

---

# THE EUROMED SURVEY: AN INSTRUMENT FOR ASSESSMENT AND MOBILISATION

## THE EUROMED SURVEY: AN INSTRUMENT FOR ASSESSMENT AND MOBILISATION

In 2008, the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) was commissioned by the European Commission to conduct an ambitious yearly Survey of experts and actors active in the field of Euro-Mediterranean relations to assess the progress, achievements and shortcomings of the so-called Barcelona Process, i.e., a follow-up of the Euro-Mediterranean agenda. This activity is part of the project *“Promoting mutual awareness, understanding and cooperation between the EU and the European Neighbourhood Region (South)”*, co-funded by the European Union (EU) through the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI) regional track.

In 2005, the IEMed had already carried out a first Survey of this kind: *“Ten Years of the Barcelona Process. Civil Society’s Views. Results, Priorities and Scenarios”*.<sup>1</sup> Such a project cuts across the IEMed mission as an actor in the dialogue between the EU and the Mediterranean countries and a think tank analysing Euro-Mediterranean relations, proposing and disseminating policy options and contributing to the building of a true Euro-Mediterranean area.

The importance and added value of this new on-going Survey lies in the fact that it focuses on perceptions of the various actors and experts who are directly involved in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP). So far policy-makers have not had such an instrument available to assess results, orient policies and mobilize actors and experts and, ultimately, public opinion throughout the region.

The Survey is also meant to increase the visibility of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, pointed out in the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers held in Marseille in November 2008 as a vital element *“for its public understanding and acceptance, as well as its accountability and legitimacy.”* Specific attention was devoted to gender issues throughout the whole process of analysis and assessment, and a significant level of participation of women in the Survey was also ensured.

### Objectives

Therefore, the objectives of the Survey are threefold:

- I) To assess progress, achievements and shortcomings in the different areas of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (in a broad sense; that is, taking into account the Southern and regional dimensions of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Union for the Mediterranean - UfM) in the perception of experts and actors;
- II) To create and develop an instrument for analysis and mobilization of actors, experts and policy-makers working on Euro-Mediterranean relations. The analysis and communication of the results of the Survey constitutes an integral part of the Survey, which has been designed as a policy- and mobilization-oriented tool;
- III) To identify the major Mediterranean trends with a forward-looking approach and articulate policy proposals to cope with the major challenges the region is bound to face in the coming years.

The Survey is not, in any case, an opinion poll. It does not gauge the public opinions or the perceptions of the general public about the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. It concentrates instead on the perceptions of experts and actors working directly on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. This is the very specificity of this exercise and it must be underlined.

1 . See report at <http://www.iemed.org/documents/surveyUK.pdf>

## The Sample

To achieve these objectives, the IEMed has conducted an articulated, qualitative Survey (see Questionnaire attached) among a representative sample of 371 experts and actors from the 43 countries of the Mediterranean and the European Union (the partners of the Union for the Mediterranean minus Monaco plus Libya). The respondents of the Survey have been selected according to their knowledge of and/or involvement in the Euro-Mediterranean Process from among university researchers, think tanks, media, diplomats, central and local government officials, political representatives, NGO activists, Euromed network members, trade unionists, business people, officers from international organizations directly involved in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (such as the EU, the Arab League or the United Nations).

The potential number of respondents was determined by the complexity of the Questionnaire of this Survey, designed to allow for a differentiated and detailed analysis of the different aspects and instruments of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and for an assessment of progress and prospects in each of them. Therefore, the Survey clearly concentrates on experts and actors of Euro-Mediterranean relations with a deep knowledge and experience to be able to respond properly to the sometimes very technical questions.

In order to maximize the validity of the sample to represent the target population, a basic criteria based on the population size of each country was adopted. The resulting target number of respondents by country was corrected to factor the direct involvement of the countries in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership since the beginning of the process, in 1995 (see Table). Ideally, no country should have fewer than 3 respondents.

### Criteria for the definition of the Target Sample

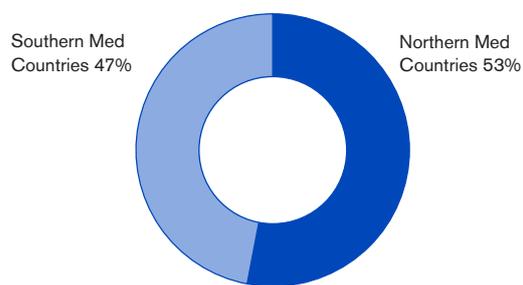
Number of respondents by country's population	
More than 30 million	15
From 10 to 30 million	10
From 4 to 10 million	5
Less than 4 million	3
Correction factors of the number of respondents	
European countries not members of 1995 EMP	-2
MPC members of 1995 EMP	+10

Applying these criteria, the total size of the target sample was 424 (210 from MPCs and 214 from EU and non-EU European countries). The number of answered questionnaires received from the 2,820 questionnaires sent out to the universe of experts and actors identified by the IEMed was 371, slightly under the targeted number, and of course with a somewhat different composition (see table of respondents by countries in the annex). But, overall, the sample of respondents can be considered to be representative of EMP diversity and corresponding to the targeted structure by countries. It is also large enough to consider the Survey significant with a high degree of reliability for the limited universe of actors and experts in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

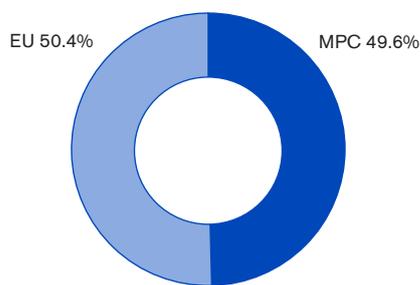
It is notable that almost four fifths of the respondents come from Mediterranean countries, whether Southern or Northern (including Portugal, Jordan and Mauritania): 78.4%, well over the target of 71.8%. Roughly half of the respondents come from Mediterranean Partner Countries (49.6%), including non-EU Mediterranean Partner Countries, and half from EU Member States (50.4%). 46% of respondents come from Southern Mediterranean countries and 56% from Northern Mediterranean countries. By groups of countries, 22% of the respondents come from Maghreb countries, 15% from Arab Mashreq countries, roughly 4% each from Israel and Turkey and 3.5% from non-EU European Mediterranean Partner Countries (Croatia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro), whereas 28.8% of the respondents come from EU Mediterranean countries (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Malta, Cyprus and Greece) and 8.9% from the 9 non-Mediterranean new EU Member States.

### Geographic distribution of the Sample

Regional division North-South



Regional division European Union / Mediterranean Partner Countries



By categories, the original target was: a third of policy-makers (diplomats, government and international organization officers and politicians), a third of experts (think tank and universities, but also media) and a last third of actors from civil society (NGOs, trade unions and employers).

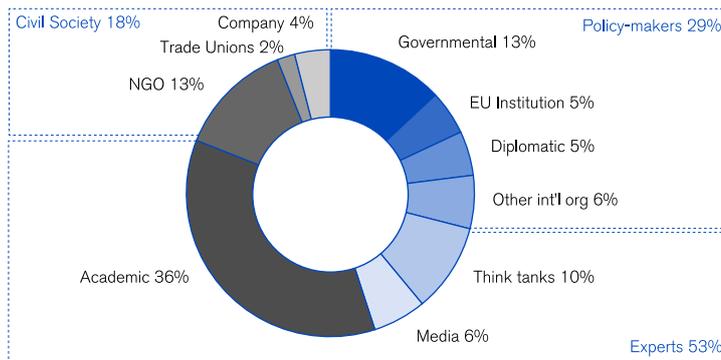
The sample of respondents is clearly unbalanced in favour of experts (academics, researchers and the media) at the expense of civil society (53% of experts; 29% of policy-makers and only 18% of actors of civil society); this may reflect a lack of direct involvement of economic, social and political actors in the whole process. It may also incorporate a certain negative bias into the results of the Survey, as academics tend by profession to be critical of political endeavours. By countries, policy-makers (diplomats and government representatives) are over-represented among respondents in non-EU European MPCs (53.8% of respondents) and in new EU Eastern Europe Member States (50%), where there are very few academic experts in this field. Civil society actors are more present among respondents from the Mashreq than in any other group (32%). All but one of the Turkish respondents are experts from the academic world or the media.

As for the composition of the sample of respondents by gender, less than a third were women (28%), which is more than the percentage usually found in different Euro-Mediterranean fora.

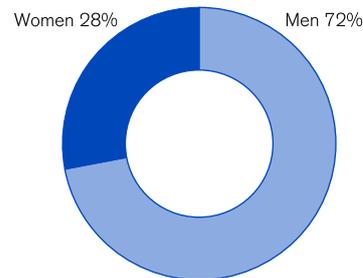
The target and effective sample of the Survey, as well as details about the composition of the sample of respondents, can be seen in the Annexes.

## Distribution of the Sample by categories of respondents and gender

### Institutional affiliation



### Men-Women



## Methodology and Process

The Questionnaire of the Survey was designed over several months by the Survey team with the assistance of the two principal experts and a Survey Expert. Four team meetings were organized in Barcelona to design the Survey over the four years of the project, to discuss methodology and to formulate the questions after consultation with the members of the Advisory Committee.

The choice was made to develop a first long and quite sophisticated Questionnaire covering in detail all aspects of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (including the ENP and the UfM), with more than 400 variables to respond to for the respondents. This assumed a thorough and encompassing knowledge by respondents of the different aspects of the Partnership. The assumed implication of this choice was to reduce the number of prospective respondents and to get a higher percentage of "Don't Know" answers for some questions (reflecting a limited knowledge of certain elements of the EMP). In the Questionnaire, a certain number of open questions were included for the respondents to develop their own analysis on the various issues (giving rise to the quotations we have included throughout this report).

The Questionnaire was sent to around 3,000 potential respondents meant to represent the universe of experts and actors of the Euro-Mediterranean area (see Annex). It was sent in several waves between early June and July 2009. The answers were collected through the website of the Survey<sup>2</sup> or by e-mail between July and the 15th September 2009. The languages used were English, French, Spanish and Catalan.

In order to provide an objective basis for analysis, the principal experts of the Survey produced a *Report on the Euro-Mediterranean Status & Progress 2009*, which highlights the developments and achievements of the EMP since 2005. This analysis, available at the website of the Survey,<sup>3</sup> intended to provide respondents with objective and neutral information on what has been done regarding the EMP from 2005 until mid-2009.

Managing of the implementation of the Survey and processing of results (statistical processing, production of graphs and tables, checking of accuracy, etc.) was assured by the Mcrit SL team with the support of the IEMed scientific team and the principal experts.

The 371 answers to the Survey received contained 160,000 elements of information, plus 1,800 text answers and comments made by respondents in response to open questions. The resulting database allows for all kinds of cross-analysis by countries or group of countries, categories of respondents, aggregation by profiles of answers or other variables (factorial analysis), and has only begun to be analysed and exploited in this report by the principal experts.

A meeting of the Advisory Committee in mid-September analysed and discussed a very preliminary report prepared by the principal experts on the basis of the partial results calculated with answers received by 30th July 2009. In November, an expanded Focus Group was convened to discuss a second draft of the Survey report based on final results and to enrich the analysis, as well as to propose possible improvements for future editions of the Survey. The Final Report of the Survey written by the principal experts was discussed and improved with the IEMed team to produce this final publication.

The selection of quotations (“verbatim”) from the 1,800 answers received to open questions included throughout this report does not pretend to be fully representative, but rather complementary and sometimes illustrative of the structured results of the Survey. They highlight the diversity of opinions about the EMP and underline certain recurrent lines of opinion or allow for a more articulate analysis of the results of the Survey. The geographical balance of those open answers has also been taken into consideration for the selection.

In the tables and graphs included throughout this report to present the results of Survey, we indicate the percentage of “Don’t know” answers over the total number of respondents answering each particular question, because we think that this is a relevant variable to interpret the results. However, for the calculation of the distribution of answers, we only take into consideration the answers expressing a particular assessment or opinion (i.e., excluding “Don’t know” answers), so as to show the distribution of respondents giving a substantial answer. So percentages given throughout the report are based on the number of substantial answers, excluding “Don’t know” answers.

2. <http://www.iemed.org/euromedsurvey/>.

3. [http://www.iemed.org/publicacions/10\\_02\\_25\\_Report\\_BCN\\_Progress\\_Lannon\\_Martin.pdf](http://www.iemed.org/publicacions/10_02_25_Report_BCN_Progress_Lannon_Martin.pdf)

