

# Mediterranean Strategy Group 19

## Migration: Mediterranean Cities on the Frontline

June 12-14 | 2019 | Marseille, France

*Organized by The German Marshall Fund of the United States in partnership with the Center for Mediterranean Integration, Compagnia di San Paolo and Policy Center for the New South*

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STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION



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### Mediterranean Cities on the Frontline of Migration

For all their differences, Mediterranean cities on the northern and southern shore have always been on the frontline of mixed migration flows. As most people choose to settle in urban areas, the proportion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons in cities is higher than for national territories. While migration is a global phenomenon, its effects are felt most profoundly on the city level, turning cities and local governments into key stakeholders on the international scene.

Since 2014, Mediterranean migration has featured prominently on national and European political agendas following an unprecedented increase in the number of refugees and other migrants, many of them fleeing conflicts in Africa and the Middle East. Numbers peaked in 2015, when more than one million people arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean, a large proportion of them having travelled along the eastern route through Turkey, Greece, and the Balkans.

On the national level, migrant and refugee issues continue to challenge the politics of one country after another. But the tone of migration politics differs across scales of government. There are promising developments at both the global and subnational levels – and cities are taking on an active role in migration policy discussions. At the global level, UN member states recently adopted two international agreements – the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. While the Compact on Refugees relies heavily on existing treaty commitments, the Migration Compact sets forth new forms of international cooperation on migration, an issue area that has traditionally been the sole right of national governments.

The 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mediterranean Strategy Group brings together local, national, and international policy makers and experts to discuss how Mediterranean cities, north and south, are affected by mixed migration flows – and how to respond. The central challenge we aim to address is the need for a meaningful dialogue between local and national authorities. While migration policy remains a prerogative of national governments, the effects are felt locally. Only through multi-level dialogue can effective migration governance take shape.

The purpose of the meeting is to provoke new thinking on how cities, national governments and international organizations can best engage with each other in recognizing and reacting to these macro-level issues, and whether and how policy decisions at the urban level shape developments on a regional and international level. Key questions to be addressed include: How are Mediterranean cities impacted by mixed migration? What policies are in place to address these challenges and to what extent are they effective? To what extent does what happens on the city level impact regional and global developments, and how?

The agenda is divided up in different thematic sessions. Each session will be introduced by two or three speakers and moderated around a few key questions to identify the impact of migration on cities in different policy areas; how cities respond; and what should be done differently. The aim is to explore lessons learned, between governance levels (what can national policy makers learn from experiences on the local level and vice versa); between the northern and the southern shore of the Mediterranean and both sides of the Atlantic; and from historical experiences. The meeting will result in a report that offers policy recommendations to local, national and international policy makers on how to improve migration governance based on the discussions at the Mediterranean Strategy Group.

**The meeting is designed as an informal, moderated peer-to-peer dialogue to promote an open exchange of views, ideas and the establishment of new connections. The meeting will be interactive and participatory –we encourage all participants to actively engage in the discussions- and the entire program is conducted under the Chatham House Rule.**

## PROGRAM

### Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>

*Meeting venue:*

*Intercontinental Marseille - Hotel Dieu (1 Place Daviel, 13002, Marseille)*

**1330 – 1400**

#### **Registration**

**1400 – 1415**

#### **Welcome and introductory remarks**

**Ian LESSER**, Vice President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

**Blanca MORENO-DODSON**, Manager, Center for Mediterranean Integration

**Bouchra RAHMOUNI**, Director, Policy Center for the New South

**Nicolò RUSSO PEREZ**, Coordinator of the International Affairs Program,  
Compagnia di San Paolo

**1415 – 1445**

#### **Conversation with Jean ROATTA, Deputy Mayor, International Relations and Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation, City of Marseille**

**Moderator: Marc PIERINI**, visiting scholar, Carnegie Europe

**1445 – 1615**

#### **Session 1 | Migration Trends in the Mediterranean: What Now, What Next?**

**Moderator: Jessica BITHER**, Migration Fellow and Senior Program Officer,  
The German Marshall Fund of the United States

##### **Speakers:**

**Paola ALVAREZ**, Project Development Officer, Coordination Office for the  
Mediterranean, International Organization for Migration

**Ana FEDER**, Project Manager, International Centre for Migration Policy  
Development (ICMPD)

**Marzia RANGO**, Research and Data Officer | Global Migration Data Analysis  
Centre (GMDAC), International Organization for Migration (IOM)

**Janette UHLMANN**, Senior Operations Officer, Center for Mediterranean  
Integration

Patterns of migration changed considerably over time according to political, social and economic circumstances. Today, traditional countries of migrant origin are progressively becoming countries of migrant destination with the settling of a growing Sub-Saharan and South-Asian population and recent wars (in Libya, Syria, Iraq etc.) created an important forcibly displaced population across the Mediterranean. Climate change challenges may also lead to a significant increase of Mediterranean migration in the coming years. What are the current migration flows in the Mediterranean, what is driving them, and how are they expected to evolve in the coming years? What will be the impact on countries of origin, transit and destination?

**1615 – 1645**

#### **Break**

**1645 – 1815**

#### **Session 2 | Urbanization in the Mediterranean and Its Consequences**

**Moderator: Charlotte BRANDSMA**, Senior Program Officer, The German  
Marshall Fund of the United States

**Speakers:**

**Somik LALL**, Lead Urban Economist, World Bank

**Suzanne MAGUIRE**, Head of Urban Analysis, UN-Habitat

Today, the Mediterranean urban population represents 68% of the total population, compared to 48% in 1960. In the case of southern Mediterranean countries this growth has been even more dramatic: 62% in 2017 compared to 44% in 1960. What is driving urbanization in the Mediterranean? What concerns does urban growth raise on both shores of the Mediterranean in terms of rural versus urban development, urban management and the environment? What is the capacity of societies and the environment to respond?

**1900**

**Dinner reception, hosted by Consul General Simon R. Hankinson, U.S. Consul General in Marseille**

*Dinner venue:*

*Residence of the U. S. Consul General*

**Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**

*Meeting venue:*

*Sky Center – Tour La Marseillaise (2 Quai d'Arenc Tour La, 13002 Marseille)*

**0900 – 1100**

**Visit to the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations (MUCEM)**

*Address:*

*1 Espl. J4, 13002 Marseille*

A guided tour of the exhibition Connectivité. It tells the story of the great Mediterranean port cities of the 16th and 17th centuries: Istanbul, Algiers, Venice, Genoa, Seville and Lisbon, as well as contemporary port territories like the megalopolises of Istanbul and Cairo and the metropolises of Marseille and Casablanca. This exhibition shows how cities are places where connections, trade and therefore power converge and intensify.

**1130 – 1145**

**Registration**

**1145 – 1315**

**Session 3 | The Challenge of Integration: Identity, Society and Economy**

**Moderator: Anne Marie BRADY**, Program Officer, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

**Speakers:**

**Fathallah SIJILMASSI**, Former Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean

**Paolo VERME**, Lead Economist, World Bank

**Önder YALCIN**, Head of the Migration Unit, City of Gaziantep, Turkey

Local governments in the Mediterranean are on the frontline when it comes to dealing with migrant influx and have a key role to play to support migrants and other vulnerable populations on issues such as education, housing, and employment opportunities. What are the main challenges for local authorities to ensure the social and economic inclusion of refugees and migrants along that

of host communities? What policies are needed? How can national and local governments effectively work together to address challenges of integration?

**1315 – 1445**

**Lunch**

**1445 – 1615**

### **Session 4 | The Challenge of Resources: Water, Energy and the Environment**

**Moderator:** Irene GARCIA, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

**Speakers:**

**Nisreen ALARAJ**, Mayor's Advisor for Projects & International Cooperation, Amman Chief Resilience Officer, Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan

**Eva MACH**, Program Officer, Environmental Migration Platform, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division, International Organization for Migration

**Manolis VOURNOUS**, Mayor of Chios, Greece

Mediterranean cities have been identified as one of the main climate change hotspots, making them particularly vulnerable to environmental challenges related to population growth. How does migration impact policies towards sustainable development and resilience on the local level? What are challenges that local authorities face when it comes to ensuring access for migrants and refugees, and host communities, to resources like water and energy?

**1615 – 1645**

**Break**

**1645 – 1815**

### **Session 5 | The Challenge of Security and Stability**

**Moderator:** Ian LESSER, Vice President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

**Speakers:**

**Ignacio COSIDÓ GUTIÉRREZ**, Member of the Senate, former Director General of the National Police, Spain

**Monika WOHLFELD**, German Chair in Peace and Conflict Prevention and Lecturer in Security Studies, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)

**Khalid ZEROUALI**, Director of Migration and Border Control, Ministry of Interior, Kingdom of Morocco

Cities around the Mediterranean basin, north and south, are exposed to the consequences of political and security developments across the region and elsewhere. The security environment, broadly defined, will continue to be a significant driver of migration, alongside economic and social forces. In many cases, cities themselves will be the centre of gravity for stability and instability. The challenges of migration and integration are also closely linked to security perceptions – and the reality of crime, terrorism and political violence in a transnational, urban setting. Questions of personal security and trafficking of all kinds are also part of the equation, including the insecurity of migrant communities themselves. What are the key problems to be managed on these fronts? How is migration shaping the urban security environment today? How may it shape the environment tomorrow?

**1930**

**Dinner**

*Address : Une Table au Sud, 2 Quai du Port, 13002 Marseille*

## Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

*Meeting venue:*

*Sky Center – Tour La Marseillaise (2 Quai d'Arenc Tour La, 13002 Marseille)*

**0915 – 0945**

### **Registration**

**0945 – 1130**

### **Session 6 | Mediterranean Cities: (Inter)national Policy Actors**

**Moderator:** Blanca GARCÉS MASCAREÑAS, Senior Research Fellow and Research Coordinator, CIDOB

**Speakers:**

**Mohamed SAADIEH**, President, Union of Dannieh Municipalities, and Co-president, UCLG-MEWA

**José Antonio SABADELL**, Director of Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain

**Colleen THOUÉZ**, Director, Welcoming and Inclusive Societies Division, Open Society Foundation

The contemporary period is marked by a process of unprecedented economic, political, cultural and environmental globalisation. At the same time, a new diplomacy of cities has been emerging around specific issues, most notably climate change. But what about migration? As the movement of peoples increases around the globe, how has this phenomenon changed cities' practices and policies at a local level? Have migration challenges caused an increase or change in the relationship city actors have with national and intergovernmental governing actors? Where do local innovations and practices regarding migrant populations have an influence on international policy? Is this already happening, and how? Is it effective? What more can be done?

**1130 – 1200**

### **Concluding remarks**

**1330 – 1630**

### **Urban Field Trip (walking tour) by Moving\*Marseille**

*Meeting point :*

*Palais du Pharo (58 Boulevard Charles Livon, Marseille)*

**Guides:**

**Dirk CHAUVAUX**, Storyteller and author

**Joke QUINTENS**, Designer and facilitator of co-creation and participation projects

2600 years of experience with migration and bottom-up activism make Marseille one of the most challenging metropolises on the Mediterranean. "We are all from here and from else-where" applies to almost everyone who lives in Marseille. Moving\*Marseille will take us on a journey of discovery along this Marseille. We start at the Palais du Pharo with a view of the city that was founded in ca. 600 BC by sailors from Phocaea (today's Foça, in Turkey) and still calls itself La Cité Phocéenne. At Coco Velten we see how an unexpected alliance between the national government, activists and entrepreneurs creates a new solution for the homeless. Square Louise Michel is the visible result of residents who defend their scarce public space against building promoters and gave their place the name of an anarchist feminist. We walk via Cours Belsunce, the Champs Elysées of the people, to the colorful and fragrant neighborhood of Noailles, where different cultures live together perfectly by respecting each other's individuality.