

## EMNES-MEDAM Workshop

### Economic Integration of Refugees in the Countries of First Asylum

### Mission: Possible?

**Date:** 8 June 2017

**Venue:** CEPS, Conference Room, Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels

The southern Mediterranean region has close ties and a long history of cooperation with EU member states in the areas of trade, foreign investment, and migration. The need for further cooperation has become urgent since the outbreak of war in Syria and the resulting increase in numbers of displaced persons, many of whom have found asylum in southern Mediterranean countries. Many refugees will not be able to return to their country of origin, at least not in the foreseeable future. This raises issues about their integration in the countries of first asylum.

The workshop brings together researchers and policymakers to discuss the economic opportunities of refugees and other immigrants in the southern Mediterranean countries. The following questions, among others, will be addressed: Are these countries economically able to accommodate large inflows of migrants? How is the labour market integration process currently being managed and what challenges do host countries face? What new policies and tools can be developed and how can cooperation with the EU help?

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This workshop is organised by CEPS, Economic Policy Unit  
Contact person: Nadzeya Laurentsyevea, [nadzeya.laurentsyevea@ceps.eu](mailto:nadzeya.laurentsyevea@ceps.eu)

#### **About EMNES**

Thanks to EU funding, the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies has been created as a network of partners and associate research institutions and think tanks working on the Euro-Mediterranean region. EMNES aims to provide a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the Mediterranean region, focusing on employment creation, youth, social inclusion, and sustainable development. EMNES areas of research include the role of institutions, private sector and micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and employment creation, role of education, skill mismatch and migration, finance, regulation and the real economy, and regional integration. EMNES will produce reports, scientific and policy papers and will disseminate its findings through the organisation of annual conferences and workshop meetings bringing together leading researchers, academics, policymakers and representatives of the civil society to discuss and debate optimal policies for the future of the region. EMNES is built on four core principles: independence, excellence, policy relevance and deep knowledge of Euro-Mediterranean affairs.

#### **About MEDAM**

The Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration is a practical research and consultation project that addresses pressing issues in asylum and migration and aims to provide evidence-based solutions from a primarily economic perspective. With a view to strengthening Europe's ability to act, MEDAM intends to fill the gaps in policy research on asylum and migration and to develop recommendations for decision-makers at the national and European levels. Funded by Stiftung Mercator, the project brings together researchers from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute in Florence and the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels.

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## Preliminary Programme

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| 9.00-9.15     | Registration   |
| 9.15-9.30     | Introduction of MEDAM & EMNES  |
| 9.30-10.00    | <b>Economic links between the EU and the South Med region: trade, investment, and migration</b><br><i>Speakers: Matthias Busse (CEPS, EMNES) and Nadzeya Laurentsyeva (CEPS, MEDAM)</i>  |
| 10.00-11.30   | <b>Session I. Recent economic developments in the South Med region</b><br><i>Moderator: Matthias Busse (CEPS)</i><br><br>1. Labour market impact of trade liberalisation in the South Med region<br><i>Speaker: Rym Ayadi (HEC Montreal, Emuni, EMNES)</i><br>2. Labour market structure and skill mismatch<br><i>Speaker: Jamel Trabelsi (IHEC Cartage &amp; BETA University and EMNES)</i><br>3. Mobilisation of highly skilled diaspora. Insights from FINCOME program as a Moroccan experience<br><i>Speaker: Ilyas Azzioui (National Center for Scientific and Technical Research, Rabat and EMNES)</i> |
| 11.30-12.00   | Coffee break   |
| 12.00-13.30   | <b>Session II. The South Med region as a destination for migrants: prospects for economic integration</b><br><i>Moderator: Veronique Barbelet (ODI)</i><br><br>1. The questionable capacity to accommodate forced migrants. The marginalised in a context of marginalisation<br><i>Speaker: Elena Sánchez-Montijano (CIDOB)</i><br>2. The economics of the Syrian refugee crisis: The case of Lebanon<br><i>Speaker: Anda David (AFD)</i><br>3. Making refugees work? The politics of labour market integration for Syrian refugees in Jordan<br><i>Speaker: Lewis Turner (SOAS University of London)</i>    |
| 13.30 – 14.30 | Lunch  |
| 14.30 -15.30  | <b>Session III. Existing cooperation schemes between the EU and the South Med region in the area of migration</b><br>1. The impact of foreign aid on migration (revisited)<br><i>Speaker: Mauro Lanati (EUI, MEDAM)</i><br>2. Agreements between the EU and the South Med countries: Do they work?<br><i>Speakers: Marco Stefan and Leonhard den Hertog (CEPS)</i>   |
| 15.30-16.00   | Coffee break   |
| 16.00-17.00   | <b>Panel discussion. Policies and tools for labour market integration of refugees in the South Med region</b><br>Panelists: Rym Ayadi (HEC Montreal, Emuni, EMNES), Dagmar Schineanu (Senior Economist and Former Advisor on migration and development for the Italian Development Cooperation, 1995-2016), Tobias Stoebr (Kiel Institute for World Economy, MEDAM)  |