

BLOCK 5

DEFINING PRIORITIES

Main findings

- The mobility of students, researchers and business persons are considered the most useful policy tools to improve human mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Respondents consider women and youth policies as a major priority over the next few years. Their perception about the evolution of these policies is also positive.
- Strong education policies are an essential tool for women's empowerment. Investment in human capital through education and training is the key policy for increasing employability in the region.
- Youth policies must empower the participation of young citizens in civil society and democratic institutions.

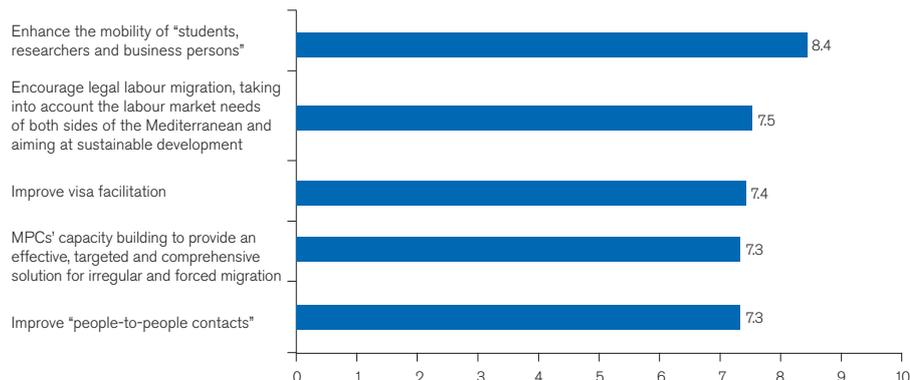
The previous Surveys included a block of questions aimed at monitoring and assessing the policies and programmes developed at a Euro-Mediterranean level. This year, we emphasise three fields related to the social and human dimension and particularly migration, gender, employment and youth policies.

Question 18 refers to human mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Specifically, we asked about the capacity of determined policies to improve human movements in the region. As can be seen in Graph 38, all respondents give a high grade, between 7.3 and 8.5 on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 stands for no capacity to improve the management of migrations and 10 for a very high capacity.

The policy seen as the most appropriate to improve human movements in the region is the enhancement of the mobility of students, researchers and business persons with an average of 8.5. The remaining policies are graded around 7.3 and 7.5 (see Graph 37).

It is notable that the results are very homogenous if compared to the averages by groups of countries, with the Maghreb and Mashreq countries making a consistently positive assessment with minor differences, while the assessment by EU Mediterranean countries and remaining EU countries is lower.

Graph 38: Policies that can improve the management of human mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean region
(average on a scale of 0-10, where 0 stands for not at all and 10 for very much)



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

Additional policy proposals on mobility in the region

Associer la société civile (Forum Civil, Plateforme Euromed, Réseau pour les Migrations.) aux politiques publiques aussi bien au nord qu'au sud.

Tunisian respondent

Creating more entrepreneurial opportunities for youths and young professionals in the southern Mediterranean countries.

Using the media/film industry and the exchanges with universities and NGOs to pass the message that Europe is not the supposed Eldorado and increase the awareness of the possibilities and quality of life in the southern Mediterranean region.

Dutch respondent

Encourage South-South mobility between the Arab countries and also from the Arab countries towards the East, which will open opportunities for new work, learning, and interaction opportunities than just South-North.

Increased North-South mobility for researchers, artists, and interns will also improve the way people view mobility from uni-directional to multi-directional.

Jordanian respondent

Renforcer l'immigration circulaire: cela évitera l'installation définitive et permettrait aux deux rives de la Méditerranée d'en tirer profit.

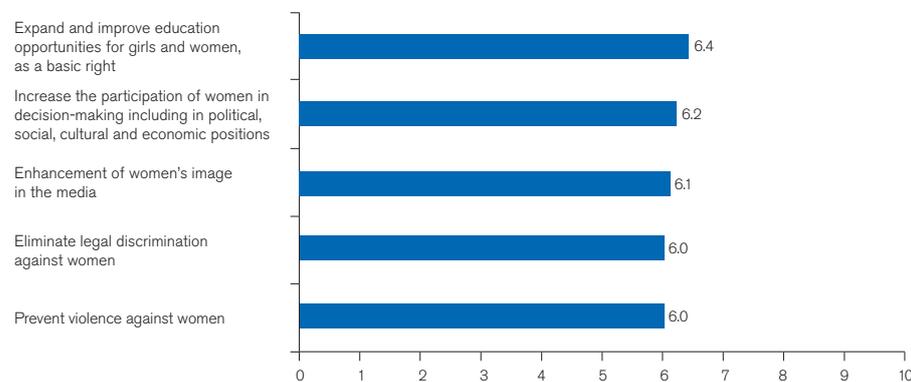
Multiplier les partenariats de mobilité pour des tâches ad hoc et saisonnières. Faciliter l'octroi de visa.

Multiplier les forums économiques encourage les jumelages de centres de recherches, d'écoles de management et d'Instituts universitaires. Profiter de la complémentarité démographique en Méditerranée.

Belgian respondent

Question 19 focuses on gender policies. In this case, the question revolved around the respondents' opinion of the evolution of these programmes and policies. Thus, the averages obtained served to measure the improvement or regression of these initiatives at a regional level. It is notable that the average grade is around 6 (see Graph 39), with an upward trend (6.4) towards the policies related with the expansion and improvement of education opportunities for girls and women as a basic right. As in Question 18, there is also a slight difference according to whether the responses come from EU countries or MPCs. In this case, the most optimistic responses suggesting an improvement of programmes and policies for women comes from the EU countries, and the Mediterranean EU countries have a more positive opinion than the remaining EU countries. For the MPCs, the averages tend to be slightly below the Survey average, with a clear difference between Maghreb respondents who are more optimistic about these policies improving and Mashreq respondents who are less optimistic.

Graph 39: Future development of women policies in the Mediterranean Partner Countries
(average on a scale of 0-10, where 0 stands for regression and 10 for improvement)



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

The representation of women in all areas of public life, whether governmental or non-governmental, should become a pre-condition for aid and dialogue; otherwise it will never be implemented. Women's issues are relegated to the least priority list when there is political turmoil and this is dangerous.

Jordanian respondent

Improving women's situation in all areas of life is the most important action the EU and its partners should take. The improvement in women's situation has to be priority number 1. All aid should be dependent on women's situation being improved in the entire region.

Israeli respondent

L'UpM doit établir avec les ppm de véritables contrats de performances pour la promotion des droits des femmes moyennant des contreparties financières et autres avantages.

Algerian respondent

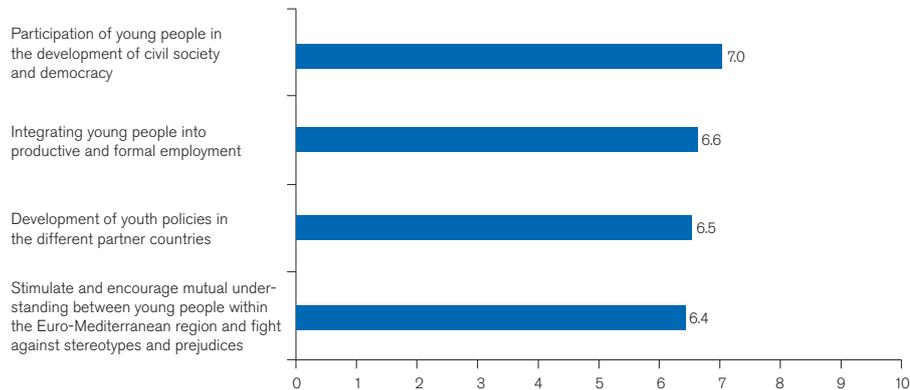
The role of women and their rights should form significant pressure in the positive direction, together with liberal demands and against the will of Islamists.

Polish respondent

Questions 20 and 21 address the future evolution of youth and employment policies. Youth policies are positively assessed, following the same trend as the previous questions, but the difference is that they are seen as slightly more likely to improve than women's policies. As the graph indicates, respondents consider that the policies that will have a more positive development will be those that seek to promote the participation of young people in civil society and democracy (7 on average). The initiatives aimed at stimulating and encouraging understanding between young people in the region are graded less positively at 6.4.

Graph 40: Future development of youth policies in the Mediterranean Partner Countries

(average on a scale of 0-10, where 0 stands for regression and 10 for improvement)



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

In the analysis of responses by groups of countries we see that MPC respondents are more positive about the improvement of youth policies than those from EU countries. The assessments above the overall average from Maghreb and non-EU European countries stand out.

La jeunesse est le deuxième rêver du médaillon comparativement à la femme et notamment aux jeunes filles qui ont un rôle primordial pour le développement et la démocratie des pays de la région (modèle du printemps arabe).

Tunisian respondent

On manque de stratégie et de politique concernant les jeunes. L'UE doit aider et financer les ONG qui s'intéressent aux jeunes.

Moroccan respondent

Even small initiatives such as the Young Political Leaders Seminars of European Parliament can contribute.

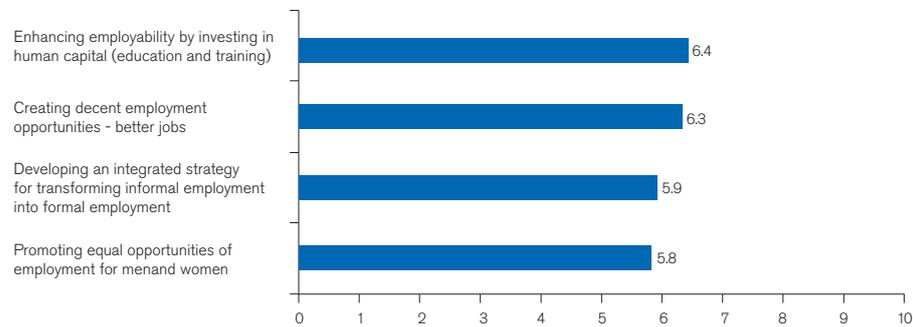
Austrian respondent

Finally, Question 21 on employment policies received average grades slightly below those for youths and women. Also placed around an average of 6, respondents believe that there will be improvements in the future development of policies aimed at "*enhancing employability by investing in human capital*". Almost with the same average, they consider that there will

be improvements in the policies aimed at “*creating decent employment opportunities*”. The measures aimed at reducing informal work and at promoting equal opportunities between genders are given a grade of half a point lower.

As happened with the previously analysed policies, there is a slight difference between the responses from the North and the South, with a more optimistic assessment of each of the employment policies by respondents from MPCs, while this is more negative for the EU countries. The trend towards a higher average, that is a future development that would improve the policies analysed, is also repeated in the responses from the Maghreb and European non-EU countries.

Graph 41: Future development of employment policies in the Mediterranean Partner Countries
(average on a scale of 0-10, where 0 stands for regression and 10 for improvement)



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

Support to SMEs can only be part of a larger strategy that essentially includes industrial policy measures. Economic structures have to be altered. Job creation should go hand in hand with raising added value so as to reduce poverty. The economic crisis in Europe, especially in its Mediterranean countries, can be an opportunity to reconsider economic policies and structures in the Mediterranean region. Employment policy should be put at the service of restructuring and benefit from it.

Egyptian respondent

Improvement of youth employment opportunities requires deep institutional reforms and implementation of a democratic regime. The current Islamist parties are inexperienced and unable to ensure such a strategy. Support should be provided to civil society and liberal political parties which will be able to help improve the situation of young people.

Tunisian respondent

