

MINUTES

WORKSHOP 2

ATTRACTING TALENTED PEOPLE: WHAT ARE THE WAYS TO INVOLVE THE DIASPORA

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The Mediterranean region has always been a centre of intense human circulation. This circulation is at the core of its identity, and the economic and cultural exchanges that cross it. The diaspora has a central role to play in bringing together the two sides of the Mediterranean and in the region's economic integration. Economics is one of the diaspora's areas of excellence. The challenge is therefore to remove obstacles relating to economic mobility and make the public aware of successful emigrant businessmen and women, proving that coproduction and convergence are possible in the Mediterranean.

The mobility of people is the fourth dimension of globalization, along with goods, financial flows and information. It is the least known phenomenon and the most complex since it concerns social practices of infinite diversity.

Many studies by economists and sociologists show that organizations set up by the diaspora can facilitate the integration of migrants in host countries and boost the economic development of their community in the country of origin. That is why it is necessary to accompany and extend this momentum e.g. by giving full freedom to circulate skills and making their movements more secure by granting them long-term status.

The potential of the diaspora is still largely under exploited. Over and above monetary transfers, numerous subjects need to be looked at closely in order to highlight the positive role that could be played to an even greater extent by the diaspora for countries on both sides of the Mediterranean, especially skills transfers, access to markets and business opportunities abroad, investment, advice, etc.

Important steps to take:

- Raise awareness of the potential of diasporas for Euro-Mediterranean relations;
- Call on the skills of the Maghreb's diasporas to contribute to making coproduction a reality, similar to what is done with financial transfers and investments;
- Increase the status of diaspora-generated initiatives and take advantage of them, especially the creation of SMEs;
- Encourage public authorities to take note of the importance of the diaspora in developing countries of origin.

About EMCC

Committed to improving Mediterranean integration, the directors of IPEMED's founding companies set up a vast movement of business leaders, EMCC (Euro-Mediterranean Competitiveness Confederation) in 2009. EMCC speaks in a single voice and campaigns to bring the two sides of the Mediterranean closer together through economics. Instigated by the CEO of GDF-SUEZ Gérard Mestrallet, EMCC is currently chaired by Xavier Beulin, CEO of Sofiprotéol, in his capacity as Chairman of the IPEMED Supervisory Board.

www.emcc-forum.org

About IPEMED

The Economic Foresight Institute for the Mediterranean Region (IPEMED) is an association recognized as in the public interest that aims to bring the two sides of the Mediterranean closer together using economics. Financed by major public and private Mediterranean companies that share its values, as well as territorial authorities, it works to raise awareness of the common future and converging interests of countries in the North, South and East Mediterranean. IPEMED's values are political independence, and parity between North and South in the way it is governed and organizes its work. It puts the emphasis on the economy, fosters an operational approach to its projects, and works for the long term. IPEMED is presided by Radhi Meddeb and directed by its founder, Jean-Louis Guigou.

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