



European
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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 Programme 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.

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



■ DRAFT PROGRAMME

30 JANUARY

- 08:45 **Institutional welcome**
Vincenzo Grassi | Secretary General of the European University Institute
- 09.00 - 09.45 **Introduction to the Executive Training Seminar by the scientific organiser**
Luigi Narbone | Director of the MEDirections Programme and Coordinator of the Peace and Security Cluster at the School of Transnational Governance (STG)
- Participant introductions**
- 09.45 - 11.45 **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:
Vadim Volkov | Rector, European University at Saint-Petersburg
Wolfram Lacher | Senior Associate for the Research Division: Middle East and Africa, German Institute for International and Security Affairs
- 11.45 - 12.00 Coffee break
Sala Bandiere
- 12.00 - 13.00 **Open discussion**
- 13.00 - 14.00 Lunch
Sala Bandiere
- 14.00 - 16.15 **Session 2 | 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
Mohamed Almasri Mohamed Aburgeiga | Legal Consultant, Libya
Ahmed Tabaqchali | Asia Frontier Capital

16.15 - 16.45
Coffee break
Sala Bandiere

16.45 - 17.45
Open discussion

17.45 - 18.45
Participants' presentations and experience sharing

18.45 - 19.30
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 - 13.15
Lunch
Sala Bandiere

13.15 - 15.15
Session 4 | 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 and STG

Steven Heydemann | Professor, Smith College

15.15 - 15.30
Coffee break
Sala Bandiere

15.30 - 16.30
Open discussion

- 16.30 - 17.00 Coffee break
Sala Bandiere
- 17.00 - 19.00 **Keynote lecture | The Spring's Harvest: What Role Can Architecture Play in the Reconstruction of Syrian Cities?**
Speaker: Marwa Al-Sabouni | Architect and Author, Syria
Moderator: Agnès Favier | Research Fellow, MEDirections
(open to the public)
- 19.00 - 19.45 Drinks reception
Sala Bandiere
- 20.00 - 22.00 Dinner
Sala Rossa, Badia Fiesolana

1 FEBRUARY

- 09.00 - 09.15 **Instructions for the practical session and division into groups**
Luigi Narbone | MEDirections and STG
- 09.15 - 11.15 **Practical Session 1** | Role playing and simulation of a situation in Syria
- 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
Sala Bandiere
- 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 and STG
- 18.00 - 19.00 **Farewell drinks reception and certificate presentations**
Sala Bandiere