What growth strategies for the Mediterranean in today’s context?

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ONLINE
16:00 to 18:30 (Paris time)
10:00 AM to 12:30 PM (Washington time)

BIOS

Blanca Moreno-Dodson, Director of the Center for Mediterranean Integration, CMI-UNOPS

Blanca Moreno-Dodson is the Director of the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), a partnership between multilateral development institutions, national governments, local authorities, and civil society, hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). She has over twenty-eight years of experience as a World Bank development economist, including several positions as Lead Economist, mainly for the Global Tax Team, the West Africa Region, the Investment Climate Department, and the Office of the Vice-President for Poverty Reduction and Economic Management. As a Senior Economist, she previously worked at the World Bank Institute, the West Africa Region, and the Corporate Strategy Group of the World Bank. Her regional experience includes the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, and East Asia (China, India, and Indonesia). She started her career as a Robert Shuman scholar at the European Parliament and as a junior economist at the European Commission, before joining the World Bank Group.

Finance for Poverty Reduction.  Case Studies for Africa and Latin America” (World Bank, 2006) and “Scaling Up Poverty Reduction” (World Bank, 2005). She has also been published in several internationally renowned economic journals, such as the Bulletin of Economic Research, Hacienda Pública Española, the USA National Tax Association Journal, and Banca d'Italia Annual Volumes. She is a member of the Alumni Strategic Council of the Aix-Marseille University, France, and of the Steering Committee of the Navarra Center for International Development, Spain, and a guest lecturer at Duke University, the USA, and Aix-Marseille University, France.

Mariarosa Lunati, Senior Advisor, Middle East and Africa Division, OECD

Mariarosa Lunati is Senior Advisor at the Middle East and Africa Division of the OECD, home to a comprehensive regional programme that promotes broad reforms to increase resilience and enhance the investment climate, modernize governance structures and operations, strengthen regional and international partnerships, and promote sustainable economic growth throughout the MENA region. Her past experience at OECD includes 10 years as Head of Section, designing and implementing strategies for the development of business statistics and indicators for evidence-based policy making and evaluation. She was also Senior Economist and Secretary to the OECD Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship. Prior to OECD, Dr. Lunati was Associate Professor at the European School of Business Sophia Antipolis, where she taught Research Methods and Economics of Standardisation for the Chair in Global Finance. Mariarosa Lunati has a Doctorate in International Law and Economics from Bocconi University, Italy.

Danny Leipziger, Managing Director, The Growth Dialogue

Danny Leipziger is Professor of International Business and International Affairs, George Washington University, and Managing Director of the Growth Dialogue. He is former Vice President of the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network (2004–09) at the World Bank. Dr. Leipziger has taught at GW’s CIBER since 2009, focusing on macroeconomics, financial markets, developing countries, and international monetary issues. Over the course of his 28-year career at the World Bank, he has held management positions in East Asia and Latin America, and Caribbean Regions as well as in the World Bank Institute. Prior to joining the Bank, Dr. Leipziger served in senior positions at the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of State. He also has been Vice-Chair of the Spence Commission on Growth and Development (2006–2010). Dr. Leipziger is a member of the WEF Futures Council on Growth and Social Inclusion, and he is a board member of the Korea Economic Institute and GW’s CIBER. He holds a Ph. D. in economics from Brown University and has published widely in the areas of development economics and finance, industrial policy, and banking, including books on Korea, Chile, East Asia, Economic Growth, Globalization, and Inequality. He is a media contributor on issues of globalization, innovation, and economic growth and a contributor to Project Syndicate, VoxEU, the Financial Times, and other media outlets.

Mohammed El Razzaz, Economic Development & Employment Division, UfM

Mohammed El Razzaz, is Project Analyst at the Economic Development and Employment Division of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), working on the implementation of specific projects and initiatives focused on the development of business, employment opportunities and employability skills.

He has thorough professional experience in the Financial Sector and in International Relations with an academic career in Heritage, Arts and Cultural Management. Mohammed El Razzaz is also a Professor of Culture and Heritage at Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC) and was a Researcher at Fundación Pública Andaluza El legado andalusí. He holds a Master’s degree from Universitat Internacional de Catalunya.
Katarzyna Sidlo, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department, CASE

Dr. Katarzyna W. Sidlo is the Director for the Middle East and North Africa Department at CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research. She specializes in the political economy, geoeconomics, and socio-economic development of the broadly understood Middle East and North Africa Region. Her research interests include the Islamic economy, female empowerment, entrepreneurship, and new technologies (including space industry), as well as EU-Southern Mediterranean relations. Educated at the University of Warsaw, School of Oriental and African Studies, and the University of Jordan, dr Sidlo holds a Ph.D. (summa cum laude) from the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw, a MA in Arabic and Islamic Studies, and a BSc in Economics. She gained her professional and research experience in a number of countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the United Kingdom, Georgia, and Poland. In the past, she was a Visiting Scholar at G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies of Ilia State University, Tbilisi (2019/2020) and at the Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge (2015), as well as a SHARIAEditor for Islamic Finance at Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School. An avid language learner, she speaks Polish and English, has a working knowledge of Arabic and Spanish, as well as basic knowledge of French and Georgian. Dr. Sidlo has a proven track record working on studies, evaluations, and impact assessments commissioned by various international donors, such as the European Parliament, the European Commission and its various departments and agencies, the European Space Agency, and the European Investment Bank, including most recently “Innovation ecosystems and start-ups in the Mediterranean as a means of recovering from the Covid-19 crisis” (2021, the European Committee of the Regions), “EU Response to the Socio-economic Impact of the Covid-19 Crisis in its Southern Neighbourhood” (2021, the European Commission/IEMed), and “Post Covid-19 EU-MENA-Africa Trade Relations” (2020, the European Commission/IEMed).

Constantin Tsakas, Senior Programme Officer - Sustainable Development Policies, CMI

Constantin Tsakas works at CMI-UNOPS as Sustainable Development Policies Senior Programme Officer. He leads the programs of CMI's Climate Change Resilience pillar specifically the “Mediterranean Forum on Energy and Climate Change”, the “Regional Knowledge program on Water” and the “Territorial Resilience to Climate Change” program. He also actively contributes to activities of CMI's Co-development and Integration pillar, leading analytical work and knowledge production on socioeconomic and political economy dimensions of regional integration (Trade, Global Value Chains, link with SDGs), and to the Dialogue of the Two Shores Technical Platform. He first joined the CMI-World Bank in 2020 as Senior Policy Analyst / Fundraising Consultant. Prior to that, he was the General Manager of Institut de la Méditerranée working for the emergence of sustainable models of development and for greater involvement of civil society in public policies. As General Secretary of the FEMISE think-tank network (2014-2020) he also worked on the reinforcement of regional dialogue and research on major economic and social issues in the Euro-Mediterranean region. As Senior Lecturer at SciencesPo, Dr. Tsakas also taught on “Openness, growth and economic crisis in Mediterranean countries” at the SciencesPo University Collège of Menton. His publications for international institutions such as the World Bank, CMI, FEMISE, and the European Investment Bank include issues related to Climate Change, Trade Integration, Energy and the Green Deal, Social Entrepreneurship, Women and Youth Empowerment. He holds a Ph.D. in International Economics from Aix-Marseille University (France).

Roger Forés, Policy Analyst, Middle East and Africa Division, OECD

Roger Forés is Policy Analyst at the Middle East and Africa Division of OECD, a comprehensive regional programme that promotes broad reforms to enhance the investment climate, modernise governance structures and operations, strengthen regional and international partnerships, and promote sustainable economic growth throughout the MENA region. His previous experience includes being a Research
Research has within Adviser Euro-Mediterranean Networks to Universities acted Group et de et of the Groupement d’Etudes et sur Regions. He is member of the founding and World) of the Arab Institute of Business Leaders (IACE), an independent business association and think tank that represents the private sector in Tunisia. Under his leadership, IACE has widened the scope of its expertise, enhanced its studies and developed a number of innovative approaches to promote business development and market-oriented economic growth; combating corruption, promoting institutional reform including corporate governance, ethics and business integrity for SMEs, building capacities of business associations (in Tunisia, Yemen, Algeria, Libya and Syria), supporting the informal sector, assisting entrepreneurs, and related themes. Hassen is a Senior Private Sector Development Specialist, he has been designing, developing and conducting international projects including research projects to reform the entrepreneurship ecosystems in Egypt and Tunisia, as well as municipal legal and regulatory reforms and administrative procedures in Tunisia. Majdi has experience in working with government and different private sector groups to advocate on behalf of IACE’s over 500 members through economic policy reform. He has also developed national business agenda and national strategies towards Africa and Libya’s markets. Hassen serves on the Advisory Board at Injaz Tunisia and as an international advisor of the Syrian Economic Forum. He is also a certified trainer for The Euro-Arab Management School of Granada, for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and for the International Finance Corporation (IFC). He received a doctorate in finance from the Université de Tunis El Manar and he has authored and co-authored numerous publications on corporate governance, public and private partnerships, entrepreneurship and policy economic reforms. Hassen is an adjunct assistant professor at ESSEC Tunis and The Tunisian Business School.

Larabi Jaïdi, Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South

Larabi Jaïdi is Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South who focuses on International Economy, Social Development, International Relations, and Mediterranean Studies. Mr. Jaïdi was also a member of the Special Commission on the Development Model of Morocco, a consultative body created in November 2019, with the mandate to formulate the guidelines for the new developmental model of the country. He is a former Professor at the Mohamed V University in Rabat-Agdal. His area of expertise includes Economic Policy, International Economic Relations (Europe and the Arab World) and Economy of the Regions. He is a founding member of the Centre Marocain de Conjoncture and of the Groupement d’Etudes et de Recherches sur la Méditerranée. He is a member of the Research Group within the Euro-Mediterranean Universities Networks. He has also acted as Adviser to the
Prime Minister and to the Minister of Economy and Finance. He acts as independent expert to the Moroccan Competition Council and the Moroccan Authority for the fight against Corruption. He is a member of the Adderrahim Bouabid Foundation Board (Body of Research-Action on matters relating to State Reform). Mr. Jaïdi also acts as consultant to Moroccan and foreign entities. He is the author of various publications relating to economic and social development and to international economic relations.

Lilia Naas, Chief of Arab States, International Trade Centre

A Tunisian national, Ms. Lilia Hachem Naas has worked for the United Nations for more than 20 years. She is currently Chief of Office for the Middle East and North Africa (OMENA) at the International Trade Centre in Geneva. In her role, Ms. Naas was able to strengthen the strategic position of ITC in the Arab region through deepening collaboration with key institutions at national and regional levels, including activating new partnerships with development partners and the donor community. From Oct. 2017 to Dec 2019, Ms. Naas was Director of the sub-regional Office for North Africa of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). During her tenure, Ms. Naas strengthened the relationship and the visibility of the Office in the seven-member states the Office is servicing. In particular, the Office launched new programs on macroeconomic policy, supported the ratification and implementation of AfCFTA, and conducted an assessment of SDGs implementation. She also led the development of the area of specialization on “employment, skills and sustainable development”. She also held the position of Head of the Local Development Program of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) where she was responsible for strategic development and building the capacity of local authorities in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Ms. Hachem Naas has extensive experience in coordinating complex technical assistance programs, focusing particularly on strengthening the international competitiveness of SMEs, building a conducive business environment, enhancing regional integration and south-south cooperation as well as strengthening women's economic empowerment and employability of young people. A graduate of the University of Maryland, she has an MBA in International Business Management and a Masters in Management Information System Management. Ms. Hachem Naas speaks Arabic, English, and French.

Raed Safadi, Research Fellow at Economic Research Forum, former Deputy Director at OECD

Raed Safadi is Research Fellow at Economic Research Forum, former Deputy Director at OECD. He specialises in economic development, trade and international cooperation. His current responsibilities include policy options and initiatives in support of post-Covid19 pandemic recovery plans and promoting the diversification and sustainable growth of Dubai and its transformation into a knowledge-based economy. Dr. Raed is a leading expert on development economics and has extensive experience advising governments on economic policy and management. He has published an extensive array of books and articles covering such areas as economic development, regional trading arrangements and the world trading system, tariffs and non-tariff barriers, special and differential treatment, trade and environment, services trade, and global value chains. His most recent publication “Inclusive Global Value Chains” focuses on making GVCs more inclusive by overcoming participation constraints for SMEs and facilitating access for low income developing countries. Dr. Raed holds a Ph.D in economics from Georgetown University and has previously worked for the OECD, the World Bank, ESCWA and as a consultant for numerous governments, regional development banks and UN agencies.