On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process (1995-2020), the Generalitat de Catalunya, in collaboration with the European Institute of the Mediterranean, is promoting the “Dialogues of the Mediterranean +25” cycle. Within the framework of this initiative, different conferences will be organized about central issues aimed at renewing the vision of the Euro-Mediterranean relations and to present concrete proposals. This webinar addresses a very topical issue as it will look into the impact of Covid-19 in Southern-Mediterranean countries. While doing so, it will also offer an opportunity to assess not only what the EU has done so far to mitigate the effects of the pandemic in its Southern neighbourhood but also how the EU is planning to factor this into its future cooperation frameworks.

Some of the questions that will be addressed during the Dialogue are as follows:

- How public authorities in Southern Mediterranean countries have dealt with the pandemic and tried to mitigate its socio-economic impact so far? What are the prospects?

- What has been the role of sub-national authorities in this regard?

- What did the European Union do to support the efforts of its southern neighbours to mitigate the effects of the pandemic? How was it perceived in those countries?

- Did the lessons learned from the pandemic or its impact challenge the main orientations of EU's policy and its toolbox vis-à-vis its Southern neighbours?

- What are for instance the consequences in terms of the Euro-Mediterranean trade agenda or in terms of the EU's support to an agenda of reforms in those countries?
MEDITERRANEAN + 25 DIALOGUES
UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN, CRAFTING EURO-MEDITERRANEAN POLICY RESPONSES

10h00-10h15
Institutional Opening
Elisabet Nebreda, Secretary for Foreign Action and the EU, Government of Catalonia
Josep Ferré, Director General, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

10h15-11h15
Insights on the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 in Southern Mediterranean countries

Moderator
Emmanuel Cohen-Hadria, Director of Euro-Mediterranean Policies Department, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Speakers
Joelle M. Abi-Rached, Ecole Normale Supérieure and Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Lebanon)
Oumayma Bouhriba, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)
Zied Boussen, Arab Reform Initiative (Tunisia)
Shams Hanieh, Palestinian Economic Policy Research Institute (Palestine)
Shereen Shaheen, West Asia-North Africa Institute (Jordan)

11h15-12h00
The EU response to the Covid-19 in its Southern Neighbourhood

Maciej Popowski, Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission