

EuroMeSCo General Assembly 2015

Work Plan 2016

The main objective of EuroMeSCo for next year is to increase joint research and dialogue activities among the members of the network. This work plan is centred on three types of activities: - *Research activities*, consisting of publication of Joint Policy Studies, Policy Briefs and Recommendations and Papers; - *Dialogue activities*, comprising of Dialogue Workshops, multistakeholder conferences and online platforms of dialogue; - *Dissemination activities*, including Local Presentations, website, monthly publication of Newsletter and distribution of publications among the most relevant stakeholders.

The work plan corresponds to the objectives of the 4-year project “Euro-Mediterranean Political Research and Dialogue for Inclusive Policymaking Processes and Dissemination through Network Participation”, co-financed by the European Commission and the IEMed. The project is structured around four main lines of activities: I Working Packages; II Annual Conference; III Additional research activities and IV Dissemination activities.

I Working Packages

The Academic Secretariat considers that joint research activities should become the backbone of the network’s activities, as they contribute to increasing exchanges and sharing best practices among the researchers. In 2016, EuroMeSCo will promote the balanced involvement of northern and southern Mediterranean institutes in the design and implementation of Working Packages.

In 2016, a total of three Working Packages will be developed as joint research projects. Each Working Package will be led and managed by a member of the EuroMeSCo Steering Committee. Each Working Package will comprise the production of a Joint Policy Study, two Policy Briefs and Recommendations, a Dialogue Workshop to present and discuss the initial research findings of the Joint Policy Study and of Presentations of final research outputs at local level. The research results of the three Working Packages will be also presented at the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2017.

The topics of the Working Packages to be developed in 2016 will be defined by the Working Group, formed by the Academic Secretariat, the members of the Steering Committee and the representatives from the European Commission.

1. Joint Policy Studies and Policy Briefs and Recommendations

In 2016, 3 Joint Policy Studies and 6 Policy Briefs and Recommendations will be produced under the framework of the Working Packages. Each leading institute will draft a proposal including topics and subtopics to be covered, 4 main authors and a reviewer of the Joint Policy Study and a proposal for related 2 Policy Briefs and Recommendations, including topics, authors and reviewers.

Joint Policy Studies and Policy Briefs and Recommendations will count on the balanced participation of northern and southern Mediterranean researchers. Joint Policy Studies will be extended analyses, of a minimum 40 and up to 120 pages, related to the current developments in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Policy Briefs and Recommendations will be short opinion articles, between 3 and 8 pages, whose topics will be related to the research outputs of the Joint Policy Studies.

Joint Policy Studies and Policy Briefs and Recommendations will be widely distributed and presented on the occasion of the Dialogue Workshops, Local Presentations and EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2017.

2. Dialogue Workshops

In 2015, after the Annual Conference, 3 Dialogue Workshops will be held between November/December to discuss the preliminary research results of the three Research Groups formed in the first year of the project (see Annual Report 2015). Also, in February/March 2016, three Local Presentations will be organised to present the final outputs of the Working Packages. The exact date and location of the Local Presentation will be announced by the end of 2015.

In 2016, a total of 3 Dialogue Workshops will be organised jointly by the leading institutes of the Working Packages, with the support of the Academic Secretariat. They will be organised around an opening, 4 working sessions to discuss the initial research findings of each Joint Policy Study (following the main sections of the papers) and a concluding session.

The workshops will gather 20 people including authors of the Joint Policy Study, the external reviewer and top experts in the field (both researchers and practitioners). The 7 researchers from the EuroMeSCo network willing to participate in the Dialogue Workshops will be selected on the basis of a Call for Participants, to be launched jointly by the Academic Secretariat and the leading institute of each of the Working Packages.

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 Local Presentations and at the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2017. In addition, the results of the Dialogue Workshops will be published on the EuroMeSCo website and disseminated via newsletter.

3. Local Presentations

Local Presentations will be used as platforms to disseminate the final research outputs of the Working Packages. They will be half-day meetings, organised by the leading institutes of the Working Packages, with support of the Academic Secretariat.

Local Presentations will count on the participation of the main authors of the Joint Policy Studies. They will be open to public, in order to reach a wide audience of local participants, including policy-makers, experts, academia, CSOs representatives and possibly media.

Outputs of the Working Packages

- Publication of 3 Joint Policy Studies
- Publication of 6 EuroMeSCo Policy Briefs and Recommendations
- Organisation of 3 Dialogue Workshops
- Organisation of 3 Local Presentations
- Publication of 3 reports from Dialogue Workshops
- Presentation of the final research results of the Working Packages at the Annual Conference 2016

II Annual Conference

The EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2016 will be held with the objective to reinforce the visibility of the network and strengthen relations and exchange of ideas among the EuroMeSCo institutes. The Annual Conference 2016 will consist of two full days meetings, divided into plenary sessions, 3 parallel sessions to present and discuss the research outputs of the 3 Working Packages currently being developed, 3 parallel thematic sessions, where initial findings of EuroMeSCo Papers will be discussed, and kick-off meetings for the launch of the next round of Working Packages.

Plenary sessions will be high level panels on key trends and challenges on political and security issues in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Their objective will be to gather the most renowned experts, including policy-makers and researchers, to debate the main issues that have emerged in the Euro-Mediterranean agenda. The sessions to present the research results of the Working Packages will be structured around the main sections of the Joint Policy Studies.

Thematic sessions on key political and security issues of the Euro-Mediterranean region will consist of the presentation of the initial research findings of EuroMeSCo Papers, followed by comments from several discussants. The papers will be chosen on the basis of a Call for Papers, launched by the Academic Secretariat. The topics of the plenary and thematic sessions of the Annual Conference and the Papers will be defined by the Working Group.

1. EuroMeSCo Papers

EuroMeSCo will continue to produce its series of EuroMeSCo Papers. In 2016, the Academic Secretariat will edit and produce the papers presented at the Annual Conference 2015. A minimum of 5 EuroMeSCo Papers from this conference will be published. The Academic Secretariat will also coordinate the publication of EuroMeSCo Papers, presented at the Annual Conference 2016. A minimum of 5 and maximum of 9 EuroMeSCo Papers will be published. EuroMeSCo Papers will be authored by researchers affiliated to institutes members of EuroMeSCo.

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. The papers will be selected on the basis of a Call for Papers, launched by the Academic Secretariat. The preliminary version of the papers will be discussed at the parallel thematic

sessions of the Annual Conference. On the basis of the comments gathered at the conference, the authors will produce the final version of the papers, to be published after the Annual Conference.

Outputs of the Annual Conference

- Organisation of the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2016
- EuroMeSCo Report from the Annual Conference 2016
- Publication of a minimum of 5 EuroMeSCo Papers that have been presented at the Annual Conference 2015
- Publication of a minimum of 5 EuroMeSCo Papers to be presented at the Annual Conference 2016

III Additional research activities

In 2016, at least 6 additional Policy Briefs and Recommendations will be published. The Working Group will be responsible for selecting topics of the Policy Briefs and Recommendations, which will be linked to political trends and challenges of the Euro-Mediterranean agenda. The aim of these Policy Briefs is to add an element of policy relevance and immediate response to the research outputs of the network.

Policy Briefs and Recommendations will have between 3 and 8 pages. The EuroMeSCo Steering Committee will propose the authors and reviewers of the Policy Briefs and Recommendations among the members of the network, on the basis of their expertise.

Outputs of the Additional research activities

- Publication of at least 6 EuroMeSCo Policy Briefs and Recommendations

IV Dissemination of the network activities

In 2015 the Academic Secretariat has been working on increasing the visibility of the EuroMeSCo activities, by means of regular updating of the website, publication of a monthly Newsletter with information on the member's activities and disseminating EuroMeSCo publications among the most relevant stakeholders. In 2016, the Academic Secretariat will strengthen its efforts to enhance the online visibility of the activities of the network.

The renewed EuroMeSCo website, to be launched in the first semester of 2016, will be at the core of the communication strategy of the network. The new website will facilitate communication between the EuroMeSCo researchers, by creating an open forum for debate and allowing the members of the network to upload and share information on the research activities of their institutes via intranet platform. The website will also include a comprehensive database of the researchers from the institute-members of the network, indicating their affiliation and main areas of expertise. The researchers will also have possibility to share the content of the website on their social networks.

The publication of a 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 towards enlarging the number of recipients of the newsletter, which currently amounts to over 2000 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 10 monthly newsletters

V Collaboration with the EuroMeCo members

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. The Academic Secretariat might also support financially joint research and dialogue activities, proposed by the institute-members of the network, which are in line with the objectives of this work plan.