

21<sup>st</sup> New Faces Conference

**People Moving – Implications of Migration  
for Societies and States in North Africa**

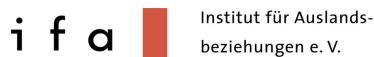
19 – 22 June 2014

Tunis / Tunisia



**In Cooperation with:**

Robert Bosch **Stiftung**



Dear Candidate,

We kindly invite you to apply for the upcoming 21st New Faces Conference on **“People Moving - Implications of Migration for Societies and States in North Africa”** to be held from 19-22 June in Tunis. The conference is a project of the EU-Middle East Forum, a program for the advancement of Young Professionals at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP). It is carried out in close cooperation with the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the German Federal Foreign Office, the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa), and the Centre de Tunis pour la Migration et l’Asile (CeTuMA). Once you have participated in one of EUMEF’s events, you become part of a network that receives information on professional activities of other alumni, grants, scholarships, and other similar programs. Every two years, all alumni of EUMEF meet in Berlin for a reunion.

The main protagonists and hence target group of the conference are **Young Professionals** (aged around 27-35) in **academia, politics, the private sector, and civil society organizations** such as research centers, NGOs or the media, who deal with political issues related to the topic of the conference. Participants should come from **Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Germany, the UK, France, Spain, Italy, and Greece**. The working language of the conference is English.

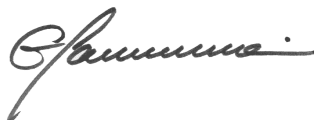
To apply, please submit the attached application form and a one-page outline of your intended contribution to the conference. Please read the Call for Applications as well as the Application Form carefully as they explain the details of the application procedure and the conference. **Application deadline is 20 April 2014.**

The organizers will cover accommodation and provide for travel subsidies based on the country of residence (maximum 325 € for participants from the EU, 350 € for participants from Turkey and Morocco, and 450 € for participants from Egypt).

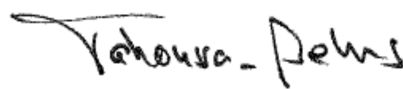
Please do not hesitate to contact us at [eumef1@dgap.org](mailto:eumef1@dgap.org) in case you have any further questions.

We look 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

## Concept Note

### I. General Outline

#### **“People Moving – Implications of Migration for Societies and States in North Africa”**

Migration in the Mediterranean region goes beyond images of small boats overloaded with refugees trying to cross the sea in pursuit of a better life in Europe. These images and the associated narratives fail to provide a comprehensive picture of the multitude of reasons and effects of people moving in the region. The area including North Africa, the Levant, Turkey and the EU has always been the site of many of these different movements and since the uprisings in 2011, new dynamics and alarming realities have been added to the phenomena. To mention a few examples, Libya, which had been the destination of labor migration for decades, became the origin of refugees during the war in 2011. Tunisians, who had migrated to the Gulf and other countries, returned with the political change underway in their homeland. And the brutality of the civil war and the dramatic deterioration of living standards in Syria forced millions of people to flee, either getting internally displaced or seeking refuge in neighboring countries or other countries in the region including North Africa.

Migration flows are complex and varied phenomena and people leave their country of origin for different reasons, either forced by violent conflict or due to political, social, or economic reasons and due to a conglomerate of these reasons respectively. Their movement is not necessarily unidirectional, as exemplified by multiple internal displacements, return movements, and seasonal migration. In all cases, moving people alter and influence societies, both in sending and receiving countries. Migrants can be powerful political actors transforming their host as well as home countries through active political engagement but also shake fragile political and social equilibriums and contribute to destabilization with a spill-over effect for neighboring countries. They can positively contribute to the economy through work and remittances but also cause the so-called brain drain and antagonize the local work force. In this context, migrants are often confronted with xenophobia and racism and serve as scapegoats for all sorts of grievances, only adding to their misery caused by traumatic experiences, material hardship, and bureaucratic burdens.

As a consequence, migrants' presence heavily shapes discourses and notions of citizenship, identity, and statehood, directly affects social cohesion and stability, and hence confronts states and international organizations with enormous challenges. International organizations do play a role in providing relief for affected people. But in the absence of a binding global regime to govern the international movement of people, migrants depend primarily on the interests of and cooperation between nation states.

This conference aims to primarily analyze more recent flows of people stemming from or targeting countries in North Africa and explore their political, social, and economic impact on sending and receiving societies. It will shed light on migration policies of relevant actors and identify necessary, missing measures that place the human rights dimension at the centre of the debate and policy-making process. The conference will enable cross-country comparisons and exchange of experiences and bring together academics, practitioners, and activists working in the field.

## **II. Topics**

Contributions may address, but are not restricted to, the following topics and questions, bearing in mind that these topics are overlapping, inseparable, and mutually dependent:

### **a. Societal Implications**

Migrants have transformative power on affected societies. How do they influence their countries of destination and departure socially, politically, and economically? To what extent do they color the social fabric through ideas and lifestyles and what are implications hereof? How does their presence relate to social cohesion and stability? On a political level, in what ways do migrants participate in politics and how do they affect power relations within the host country and between the latter and sending or neighboring countries and with which results? What impact do they have on the economy and the labor market? In which ways are remittances being invested and to what extent are they conducive to local development? Does migrants' economic power translate into political power?

### **b. Reactions and Policies of Sending and Receiving Countries**

Border security and citizenship are regarded as key competencies of sovereign nation states and state policies regarding migration depend on needs and interests. How do nation states in North Africa react to migration and refugees? What is the nature of the legal framework governing migration? As the majority of North African countries has drawn up or is in the process of drawing up new constitutions, the pressing question is how migration is dealt with in these new societal contracts? How is labor migration and mobility such as academic exchange among states in North Africa on the one hand and between the latter and other countries being negotiated and fostered on a state level? Does it differ from expectations of concerned groups? To what extent has there been a policy shift since the beginning of the uprisings in 2011? How are the Mobility Partnerships between the EU and Tunisia/Morocco to be evaluated? In addition to the state, many non-state actors like non-governmental organizations and the media directly engage in activities related to migration. How is their role to be evaluated? Do they nurture a welcoming environment, embracing diversity and advocating for migrants' rights, or do they deepen schisms and fuel prejudices?

### **c. International Realm**

Migration is per definition an international issue and International Organizations such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) play an important role in assisting refugees and migrants and providing information to the public. For example the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees sets out the rights of refugees. However, the legal status of other groups of moving people, such as migrant workers or internally displaced people is far less regularized. What provisions for protecting migrants and refugees in the region does international legislation offer and where does it come short? Which problems arise from the different definitions of refugee, migrant, and internally displaced person? How can a more efficient framework of international protection for these persons be created? What measures are there to care for the most vulnerable groups, such as children and women, and how effective are they?

### **III. Objectives of the Conference**

The key objectives of the conference are to

- analyze and discuss current developments and debates around migration and its impact on North Africa
- bridge academic and non-academic discourses by bringing together researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and civil society representatives
- support the young generation of practitioners, policy-makers, and researchers to discuss their visions and findings with senior experts as well as peers
- establish a network of young professionals and initiate new partnerships by bringing together participants from North Africa, Turkey, and the EU.

### **IV. Target Group**

The main protagonists and hence target group of the conference are Young Professionals (aged around 27-35) in academia, politics, the media, the private sector, and civil society organizations, who deal with issues related to the topic of the conference. Participants should come from Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Germany, the UK, France, Spain, Italy, and Greece. The working language of the conference is English.

### **V. Methodology**

The three-day conference is composed of 1) three to four senior experts' inputs in the plenary and 2) a series of working group sessions. There will be two working groups in which each participant will present a brief input statement (around 2000 words) related to one or more of the indicated subject areas. These input statements, which do not have to be purely academic papers but can also be presentations of practical work and ongoing projects, are commented on by experts/discussants who will also act as facilitators of the working group discussions. During joint plenary sessions, participants will get an overview of the status and collective findings of the debates in each working group, allowing for intensive discussion and exchange among the whole group.

The tasks for each participant will hence include:

- preparation and presentation of a concise written input statement in the form of a commentary addressing one specific aspect within the scope of the above-mentioned topics (around 2000 words; the complete paper is due on 25 May 2014)
- active participation during working group and plenary sessions

### **VI. Application Process**

Kindly fill out the attached application form and send it back together with a CV, a one-page outline of your intended contribution and a short email outlining your motivation to participate in the 21st New Faces Conference to [eumef1@dgap.org](mailto:eumef1@dgap.org) no later than **20 April 2014**.