



Thinking Ahead
for the Mediterranean



MEDPRO - Prospective Analysis for the Mediterranean Region

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Minutes of the Kick-off meeting

Brussels, 14 – 15 April 2010

On 14-15 April 2010 CEPS hosted the kick-off meeting of Mediterranean Prospects - MEDPRO, a consortium of 18 institutions from both shores of the Mediterranean funded under the EU's 7th Framework Program and coordinated by CEPS Senior Fellow, Dr. Rym Ayadi. MEDPRO aims to undertake foresight analyses for the Mediterranean region. During the next three years, MEDPRO's research team will strive to deliver the best available scientific underpinning for the policy decisions to be taken over the coming years within the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean and the EU's European Neighborhood Policy. The project offers an encompassing coverage of a number of challenging areas, ranging from governance and geopolitics, demography and human capital, economic and financial developments, to management of resources and climate change. The study will contribute to the reform process within the South Mediterranean countries and will form the basis to build new cooperation schemes with the EU.

The kick-off meeting aimed at clarifying the conceptual issues in each field of study in order to define a common and coordinated approach to the foresight analysis. Each work package (WP) leader presented the main research questions based on the stylized facts and trends at play in the South Mediterranean countries and the methodologies to be used for the analysis. The discussions allowed clarifying major aspects of the work such as the linkages between work packages, the relations between qualitative and quantitative scenarios, the overall scientific coordination as well as major administrative matters governing the project. The meeting also decided on the governance structure of the project by setting out the definitive composition of the Scientific Bureau and the Scenario building committee.



The two-day meeting was organized as follows:

Introductory session; Domenico Rossetti, Scientific Officer, European Commission, DG Research; Sally Scott head of Financial Department, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Rym Ayadi, Coordinator of MEDPRO Project (CEPS)

Domenico Rossetti presented the main rules governing FP7 programs, and Sally Scott highlighted some administrative issues relevant for the project such as the modalities behind the reimbursement of expenses and the rules governing the use of sub contracting. Rym Ayadi gave an overview of MEDPRO: the research areas covered by the foresight analysis, its goals and its tools.

Quantitative and qualitative scenario building; Pantelis Capros (ICCS/NTUA), Carlo Sessa (ISIS)

Pantelis Capros gave an overview of the trends at play in the South Mediterranean countries and presented the main objectives of WP 8: to build contrasted scenarios for the future ensuring consistency with the partial equilibrium views developed in each work package. Carlo Sessa highlighted the aim of WP 9 and his approach to ensure that MEDPRO is a forward looking exercise. The discussion shed light on major coordination issues between work package leaders and their respective inputs for the quantitative and qualitative scenario analysis.

Geopolitics and governance; Silvia Colombo (IAI)

Silvia Colombo presented the main hypothesis of the research on geopolitics and governance, which are the challenges of state sustainability and the assessment of the impact of persistent authoritarianism and violent conflicts. After a discussion with all partners involved, it was decided that a revision of the work programme was needed.

Demographics, education, social protection and migration; Jorgen Mortensen (CEPS), Corina Huisman (NIDI), Boris Najman (CASE), Emrah Arbak (CEPS)

Jorgen Mortensen gave an overview of the region's trends on social protection and education, followed by Emrah Arbak who focused on the research questions related to education in the South Mediterranean countries by presenting the template to be used for the research on human capital and education. Corina Huisman exposed the methodology retained for the demographic analysis and after discussing it with the participants it was agreed that the conceptual framework intended to be used for the foresight on demography had also to be revised. Boris Najman focused on migration and briefly exposed the econometric methodologies he will use for studying migration flows, their determinants at the macroeconomic level and when possible at the microeconomic level.



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**Economic and financial
developments; Luc de Wulf
(CASE), Rym Ayadi (CEPS)**

Luc De Wulf, leader of WP5 on economic development, trade and investment presented the main tasks under his responsibility as well as the partners involved in this WP. The outcome of the discussion is that this work package has to make more explicit links with the research on demography and employment in order to assess as best as possible the complementary features of different policies. Rym Ayadi exposed the research program for the study of capital markets and financial services critical with a view to support economic growth and development.

**Energy and Environment;
Manfred Hafner, Fondazione
Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM),
Francesco Bosello (FEEM)**

Manfred Hafner gave an overview of the main trends regarding energy supply and demand in the South Mediterranean countries as well as the main areas of cooperation between the European Union (EU) and the region in this field. The discussion was mainly focused on the Mediterranean Solar Plan and the DESERTEC initiatives and their possible outcomes. Francesco Bosello followed the agenda by presenting the work programme related to agriculture and adaptation to climate change. He exposed the approach to be used in order to estimate the impact of adaptation strategies at the country level which is essential for the foresight exercise.

**Scientific Bureau and
Scenario Building
Committee meeting**

During this committee meeting, the definitive structure of the Scientific Bureau and the Scenario Building Committee were agreed. The discussion clarified also the role of the external stakeholders in the peer review process of MEDPRO outputs and decided to write an inception paper by each work package leader by the end of may 2010.

**Diner keynote speech;
Informal Apprenticeship in
the Small Enterprises:
Alternative Approach**

Alia El Mahdy presented the findings of a research on learning mechanisms in Egyptian informal micro and small enterprises. The findings suggest that both formal and informal learning mechanisms need to be improved in order to efficiently tackle the related issues of skills and unemployment. Informal apprenticeship could be supplemented by formal off job apprenticeship in specialized centers and enhanced through public private partnerships between teaching institutions and apprentices. Cooperation with the EU could also be beneficial by helping to design and improve learning centers according to local needs, providing equipment and skilled trainers.