

EuroMeSCo General Assembly

2nd October 2014

WORK PLAN 2015

The main objective of EuroMeSCo for next year is to increase the joint publications and research activities among the members of the network. This Work Plan includes a proposal for a research programme, publication lines, activities and visibility strategy for 2015, in line with the objectives of the action presented to the European Commission in response to its Call for Proposals “Support to dialogues, political and economic research and studies of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership”, with reference EuropeAid/135333/DH/ACT/Multi.

1. Joint Policy Studies

The Academic Secretariat considers that joint research activities should become the backbone of the network’s activities. In 2015, EuroMeSCo will promote the direct involvement of Northern and Southern Mediterranean institutes in the design, launch and implementation of joint policy studies.

A total of three joint policy studies, each one led by a member of the EuroMeSCo Steering Committee, will be produced in 2015. The leading institute will draft a proposal including topics and subtopics to be covered, the calendar for the implementation of the activities, a proposal of authors to take part in the research tasks, a suggested external reviewer and a proposal for related policy briefs and recommendations, including topics and authors.

Joint policy studies will have the participation of Northern and Southern Mediterranean researchers as main authors (4 in total) and will have a minimum length of 20 pages. They will be widely distributed and presented on the occasion of the workshops, conferences and public presentations foreseen in this Work Plan and will be peer-reviewed in order to ensure the highest standards of scientific quality and presented at the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2015.

Joint research will enable EuroMeSCo institutes to share best practices among the members of the network, both in methodological and substantive aspects of policy research by means of continued exchanges and exposure to key aspects of Euro-Mediterranean politics. Joint research will also increase the inclusiveness and ownership of the outputs of the research outputs and promote the interaction between the research and policy-making communities.

2. Policy Briefs and Recommendations

Policy briefs and recommendations will deal with key political trends and challenges of the Euro-Mediterranean region and will also be a tool to ensure interaction between the research and

policy-making communities. They will have a minimum length of 3 pages and will be authored by researchers affiliated to EuroMeSCo institutes.

At least 12 policy briefs and recommendations will be published during 2015. Six of them will be related to the research outputs of the joint policy studies, while the topics and authors for the remaining six policy briefs and recommendations will be linked to political trends and challenges of the Euro-Mediterranean agenda. Their aim will be to add an element of policy relevance and immediate response to the research outputs of the network.

3. EuroMeSCo Papers

EuroMeSCo will continue to produce its series of EuroMeSCo Papers. EuroMeSCo Papers will be authored by researchers affiliated to institutes that are members of EuroMeSCo and other relevant experts, following a balanced gender approach and gathering views from Northern and Southern Mediterranean experts.

EuroMeSCo Papers will have a minimum length of 20 pages and will be peer-reviewed to ensure the highest levels of scientific quality. The topics of the papers will cover current trends and challenges of Euro-Mediterranean politics and will be authored by researchers from the EuroMeSCo institutes. A Call for Papers will be launched in preparation for the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference, where interested researchers will submit a paper proposal, to be presented at the Annual Conference and subsequently revised in light of the comments received.

Outputs of the research programme:

- Publication of 3 joint policy studies
- Publication of 12 EuroMeSCo briefs and recommendations
- 5 EuroMeSCo papers

4. Annual Conference

The Annual Conference will be held in 2015 with the objective of reinforcing the visibility of the network and cultivating relations and exchange of ideas among the EuroMeSCo institutes. The Annual Conference 2015 will consist of two full days of proceedings, divided into plenary sessions, sessions to present and discuss the research undertaken in the joint policy studies, and thematic sessions, where EuroMeSCo Papers will be discussed, in addition to institutional opening and closing sessions.

Plenary sessions will be high level panels on key trends and challenges in political and security issues in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Their objective will be to bring together the most authoritative voices from the policy-making and research communities to debate the big issues affecting the region. The sessions to present the research undertaken will be organised on the basis of the results of the joint policy studies and of the policy briefs and recommendations. These publications should be ready for publication before the Annual Conference in order to present them to a broad audience of stakeholders and to enhance the visibility and policy impact of the research undertaken during the year.

Thematic sessions on key trends and challenges of the political and security agenda of the region will consist of the presentation of the papers submitted in a Call for Papers organised for EuroMeSCo institutes, followed by comments from several discussants. Presenters will introduce to the audience the findings of their preliminary research, to be compiled in the form of a Paper after the conference.

The Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI) has offered its premises to host the Annual Conference 2015 on the occasion of the Universal Exposition “Expo2015”, to be held in Milan, Italy.

5. Dialogue Workshops

EuroMeSCo will organise a total of 3 Dialogue Workshops in 2015. They will be full-day meetings organised at regional and sub-regional level by the leaders of the joint policy studies and will serve as a platform to discuss the main findings of these research outputs and to gather the contributions from policy-makers and other stakeholders. After each dialogue workshop, the research teams of the joint policy studies will produce the final version of the documents, to be presented at the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2015 and at the local presentations. The results of the Dialogue Workshops will be widely disseminated on the EuroMeSCo website and newsletter and on the websites of the participating institutes.

6. Local presentations

Local presentations will be used as a platform to disseminate the research outputs of EuroMeSCo on a national level to EU and Southern Mediterranean countries. Local presentations will be held and organised by the leaders of the joint policy studies in order to reach to a wide audience of local participants, policy-makers, experts, academia and CSO representatives.

The local presentations will have the participation of the leader and the main authors of the joint policy studies. Relevant authors of the policy briefs and recommendations will also be invited as long as their contribution provides an added value for the presentation of the outputs of the action.

Outputs of workshop and conferences:

- Organisation of the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2015
- Organisation of 3 Dialogue Workshops
- Organisation of 3 local presentations
- EuroMeSCo Reports of the Annual Conference 2015 and the Dialogue Workshops

7. Dissemination of the network activities

The last work plan established a roadmap to increase the visibility of the network, particularly by means of improving the quality of its website and newsletter and requesting the collaboration of member institutes. Much progress has been made to accurately reflect the

activities of the network and member institutes via the regular publication of the monthly newsletter. In 2015, the Academic Secretariat will work to strengthen the online visibility of the activities of the network.

The EuroMeSCo website will be at the core of the communication strategy of the network. It will be fully updated and upgraded to reflect its research activities and publications, to facilitate interaction among member institutes and to increase the dissemination and visibility of the research outputs, in particular joint policy studies, papers, policy briefs and recommendations, dialogue workshops and multi-stakeholder annual conferences. The website will also act as a repository of all the research outputs of the action and previous EuroMeSCo publications and will foster the use of social media channels.

The publication of the monthly newsletter will also be used as a tool to enhance the visibility of the network. It will be upgraded to better reflect the joint research activities and the publications and events of EuroMeSCo institutes. The Academic Secretariat will also work to enlarge the current number of recipients of the newsletter, which currently amounts to over 2,000 people, including experts, academics, think tanks, national and international decision-makers and the public in general.

Outputs of dissemination activities:

- Upgrade of the EuroMeSCo website and enhancement of social media channels
- Publication of 12 monthly newsletters

8. Funding activities

The work plan presented here follows the main aspects of the proposal submitted to the European Commission for the Call for Proposals “Support to dialogues, political and economic research and studies of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership” (Lot 1) with reference EuropeAid/135-333/C/ACT/MULTI. The action presented by the IEMed under the title “Euro-Mediterranean Political Research and Dialogue for Inclusive Policymaking Processes and Dissemination through Network Participation” represents a key opportunity for funding EuroMeSCo activities and to bring the network back to the European arena.

After being shortlisted for the concept note phase, the Academic Secretariat submitted the full proposal at the end of September 2014. The indicative timetable provided by the Commission notes that the notification of the award should take place on 10th November 2014, while the implementation of activities should start in January 2015 (the dates are subject to change). The IEMed will continue to co-finance the activities of the network.

In addition to the activities presented in this work plan, the Academic Secretariat will establish regular contacts with member institutes to explore joint activities and to reinforce collaborative projects among EuroMeSCo institutes.