



European
University
Institute

ROBERT
SCHUMAN
CENTRE FOR
ADVANCED
STUDIES

SCHOOL OF
TRANSNATIONAL
GOVERNANCE



Middle
East
Directions

EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

THE MIDDLE EAST DIRECTIONS PROGRAMME

ECONOMY IN WAR-TORN COUNTRIES: PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION

Scientific Organisers:

Luigi Narbone | European University Institute

Amr Adly | American University of Cairo

Sala Europa

Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

 @medirections

30 JANUARY - 1 FEBRUARY 2019

■ INTRODUCTION

The Middle East Directions Program offers an executive training seminar on the pathways to recovery and reconstruction in war-torn countries. The training focuses on the economic dimensions of civil war and the pathways out of conflict. It explores how economic life changes amid widespread violence and state breakdown and how wartime political-economic arrangements create durable and remarkably resilient socio-economic mechanisms and networks. These arrangements help in mitigating the high risks associated with civil wars, regulating access to resources, markets and information, and are likely to endure and influence pathways out of conflict as well as post-conflict recovery.

Understanding civil war economy is essential for policy-makers and practitioners involved in conflict resolution and reconstruction, adding an important dimension beyond the traditional focus on security that characterises the bulk of analyses and studies of civil wars.

The training's overarching objective is to allow participants to foster creative thinking towards fresh approaches to economic recovery and reconstruction in war-torn countries enabling participants to challenge conventional wisdoms. In pursuit of these goals, the executive training will bring together academics and policymakers, practitioners and political and social activists with firsthand experience. It will combine an interdisciplinary approach that borrows from political economy, political science, sociology and international relations, with interactive scenario-building to encourage creative thinking. The training examines cases from the MENA i.e. Iraq, Syria and Libya, but also draws on experience from historical cases of civil conflict and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction like Lebanon and Sri Lanka.

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■ DRAFT PROGRAMME

30 JANUARY

- 08.45 - 09.00 **Institutional Welcome**
Brigid Laffan | Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies,
European University Institute
- 09.00 - 09.30 **Introduction to the Executive Training Seminar by the scientific
organiser**
Luigi Narbone | MEDirections
- 09.30 - 11.30 **Session 1 | The business of violence and protection**
This session will provide a theoretical and conceptual introduction to understand
how economies function during times of conflict. It will combine analytical skills
with substantive knowledge on state of the art literature, both academic and
policy-oriented, on the topic. The main question addressed is how businesses
survive and some even thrive in a war-ridden context despite the absence of a
credible claim by the state on the monopoly over the use of force; who supplies
violence and/or protection and to what effect on the prospects for reconstruction
and recovery?
Instructors:
Steven Heydemann | Professor, Smith College
Vadim Volkov | Rector, European University at Saint-Petersburg
Mohamed Al-Masry Burqiqa | Legal Consultant, Libya (affiliation tbc)
- 11.30 - 11.45 Coffee break
Sala Bandiere
- 11.45 - 12.45 **Open discussion**
- 12.45 - 13.45 Lunch
- 13.45 - 15.45 **Session 2 | Pathways from war economy**
Once the dynamics governing war economy are described and analysed, this
session addresses how they are expected to influence if not shape altogether
pathways to recovery and reconstruction. Participants will tackle practical
issues, such as the potential role of international mediators, aid agencies and
development banks, and how regional and external intervention can set war-torn
societies on the path to recovery.
Instructors:
Luigi Narbone | MEDirections
Instructor TBC
- 15.45 - 16.15 Coffee break
Sala Bandiere
- 16.15 - 17.15 **Open discussion**
- 17.15 - 17:45 Coffee break
Sala Bandiere

17.45 - 18.45 **Participants' presentations and experience sharing**

18.45 - 19.45 Welcome drink
Sala Bandiere

31 JANUARY

09.00 - 11.00

Session 3 | Lessons from past cases

This session has an empirical focus. It looks thoroughly at past cases of civil conflict and war economy with the aim of developing a comparative perspective among participants and researchers. What do past cases of civil conflict and war economy inform us on prospects for resolution, recovery and sustainable peace building for current war-torn countries? This session will shed light on Sri Lanka and Lebanon, which are two countries that are so distinct and distant geographically, geopolitically, culturally and economically. However, they shared protracted civil wars on ethno-religious bases, with different degrees of regional and international involvement. Conflicts in these countries ended differently and, as expected, post-conflict recovery and reconstruction created different outcomes politically, socially and economically.

Instructors:

Joseph Daher | University of Lausanne and MEDirections

Osantha N. Thalpwila | Economics professor, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break
Sala Bandiere

11.30 - 12.30 **Open discussion**

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

13.30 - 15.30

Session 4 | A role for the private sector

The focus shifts here to an unusual actor in a civil war context, which is private producers and investors. The session addresses what role the private sector may have in recovery and reconstruction, and aims to enable participants to use the analytical tools, skills and knowledge they will have acquired throughout the programme to reflect on the incentives, constraints and capacities of private investors to engage in post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. What about large multinationals in sectors like oil and natural gas and construction? Will they go back to Iraq and Libya and on which terms: socially, political and environmentally? Will sovereign funds and investment banks see opportunities amid the risks that plague conflict and post-conflict contexts?

Instructors:

Ali Al-Mawlawi | Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies

Ahmed Tabaqchali | Asia Frontier Capital

15.30 - 15.45 Coffee break
Sala Bandiere

15.45 - 16.45 **Open discussion**

16.45 - 17.00
Coffee break
Sala Bandiere

17.00 - 19.00
Keynote lecture (open to the public)

19.00 - 19.45
Drinks reception
Sala Bandiere

20.00 - 22.00
Dinner

1 FEBRUARY

09.00 - 09.15
Instructions for the practical session and division into groups
Luigi Narbone | MEDirections

09.15 - 11.15
Practical Session 1 | Role playing and simulation of a situation in Syria and in Libya

11.15 - 11.45
Coffee break
Sala Bandiere

11.45 - 13.45
Practical Session 2 | Role playing and simulation continued

13.45 - 15.00
Lunch

15.00 - 16.30
Participants' presentations of the practical session results

16.30 - 17.00
Coffee break
Sala Bandiere

17.00 - 18.00
Wrap-up session and evaluations
Luigi Narbone | MEDirections

18.00 - 19.00
Farewell drinks reception and certificate presentations
Sala Bandiere