

Driving Social and Economic Development in the MENA Region: Role of International Organizations

Date: 15 November 2018, Thursday

Meeting Venue: Fatih Hall 2, Hilton Bosphorus Hotel 9th Floor, Harbiye - Istanbul

Meeting Agenda

- 12:00 – 12:45 *Open buffet lunch at Fatih Hall 1*
- 12:45 – 13:00 **Welcome remarks**
Aybars Görgülü, PODEM Executive Director
- 13:00 – 13:15 **Keynote speech**
Tarik M. Yousef, Director of Brookings Doha Center
- 13:15 – 13:35 **Panel 1: Regional outlook of MENA post-2011**
- Moderator:** *David Ramin Jalilvand, Policy Consultant and Analyst*
- Kick-off speeches:**
- Farah Choucair, Project Manager, Arab Development Portal, UNDP*
Fouad Gehad Marei, Policy consultant and Senior Research Fellow
- 13:35 – 14:35 **Panel 1: Facilitated open discussion**
- Discussion topics**
- Identifying main political and socio-economic challenges/opportunities in MENA and how they affect the current regional outlook
 - In what ways the 2011 period and its aftermath have been transformative on the region's social and economic context?
 - What shortcomings have surfaced in this period that impede the region's growth and development?
 - To what extent social and economic expectations of the societies have been fulfilled since 2011? What are the main expectations at present?



- 14:35 – 15:10 Networking Coffee Break
- 15:10 – 15:40 **Panel 2: Role/impact of international organizations in social and economic development of MENA**
- Moderator:** *Roger Albinyana, Director of Mediterranean Regional Policies and Human Development, IEMed*
- Kick-off speeches:**
- Giordano Segneri, UN Peace and Development Advisor*
Shaden Khallaf, Senior Policy Advisor for the MENA Bureau of UNHCR
Göran Holmqvist, Head of Department for Asia, Middle East and Humanitarian Assistance, SIDA
- 15:40 – 16:40 **Panel 2: Facilitated open discussion**
- Discussion topics**
- How and to what extent international organizations are able to address the main social and economic challenges/opportunities in the region?
 - What should be their role in forming constructive approaches and policies in fostering socio-economic development in MENA?
 - What are the examples of successful development initiatives by the international organizations active in the region? What are the key challenges they face in the implementation of their agenda.
 - The ways forward for effective partnerships for sustainable development in the region among int'l organizations, governments, civil society and the public? Main expectations from int'l organizations.
- 16:40 – 16:50 **Concluding remarks**
- Mensur Akgün, Director of Global Political Trends Center, Istanbul Kültür University*
- 17:00 – Onwards **Evening reception at Lalezar Hall (ground floor)**



Participant List (Alphabetical order)

Aybars Görgülü, PODEM Executive Director

Aysel Madra, Programme Officer, Raoul Wallenberg Institute

Ayşe Üstünel Yırcalı, PODEM Member

Bassam Al-Kuwatli, General Manager of RMTeam

David Ramin Jalilvand, Berlin-based Policy Analyst and Consultant

David Weil, PhD candidate in Near Eastern Studies Dept. of Princeton University

Elnor Gasanov, First Secretary at the Norwegian Embassy, Ankara

Eva Horelova, Head of the Political Section of the European Union Delegation to Turkey

Emir Bayburt, PODEM Project Officer

Farah Choucair, Technical Specialist and Project Manager, Arab Development Portal and Social Cohesion Regional Project, Regional Programme, RBAS UNDP

Fouad Gehad Marei, Fellow in Max-Weber-Kolleg for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies at Universität Erfurt

Francesca Caruso, H2020 MENARA Communications Officer, Research Fellow at Istituto Affari Internazionali

Francesca Fabbri, Policy Analyst at European Policy Center, Brussels

Giordano Segneri, UN Peace and Development Advisor, Tunisia

Göran Holmqvist, Head of Department for Asia, Middle East and Humanitarian Assistance, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), PhD in Peace and Development Studies from Gothenburg University

Gülşah Dark, PODEM Project Officer

Hajar Al-Kaddo, Humanitarian Aid and Youth Consultant, Jasmine Foundation

Hikmet Kırık, Associate Professor of the Political Science Faculty at Istanbul University

İhami Alkan Olsson, Director of Turkey Office, Raoul Wallenberg Institute

Kristian Brakel, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Turkey Country Director

Mensur Akgün, Director of Global Political Trends Center, Professor at Istanbul Kültür University

Nida Yüksel, PODEM Project Assistant

Osman Sert, Research Director at Ankara Institute

Özge Genç, PODEM Member





Pelin Rodoplu, Inclusive Sustainable Growth Portfolio Manager, UNDP Turkey

Roger Albinyana, Director of Mediterranean Regional Policies and Human Development, European Institute of the Mediterranean

Sabiha Senyücel Gündoğar, PODEM Member

Shaden Khallaf, Senior Policy Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa Bureau of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Jordan

Sinem Bölükbaşı, EU Affairs Expert, Directorate for EU Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tarik M. Yousef, Director of Brookings Doha Center, Senior Fellow in the Global Economy and Development Program

Zeynep Gülöz Bakır, PODEM Project Manager



*This meeting is organized as part in the **MENARA Project**, which has been founded within the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 693244