMANES Director Prof. Rym Ayadi. She emphasized that "the novel approaches of regional partnerships among the European Union, the Mediterranean, and Africa stand as a testament to innovative collaboration in a multi-polar geopolitical and geo-economic order."

Keynote Speaker of the 1st day of EMANES AC 2023 was Prof. Giovanni Ferri, LUMSA, who presented "Looking Ahead from the Polycrisis to Responsibility and Adaptation in the Future of Europe and Africa". The day closed with the presentation of the short film "Whispers of the Earth: Symphony of change", which been produced by EMEA.

On the second day of EMANES AC2023 the Policy Session "What Euro-Med African Partnership for climate change adaptation and mitigation?" took place. It was moderated by Prof. Rym Ayadi and the panel included Cinzia Alcidi, Director of Research, Head of the Economic Policy Unit at CEPS and EMEA Advisor, Nathalie Hilmi, Section Head of Environmental Economics, Scientific Center of Monaco and EMEA advisor, Grammenos Mastrojeni, Senior Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean and Iolanda Fresnillo, Policy and Advocacy Manager – Debt Justice Eurodad.

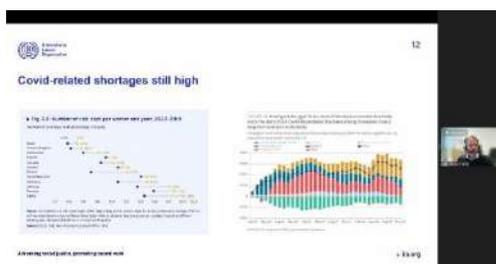
Also, on the second day of the conference Prof. Ayadi introduced the session on Regional Integration. During the session the Regional Integration Matrix Dashboard was presented by Elena Stotts-Lee, EMEA Research Assistant.

The 3rd day of the EMANES AC 2023 included two Policy Keynote speeches, by EMEA Advisors H.E. Fathallah Sijilmassi, Director General of the African Union Commission and Ekkehard Ernst, ILO Chief Macroeconomist.

The conference ended with **Best Paper Award Ceremony**. The winning papers were:

- Effects of economic complexity and energy consumption on inclusive green growth - Isaac K. Ofori (University of Cape Coast), Emmanuel Gbolonyo and Nathanael Ojong
- GVC and Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from MENA - Yasmine Eissa, Misr International University
- Interpretable machine learning models for ESG stock prices under transition and physical climate risk - Haithem Awjien, Sami Ben Jabeur (Esdes Business School), Julien Pillot

The awarded papers will receive 2,000 Euros of research budget in order to continue their research under these topics. The award is funded by the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association – EMEA.



EMANES PARTNERS

OUR TRUSTED COLLEAGUES

EMANES Founding Members

- Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), Spain
- Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium
- Institut des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (IHEC), Tunisia
- University of Cairo – Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), Egypt
- Yarmouk University (YU), Jordan
- Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes (UEMF), Morocco
- Research Center in Applied Economics for Development (CREAD), Algeria
- University of Florence (UNIFI), Italy
- Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS), Palestine
- Bureau de Prospective Economique, Senegal
- Research Institute for European, Mediterranean, and African Studies (RIEMAS) (Morocco)

EMANES Associates

- African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), Ghana
- ESDES Business School (ESDES), France
- Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), Kenya
- Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), Slovenia
- Free University of Berlin (FUB), Germany
- Institut Tunisien de la Compétitivité et des Études Quantitatives (ITCEQ), Tunisia
- Tunis Business School (TBS), Tunisia
- Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV), Morocco
- Université Internationale de Rabat (UIR), Morocco
- Forum for Euro-Mediterranean Innovation in Action (FEMIA), France
- Institute of Computers and Communications Systems - E3MLab, National Technical University of Athens (ICCS), Greece
- Istanbul Policy Center – Sabancı University (IPC), Turkey
- Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems (ISINNOVA), Italy
- Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB), Spain
- University of Barcelona Regional Quantitative Analysis Group (UB-AQR), Spain
- Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes – Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari (CIHEAM), Italy
- Jordan Strategy Forum (JSF), Jordan
- Centre for Banking Research (CBR), United Kingdom
- Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), Italy
- European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Spain
- Policy Centre for the New South (PCNS), Morocco
- German Jordanian University (GJU), Jordan
- Université de Tunis (ESSECT), Tunisia
- Libera Università Maria SS. Assunta (LUMSA), Italy



European
Commission

Financially supported by the European Commission

**The EU-Mediterranean and African Network for Economic Studies
(EMANES, formerly EMNES)
aims to provide a renewed vision for socio-economic development in
the Mediterranean region and Africa.**

**EMANES acknowledges the financial support of the European
Commission – under
Grant Contract N° ENPI/2014/354-488 (2014-2019)**



EU-MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICAN
NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES

www.emnes.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EMNES.org/> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EMNESorg>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/emnes/>