

BLOCK 3

EUROMED REGION

Main findings

- The Arab Spring is considered to have a potential positive impact on the Euro-Mediterranean integration process in the long run. However, there is still room for improvement regarding the role of the Union for the Mediterranean as a promoter of multilateral relations in the region.
- When classifying the priorities of the Communication of the European Commission and the High Representative on "A New Response to a Changing Neighbourhood", Market access is seen as the first priority.
- Among the cooperation instruments proposed in the Communication of the European Commission and the High Representative on "A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean" there is a clear preference for the civil society facility.
- The visibility and impact of the EU's action towards MPCs receives a slight tendency to consider more impactful than visible the EU's work in the region. Clearly above the mean are the Balkan countries which are members of the Union for the Mediterranean (Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina), while Mashreq countries also show a more positive perception of EU's impact and visibility in the region.

The third block of the Survey explores questions related to the Euro-Mediterranean integration process. As in previous Surveys, this block seeks to monitor and assess the regional policies and programmes developed during 2012.

Question 9 asks about the impact of the Arab uprisings on the Euro-Mediterranean integration process and has an average assessment of 6.4 on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 stands for negative impact and 10 for positive impact. It is notable that 50% of respondents give a grade of 7 and 9, thus assessing it very positively. By country groups, the balance of the average Survey assessment is maintained.

On the mid- and long-term role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Survey average is around 5. The percentage of responses around the middle grades (4 to 6) accounts for 50% of responses. In terms of responses by country groups, there is a balance around the Survey average. However, it should be noted that Maghreb and Mediterranean EU countries are slightly above the average, as European non-EU countries give a notably high assessment to the key role of the UfM in the region (6.7).

Vu les complexités du contexte économique et politique en mutation, c'est peu probable que cette structure régionale pourrait jouer un rôle décisif dans la région. C'est bien d'avoir ce genre d'organisme de coopération et de régulation, mais il est encore trop tôt de le considérer comme acteur important dans la région.

Moroccan respondent

The UfM has the potential to play a key role on the condition that 2013 will be the year of concrete, very concrete, projects with a direct impact on citizen life.

Austrian respondent

On Question 11 concerning the assessment of the transfer of the northern UfM co-presidency to the EU, the average is 6.4, with 25% of respondents indicating that they have no knowledge to respond to this question.

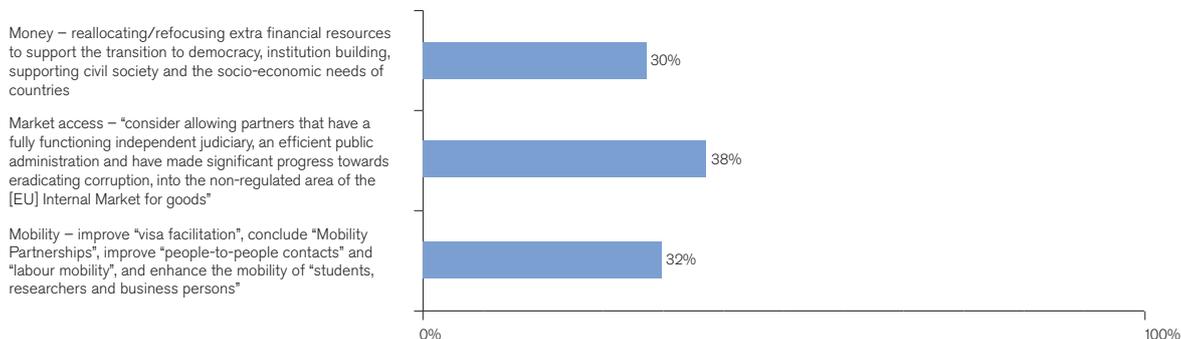
There are positive effects, i.e. a more balanced approach of the northern partner countries, remembering the different engagement of certain EU-MS; but also disadvantages, referring to the starting point and philosophy of the Paris Summit ("...establish a co-presidency in order to improve the balance and the joint ownership of their cooperation..."). Results and added value remain to be proved!

German respondent

Question 12 focuses on ranking according to priority the three components identified in the renewed neighbourhood policy, specifically in the Communication of the European Commission and the High Representative on "A New Response to a Changing Neighbourhood". As can be seen in the graph of the three Ms identified in the document (Money, Market, Mobility), in general there is a trend towards a balance of priorities as each one obtains around a third of responses. However, slight differences can be noted enabling a classification of them. Thus, the element with highest priority would be Market access, which accounts for 38% of responses.

Graph 30: Classification of priorities identified in the Communications of the European Commission and the High Representative on "A New Response to a Changing Neighbourhood"

(answers as first priority in %)



Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the 4th Euromed Survey

A comparison between EU countries and MPCs does not show great differences but it does reveal remarkable trends. In this respect, 40% of EU respondents choose the priority of Market access as the first option, while in the case of responses from the MPCs the situation is almost equal, where Market access is the first option for 34% and Money and Mobility are given a priority of 33% (see Graph 32)

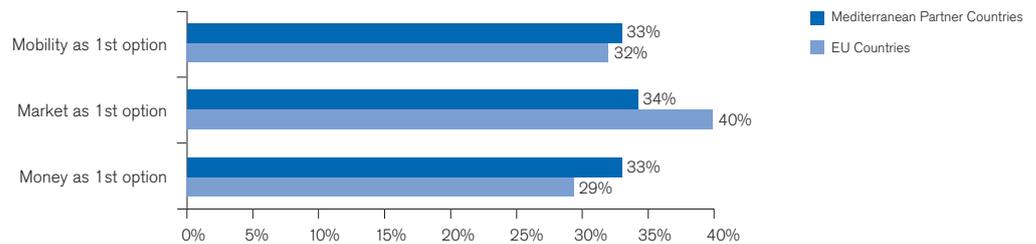
Market access and Mobility both require a certain national institutional framework for their success and function. Assistance, including financial assistance, is necessary for the building of this framework.

Maltese respondent

La mobilité devrait permettre une convergence plus rapide et plus efficace. Idéalement, on devrait attaquer de front les trois éléments cités.

Algerian respondent

Graph 31: Classification of priorities identified in the Communications of the European Commission and the High Representative on “A New Response to a Changing Neighbourhood”
(answers as first priority in %)

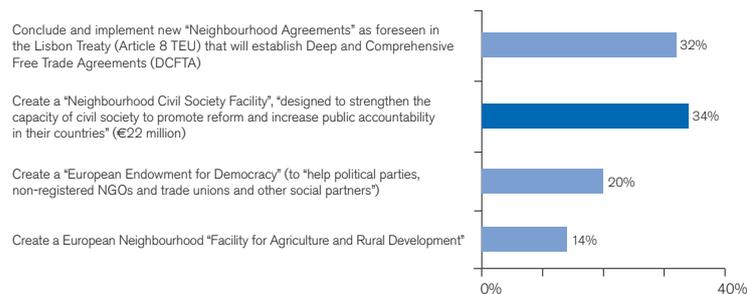


Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the 4th Euromed Survey

Question 12 had a second part asking about the Communication of the European Commission and the High Representative on “A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean”. It also asked participants to rank the priorities established in this regional initiative.

As shown by Graph 33, of the four options, the main priority is to “create a ‘Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility’, ‘designed to strengthen the capacity of civil society to promote reform and increase public accountability in their countries’” which 34% of respondents put in first place when establishing an order of priorities.

Graph 32: Classification of priorities identified in the Communications of the European Commission and the High Representative on: “A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean” (answers as first priority in %)



Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the 4th Euromed Survey

D'abord une intégration régionale approfondie, avec un intérêt tout particulier pour l'agriculture et le développement rural. La facilité de soutien à la société civile est dérisoire par rapport aux besoins : il faudrait augmenter la dotation. Le Fond européen pour la démocratie est une réplique d'un instrument américain : il faut double emploi avec la facilité de soutien à la société civile

Belgian respondent

More than formal agreements, what may be particularly useful at present is allowing the political processes to function effectively and fairly. Criteria for using resources should only be respect for and adherence to pluralistic and human rights values. Apart from that, the EU should abstain, and be seen to abstain, from interference in the political processes.

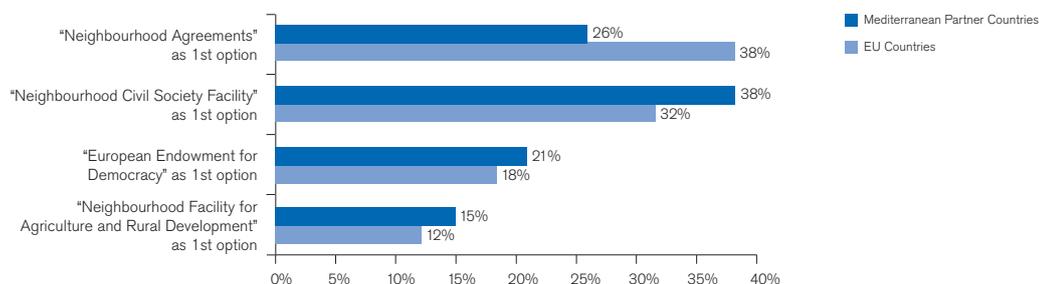
Egyptian respondent

In contrast to the assessment of the priorities of the initiatives for the Changing Neighbourhood, those of the Partnership for Democracy obtain more heterogeneous results. On the one hand, there is a more acute polarisation in the choice of priorities and, on the other, a more acute difference between the priority options of the northern and southern Mediterranean countries. Thus, the signing of the neighbourhood agreements is the priority chosen as the first option by 38% of respondents from EU countries, while it is only 26% for MPCs. For the latter, the creation of a “Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility” is a priority.

As shown by Graph 34, the two remaining options – “European Endowment for Democracy” and the “Neighbourhood Facility for Agriculture and Rural Development” – are seen as less of a priority, with percentages fairly distanced from the first options.

Graph 33: Classification of priorities identified in the Communications of the European Commission and the High Representative on “A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean”

(answers as first priority in %)



Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the 4th Euromed Survey

This block monitors the assessment of the principles of the renewal of the ENP and its financial instrument. The general assessment is very high, especially for the role of women, both in the redefinition of policies and in society. The partnerships that are not only limited to governments but also extend to the diverse civil society actors also have a very positive assessment. The averages analysed by regions vary little from the overall Survey average.

The Principles outlined are not new, and their “relevance” will depend fundamentally on pathways to implementation. The EU has a credibility deficit in democracy-promotion in the southern neighbourhood, and the problem with that is that it’s well-deserved. Unless it lives up to the spirit of proposed reforms (e.g., socio-economic and political inclusion) there is no reason to believe its reputation or effectiveness will change.

British respondent

Finally, this block closes with the assessment of the impact and visibility of the EU’s actions in MPCs. Both are placed around 5, on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 stands for a very negative assessment and 10 for very positive, with a slightly positive assessment of impact over visibility. If we compare the averages at regional level, there are notably no variations except in the assessments from European non-EU countries.

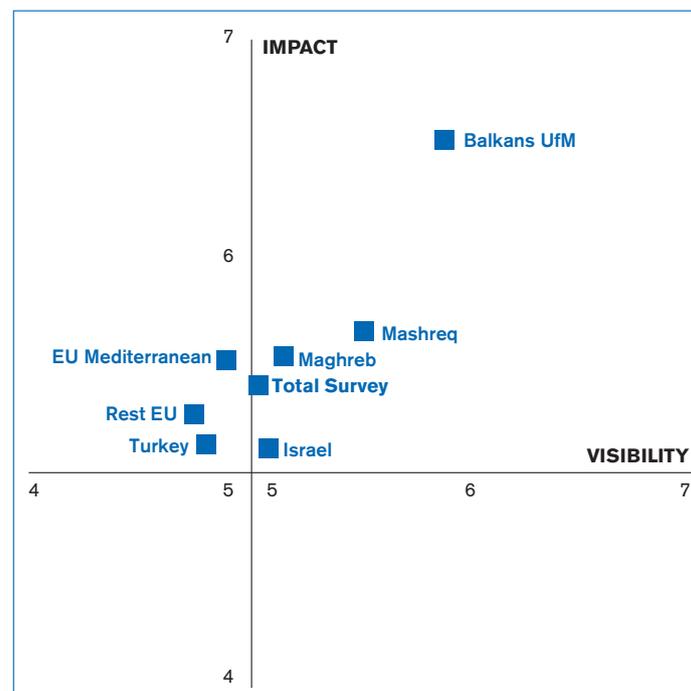
Donner plus de visibilité aux actions de l'UE dans les ppm à travers la responsabilisation des acteurs politiques et aussi à travers la médiatisation pour l'information et l'explication des stratégies de développement de l'UE à l'étranger

Moroccan respondent

Create European Information Centres in every capital city, enhance visibility and understanding of how the EU works, promote professional exchanges between different groups and joint actions (Euromed Heritage was a good example).

Romanian respondent

Graph 34: Assessing the visibility and impact of the EU’s actions in MPCs in 2012.
 (average on a scale of 0-10, where 0 stands for very negative and 10 for very positive)



Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the 4th Euromed Survey