

**'Middle
East Research and Innovation Dialogue' - Final Conference**
Portorož, Slovenia, 21 June 2018

Concept Note

The Middle East Research and Innovation Dialogue (MERID) project funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 Programme proposes a **comprehensive action to intensify and encourage EU-Middle East Research & Innovation cooperation** through building on previous international cooperation experiences in R&I with the Mediterranean and Middle East regions. As such, MERID was the very first attempt to systematise **support to the policy dialogue and involvement of research communities of Iran and Iraq** in the H2020 programme.

MERID sets science diplomacy into practice with the aim of fostering **intercultural dialogue, understanding and reconciliation through R&I**. A wide range of different online and face-to-face activities were successfully implemented with active participation of researchers, experts, NCPs and other relevant stakeholders from both regions (EU and Middle East): info-days, training and awareness raising activities, brokerage events, coaching sessions, webinars, brainstorming workshops and bilateral meetings took place throughout the Mediterranean during the period 2015-2018.

MERID represents an important step towards the **consolidation of preconditions for enhanced EU-Middle East R&I cooperation** by laying down foundations for future joint research projects and initiatives, as well as establishing optimal framework conditions for international cooperation whilst increasing coordination between policies and programmes.

The Middle East Research and Innovation Dialogue Conference brings together EU and Middle East researchers, academics, policy-makers, NCPs and other stakeholders to discuss the project's outcomes and recommendations and **exchange experiences and ideas on the future of EU-Middle East cooperation**.

Towards an increased EU-Middle East STI Cooperation

MERID achieved its set of interrelated objectives, resulting in strategically as well as operationally important outcomes:

- Recommendations for an enhanced EU–Middle East STI cooperation
- A comprehensive STI policy dialogue framework
- Bilateral policy dialogue meetings held with policy officials and decision makers in Brussels and selected countries in the Middle East

- Horizon 2020 info days and training events in Cairo, Naples, Tehran, Barcelona, Beirut and Gaza
- Assistance and coaching one-to-one sessions provided to Middle East researchers and experts on ongoing applications for the Horizon 2020 programme
- Brokerage-venturing events for innovation to create partnerships and critical mass for implementing innovative ideas and strengthen EU-Middle East research networking
- Webinars to present opportunities for research and innovation cooperation under the H2020 Programme

The 13 partner institutions, forming the MERID consortium, from different EU and Middle East countries will present the project's main achievements and discuss on future prospects together with high-level policy makers and external experts representing both regions.

Side events

Brokerage event (20 June)

The brokerage event has the objective to bring together EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) / Middle East National Contact Points (NCPs) with the aim of facilitating networking of researchers on [H2020 \(WP2018-2020\)](#) and [PRIMA topics](#) of common interest.

Coaching sessions (20-21 June upon request)

30-minute one-to-one session between researchers, NCPs and the MERID project EU expert where research ideas and proposals will be analysed more in detail in order to provide individual assistance to possible project ideas to be submitted under the upcoming Horizon 2020 or PRIMA calls.

Registration

Participation in the conference and side events is open to anyone registering **before 8 June at the following link:**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Organisation and logistics

Overall logistics: Ms Kinga Kónya, Euro-Mediterranean University (kinga.konya@emuni.si)

Brokerage event: Ms Virginia Belsanti, Centre International Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Mediterraneennes (belsanti@iamb.it)

Coaching sessions: Mr Leonardo Piccinetti, Europe for Business (l.piccinetti@gmail.com)

MERID on Social Media

[@MeridProject](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/agoramerid/>



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Draft Agenda

Venue: **Grand Hotel Bernardin, Obala 2, Portorož, Slovenia**

8h30-9h00	Registration
9h00-9h30	Welcome & opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry, President, Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI)
9h30-11h00	Overview of project achievements and results <ul style="list-style-type: none">- - MERID Project Partners
11h00-11h30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11h30-12h15	Presentation and discussion on the final report “Future EU-ME cooperation opportunities Recommendations for an enhanced EU – Middle East STI cooperation” <ul style="list-style-type: none">- George Bonas, Centre for Regional and International STI Studies and Support, Greece
12h15-12h30	Interventions by the MERID Advisory Board members
12h30-12h45	Concluding remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry, President, Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI)
12h45-14h00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14h00-15h30	Round-table with high-level policy makers and academics on the future of EU-Middle East cooperation <p>Moderator: George Bonas, Managing Director, Centre for Regional and International STI Studies and Support, Greece</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Seyedkamran Bagheri, Board Member and Director of the International Committee, Iranian Association for Management of Technology (IRAMOT)



- **Mohamed El Shinawi**, Co-Chair of PRIMA Foundation and Senior Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt
- **Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux**, Councilor, Secrétaire Perpétuel de l'Académie des Sciences, France
- **Mouïin Hamzé**, Secretary General, National Council for Scientific Research, Lebanon
- **Fouad Kasim Mohammed**, Deputy Minister for Scientific Research Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research, Iraq
- **Muhammad Shatanawi**, Professor, University of Jordan
- **Mozghan Yazdianpour**, Director of International and Scientific Cooperation, Isfahan Science & Technology Town (ISTT), Iran

