



Forum Euro-Méditerranéen des Instituts Economiques
www.femise.org

**FEMISE ANNUAL REPORT
(JUNE 2020–JUNE 2021)
and WORK PLAN
(JULY 2021- JUNE 2022)**

**Presented to
FEMISE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
15th of December 2021
Virtual meeting**

Decision of the FEMISE Board of Directors (23 November 2021):

The Board approves unanimously the FEMISE Annual Report and Work Plan and recommends their approval to the General Assembly



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I: FEMISE ANNUAL REPORT (June 2020-June 2021)

INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS

I. NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

I.1. Network Consolidation

I.2. Partnerships and Fundraising

II. PROJECTS AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

II.1. Research Activities within the Next Society Project

II.2. Research Activities within the Context of the FEMISE-CMI partnership

II.2.1. COVID-19 MED BRIEFS

II.2.2. Euro med Report on Post-COVID-19: opportunities for growth, regional value chains and Mediterranean integration.

II.3. Research Activities within the FTA assessment project

III. DIALOGUES, DISSEMINATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

III.1. Webinars and events

III.1.1. FEMISE-CMI Webinar on: Navigating through COVID-19 in the Mediterranean

III.1.2. FEMISE-CMI series of Country Consultations Webinars

III. 1. 3. Events related to the Next Society Project

III.2. Policy Outreach

III.2.1. Policy Briefs

III.2.2. FEMISE videos marking special occasions and International Days

III. 3. Visibility and Digital Communications

III. 3.1. FEMISE contacts' database

III. 3.2. Media outreach: Articles and Communication partners

III. 3.3. Media outreach: FEMISE Updates

III. 3.4. Twitter and LinkedIn

PART II: FEMISE WORK PLAN (July 2021– June 2022)

I.NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

I.1. Membership in FEMISE network

I.2. Developing Strategic Partnerships

I.3. Keep growing the Researchers Database

II.RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

II.1. Research Activities under the project on “Enhancing Innovation” funded by the EC through the NEXT SOCIETY/MEDVALLEY project-

II.1.1. Impact Extension (1): February 2021 – October 2021

II.1.2. Capitalisation Extension (2): November 2021 – June 2022

II.2. New project: WEF-CAP (Sept 2021- Sept 2023)

II.3. New project: Euromed Cluster Forward (ECF) (March 2022- Feb 2025)

II.4. New activities in the context of the Partnership with CMI



III. DIALOGUES, DISSEMINATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

III.1. Policy Seminars/dialogues

III.2. Publications and outreach



PART I: FEMISE ANNUAL REPORT

(June 2020– June 2021)

INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS

The year 2020 marked an important phase in the FEMISE institutional transformation. This is following the dissolution of the Institut de la Méditerranée (IM), which was the co-founding member of FEMISE together with ERF, its Treasurer and its Northern coordinator, at the end of 2020, following their Board decision. This had important implications on the governance and functioning of FEMISE Association, which required immediate actions to ensure the smooth transition. This became the main priority of FEMISE during this period.

First, FEMISE needed to ensure its physical presence (i.e. office, etc.) following the departure of the IM management. Second there was a need to find a new Treasurer for the association. Third, the FEMISE Statutes of Incorporation (i.e Charter) needed to change to reflect new institutional changes and to be more inline with the new challenging environment. Fourth, there was a need to establish a new modality to support the activities of the FEMISE following the dismissal of the IM staff. Finally, to find a new Northern Partner that will complement the efforts of ERF and strengthen the FEMISE presence in the North as a north-south network.

At the same time and while ensuring the institutional transition, FEMISE continued to be active and produce new products (including with partners) to ensure its relevance and enhance the network's presence and visibility. This was met by a number of challenges in terms of management, financial resources, but also the pandemic that put the world and its activities on a stand-still. However, as a response to the crisis, FEMISE acted quickly to provide necessary tools for policy makers to first, evaluate the impact of the pandemic on the different aspects of the economies and the communities and second to find solutions on how to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic. FEMISE (in collaboration with different partners) have launched a variety of Policy Briefs with diverse topics providing a quick response to the needs of the Policy makers during this crisis.

In parallel, FEMISE progressed in its on-going projects providing the deliverables on a timely manner and has also worked on its fundraising strategy, by participating in a number of proposals. The Bureau worked particularly on developing its financial resilience through the participation of its management in a training course on: Financial Innovation Resilience (FIRE).

The past year has also witnessed a good progress in terms of building new strategic partnerships which will have an impact on widening collaboration opportunities, increase



visibility and complements the FEMISE approach to contribute to the policy making. It is within this context, that FEMISE formalised its partnership with the Center for the Mediterranean Integration (CMI), which entailed a number of new joined products and joint visibility as two major institutes working together for the Mediterranean.

FEMISE has also engaged in an intensive Communication strategy to promote its outputs through its different social media channels, which become very active and engaging the wider community of researchers and interested groups in the Mediterranean. The production of a wide variety of Policy briefs (with different partners) has shown an immediate response to the COVID-19 challenges.

This was reflected in the fact that for a second consecutive year, FEMISE is ranked among the 100 “best Think-Tank networks” according to the “Global Go To Think Tank Index” of the University of Pennsylvania (TTCSP), 2020.

Moving forward, FEMISE will complete its institutional transition, which will provide the necessary building block for a strong and resilient institution that can face any external shocks. This will be complemented by insuring a resilient financial situation of the association while enhancing the fundraising strategy which aims to diversify financial resources to ensure its sustainability. Two approaches have been adopted: (1) Responding with partners to relevant open calls from all international organisations; (2) developing project proposals and approach relevant international donors for potential funding.

FEMISE Bureau, its Board and its Members, remain determined to continue its development, its visibility and its impact to be able to meet the future challenges.

This annual report will provide some details on the main activities that the FEMISE network has undertaken in the past year.

I. NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

1.1. Network Consolidation

FEMISE continues to ensure that the network members are active and updated with all information related to the association. This is done through monitoring the list of members and updating it ensure that all members are participating in the institutional and technical activities of the network.

To this end, the bureau launched in 2020 a process to examine the status of the existing members in terms of their participation in the FEMISE activities, including their response to the



recent General Assembly voting. The institutions were put in different categories depending on their participation: active, not active for more than 2 years, and active but their new contacts have not made contact with FEMISE.

This list was communicated to the Membership committee which was established by the Board. At the end of 2020, the committee met and discussed the different categories of FEMISE members as advised by the Bureau and presented their recommendations to the Board.

Following the 2020 Board of Directors meeting, the Board members accepted the recommendations of the Membership Committee to withdraw the membership of three institutions that have requested to withdraw for different reasons (e.g. not working on the Med issues anymore, no sufficient staff, ..etc.); the bureau will contact those that have not been active to activate their membership or designate a new contact person until a certain deadline, after which their membership will be terminated if there is no response from their end.

Since then, FEMISE Bureau has put all its efforts to reach out to its members over the course of 2 months. Fortunately, 2 members have activated their membership and 3 members have appointed new focal points.

As of February 2021, FEMISE network reached 101 members' institutes representing the EU-Med region and it includes: 48 Members from the Mediterranean Partners countries and Turkey and 54 Members from the European Union Countries and the United Kingdom.

For the purpose of keeping the network interactive and constantly updated, FEMISE bureau will keep communicating with all its members to ensure that they receive our regular communications and for opportunities of collaborations.

The Membership committee continue to monitor the Entry and Exit criteria that was put in place in 2018. FEMISE is open for new candidates that wish to join.

In addition, the **"EU-MED Researchers Database"** platform that was put in place in 2018 is still receiving new entries that are added to the mailing list of FEMISE. This database allows researchers to have a free platform for their visibility. Members or non-members, all researchers are invited to fill in the questionnaire at the following link: <https://www.webropolsurveys.com/S/2A1CB176918D16D0.par>

1.2. Partnerships and Fundraising

As a part of its strategy, FEMISE has attempted to scale up collaborative initiatives with international community and civil society organizations in order to develop joint projects,



increase funding opportunities, and have a greater impact. Over the past two years, FEMISE has forged multiple partnerships, including with the Policy Center for New South, SDSN, Altafemina, ITCEQ, MYCN, and the latest with the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI).

Its partnership with CMI was signed in October 2020, formalizing a relationship between the two institutions that have been on-going for years. The CMI is a multi-partner initiative where development agencies, governments, local authorities, and civil society from around the Mediterranean convene to exchange ideas, discuss public policies, and identify regional solutions to address regional challenges in the Mediterranean. The center was created by the World Bank, together with the European Investment Bank, the Governments of Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, and the City of Marseille in 2012. As of July 1st, 2021, and eleven years after its creation, the CMI will join the United Nations (UN), hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). This will provide wider opportunities for a deeper collaboration with the CMI as their priorities will be merging with those of FEMISE.

This partnership with CMI builds on the complementarity of the two Mediterranean institutions: the FEMISE research knowledge and science-for-policy platforms, together with CMI's technical expertise and operational influence, under a regional integration approach. The collaboration will focus on priority areas including **Socio-Economic Transformations** (Co-Development, Integration and Human Capital Mobility), **Resilience** (Mitigation and Adaptation to external shocks, mainly climate change and forced displacement), with **Youth and Gender** as cross-cutting issues. The joint activities will take various forms, such as designing joint projects, organizing joint events and trainings; producing joint studies; and mutualizing networks and outreach.

Within this collaboration, 2 products have been already ongoing (since October 2020)- more details to follow:

- 1- 2 rounds of FEMISE/CMI Policy Briefs "COVID-19 MED BRIEFS" which addresses the issue of the COVID-19 socio-economic crisis and its implications on the region, and identifies concrete policy actions pointing to solutions and ways forward (more details below).
- 2- A FEMISE-CMI report on the Post COVID-19 in the EU-Med region this includes addressing issues related to the Food security, Integration and value chains and digital and health issues (more details below)
- 3- FEMISE-CMI Webinar on: Navigating through COVID-19 in the Mediterranean

FEMISE will continue to engage in these partnership to open new horizons for collaboration and potential projects, to increase its visibility and to diversify its resources and to ensure the continuity of its funding.



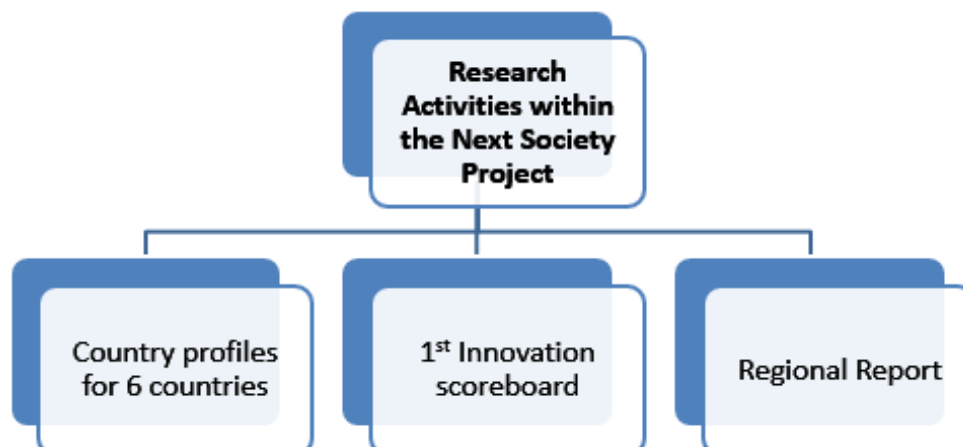
II. PROJECTS AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

During this year, FEMISE has continued its participation in on-going projects. In addition, it has extended its collaboration with ANIMA network within the Next Society project.

II.1. Research Activities within the Next Society Project

THE NEXT SOCIETY is an open community of change makers engaged in innovation and economic development. It gathers entrepreneurs, investors, corporate, NGOs, public and private innovation, research and economic development hubs from Europe and the Mediterranean countries. Launched by ANIMA Investment Network, THE NEXT SOCIETY initiated a four-year action plan (2017-2020), co-funded by the European Union, with the aim of mobilizing, promoting and reinforcing innovation ecosystems and economic development in the MENA region. This four-year project covers 7 countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco Tunisia and Palestine. It assesses the National Innovation Systems of these countries with the aim to boost these systems and to engage the different actors from the policy makers, private sector, and the different agencies. The analysis in this large project is made into 3 different levels: macro, meso and micro levels.

FEMISE as the co-applicant, together with ERF and IM, are main partners providing the research and analysis backbone for the project. FEMISE's work on this project has been twofold. First, the FEMISE/ERF team provided research analysis on the challenges of establishing innovation systems in these countries from different perspectives: institutional, legal, economic, firm-level and knowledge diffusion and innovative exports. Second, FEMISE/IM team provided a sectoral analysis on the sectors that have innovative components, identified the potential rising stars for each of these countries, by analysing the Trade data, the industry date and labour factor productive data (whenever available on these countries). These outputs were presented in several conferences and at the national advocacy panels organised by the Next society and received positive feedback.





In June 2020, FEMISE completed the deliverables of the initial contract:

- We produced country profiles for 6 countries (2-3 pages): Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Morocco and Tunisia. The profiles provided a summary (using graphs, info graphs) of the research outputs that were undertaken to analyse the challenges of the Innovation Systems in the South med countries in terms of institutions, laws, performance and economic and business indicators. Each profile provides a list of challenges that are faced by these countries.

- We created the first Mediterranean Innovation Scoreboard, measuring the performance of innovation of the 7 countries using more 78 variables distributed according to the phases of innovation: input, process and output. The 78 selected indicators provide accurate information on the level of performance of the Mediterranean countries with regard to the regional context and include: (i) published data (secondary data) by international organisations, (ii) survey data (primary data) that was conducted by different organisations; (iii) and calculated data from raw databases. All data included have been referred with their source and the latest available year (an update is already ongoing with additional indicators).
The Scoreboard was published on the Next Society website <https://www.thenextsociety.co/i-data> and it has proved to be popular. Built on this scoreboard's basis, a digital and interactive tool has been developed by ANIMA to make the data simpler to read. During the first year of the project, the Scoreboard and some country analysis were presented in each of the countries to the National Advocacy Panel created in this county for input and discussion. Furthermore, FEMISE has undertaken an update of the data in 2019 to create 2 comparative points for the variables.

- FEMISE also presented the first version of the regional report focusing on the different components that can create a favorable environment for innovation in the region. It presents the positioning of the different countries in the global innovation map and reviews the innovation ecosystem and its different actors. It also examines the progress made, including the economic and political environment, the institutional and legislative environment, indicators of economic activity, access to infrastructure, business performance and, finally, innovation performance. Finally, the report outlines the various challenges and opportunities facing the different actors in the innovation ecosystem.

The discussions with Anima in 2020 resulted in extending FEMISE's participation in further activities for the next society. FEMISE is currently working on updating the scoreboard, the country profiles and the regional report. New versions of these research outputs will be available by the end of 2021.



Furthermore, in March 2021, under an initiative from FEMISE to increase the impact of The Next Society project a new initiative to produce “**The Next Society Policy Briefs Series**” was launched. This initiative provides a new collaboration between the research community from one side and the entrepreneurs from another side. The initiative was launched to better understand the challenges faced by entrepreneurs in the south med region. Indeed, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) constitute about 95% of the total enterprises in the South Med region and are considered to be the driving forces behind economic growth, job creation and green and inclusive growth. However, entrepreneurs, especially start-ups, still face many challenges when it comes to establishing, promoting and managing their businesses. Supporting them through innovative initiatives and improving the ecosystem in which they operate will contribute to their development. In turn, entrepreneurs will contribute to the achievement of several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This series of briefs discusses the challenges faced by entrepreneurs, through the lens of the entrepreneurs themselves, and aims to provide tailor-made operational policy recommendations. These briefs are based on collaborative work and exchange of knowledge and experience between the researcher(s)/author(s) and the entrepreneur(s), many of which have benefited from TNS project, ensuring their relevance and impact.

The first brief within “TNS Policy Briefs Series” will be published in August 2021.

II.2. Research Activities within the Context of the FEMISE-CMI partnership

In the context of its recent partnership with CMI, FEMISE launched 2 new research projects to address the Impact of the COVID on the EU-Med countries, as follows:

II.2.1. COVID-19 MED BRIEFS

A first product of the CMI-FEMISE collaboration is the joint series of Policy Briefs “COVID-19 MED BRIEFS” which represented one of the first responses to the impact of the COVID-19 socio-economic crisis and its implications on the region, and identifies concrete policy actions pointing to solutions and ways forward.

The first round of call for Policy briefs was launched in May 2020 by FEMISE and CMI inviting researchers to submit their Policy briefs in this new joint Policy Brief series. This series of Policy Briefs aims to contribute to the policymaking process by addressing the economic, social and welfare effects of COVID-19 on the EU-Med and how Mediterranean integration can be reinforced in order to overcome the crisis and trigger further transformation in the region. Following the success of the first round, the two institutions decided to join forces again and launched a second round in December. The second round focuses more on the policy debate to contribute to finding solutions to the negative impact and particularly the role of the EU-Med integration.



Below are details with regards to the 2 rounds:

- May 2020: Following the first call for Policy Briefs, we received more than 25 submissions, involving experts from the South, North, and East of the Mediterranean. An evaluation process was undertaken by experts from both the FEMISE and the CMI and the best Policy Briefs that addressed the urgent issue of the COVID-19 socio-economic effects and impact on the EU-Med region were selected for publication (click here to access the published MedBriefs).
- December 2020: Following the second call for Policy Briefs, we received more than 25 submissions. An evaluation process is underway for these submissions and a number was already selected for publications. The Policy Briefs are based on recent research conducted on policy, economic and security issues relevant to the EU-Med region and Africa. This series of Policy Briefs is intended to pave the way for more in-depth thematic analyses and recommendations.

More details on the published policy briefs will be found in the third section of this report.

II.2.2. Euromed Report on Post-COVID-19: opportunities for growth, regional value chains and Mediterranean integration.

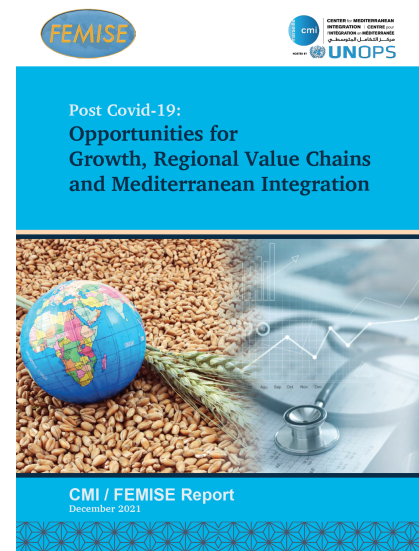
The report will be undertaken by prof. Patricia Augier and will be drafted by a number of FEMISE and CMI consultants. The report will be produced by early 2022.

The purpose of this report is twofold. It will contribute to:

- Identify the "post-COVID" opportunities that Mediterranean countries would benefit from seizing to boost their growth and create jobs and,
- Explore different avenues to move towards more regional integration.

The report will be composed of about 3 chapters as follows:

- Chapter 1. Food security in the Mediterranean during the COVID-19 health crisis
- Chapter 2. What new export opportunities for Med countries?
- Chapter 3. The Health Sector in the Mediterranean Region in the face of the Covid-19 Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities
-





II.3. Research Activities within the FTA assessment project

The FTA assessment project is funded by the DG-Trade (of the European Commission) through our partners: CASE (FEMISE members) and ECORYS (consultancy firms).

The project started in March 2019 for the duration of one year. However the project had encountered long delays due to the slow feedback from the DG-Trade on the different interim report. The project was then extended to January 2021.



The FEMISE team has delivered their input in terms of Economic Analysis and Sustainability Approach. A first draft was

sent to the DG-Trade to which comments were received. The draft was revised and new sections were added, including outputs of case studies, results of the survey and results of the technical assistance workshops that were undertaken in a number of targeted countries. An interim report was sent to the DG-Trade, which received further comments. This report was successfully published (https://www.fta-evaluation.com/eu-mediterranean/wp_content/uploads/2020/04/2020-04-07-Interim-report.pdf).

The Final draft was submitted in summer of 2020 and the report entitled “Ex-post evaluation of the impact of trade chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements with six partners: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia” was published in April 2021.

The focus of this study is on assessing the ongoing Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean Partners and presenting recommendations on how to unlock the potential of these agreements. It also aims to determine whether the main objectives of the trade chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean AAs and the supplementary trade protocols or agreements supplementing the FTAs have been achieved, as well as to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and coherence of the trade chapters of the AA. It is expected that the evaluation will help to determine best practice and lessons learned from the FTAs in order to better inform further implementation of the current Euro-Med FTAs as well as to enable cross fertilization of the gained insights across the various countries in the region to further enhance the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

[You can read/download the executive summary of the report here](#)

[You can read/download the full report here](#)

III. DIALOGUES, DISSEMINATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

FEMISE continues to implement its dissemination strategy that is based on diversifying the tools



to reach out to different audience from academics, policy makers and the general public and to enlarge as much as possible our reach-out activities.

More specifically, the strategy has the following objectives:

- (1) to provide platforms for “**policy dialogues**” in particular between researchers and policy makers from one hand and between the north and the south from other, through FEMISE policy seminars and conferences;
- (2) to target the **policy makers** and different stakeholders on the outputs and policy recommendations of the FEMISE research. This means that the recommendations need to be operational and practical for policy makers and,
- (3) to expand the outreach to **wider audiences** while tailoring the different outputs to each audience, serving the different interests of those interested by FEMISE findings.

The following are details of the dissemination and out-reach activities that took place in the past period (June 2020- June 2021):

III.1. Webinars and events

The COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020 made it difficult to hold face-to-face events. Over the past year, adapting to the new normal, all events have been held virtually

III.1.1. FEMISE-CMI Webinar on: Navigating through COVID-19 in the Mediterranean

FEMISE and the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) organized a webinar on “Navigating through COVID-19 in the Mediterranean”, on Tuesday 8th December 2020. This webinar is the first event resulting from the CMI-FEMISE partnership, arriving at a crucial time when the EU-Med region has been struggling to overcome the devastating impacts of COVID-19.

The objective of this Mediterranean webinar was to give voice to the authors of the recently launched "CMI-FEMISE COVID-19 MED Briefs" and to open a dialogue between researchers, stakeholders and civil society in the Mediterranean in order to contribute to the policy debate on the implications and pathways to address the crisis and pave the way for the definition of a Mediterranean framework for priority action to continuously assess the regional response to COVID-19. The Webinar was structured around three sessions; each included a presentation by the authors of their findings followed by a discussion with esteemed panelists.





The first session addressed **financial reform strategies for Med countries** suffering from the consequences of the pandemic and from pre-existing international financial instability. Transitioning to *green investments and environmental issues*, the second session revealed a potential paradigm for environmental policies in a post-COVID world. It showed that the Med countries ought to seize the opportunity created by the COVID crisis to build back better and to restart their economies in more efficient and environmental friendly manners. More generally, the core of public policy should rely on the concept of intergenerational justice; the authors' closing argument was that, for the well-being of future generations, we shall not hold back on the fight against climate change as a pretext to overcome the COVID-19 crisis faster. Finally, **Country-Specific Implications were presented during the third session**. The cases of Egypt, Tunisia and Lebanon were presented, showing the importance of properly managing the crisis implications on households and on vulnerable groups, as well as the main economic challenges faced by these countries. A set of measures that should be implemented were also proposed for each country.



In conclusion, it was clear that this crisis is representing a real test for the resilience of these economies. The way out of the crisis will depend on the capacity of governments to create innovative approaches to provide support packages to both households and businesses, all within their very limited resources.

More details about the discussions in the webinar can be found here:

<https://www.femise.org/en/slideshow-en/report-on-the-femise-cmi-webinar-on-navigating-through-covid-19-in-the-mediterranean/>

III.1.2. FEMISE-CMI series of Country Consultations Webinars

a) A Post Pandemic Development Strategy for Mediterranean Countries

In preparation for an ongoing report that was produced in collaboration with Growth Dialogue, the CMI and FEMISE were involved in a series of country specific consultation webinars (May 2021) to discuss the contexts of the report on: "A Post-Pandemic Growth Strategy for Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries". The webinars were organized by the Growth Dialogue and included high level seniors from the different countries addressed Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco to discuss the implications of the pandemic on the countries and the way forward. FEMISE was involved in providing insights to the contents and participate in the debates.

b) Webinar on Food Security in the Mediterranean in times of COVID, March 2021



In preparation for the forthcoming Euromed FEMISE-CMI report on COVID, a special webinar was organized to discuss the first chapter of the report on Food security in the Mediterranean. The authors presented their inputs and recommendations and a number of experts from FEMISE and CMI discussed the contents.

III. 1. 3. Events related to the Next Society Project:



a) Participation to the ANIMA EBSOMED Series “ANIMA Webinar | Support for SMEs and start-ups: which companies to sustain after the crisis?” (APRIL 2021)

In the framework of EBSOMED, ANIMA Investment Network implemented an Online BSO Management Academy under the theme « React to the COVID-19 Crisis - Support for SMEs and Start-ups: Which companies to sustain after the crisis? », on 22 April 2021.

FEMISE was pleased that during this webinar, Dr. Majdi Hassen, the Executive Director of FEMISE member Arab Institute of Business Leaders (AIBL), presented how the COVID 19 crisis has affected the economies of the countries around the Mediterranean differently.

During this webinar, we also saw where the opportunities for the future have developed. This webinar also discussed how national and local public authorities have managed their business support policies during the crisis, and how they envisaged them for the post-Covid-19 period.

b) Participation in the TNS annual conference, February 2021

The Next Society 4th annual conference was held on Wednesday 17 February 2021, following the first granted 1-year extension, to collectively discuss the main objectives for this last year of implementation.

During the conference, FEMISE presented the innovation scoreboard developed by researchers, to help innovation stakeholders of Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia complete their “innovation transition”.

Contributing to increase the impact of The Next Society, FEMISE announced the launch of two outreach tools: “TNS Policy Briefs” engaging collaboration between Researches and Entrepreneurs for success stories and polices; and “TNS Advocacy Videos” promoting dialogues and best practices

III.2. Policy Outreach



III.2.1. Policy Briefs

Policy briefs are considered an essential tool to facilitate the dissemination and use of empirical research. They are short, concise notes written in simple, non-technical language that can be easily accessible to policymakers and the general public. Briefs can be based on existing research findings, best practices, or case studies and should contain practical recommendations. They develop a compelling argument that maintains the scientific credibility of the information, while emphasizing its relevance and urgency to policy issues.

The Policy Briefs series is one of the main outputs of the FEMISE research that are directed towards the policy makers. They have potential to create evidence-accurate beliefs among policy-makers holding no prior beliefs on a theme (filling a knowledge gap). Policy-makers need to read and understand the evidence produced by research and have their beliefs evolve accordingly after reading if they are to change their policies/practices. Therefore, the briefs contain succinct, policy-oriented analysis of relevant EuroMed issues, presenting the views of FEMISE researchers and collaborators to policy-makers.

During this period FEMISE produced two different series of Policy Briefs; The first series are the EU-MED FEMISE policy briefs and these are focused on the EU-Med issues in general the second series of policy Briefs is responding to the COVID impact jointly with the CMI. Please find below details. In addition and as mentioned above, FEMISE will start in August 2021 producing a third type of Policy Briefs which is more focused on the innovation and entrepreneurship which will be launched in the context of the Next Society project.

Producing different types of Briefs mean that we reach different types of Policy Makers at different levels. In add

a) FEMISE/CMI Policy Briefs “COVID-19 MED BRIEFS”

The recent coronavirus crisis threatens the health, economies and societies of all countries. In Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, the fight against the pandemic is even more complicated due to pre-existing structural rigidities. Cooperation and EU-Med strategies in key sectors are needed. Therefore, the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) and FEMISE joined forces and launched their joint series of Policy Briefs called “COVID-19 MED BRIEFS”

Within the first round of FEMISE and The CMI Policy Brief series, 13 briefs have been published as of December 2020, addressing





the urgent issue of the COVID-19 socio-economic effects and impact on the EU-Mediterranean region.

Following the success of the first round, the two institutions decided to join forces again and launch a second round. This series of Policy Briefs is intended to pave the way for more in-depth thematic analyses and recommendations.

As of June 2021, 6 briefs have been produced as part of the second round.

➤ **Below is the list of the COVID-19 MED BRIEFS produced until June 2021 and their details:**

- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.19: Designing Realistic Green Economic Recovery Plans after the COVID-19 Pandemic, by Theodoros Zachariadis (the Energy, Environment and Water Research Centre of the Cyprus Institute), June 2021
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.18: Promoting data-driven processes in the response and recovery from the pandemic through regional collaboration and peer learning, by Rami Kanaan and Muna Shalan, April 2021
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.17: Energy transition, sustainability, and labour market policies: Implications and recommendations for the South Mediterranean countries, by Stella Tsani (University of Ioannina), April 2021
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.16: Promoting Virtual Exchange as a resilient way to strengthen academic internationalisation in the South Med, by Francesca Helm (University of Padova) and Fabio Nascimbeni (Mediterranean University Union), April 2021.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.15: Reducing Gender Inequality and Unemployment among Women in the Mediterranean, by Dilek Gürsel (Sciences Po Paris), March 2021.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.14: COVID-19 and Women Employment in Mediterranean Countries, by Hussein Suleiman, Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, March 2021.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.13: Deterioration of Food (In)security in the South Mediterranean and MENA Region in Times of Covid-19, by Dilek Gürsel (Sciences Po Paris), December 2020.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.12: COVID-19, distance education and the digital divide: What measures to be taken for Tunisia?, by Najeh Aissaoui (University of Carthage), December 2020.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.11: Evaluating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on income distribution and poverty in Turkey, by Ayşe Aylin Bayar, Öner Günçavdı (Istanbul Technical University) and Haluk Levent (Istanbul Bilgi University), December 2020.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.10: Lebanon in the midst of multiple crises: Hope Born Out of Despair, by Refk Selmi, Jamal Bouoiyour and Amal Miftah (University of Pau), November 2020.



- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.9: Economic Policy Responses to COVID-19: the case of EU and non-EU Mediterranean Countries, by Gokce Basbug (Sungkyunkwan University) and Ceyhun Elgin (Bogazici University), November 2020
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.8: Policy Responses to the Environmental Challenges of COVID-19 in the Southern Mediterranean Region in a Short- and Medium-run Perspective, by Vera Danilina (Aix-Marseille University), November 2020
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.7: Socio-economic response to Covid-19: challenges and opportunities for selected North Africa countries, by Jamal Bouoiyour, Amal Miftah and Refk Selmi (University of Pau), November 2020.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.6: “COVID-19, Challenges and Opportunities: The case of Tunisia”, by Hajer El Ouardani (University of Tunis), October 2020.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.5: “A Digital Financial Education to Support the «New Normal» in the Post-Pandemic Era”, by Valeria Stefanelli, Vittorio Boscia & Marco Trinchera (University of Salento), October 2020.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.4: “COVID-19 and Households in Egypt: Implications, Policy Response, and Recommendations”, by Hussein Suleiman (Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies), October 2020.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no. 3: “Financial reforms for more Resilient Societies in the Mediterranean”, by Thomas Lagoarde-Segot & Luis Reyes-Ortiz (KEDGE Business School), October 2020.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no. 2: “Responsive Transportation-Oriented Policies for the MED Region in the Face of Covid-19”, by Beste Şensöz, Armin Wagner & Linus Platzer (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)), September 2020.
- COVID-19 MED BRIEF no1: “Implications of the coronavirus crisis in the Mediterranean and in the Middle East”, by Constantin Tsakas (FEMISE, IM), May 2020.

b) FEMISE MED BRIEFS Series

FEMISE re-launched twice a Call for Policy Brief, first in early 2018, then in February 2020, inviting all interested researchers (members or non-members) to submit original Policy Briefs based on recent research conducted on policy, economic and security issues relevant to the EU-Med region and Africa.

The call for Policy Briefs has been open to non-members which meant that other external experts could contribute. It is worth mentioning that following an agreement with CASE-Poland, some of these Briefs are edited by their editorial board ensuring greater visibility.

As of September 2019, a total of 28 policy briefs have been produced in the context of the ENPI project. Since then, 3 additional Med Briefs have been produced by FEMISE.



➤ **List of MedBriefs produced by FEMISE**

- FEMISE MED BRIEF no31: “Resilient Mediterranean Agriculture in the context of Water Scarcity” by Jacques Ganoulis, UNESCO Chair/International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans (INWEB), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, March 2021.
- FEMISE MED BRIEF no30: “Can Universal Health Coverage Systems (UHCs) Achieve Health Equity?” by Dina Atef Mandour, Cairo University, December 2020.
- FEMISE MED BRIEF no29: “Does Public Preschooling Improve Child Development in Algeria ?” by Moundir Lassassi (Research Centre in Applied Economic for Development in Algeria (CREAD)), August 2020.

///.2.2. FEMISE videos marking special occasions and International Days

Strengthening its outreach strategy, FEMISE created its youtube channel in September 2017. The videos produced by FEMISE help increase the impact of its products and further engage its members. They also serve as a channel for better dissemination of knowledge and information.

FEMISE produced two series of videos; “**MED CHANGE MAKERS**” & “**FEMISE videos for International Days**”.

The **Med Change Makers** series has included many dynamic researchers working on a variety of EU-Med topics, presenting the results of their research, in French or English, and illustrating how their work can be useful in the process of developing inclusive, sustainable and innovative policies in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

All episodes of the series are available on Youtube (8 episodes so far), as well as on the FEMISE website with an added bonus of a written version of the interviews in both french and english.

“**FEMISE videos for International Days**” are produced on the occasion of the “UN International days”. These “International days are designated by the United Nations General Assembly designates to mark important aspects of human life and history. Each international day offers many actors the opportunity to organize activities related to the theme of the day.

Organizations and offices of the United Nations system, and most importantly, governments, civil society, the public and private sectors, schools, universities and, more generally, citizens,





make an international day a springboard for awareness-raising actions.

We produced several videos, either in-house or with EcomNewsMed, that we release on a given day to highlight the contributions of FEMISE on a given theme. We have done so for Innovation Day, World Water Day, Cultural Diversity Day, Health Day etc...

On the occasion of World Refugee Day 2021, FEMISE released a video with its experts from the region on ways to integrate refugees to be better added value to our communities

Check out our videos:

1. [FEMISE celebrates World Refugee Day 2021](#)
2. [FEMISE celebrates World Health Day 2021](#)
3. [FEMISE celebrates World Health Day \(April 7th\) : Facing Covid-19 in the Mediterranean](#)
4. [FEMISE celebrates World Day of Social Justice \(Feb. 20th\)](#)
5. [FEMISE and partners during World Refugee Day](#)
6. [FEMISE au service de la diversité culturelle, richesse de la Méditerranée](#)
7. [Regard FEMISE: Journée mondiale des télécommunications et de la société de l'information](#)

III. 3. Visibility and Digital Communications

Other than the variety of publications, seminars and conferences organised by FEMISE, the dissemination strategy includes a “Policy outreach communication plan”. This plan includes the following components, which have achieved important progress in the past year: The growing FEMISE database of contacts, the media outreach tools such as the Newsletters and Articles and the FEMISE website.

III. 3.1. FEMISE contacts’ database

The FEMISE contacts’ database is continuously revised to ensure that all contacts are updated. Contacts are put in different categories with a special focus on policy makers, International organisations in addition to large number of researchers. The database is continuously growing with valuable new contacts. The database includes growing number of different stakeholders from policy-makers, academics, EU representatives, members of the civil society from both shores. More precisely, about 80% of the database contacts are policy-makers with about 60% of which come from the South Med countries), while the rest is shared between the EU and other regions.

FEMISE is continuing its efforts to update and enlarge its database by acquiring contact details of highly ranked policy-makers and people from Central Banks, public sectors, private sectors



and other administrative authorities.

III. 3.2. Media outreach: Articles and Communication partners

Articles are short and concise texts that are based on the output of research or interviews and general FEMISE news. During the past few years, FEMISE has elaborated partnerships with two prominent Mediterranean digital journals that are widely known across the Mediterranean for bringing news, knowledge and analysis on priority issues in the Mediterranean. Econostrum (<https://en.econostrum.info/>) and EcomNews Med (<https://www.ecomnewsmed.com/>) have more than 2 million followers across the world combined. The partnership with these two journalists have proved very beneficiary for FEMISE in terms of increasing its visibility not only within the Mediterranean but across to the rest of the World.

Econostrum publishes the FEMISE outputs on their websites and the Ecomnews Med opts for creating small articles out of the reports produced by FEMISE, this way making is shorter and easy to access.

We signed a new partnership with Ecomnews Med in 2021 for the publication of TNS policy Briefs and related videos that will be released in September, and other articles were released earlier in the year.

Below are examples of the Articles that were published by both websites:

a) List of articles published by Econostrum in 2020 - 2021

1. [Promoting Virtual Exchange as a Resilient Way to Strengthen Academic Internationalization in the South Mediterranean Region](#) - 29/04/2021
2. [Reducing Gender Inequality and Unemployment among Women in the Mediterranean: Post-Covid Responses and Areas for More Regional Cooperation](#) - 15/04/2021
3. [COVID-19 and Women Employment in Mediterranean Countries: Impact and Policies for Reducing Gender Inequality in Work Med](#) - 15/04/2021
4. [COVID-19, enseignement à distance et fracture numérique : Quelles mesures prendre pour la Tunisie?](#) - 19/01/2021
5. [Deterioration of Food \(In\)security in the South Mediterranean and MENA Region in Times of Covid-19](#) - 19/01/2021
6. [COVID-19, Challenges and Opportunities: The case of Tunisia](#) - 19/01/2021
7. [Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities for Selected North Africa Countries](#) - 19/01/2021
8. [Policy Responses to the Environmental Challenges of COVID-19 in the Southern Mediterranean Region in a Short- and Medium-run Perspective](#) - 19/01/2021



9. [Economic Policy Responses to COVID-19 : the Case of EU and Non-EU Mediterranean Countries - 19/01/2021](#)
10. [Lebanon in the Midst of Multiple Crises : Hope Born Out of Despair - 19/01/2021](#)
11. [Evaluating the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Income Distribution and Poverty in Turkey - 19/01/2021](#)
12. [Implications de la crise du coronavirus en Méditerranée et au Moyen-Orient 08/12/2020](#)
13. [Des réformes financières pour des sociétés plus résilientes en Méditerranée 08/12/2020](#)
14. [La coopération, facteur clé pour relancer le développement en Méditerranée 06/07/2020](#)
15. [Lancement d'un appel à contributions sur les effets socio-économiques de la Covid-19 en Méditerranée 02/06/2020](#)
16. [The Next Society lance le premier tableau de bord de l'innovation des pays du Sud de la Méditerranée 15/05/2020](#)
17. [Les économistes euroméditerranéens du Femise appellent à investir dans la santé 10/04/2020](#)
18. [En Jordanie et au Liban, les entrepreneurs sociaux tendent la main aux réfugiés 01/04/2020](#)
19. [Mohammad Abu-Zaineh : "l'impact économique de la crise Covid-19 risque de faire encore plus de victimes que le virus lui-même dans les pays méditerranéens" 24/03/2020](#)
20. [Préconisations du Femise pour réduire l'inadéquation des compétences au marché du travail au Maghreb 11/03/2020](#)
21. [L'impact à long terme des réfugiés syriens sur l'économie turque 28/02/2020](#)
22. [Les stratégies de développement des énergies renouvelables dans la région MENA 28/02/2020](#)
23. [Inadéquation de l'éducation en Afrique du Nord: déterminants et impact 28/02/2020](#)
24. [Migration, avantages comparatifs et diffusion des connaissances 21/02/2020](#)
25. [Réponses des entrepreneurs sociaux à la crise des réfugiés en Jordanie et au Liban 21/02/2020](#)
26. [Inégalités de genre sur le marché du travail en Afrique du Nord 21/02/2020](#)

In 2020, through our partner Econostrum, FEMISE published 15 articles in both "Grandes Angles" and "Bibliostrum" combined. These articles reached 20,552 viewers. This compares to 28 articles published in 2019, which reached 18,376 readings.

Since the beginning of our partnership with Econostrum in 2015 and through the end of 2020, we have reached 122,259 readings in the "Grandes Angles" in English and French. We have also reached 52,347 reads on the Bibliostrum site.



b) List of articles published by ECOMNEWS in 2020 -2021

1. [Comment les enjeux de la transition énergétique pour les pays méditerranéens sont-ils réévalués du fait de la pandémie de Covid-19?](#)
2. [Comment le statut des femmes en Méditerranée évolue-t-il ? Interview de Maryse Louis, directrice générale du FEMISE](#)
3. [Le FEMISE et le Centre pour l'intégration en Méditerranée \(CMI\) se mobilisent pour renforcer le dialogue méditerranéen](#)

III. 3.3. Media outreach: FEMISE Updates

Communicating the FEMISE products to the Contacts is a main activity of outreach strategy and is essential for the research activities. FEMISE keeps in touch with its members and contacts periodically to provide them with the latest research, updates, up to date information related to the EU Med region in general, to the FEMISE activities, announcements and competitions. This was previously done through two channels, the "Newsletters" and the "Weekly Updates". As of 2021, we have decided to combine the two issues into one, FEMISE Updates, which is sent to our contact database at least once a month, informing them of all our activities, publications, partnerships, events. This decision was taken to ensure systematic communication with our members and to avoid dispersing information. These updates are short and concise to facilitate the reading, all details and documents are available by clicking on news itself for more information.

The FEMISE updates is distributed across the FEMISE contacts' database.

III. 3.4. Twitter and LinkedIn

Twitter is a must-have communication tool for every business as it intensifies the social reach. All stakeholders can be easily reached and Twitter is extremely effective in creating impact through short "tweets". Impact implies that people can remember and associate with the "brand" and what it offers for a long time through continuous engagement. As such, we have massively used twitter since end-2017 (the account being dormant before).



In this Update you will Find:

- The latest Five FEMISE-CMI COVID-19 Medbriefs
- The 31st FEMISE MedBRIEF on "Resilient Mediterranean Agriculture in the context of Water Scarcity"
- Thematic Report: "Ex-post evaluation of the impact of trade chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements with six partners: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia" by FEMISE [Ecoys](#) and [CAGE](#)
- FEMISE New Treasurer
- FEMISE Membership: How to become a member

FEMISE - CMI COVID-19 MED BRIEFS
Round 2





In 2019 and 2020, We reached about 573,400 people (“tweet impressions”) through the FEMISE twitter.

As for **Linkedin**, which has less of a “wide public” dimension than twitter but still very useful for dissemination towards specialists, FEMISE related posts of the FEMISE staff brought an estimated 69,000 views in 2019 and 2020.

PART II: FEMISE WORK PLAN (July 2021-June 2022)

The forthcoming period will be an important phase for the FEMISE transition. Progress in the institutional transformation of the FEMISE association will continue and will be accompanied by advancement towards ensuring the financial sustainability of the network.

First, FEMISE will move forward in **rebuilding the institution**, including finalising the charter, revising its structure and widening the scope of its activities. This will ensure that the network is resilient to any shocks and will ensure its relevance particularly in an environment where priorities have changed.

Second, the network will focus on **sustaining its financial position** through developing its Financial resilience strategy by implementing a ‘state of the art’ process called: Financial Innovation Resilience (FIRE) through a training program by SPRING (<https://firelab.springstrategies.org/>). The program helps institutions to develop healthy financial strategic budgets, communication strategies and leadership practices. In addition, FEMISE will keep seeking funding opportunities either through responding to Calls for projects, or by developing new proposals and approaching new donors.

Third, FEMISE will focus on moving forward with its plans to **enlarge the network and engage with new strategic partnerships** that will bring benefits to the network in terms of visibility and outreach.

Fourth, FEMISE will update its **research agenda** and will prioritise issues that have become eminent and pressing for the region, among which issues related to the post-recovery era, climate change and related environment issues, finding innovative solution through digitalization and technology; and issues related to the value chains, near shoring, etc.

Fifth, FEMISE will continue to deliver on its on-going projects and will also engage its participation in the new projects with new donors and partners.



The transition brings change and change is healthy for the institution. It ensures the institution stays resilient to shocks, relevant to its environment, engaging with its community and with a vision.

The following will highlight some of the network activities in for the forthcoming period.

I. NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

1.1. Membership in FEMISE network

Following the consolidation of the existing Members of the network, FEMISE will continue to be open for new members wishing to join the network. New members that are covering a multi-disciplinary work or are located in a county that is not well represented in the network, such as Libya or potentially Syria, will be strongly encouraged.

1.2. Developing Strategic Partnerships

The next phase will be focused on developing strategic partnerships that will allow the network to expand its activities while collaborating in different projects. Strategic Partners will allow the network to develop and increase its visibility and presence. It is also believed that having joint products with partners bring extended benefits in terms of enlarging the reach-out communities, addressing multi-disciplinary subjects and potentials bringing new partners, members and donors.

1.3. Keep growing the Researchers Database

FEMISE will continue to promote the EU-Med Researchers Database. This will allow the research community to use the FEMISE database to get contacts, interact, collaborate, find specialists, partners etc. The database will keep being updated and grow with newly registered researchers and experts.

All members are invited to circulate the registration link to as many researchers as possible. This initiative will be an important additional demonstration as to the network's value added towards current and future stakeholders, partners and donors.

II. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES



In the coming year, FEMISE will continue to initiate and produce quality research through its different research activities with the support of its network members.

FEMISE is expecting to participate in at least three research projects. These projects are led by FEMISE partners and/or members and where FEMISE is a member of the Consortium.

II.1. Research Activities under the project on “Enhancing Innovation” funded by the EC through the NEXT SOCIETY/MEDVALLEY project-

II.1.1. Impact Extension (1): February 2021 – October 2021

The Next Society project has been ongoing for more than 4 years now. The project marked great success in terms of achieving its objectives and reaching out to different stakeholders from national and international communities.

The TNS project, received a first extension of the project from February 2021 to October 2021, with the aim to enhance the project impact and promote its outputs. Within this context, FEMISE submitted a note on how, as a partner of the project, they could contribute to this objective. The note was discussed and accepted, which means that from February 2021, FEMISE engaged in enhancing the outputs of the project by providing two main activities:

a) Updating the FEMISE Research outputs

In order to continue with the sustainability of the products, in 2021 FEMISE will be able to provide some updates for the following products already produced in 2020:

- i. update of the 6 country profiles highlighting the status of each country in terms of its innovation strategy, challenges and recommendations
- ii. update of the regional report
- iii. update of the Scoreboard indicators (this means that the Innovation Scoreboard will have three points of time: 2018, 2020 and 2021)

b) Outreach tools

To contribute towards enlarging the impact of the outputs on enhancing the innovation systems in the target countries, FEMISE will conduct the following:

- i. Producing “**The Next Society Policy Briefs Series**” that aims to better understand the challenges faced by entrepreneurs in the south med region through a collaboration between the research community from one side and the entrepreneurs from



another side. The Briefs will be addressing sectoral issues, which would be considered another value added to the project. The first Policy Brief in this series is launched in August 2021

- ii. Producing “TNS videos” that aims to promote the PB, best-practices and recommendations in a short concise videos. These Videos will be based on the Policy Briefs.

II.1.2. Capitalisation Extension (2): November 2021 – June 2022

As TNS was nearing its end, a new extension phase was designed in order to capitalize on certain activities of the project that have produced impact and to build on the most structuring results of the project to generate possibilities of "exits" for the project that could be extended or taken up by EU delegations. This includes the organization of online capitalization events associating the Mediterranean innovation community to:

- Promote innovators and innovation public and private support organizations across the Mediterranean;
- Share tips and good practices, especially from TNS achievements and successes;
- Present replicable national policies, tech hub models and solutions developed by startups that contribute to improve innovation in key sectors.

In this context, FEMISE will carry out 3 main activities:

a) **Organisation of TNS-FEMISE Policy Dialogue**

FEMISE will organize 6 events that will act as a capitalization vehicle linking all consortium members. These events will highlight best practices for the innovation ecosystem that are being implemented at the macro level (including national policies, governments, etc.), meso level (including intermediary organizations) and micro level (including the private sector, start-ups and entrepreneurs), promote innovation in key sectors and raise awareness among different stakeholders.

It will also provide a platform for dialogue between different stakeholders to boost innovation.

b) ***Best practice/recommendations Videos***

FEMISE will produce 6 videos that relate to the events. The videos will be a combination of the online event’s key moments and interviews with the speakers/experts highlighting best practices and recommendations.

c) **Activity 3: Producing “Take-Away” Notes**



The note will be based on the Rapporteur's input and will be 2-3 pages and will highlight the key issues that were addressed in the event including main message from each speaker and the final recommendations. The notes will be accompanying the videos.

The Video and the Policy note will be circulated after the event to the participants of the events as well as the wider audience.

II.2. New project: WEF-CAP (Sept 2021- Sept 2023)

In July 2020, FEMISE was approached by its partner Royal Scientific Society to participate in a consortium to respond to a call for proposal by ENI CBCMED as part of the Capitalisation projects.

The full proposal was submitted with the consortium and the project was shortlisted. In March 2021, the proposal was accepted and was followed by a series of discussion, negotiations and clarifications. It is expected that the project will be launched in September 2021.

Key elements of the WEF-CAP project

Name of the Project: The technology Transfer and capitalization of Water Energy Food Nexus
Acronym: WEF CAP
Program: ENI CBCMED
Leader: Royal Scientific Society, Aqaba Liaison office
(member of FEMISE network)

Main objective: Capitalisation of WEF NEXUS practices by consolidating a regional meta cluster that fosters cooperation and tech-transfer while mainstreaming policy impact for innovation-driven growth

Partners:

EU Partners: 4:

Greece: Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving

Italy; University of Catania, Agriculture, Food and Environment Department

Spain: Autonomous University of Barcelona, Chemistry Department

France: Forum Euro-Méditerranée des Instituts de Science Economique (FEMISE)

MPC Partners: 2:

Tunisia: National Environmental Protection Agency

Egypt: Egyptian Center for Innovation & Technology Development



Associated Partners: 8

Jordan: National Agricultural Research Center NARC

Egypt: Academy of Scientific Research and technology (ASRT)

Egypt: Industrial council for Technology and Innovation /Ministry of Trade and industry

Jordan: Integrated Entrepreneurial Programs Development

Jordan: UN ESCWA Technology Center (ETC)

Jordan: WANA institute

Jordan: Jordan Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency FUND, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR)

Tunisia: Association Eau et Développement (AED)

Geographic Coverage; Jordan, Tunisia, Greece, Italy, Spain, Egypt, France

Overall budget: 1,110,666.00 Euros

Duration: 24 Months

Starting date: 1 September 2021

Official Launch: 14-15 September conference.

FEMISE participation:

FEMISE is the leader of Work package No5 On: Mainstreaming WEF NEXUS capitalisation outcomes to ensure evidence-based policy development.

This will contribute in: 1) turning outcomes/data into knowledge; 2) making knowledge accessible to targeted audience at regional and national levels; 3) to digest results/best practices including those identified through the projects for synergies, and provide needed policy recommendation based on outputs.

This will be done through: 1) production of policy briefs /white papers based on outputs of other Work packages as an important policy toll directed to national policy makers and disseminated through events; 2) an open online public consultation for feedback and recommendations about output of the projects and 3) a series of different types of local workshops to present the outputs and 4) final capitalisation multi stakeholders events including all stakeholders around the region to debate on the different results and list of recommendations .

In addition to the participation of FEMISE in other different work packages.

Budget allocated for FEMISE is 141.3K with an own contribution 10%: 14K

II.3. New project: Euromed Cluster Forward (ECF) (March 2022- Feb 2025)



In March 2021, FEMISE was approached by our Partner ANIMA to participate in the consortium to respond to the call by the European Commission on Clusters. As the regulations did not permit the participation of institutions from the north as Co-applicant, FEMISE suggested to include ERF as the lead regional institution as a co-applicant, while FEMISE has to be an Affiliate (being that FEMISE is a member of the ANIMA network).

The concept note was submitted in April 2021 and in May 2021 the project was shortlisted and the full application was then submitted at the end of June 2021. In September 2021, the project was selected for funding (under negotiations and verifications)

Key elements of the EuroMED Cluster Forward (ECF) project

Name of the Project: EUROMED Clusters Forward

Acronym: ECF

Program: EU-ENI

1- Leader: ANUMA investment Network
(Partner of FEMISE network)

2- Co-Applicants: 3
Economic Research Forum (ERF), Egypt
Berytech, Lebanon
Leader International, Jordan and Ramallah

3- Affiliates (7), among which:

FEMISE, France

ACCIO

Malta Enterprises

CONNECT, Tunisia

Startup Maroc, Morocco

4- A number of Associates

Geographic Coverage; South Med countries

Overall budget: 7,777,777.00 Euros

Duration: 52 Months

Starting date: expected by March 2022

FEMISE participation:

FEMISE will be participating in several work packages, particularly those related to developing the knowledge about the Clusters and Value chains (WP3 and WP5). FEMISE will also be carrying research in these sectors and will participate in launching a general public consultation among Med Clusters.



More specifically together with ERF a co-applicant in this project, FEMISE will be participating in, but not only:

Mapping South Neighbourhood clusters

Benchmark study on South Neighbourhood policies and frameworks for clusters

Survey on clusters contribution to skill-based innovative productivity

Conducting a series of 8 studies on regional value chains

Regional high-level working groups to share visions on RVC and relocations

FEMISE budget is : Euros 310,963 with an own contribution of 10%

II.4. New activities in the context of the Partnership with CMI

Following the success of the FEMISE-CMI collaboration in the past year, FEMISE will continue to elaborate further its joint activities with CMI. The following activities are expected in the coming period:

- 1- The FEMISE – CMI policy Briefs will continue to produce timely policy recommendations for the post-COVID recovery era; A round 3 call for PB is expected in 2022, the theme is still to be decided.
- 2- The FEMISE – CMI joint report on “*Post Covid-19: opportunities for growth, regional value chains and Mediterranean integration*” will be finalized and published towards early 2022.
- 3- A series of webinars will be organised jointly between the two institutions.

FEMISE will be looking a ‘deeper’ partnership with CMI, following the success of their joint work. This is also following the change in the status of CMI to be under the umbrella of UNOPS which will bring a wide range of opportunities for new activities that will be serving the common vision of the 2 institutions.

III. DIALOGUES, DISSEMINATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The forthcoming year will include various activities to reach out to policy makers and to provide platform for the dialogues between the different stakeholders.

III.1. Policy Seminars/dialogues

The forthcoming period will witness an increase in the number of events organised by FEMISE. While the pandemic might be affecting our ability to start organising face to face events, the online events will allow such meetings to take place.

In line with its approach to engage more members of the network in its activities, FEMISE will organise a series of thematic events where members of the network will be able to discuss,



brainstorm and bring their knowledge and experience in developing the FEMISE scientific priorities. This will pave the way for another series of webinar that will be directed to the policy makers.

Moreover, as part of its on-going projects and collaboration with partners, the following events are expected to take place in the coming period:

- **Launch conference for the WEF-CAP project, September 2021:** the conference will be over 2 days, the first day will be devoted for the partners of the project to discuss the following steps, the work plan, etc. The second day will include a wider community of experts and relevant scholars to share knowledge about the contents of the project and future plans. FEMISE as a partner will present the workpackage and will animate sessions with experts. More events are expected to take place in the context of this project.
- **BNEW-Barcelona New Economy Week, October 2021.** This is one of Barcelona's largest events that is usually attended by more than 15 thousand participations across the world, with more than 800 speakers. FEMISE is asked to participate in one of the session on International & Mediterranean value chain. From Globalization to Regionalization. This is a great opportunity for FEMISE to enlarge its community to reach out to Businesses and other supply chain experts.
- **The Next Society Annual conference, November 2021** will showcase the achievements of the project across the 5 years and FEMISE will present its take on how the Innovation policies and regulatory framework have evolved in the south med countries.
- **The ANIMA Conference, November 2021,** the conference will bring a number of experts that will discuss the priority issues related to the Innovation in the South med. FEMISE will be present some relevant work on the impact of the COVID on the innovation through the work that FEMISE has undertaken within the TNS project particularly the innovation scorecard and the country performances.
- **Series of webinar for CAPTILISATION (TNS ext. 2) between November 2021 and June 2022,** FEMISE will organize 6 events that will highlight best practices for the innovation ecosystem that are being implemented at the macro level, meso level and micro level and promote innovation in key sectors and raise awareness among different stakeholders. This will include 4 sectoral events and 2 macro events. The Duration of each event is around 2 hours



- **FEMISE-CMI Launch of the COVID report, Expected in January 2022.** FEMISE and CMI will organise a webinar to launch their joint report which will be published in January 2022. Other than presenting the key points from the report, the webinar will include a wide range of experts and policy makers to mark this event and increase the visibility of the report.
- **FEMISE-CMI Policy Briefs webinar series,** expected starting from January 2022. Following the success of the Policy briefs webinar that took place in 2021, FEMISE and CMI will launch a new series of webinars where authors of the Policy briefs will be able to share their recommendations in the presence of both experts in the field as well as policy makers. This will increase the policy impact of these briefs.
- **Launch of the new Euromed Clusters Forward project-** Expected in March 2022.

III.2. Publications and outreach

FEMISE publication plan will continue to include both the traditional publications but also the new creative products that FEMISE produced in the last year:

1. More Policy Briefs are in the pipelines and will be published soon

➤ The Next Society Policy Briefs Series



As mentioned above, the Next Society project and FEMISE launched in 2021 their new initiative to produce "The Next Society Policy Briefs Series". This initiative was launched to better understand the challenges faced by entrepreneurs in the south med region. This series of briefs aims to provide tailor-made operational policy recommendations. These briefs are based on collaborative work and exchange of knowledge and experience between the researcher(s)/author(s) and the entrepreneur(s), many of which have benefited from TNS project, ensuring their relevance and impact.

Since the launch of the initiative in March 2021, the FEMISE team has been identifying the sectors that will be addressed in this series of policy briefs based on the fields in which the entrepreneurs who were involved in the TNS project operate. Also a questionnaire was designed by the FEMISE team which will be filled by the entrepreneurs, the questionnaire gathers information about the start-up, motivation, challenges, the impact of the COVID, how these challenges are met and what would be the recommendations for other entrepreneurs. Also the FEMISE



team approached researchers from the network and outside that are specialized in these sectors. We have approached these entrepreneurs and put them in contact with the authors in order to obtain any necessary information beyond that provided in the questionnaire sent to entrepreneurs. The first brief in this series is published in August 2021.

➤ **FEMISE/CMI Policy Briefs “COVID-19 MED BRIEFS”**

Following the success of the 1st round of "COVID-19 MED BRIEFS" where 25 submissions were received, involving experts from the South, North and East Mediterranean, CMI and FEMISE launched in January 2021 the second round to pave the way for more in-depth thematic analyses and recommendations. Another 25 draft policy Briefs were received, which were evaluated by team members from CMI and FEMISE for publication. Through June 2021, 6 policy briefs have been published as part of the second round, addressing the impact of COVID-19 on gender inequality, women's employment, energy transition, and more. More policy briefs are still in the editing phase and will be released in the coming months.

2. FEMISE-CMI COVID Report Post-COVID-19: opportunities for growth, regional value chains and Mediterranean integration.

The report will identify the "post-COVID" opportunities that Mediterranean countries would benefit from seizing to boost their growth and create jobs and explore different avenues to move towards more regional integration. It will be published by early 2022

3. INSIDE FEMISE UPDATES

In an attempt to avoid dispersing information and to ensure that all our contacts will always be interested in being informed about our activities, events and new publications, we have combined the newsletter and FEMISE updates into a single product "INSIDE FEMISE" that will be out starting from October 2021. The INSIDE FEMISE updates will be the main tool to communicate with our members, partners and contacts and constitute an important activity to channel the outputs of the different project.

4. The Articles produced by EcomnewsMed and Econostrum will continue, either in the context of the new projects or to disseminate the different FEMISE outputs .

5. Marking UN international days and special EU-Med Occasions

FEMISE will continue to celebrate the United Nations International Days and other Special occasions that relate to the EU-Med and to involve its researchers and experts from the region by having them participate in its videos where they share their expertise and call for action or by presenting their relevant research.



6. Social media

FEMISE intends to maintain its social media strategy. Our social media platforms are a vital tool in our effort to communicate information to a wide audience in order to influence opinion, policy or decision making. These platforms are essential for sharing our outputs and research while allowing ongoing interaction between FEMISE and its followers. FEMISE understands the importance of disseminating research results to the audiences they are intended to influence by adopting all possible means of dissemination.

These represent some of the main activities of FEMISE in the coming year, more activities could be undertaken given the needs of the region.