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CMI-FEMISE MED BRIEF WEBINAR SERIES

NAVIGATING THROUGH COVID-19 IN THE MEDITERRANEAN ACT 1: STRATEGIES FOR INTEGRATION AND RESILIENCE

Policy Responses to the
Environmental Challenges of COVID-19
in the Southern Mediterranean Region

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Introduction

- The Southern Mediterranean countries (3.2% of the world population) have registered 2.19% of total world COVID-19 cases.
- **Positive outcomes:** emissions, noise and waste reduction.
- **Negative outcomes:** recession, income decline, deglobalisation, poverty increase.
- COVID-19 consequences across countries are different:
 - Libya and Lebanon are the major victims of the pandemic;
 - Egypt is expected to escape the recession.

Research Focus and Approach

- **Research focus:** The brief discloses several keystones of the optimal short- and medium-run environmental policy strategy in the region.
- **Approach:** SWOT/TOWS analysis.

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Strengths reinforced by opportunities	Weaknesses preventing to benefit
Threats	Strengths to fight threats	Threats faced by weaknesses

Results

	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic potential • Stable FDI inflow • Steps towards sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salient ecological threats • Lack of access to safe WASH • Moderate environmental concerns • Social-economic heterogeneity • Environmental policy heterogeneity
OPPORTUNITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of some negative ecological impacts • Crisis as a facilitator for innovations • Growing role of the government • Changes in consumers eco-mentality 	<p>Implementation of new green technologies supported by the government and consumers</p>	<p>COVID-19 can boost the eco-concerns to support the sustainable transformation.</p> <p><i>Refraining obstacle:</i> existing socio-economic problems together with political instability</p>
THREATS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic recession • Public spending increase • Growing role of the government • Deglobalisation 	<p>Micro-decisions and "going local" policies</p>	<p>Stagnation and aggravation of existing socio-economic and environmental problems</p>

Implications and Recommendations

- Support towards successful exporting companies and long-term investments
- Sound environmentally-friendly public policy (ex.: GPP and tax exemptions for green companies)
- SMEs and local value chains development
- Clear path to sustainable development goals

The core of public policy should rely on the concept of *intergenerational justice*:

31% of the population is composed of children and teenagers