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JEAN MONNET EUROPEAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE  
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# **An Outline for the preparation of the Events to be organised for the Implementation of the EU-EMES project - Concept Note**

EU Policies Towards its East Med Maritime Space:  
Energy and Security (EU-EMES)

611501-EPP-1-2019-1-EL-EPPJMO-PROJECT

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## **An Outline for the preparation of the Events to be organised for the Implementation of the EU-EMES project Concept Note**

Following the selection by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission of the project proposal "EU Policies Towards its East Med Maritime Space: Energy & Security" (reference number 611501-EPP-1-2019-1-ELEPPJMO-PROJECT), submitted by the Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence (Centre) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the signing of the grant agreement (October 2019), the Centre started the planning for the two events that will be organised by the Centre in the course of the implementation of the project, namely the "Policy Conference on Energy and Security in the East Med Maritime Space: The role of the EU" and the "Cross-fertilisation workshop on EU Policies on Energy and Security in the East-Med for young researchers".

This paper serves as a presentation of the objectives of the EU-EMES project and its main actions and aims at raising awareness among the group of potential participants in the events, informing them on key issues of EU policies with relevance to the security and energy fields of the East Mediterranean space and on the structure of the two aforementioned events.

### **Goals and Actions of EU-EMES project**

The overall aims of the EU-EMES project is to promote exchange of views among academics and researchers on the one hand and policy makers on the other on security and energy aspects of EU policies relevant for or directed towards East Mediterranean region and the countries thereof, and to promote excellence in research and teaching on these issues.

In this way the Centre wished to work on this specific subject which is rather sidelined in the European studies in Greece, despite the fact that it increasingly affects EU politics and is directly relevant to at least two EU Member States (Cyprus, Greece) while indirectly has a significant impact on all EU Member States, the Institutions and EU partners in the East Mediterranean region.

The main actions that will be undertaken for the implementation of EU-EMES are the two aforementioned events, the "Policy Conference on Energy and Security in the East Med Maritime Space: The role of the EU" and the "Cross-fertilisation workshop on EU Policies on Energy and Security in the East-Med for young researchers". Moreover, in addition to the present Preparatory Paper for the two events above to

be organised for the implementation of the EU-EMES, the outcomes of the two events above and all other activities in the framework of the project will be submitted, at the end of the implementation of the project, in the form of a Policy Paper on EU's Eastern Mediterranean Space Energy and Security Policies (an edited collective volume). The Centre will also prepare a paper on the Perspectives for Academic Cooperation in East Mediterranean, taking into account the input from the partner universities and institutions which will participate in or otherwise contribute to the implementation of EU-EMES.

In order to fulfil the general objectives and implement the actions above, the Centre has mobilised its own resources (academic staff and researchers) and contacted universities and other academic/training institutions in order to build a network of experts who can contribute to the implementation of the project, *inter alia* by participating as trainers/speakers in the Cross-fertilisation workshop and the Policy Conference.

The institutions thus contacted included Universities in Greece (in addition to the NKUA), in other EU Member States (Belgium, Cyprus, France, Italy, Romania, Spain), the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) as well as universities and think tanks in Switzerland and UK and in non-EU east Mediterranean countries (Egypt, Israel, Turkey).

Based on the positive feedback received by the above academic/training institutions, the Centre built the project's key staff. The academic coordinator of the project, Professor Yannis Valinakis, has a long experience in teaching and directing multi-disciplinary research teams and a wide knowledge of EU issues and European policy-making and regional security, both academically and from his term as Minister for European Affairs of Greece. Key staff members have been selected based on their academic and research excellence in the fields of study relevant to the EU-EMES topics of interest, and also based on their record in promoting European ideas and values in their respective countries. Key staff draw their expertise from various disciplines, such as, Law, Political Science, European Studies/ Europeanisation, Environmental Studies, Political Economy, Energy, Energy Security and Business, Regional studies, etc.

Since the selection of the project and the grant agreement, the Centre has reached out to EU bodies (e.g. European Parliament, EEAS) and other institutions in all previously referred to countries and to other countries, EU Member States, East Mediterranean, wider Middle East and beyond in order to enrich the project team and offer to the participants in the project events various perspectives on the issues examined.

Positive feedback has been already given by the Rabdan Academy on Homeland Security (United Arab Emirates) and the Centre works with this UAE academic institution towards the organisation of a joint module with Rabdan Academy for the Cross-Fertilization workshop.

The Centre will pursue further the expansion of the number of experts to be involved in the implementation of the project and in particular in the scheduled events, aiming at the wider possible representation of institutions from countries and other interested actors.

Moreover, the Centre plans to hold consultations with prominent journalists and analysts in Greece, other EU Member States and the USA as well as with policy makers from EU Institutions and Member States to collect their views on the issues with interest for the project and take them into account in the organisation of the two project events. The input of the policy makers and the analytical community will be valuable, in particular, for the preparation of the "Policy Conference on Energy and Security in the East Med Maritime Space: The role of the EU".

Thus, for the meaningful preparation of the two events envisaged in the project (Conference and Workshop) and its other outputs, the Centre plans to organise brainstorming sessions with , one on the energy and security policies of the EU with focus on the East Mediterranean region as well as on law and policy in maritime issues in this sea basin, in particular maritime delimitation issues, offshore activities (exploration, drilling, exploitation, pipelines) regulation under international and EU law. The brainstorming sessions will be held in Athens, with the participation of exclusively invited policy makers, analysts, journalists and professionals in the respective fields. These sessions will be closed to the public and no official record will be kept. The aim of these sessions shall be to identify the major issues and challenges for the EU and its Member States in the East Mediterranean space as well as the implications and impact of the EU on the developments in this space, at regional and national levels, through its various policies, in particular in the fields of energy and security. A second objective of these sessions is to help the Centre to organise the two events of the project, as the detailed topics, draft programme, potential speakers and participants in the conference and the cross-fertilization workshop will be discussed and agreed upon at the brainstorming sessions. Furthermore, the outcomes of the brainstorming will constitute food-for-thought for further elaboration for the policy conference and the the two outputs of the project (Policy Paper on EU's Eastern Mediterranean Maritime Space Energy & Security Policies and the Policy Report on Perspectives for Academic Cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean Maritime Space).

### **Guidelines on the Structure of the Cross-Fertilisation Workshop**

This Conference will be a two-day event scheduled to take place in spring 2020 in Athens. It will be policy-oriented, bringing together the scientific team of the project (as described above) along with policy makers from EU and EU Member States; additional selected participants from other East-Med countries (who are not already involved in the project) will be invited. The invited speakers shall come from the above three groups of persons. In addition to the speakers, the Centre will invite researchers, PhD students, public administrators and civil servants, professionals, civil society representatives and the wider public to attend the Conference and participate in the debates that will take place. It is planned that the Conference will take place in a large venue (most probably convention room of a downtown hotel in

Athens) that can accommodate 150 to 200 participants (including up to 40 invited speakers).

The aim of the Conference will be to advance the existing knowledge on security and energy issues in East Mediterranean relevant to the EU and its Member States; to produce new reflections by analysing the recent developments on the above issues (e.g. hard and soft security threats in the region, maritime delimitation challenges, new energy findings and prospected routes, alternative energy sources and energy security, migratory flows, etc.) and their geopolitical implications; as well as to take stock of the European Neighbourhood Policy and explore its perspectives regarding the East Mediterranean. To this end, the main topics to be addressed at the Policy Conference shall include the state of play and perspectives of EU policies relevant to and affecting the East Mediterranean space, the security challenges facing the EU and its Member States and the response from EU Institutions and Member States as well as the impact of EU energy policies, including energy sources and routes diversification and the promotion of green energy, on the East Mediterranean region, at European and national levels.

The Conference will be held in the format of roundtable debate of the invited speakers (project key staff, scientific team of the project, Centre's academic network) and Q & A sessions giving the possibility to the speakers and other participants (researchers, PhD students, public administrators and civil servants, professionals, civil society representatives, wider public) to comment on the presentations and/or submit questions, in order to advance the reflexion on the topics discussed.

It is planned to organise the work of the Conference around three thematic panels dealing respectively with the energy policies of the EU with relevance to East Mediterranean; the maritime delimitation challenges in the eastern Mediterranean maritime space and issues of the law of the sea relating to the exploration and exploitation of resources in the sea; the hard and soft security issues in the East Mediterranean space and the ways and means by which the EU and its Member States can contribute to a stable and secure international relations environment in this region. These three panels will be followed by a concluding roundtable discussion among analysts and policy makers with a view to formulating recommendations aimed at enhancing the impact of policies of EU and its Member States pertaining to the East Mediterranean space.

The Cross-fertilisation Workshop on EU Policies on Energy and Security in the East-Med for young researchers will be a three-day event, to be held in Athens in early autumn 2020. The target group of the participants will be PhD candidates and young researchers in the field of EU governance with specific interest in EU policies and actions on energy and security affecting also the East Mediterranean space. The Workshop will be an event addressed to up to 70 participants, divided into two categories: half of the participants will come from universities and research institutions located in Athens and the other half from universities and research institutions located in other Greek regions, in other EU Member States, regional East Mediterranean countries and other countries. Eligible in the first category of

participants (local participants) will be also Erasmus students in universities located in Athens (including Military Erasmus students). Depending on the availability of places, in the Workshop may participate (after a call for expression of interest) also Master's students. In the selection of the participants, from all target groups and categories, priority will be given to persons whose research (ongoing or recently completed) pertains to energy and security implications of EU policies to East Mediterranean space.

The Workshop will be comprised of a selection of lectures by the project key staff and invited speakers from scientific team of the project and the Centre's academic network (as described *supra* in this paper) and of presentations by the participants.

The lectures, organised in three thematic sessions, will cover a number of themes that have been already provided for in the project description: Introduction to the Workshop and to the Project Objectives; EU Governance & Integration; Elements of EU Economic Governance; Elements of EU foreign policy; EU Common Security and Defence Policy; Elements of EU Neighbourhood Policy, with focus in East Mediterranean; EU Maritime Security; Elements of EU Hyber/Cyber Threats and Security; Elements of EU Environmental Governance; EU Energy policies, including the Greening of energy policies, with focus on new alternative of supply routes and new partnerships; EU Energy Security.

The Workshop will be an interactive event with the aim to providing a forum for dialogue between the speakers and the participating young researchers as well as among the latter. To this end specific slots of time will be reserved in each day of the Workshop for presentations by the participants of their ongoing or recently completed research. In this way, the Centre, through the EU-EMES projects, aims to support young researchers to carry out their research on the subject-matter of this project, and, in parallel, provide them with a dialogue forum to exchange views and present their positions in the context of a dedicated workshop. This activity is expected to increase opportunities in terms of the Workshop participants' professional and career development, opening up perspectives for further research collaborations with the academic team of the project (key staff and scientific team) and other young researchers of the involved universities and institutions.

### **Key Issues on EU policies towards its East Mediterranean maritime space. EU and Eastern Mediterranean Partners' Perspectives**

The 2016 Global Strategy for EU Security and Defence Policy aims to establish a European Security Order, with energy security being one of its most important elements. Energy security is also the envisaged objective of the 2015 Energy Union and Climate Action Strategy of the European Commission. The East Mediterranean region, strategically situated at the crossroads of three continents, holds an important place in the outlook of European security. Being both an energy-producing (and prospected energy-producing) as well as a transit area, it can significantly contribute to EU's energy security and energy independence, by diversification of routes and suppliers, as well as to EU's low-carbon transition.

However, the East Mediterranean is at the same time a region where “new” hard and soft security challenges emerge (mass migration and increased refugee flows), while old ones are far from being resolved -inter alia, the Cyprus Question, the Arab – Israeli relations (e.g., the Palestinian issue) and the Syrian conflict. Additionally, disputes arise with regard to maritime zones delimitation, as overlapping claims abound, and many states claim (potential) own rights to have been infringed upon. Thus, large expanses of sea space either remain undelimited, creating potential hub of international frictions and uncertainty to corporations wishing to explore the potential resources and exploit the confirmed sources of the sea, its soil and subsoil. Lack of legal safety is, for example, a potent deterrent for hydrocarbons exploration and exploitation enterprises, causing losses for the regional states and for the EU and hampering the goal of energy sources diversification. Additionally, such conflicts, have a negative impact on the planning of energy routes diversification. Both objectives are at the core of the policies that the EU wishes to develop in the field of energy and are intertwined with the objective of the EU to enhance security, stability and prosperity not only for its Member States but also for its neighbouring countries both in the East and in the South.

There exist a number of EU policies that are relevant to the energy and security fields of the East Mediterranean space or have an impact on it. The overarching aim of such policies and actions is the promotion of stability and security in the area through the furtherance of political and economic cooperation between the EU and East Mediterranean non-EU countries; conflict resolution; the promotion of the triptych: democracy - human rights - rule of law; regional development; facilitation of trade and deepening of economic ties with East Mediterranean trade partners; the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM); as well as through the promulgation of commonly agreed action plans on environmental protection and maritime security.

Hence, the project will focus on EU’s actorness in the region (EU as a force of stability in the region), implementing multi-disciplinary approaches in relation to political, economic, security, migration and institutional co-operation aspects in the East Mediterranean region. In this vein, alternatives to energy supply from Russia will be examined, as well as the challenges to the East Mediterranean space (EU’s own East Mediterranean space mainly through its Member States Cyprus and Greece and adjacent), including environmental challenges. The project aims, thus, at promoting active European citizenship and will deal with the role of the EU in its Eastern Mediterranean neighbourhood and the challenges ahead, enhancing awareness of the Union and facilitating future engagement and people-to-people dialogue across European regions. In this respect, the ambition of EU-EMES is also to enhance the EU orientation of the involved academic institutes and to achieve participation of staff and students of the involved universities and institutions in the events to be organised in the framework of the project, with a view to exploring potential further academic cooperation and the appropriate tools to support it.

### **Increasing Academic cooperation in the East Mediterranean space: State of Play - Perspectives**

As it has been mentioned, one of the objectives of EU-EMES project is to lay the groundwork for an increased academic cooperation among interested universities and other institutions of the East Mediterranean space. This cooperation exists in a modest degree among academic institutions in the framework of Erasmus programme. It needs to be expanded and strengthened. EU-EMES aims at contributing in this endeavour, by, for example exploring the possibilities of developing content and co-teaching for selected participants (PhD candidates and other young researchers) from the universities and other training and research institutions that participate in the project key staff or have been or will be involved in particular actions of the implementation of the project (see above for the scientific team of the project and other partner institutions). This task faces serious challenges, mainly, but not exclusively, originating from divergent national normative frameworks applicable to the organisation of common modules and university programmes (or degrees); other hurdles exist also, which cannot be overcome by the actions of academic institutions only. The identification of such hurdles and proposals for addressing them will also be part of the consultations in the framework of the project.

Furthermore, the project aims to serve as a forum for facilitating participating institutions in exploring possibilities to organise common academic activities (in the study of EU energy and security policies and potentially in the wider European studies field) and the preparation of tools supporting such agreed common academic activities, through, *inter alia*, MoUs, Erasmus Mundus Joint PhD Degrees, and/or joint consortia for other schemes of financing by European funds/instruments.