

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

18th International Summer School

Constructive versus Destructive Engagement – Drivers and Implications of External Actors' Policies for North Africa

Berlin, 11 – 22 August 2014

In Cooperation with:

Robert Bosch **Stiftung**



After decades of relative stagnation, North Africa continues to grapple with the radical upheavals of 2010/11 whose outcomes remain all but predictable. Internal actors, factors, and power dynamics largely determine the different courses the countries are taking. Nevertheless their alarming socio-economic woes and deficits in the political sphere render them dependent on external forces' assistance and interests. This holds true amongst others for the economy, the state administration as well as civil society. Regional powers are additionally clearly influencing domestic politics and power equations through their direct financial and political support of specific political actors, while at the same time there is an increasing skepticism on the societal level towards foreign engagement in general. The impact of these realities is felt across different realms, be it political, economic, or social. Already undergoing tectonic changes, their fragility and instability is further aggravated. Societies are deeply divided over the future of their countries and domestic conflicts and grievances are often intensified by the involvement of external actors.

The uprisings and toppling of the old regimes brought an era to an end in which long-lasting alliances determined the external relations of North African states. Today, a diversification of the countries' foreign affairs accompanied by the wish for more independence is taking place. The regional order is shaken and the struggle for engagement and influence is in full swing. Especially old allies such as the USA, France or the EU who supported the former regimes face severe credibility problems, struggle to maintain their influence, and/or lack the resources or will necessary to engage constructively in North Africa. Traditional rivalries (re-)surface and new alliances are forged. As a result of a more assertive foreign policy by new regional players such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey multilateral engagement as such is transformed and the normative foundations of the international system are witness to change. This will increasingly be mirrored in the policies and politics of multilateral institutions such as the IMF or the World Bank.

Against this backdrop, the EU-Middle East Forum (EUMEF)¹ of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) will be hosting the **18th International Summer School on "Constructive versus Destructive Engagement - Drivers and Implications of External Actors' Policies for North Africa"** in Berlin from **11 to 22 August 2014**. The Summer School will provide participants with analytical tools to understand foreign policy making before scrutinizing factors affecting the policy making of several key actors, the nature and dimension of these policies, limits and opportunities of engagement, and implications for North African societies, their economies and politics. Among others, issues such as the linkage between external actors and Islamist movements, effects of conditionality and democracy promotion, and the impact of economic cooperation and stabilization programs will be analyzed.

The International Summer School offers participants the opportunity to experience a stimulating intellectual environment and acquire knowledge and valuable experiences. Students attend lectures and panel debates in which renowned senior experts offer their insights and analysis. Each participant presents a short input statement to jointly reflect on different sub-topics and perspectives in small working groups. In a scenario workshop, participants learn scientific techniques to think about future developments and generate scenarios accordingly. Finally, students visit thematically relevant institutions in Berlin and carry out joint social activities to network and intensify this intercultural encounter.

¹ EUMEF is a program for the advancement of students and young professionals at DGAP, which is carried out in close cooperation with its long-standing partner, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, as well as the German Federal Foreign Office and the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa).

The target group is qualified **students at the end of their studies or recent graduates (22 - 28 years of age) from Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, and the UK.** Applicants should have an academic background in the fields of Social Sciences, Economics or Law and should demonstrate profound interest in developments in North Africa and related subjects, be it in their studies and/or in extracurricular activities. The summer school's 30 participants will be selected on the basis of their academic achievements, motivation, the quality of their intended input statements, relevant activities, and language proficiency (working language is English). Special emphasis is placed on gender balance and an adequate representation of the different countries. DGAP will cover all program-related costs in Berlin, i.e. accommodation and meals. Participants will receive a travel subsidy according to their place of residence. Participants from Germany receive up to 100€, from other European countries up to 200€, from Turkey up to 300€, and from the North African countries up to 425€ once they provide us with all travel documents (receipts, boarding passes etc.). **Participation in all activities related to the summer school is mandatory.**

To apply, please send the following documents to eumefl@dgap.org:

- A short CV in English (2-3 pages, table form)
- A one-page letter of motivation in which you express your motivation and highlight your relevant qualifications
- An outline of your suggested input statements (see details below)

Guidelines for input statements outline:

During the Summer School each participant is expected to deliver an input statement of 10-15 minutes based on a paper of around 2000 words on one sub-aspect of the Summer School's overall theme. For the application you are kindly requested to **outline two topics for a paper.** One of the suggested topics should be related to the issue of ***Foreign Policies of State Actors.*** The focus should be on specific policy aspects or areas of cooperation/involvement, not covering the entire spectrum of a country's engagement. For example, when depicting Qatar the choice should be made between its support for political actors such as Islamist groups and its economic stabilization programs and implications thereof. During the summer school, a closer look will be taken at policies of the USA, France, Saudi-Arabia, Turkey, and Qatar. Hence, we encourage you to choose other actors as well. The second suggestion should deal with the ***Role and Impact of Non-State Actors.*** This includes financial institutions like the IMF, the World Bank or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development as well as the EU, INGOs, media outlets, or (political) foundations. Here again, the focus should be on specific aspects or areas of engagement. Both suggestions should be briefly outlined on one page in a narrative form, half a page for each suggestion.

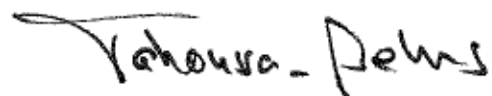
Deadline for application is 18 May 2014. After receiving your documents, we will provide you with a link to enter your personal data. This is the final step in your application process and it is mandatory in order to consider your application.

We are very much looking forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Eberhard Sandschneider
Otto Wolff-Director of the Research Institute



Dina Fakoussa
Head of the EU-Middle East Forum