

# report

## HUMAN SECURITY AND CO-DEVELOPMENT

A Perspective for New Generations



REPORT No. 10  
December 2016  
[www.iemed.org](http://www.iemed.org)



Medthink 55

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## HUMAN SECURITY AND CO-DEVELOPMENT

A Perspective for New Generations

Paris Concorde Hotel, Tunis 5 December 2016

The last five years have shown that the Mediterranean region is more dynamic than ever. The political and economic changes experienced by the countries of the basin demonstrated the need for a constant adaptation on the path to shared prosperity and mutual understanding between societies. More than twenty years after the Barcelona Process in 1995 and eight years after the birth of the Union for the Mediterranean, the essential objective of the construction of a space of stability and dialogue requires more dedication and effort by all the actors involved.

It is more obvious than ever that these challenges cannot be simply confronted through national solutions or domestic policies. The need for a common foreign policy strategy by multiple actors is becoming an imperative. The humanitarian crisis across the Mediterranean Sea generated both by the exponential growth of migratory flows as well as the constant threats in the field of security by terrorism and criminal organisations are among the major problems policy-makers and experts have to face.

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From left to right: Eva Martínez, Senén Florensa and Faten Kalle.

The Med Think 5+5 network has the main objective of fostering and encouraging inclusive processes of study and dissemination of the causes and the solutions to the main challenges in the Western Mediterranean by bringing together representatives of governments, academics, research institutes, and civil society

Therefore, the key to success lies in the improvement of the mechanisms of dialogue and cooperation between all actors. In order to contribute to the interests and values shared by the countries of the Dialogue 5+5, the Med Think 5+5 network has the main objective of fostering and encouraging inclusive processes of study and dissemination of the causes and the solutions to the main challenges in the Western Mediterranean by bringing together representatives of governments, academics, research institutes, and civil society.

In this context, this workshop organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean, the Tunisian Institute of Strategic Studies and the Med Think 5+5 network was an excellent opportunity to share knowledge and ideas, while encouraging better cooperation by bringing together leading experts to discuss human security, the perspectives for new generations and the viability of moving towards a co-development agenda.

## The Med Think 5+5 Network

The Med Think 5+5 is a sub-regional network of think tanks that was established in May 2016 with the support of more than thirty institutions from the ten Western Mediterranean countries of the 5+5 Dialogue: Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, Libya and Tunisia.

The 5+5 Dialogue is an informal sub-regional and intergovernmental forum established in 1990, which was created with the aim of fostering cooperation in the fields of political dialogue, defence, security, migration, transport, water, research and education, renewable energies and environment, trade, investment, health and tourism.

The Med Think 5+5 works around the Western Mediterranean Forum and its ministerial format and high-level working groups by cementing a useful partnership with regional cooperation organisations and civil society with the goal of serving as a practical model for greater regional integration.

The network aims to respond to basic needs within the system of the 5+5 Dialogue by working to enable dialogue through the organisation of conferences, seminars and symposia with key players in the region. It also serves as a platform of joint research and dissemination in order to provide output to the policy-making leadership of the Western Mediterranean Forum.

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From left to right: Mohamed Benouada Kefif, Hatem Ben Salem and Taoufik Bouaoun.

This initiative was noted with interest during the 13th meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 5+5 Dialogue that took place in Marseilles on 28 October 2016.

### **Human Security, Stability and Cooperation. The Basic Conditions for Co-Development**

The first session was devoted to the analysis of the concepts of co-development and human security and the possibility of greater efforts by all actors of the Western Mediterranean region to the pursuit of better cooperation. In this regard, the debate started by making a theoretical approach to the viability of the co-development thesis.

It is a controversial concept in itself depending on its interpretation, since this line of thought can be understood both as a development strategy based on the final goal of ensuring the same level of welfare between northern and southern Mediterranean countries, and as a strategy in which migrants can be considered a developing factor for their countries of origin (Nair, 1997).

The attendees agreed that the first interpretation, while desirable, is still far from achievable due to the big gap between both shores of the Mediterranean that would demand an unprecedented level of cooperation and determination among actors in the region. Nevertheless, this can be substituted with the search of common challenges shared by all countries and that affect the pursuit of a greater level of human security and stability in the Western Mediterranean.

A lot has been written about the concept of human security since this paradigm gained popularity with the publication of the Development Report by the United Nations Development Programme in 1994. During the context of the post-Cold War period, the international community felt the need to shift from the usage of the strictly national security concept to a more people-centred and multi-disciplinary perspective, comprehensive and based on the analysis of the threats that could affect the individual.

The usage of this new model spread rapidly in Europe and served as a turning point in the core of the Mediterranean region with the holding of the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference in 1995, organised by the European Union with the objective of strengthening its relations with the southern and eastern countries. The initiative, also known as the Barcelona Process, laid the foundations of a new regional order with the objective of “defining a common area of peace and stability, the construction of a zone of shared prosperity and the rapprochement between peoples through a social, cultural and human partnership” (Barcelona Declaration, 1995). Since then, the evolution of the Mediterranean has led to many changes but the goals established have and will remain as a reference in the past and for years to come.

More than twenty years have gone by and most of the countries of the Euro-Med Partnership have experienced profound transformation and new challenges have emerged. Still, the concept of human security has prevailed as a good mechanism to analyse and discuss the current state of human needs in the Mediterranean. This is due to the nature of the needs of individuals and the threats that put their security in jeopardy, regardless of the social context.

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Alexandra Magnólia Dias and Soumaya Ben Letaifa during the first session of the workshop.

Human security needs to be understood in a broad sense as it includes different types of security, such as economic (persistent poverty and unemployment), food security (hunger, famine), health security (diseases, malnutrition, lack of access to basic health care), environmental security (natural disasters, pollution, resource depletion), personal security (crime, terrorism, child labour), community security (inter-ethnic, religious and other identity-based tensions) and political security (political repression, human rights abuses).

During the session, the participants also discussed the recently launched EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy and the downgrade of the human security approach reflected in the priority agenda of the European Union. Some experts argued that this factor comes at a time when there is a need to strengthen the use of the human security concept in connection with the human development and human rights frameworks in order to bring together political, ethical and normative dimensions beyond the European perspective.

As was pointed out, the 5+5 Dialogue has come a long way on the path of securing better cooperation in the several fields of interest mentioned above by working around its ministerial meetings and sectorial initiatives.

The 5+5 Defence Initiative served as an example of good cooperation in order to jointly face major challenges. It is one of great interests after the start of the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean that has left us with more than 4,715 deaths and 350,000 new migrant arrivals to the European coasts in 2016 alone. Moreover, the attacks perpetrated in Tunisia, France and Libya have shown the need for intensifying the collaboration between state security forces and bodies in the fight against violent extremism and radicalisation. The number of foreign fighters from Tunisia, France and Morocco that have joined terrorist groups should also be a factor of great concern within the Western Mediterranean.

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The Defence Initiative has developed its capacity to conduct short and mid-term joint action and currently stands as a role model of multilateral cooperation. Its success comes not only from the commitment to carry out a broad range of

operations together, such as maritime surveillance, air security and training, but also from the will to search for new ways of collaboration going forward.

Nevertheless, it was repeatedly noted that, because of its nature, strategic problems cannot be dealt with unilaterally by excluding the immediate neighbourhood. The security structure will be non-existent or under severe danger as long as the south is not pacified and Libya continues in its current situation.

The challenges related to the fight against violent extremism and prevention of radicalisation can be approached in the framework of the 5+5 Dialogue but this exercise should be carried out by adopting an inclusive model of cooperation where not only governments but also experts and research institutions help identify the origin of the problem and the mechanisms to combat it effectively. Achieving stability and peace in the Maghreb is a basic condition to move towards a region of shared prosperity and development.

The importance of good governance was also mentioned as a key factor for sustained growth, as the lack of it prevents durable progress and can create disaffection across societies, and end up being a driver of instability and security problems. Moreover, there needs to be a change of paradigm in the relationship between the countries of both shores of the Mediterranean and a search for better dynamics of cooperation in promising areas such as agriculture and renewable energies, but it demands an unfailing level of constructive and genuine dialogue.

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The first session of the Workshop was devoted to discussing human security and the state of cooperation in the Western Mediterranean.

All this comes at a time of impasse for the European countries after Brexit and the Italian constitutional referendum, while keeping a watchful eye on the elections that will take place in France next year.

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There are already existing exercises of cooperation both between the 5+5 Dialogue countries and also with other neighbouring regions such as the Sahel or Mashreq, but not on a consistent basis with a structured scheme. Meanwhile, inequality and the gap between Europe and the Maghreb and Sahel countries has not ceased growing. The field of health was evoked as another of great potential for cooperation and its importance is such that development is an unrealistic goal while there is limited access to the health service.

During the workshop, several experts expressed their strong belief about the need to expand the framework of the 5+5 Dialogue in order to include the Sahel G5 (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Mauritania), especially in these initiatives related to the field of migration, security, trade and investments.

This process of progressive expansion to cooperating more actively with the “neighbourhood of the neighbourhood” (also known as the 5+5+5 Dialogue) will only be possible if the northern countries of the Western Mediterranean show their interest in reaching out to the Sahel, but it also means a great exercise of leadership. All this comes at a time of impasse for the European countries after Brexit and the Italian constitutional referendum, while keeping a watchful eye on the elections that will take place in France next year. These changes might lead to new geopolitical strategies that are still to be determined, but the 5+5 Dialogue will remain a useful tool given its intrinsic value.

### **A Western Mediterranean Connected to the Creation of Youth Employment**

This second session was devoted to discussing the causes of youth unemployment in the 5+5 Dialogue countries and the potential solutions and complementarities within the states of the Western Mediterranean.

As the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 5+5 Dialogue pointed out in the conclusions of the 13th Ministerial Meeting held in Marseilles on 28 October 2016, the promotion of better education, training and youth employability remains one of the main priorities for the Western Mediterranean countries.

It was noted during the Med Think 5+5 Workshop that unemployment among youths in the Arab countries, and in particular those from the Maghreb countries, is the highest in the world, with an estimation of 30% in 2015 versus 13% worldwide. Combined with very negative figures from countries of the 5+5 Dialogue, such as Italy and Spain, this means that social and economic inclusiveness of youth in the 5+5 region is the major challenge that the Western Mediterranean Forum needs to face.

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Faten Kallel, the Tunisian Secretary of State for Youth during her presentation in the second session of the workshop.

The problems tied to youth unemployment are especially worrisome if two factors are taken into account: firstly, there is an important part of our society that cannot contribute to economic growth and is on the verge of social exclusion; secondly, the impact of this situation will only get worse with time, especially in the southern Mediterranean, if the demographic growth trend is confirmed.

Realities and dynamics between north and south are different with regards to youth unemployment, but there is ground for common action. Youth employment is often precarious and informal in the south, whereas it is mostly precarious in the north. Owing to harsh labour market conditions, many youths transitioning from school to work struggle to find a job in the formal sector. Therefore, youth unemployment is very costly to the region's societies and requires a major turnaround in policy thinking.

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As was pointed out during the Med Think 5+5 workshop, there is a big generational gap between youth and decision-makers. There should be greater effort from the sociological point of view to better understand the expectations and desires of the new generations, their abilities and role models when they confront the stage of transition from education towards entry into the labour market. The sense of security, stability and progression in their professional careers are also important factors that need to be taken into consideration.

When talking about the solutions in order to face youth unemployment, experts agreed that reform of the education model was needed. More is required than simply new places in schools. In this regard, Tunisia has traditionally been well placed to serve as a model for the rest of the southern 5+5 Dialogue countries, not only from quality standards but also from a general positive trend over the last few years.

There might be a tendency to promote shortcuts such as exporting labour to abundant labour supply countries. But it needs to be acknowledged that the European countries are reducing migration quotas and that obtaining work permits is becoming more difficult, even for southern European countries.

Therefore, despite mobility partnerships or migration compacts that the European Commission is rightly promoting and implementing, countries need to look inwards, not abroad, to tackle youth unemployment. However, this does not exclude the possibility of further cooperation and integration in the region, such as by strengthening inter-Arab trade in goods and services, enhancing regional policy cooperation and promoting further south-south integration in the Maghreb. This last point has been extensively discussed in the past, especially in the 1st Med Think Forum 5+5 in Barcelona, but it still depends on the will of the southern countries.

There is no “one size fits all” policy response for the region, but there is strong ground for common action

At the regional level, looking at the various frameworks, the UfM or the 5+5 Dialogue are suitable institutions from which regional initiatives have been launched or could be launched in the future. There is no “one size fits all” policy response for the region, but there is strong ground for common action.

For instance, on the demand side of the labour market, sound macro-economic policies and political stability are pre-conditions to create sustainable jobs, but also encouraging entrepreneurship, facilitating access to finance for MSMEs, including microfinance, business mentoring and start-up support.

On the supply side of the labour market, reform and investment in education has to continue, while re-launching vocational training to address the existing mismatches.

And all those measures have to be complemented with active labour market reforms with the aim of promoting greater flexibility for those outside the labour markets to enter, and to adapt the active labour policies to the needs of young people, especially young women.

Finally, participants defended the idea of giving better opportunities to young entrepreneurs and advocated more investment in the digital economy field given the true economic and social value of some initiatives that have been funded and developed in the Western Mediterranean countries.



## Conclusions

The different representatives of the research centres and public diplomacy institutions congratulated themselves after regarding the level of the debates maintained and the broad range of themes discussed. They asserted the utility of the Med Think 5+5 framework as it is a format that allows perspectives and ideas from both shores of the Mediterranean to be shared.

It was pointed out that the format has been consolidated since the first meeting in Barcelona and that it comes in a context where the 5+5 Dialogue intergovernmental format is also more dynamic than ever before.

Nevertheless, this has to be seen as an opportunity for better cooperation that cannot be disregarded. Human security challenges will need to be faced with more effective and inclusive projects for the future, and this will also allow the region to take a definitive step forward towards better social and economic integration.

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EU Ambassador to Libya Bettina Muschidt speaking to the audience; accompanied by Tunisian State Secretary Faten Kallel.