

## ***Civil Society Forum South Neighbourhood***

***Brussels, July 10-12, 2017***

### ***Concept note on the thematic sessions “Migration”***

The European Union has reiterated, in a number of resolutions, its commitment to address migration issues. In 2015, the EU reviewed the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) taking into account the evolving fluid situation around the EU's Neighbourhood. The revision encapsulated the new political impetus for deeper cooperation on migration as already reflected in the European Agenda on Migration and the Valletta Summit on Migration. This new approach was underpinned by the desire to promote a balanced and comprehensive approach to migration paying attention to all the pillars of migration policy and harvesting the benefits of well-managed migration and mobility. Of relevance for the Neighbourhood South region is the Joint Communication *Lives in Dignity* which narrows the link between forced displacement and development aiming to prevent forced displacement from becoming protracted and to gradually end dependence on humanitarian assistance by fostering resilience and self-reliance and enabling the displaced and host communities to live in dignity.

In the region, the EU has translated this policy framework into innovative, flexible and tailored instruments anchored to the local reality building upon partnerships with partner countries, Civil Society and Local Authorities. Two Trust Funds - the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis (the 'MADAD' Trust Fund) and the EU Trust Fund for Africa - were created reflecting this overarching policy framework. Five countries of the ENI South region benefit in particular from the North of Africa window of the latter.

The '**Madad' Fund**, was established in December 2014 to enable a coherent and integrated EU aid response to the Syrian crisis with two overarching priorities: 1) the creation of job opportunities for both refugees and their own host countries' populations and 2) the promotion of access to quality education to all Syrian and host countries' children, ensuring there is no lost generation. To date, EUR 1 billion have been committed to increase the resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities.

The Valletta Declaration and its Action plan set the ground for the creation of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. The programmes adopted under its North of Africa window have addressed the pillars of the Valletta Action Plan by, first and foremost, supporting the protection needs of both migrants and refugees, migration governance, facilitating return and sustainable reintegration and addressing the drivers of irregular migration. To date, EUR 222.5 million have been committed to programmes that address the multiple challenges in the region.

Building on the dialogues and main recommendations which emerged from the Regional Civil Society Preparatory Seminars which took place in Tunis on 25-27 April 2017, the Thematic Group on Migration, will look at the ways and means for CSOs to engage with EU in addressing migration issues at regional and national levels. The objective is to have a genuine policy dialogue on related topics, between representatives from the EU institutions and civil society from the Southern Neighbourhood countries (Northern Africa and Middle East).

The thematic workshop will combine a plenary dialogue session followed by three sub-themes working groups, in order to create a more participative and inclusive environment for discussions and to come up with relevant and concrete recommendations for an enhanced partnership between CSOs and the EU.

### ***A Plenary Dialogue on Migration (11 July, 9:00 to 10:15)***

This plenary session will allow space for dialogue between Civil Society representatives and political leadership, senior management and practitioners from the EU. It will address the EU policies and cooperation addressing migration and forced displacement issues.

<b><i>EU representative:</i></b>	<i>Colin Scicluna, Director, MENA Region, EEAS</i> <i>Jean-Christophe Filori, Head of Unit Maghreb and Center of Expertise on Migration, DG NEAR</i>
<b><i>Civil Society:</i></b>	<i>Linda Alkalash, Tamkeen Fields for Aid, Jordan</i>
<b><i>Moderation:</i></b>	<i>Marie Martin, EuroMed Rights</i>
<b><i>Rapporteur:</i></b>	<i>TBC</i>

### ***3 sub-themes working groups: (about 90 min each)***

Based on the Tunis Civil Society recommendations, three priority topics and sessions were identified to open the dialogue:

#### ***Session 1: Legal Migration and Mobility (11 July, 14:30-16:00)***

##### ***Objectives:***

- (1) To discuss barriers preventing mobility of third countries citizens to the European territory;*
- (2) To identify initiatives and programmes implemented by the EU and its Member States in order to mitigate the effects of these barriers or even to remove them gradually.*

<b><i>Civil Society:</i></b>	<i>Samira Trad, Frontiers Ruwad, Lebanon</i>
<b><i>EU representatives:</i></b>	<i>Graziella Rizzo, Unit International Cooperation, DG HOME</i>
<b><i>Moderation:</i></b>	<i>Aymen Zohry / Egyptian Society for Migration Studies (EGYMIG)</i>
<b><i>Rapporteur:</i></b>	<i>TBC</i>

***Session 2: Forced Displacement, including aspects of protection, resilience, human trafficking, discrimination, humanitarian assistance (11 July, 16:15-18:00)***

***Objectives:***

- (1) To discuss examples from the field where refugees and migrants are facing risks;*
- 2) To identify adequate responses addressing human trafficking, discrimination, humanitarian assistance, protection, and resilience.*

***Civil Society:*** Maria Jammal, Humanity Crew, Israël

***EU representative:*** Iris Abraham, EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, DG NEAR  
Dina Sinigallia, Unit Policy Development and Regional Strategy, DG ECHO

***Moderation:*** Malek Kefif, FTDES, Tunisia

***Rapporteur:*** Najla Chahda Thabet, Consultant on Migration and Human Trafficking

***Session 3) Political and Institutional Responses to the Crisis: civil society monitoring of international responses (12 July, 9:00-10:20)***

***Objectives:***

- 1) Identify the framework of existing EU actions and initiatives;*
- 2) Identify mechanisms that enable Civil Society Organisations to be fully implicated in initiatives and programmes aimed at the implementation of the recommendations.*

***Civil Society:*** Evelyne Chevalier, CISP, Algeria

***EU representatives:*** Camilla Hagstrom, Deputy Head of Unit Migration and Employment, DG DEVCO  
Raluca RADUTA, Center of Expertise on Migration, DG NEAR

***Moderation:*** Rachid Badouli, Fondation Orient Occident, Morocco

***Rapporteur:*** Manal BENANI / Young Mediterranean voices)

***Annex: Civil society recommendations on Migration issued during Tunis preparatory seminar (April 2017)***

***Session 1: Enhancing mobility and circulation***

Recommendation: Adopt mobility policy based on human rights and in compliance with international conventions

Tool: Establish a mixed mechanism involving EU institutions/CSOs to ensure the implementation of the follow up regarding international conventions, and the mobility of workers.

***Session 2: Political and institutional responses to the crisis***

Recommendation: Develop a joint evaluation (CSOs/EU institutions) of the various mechanisms and programmes adopted at the EU /African Union, EU/Turkey summits in migration governance in the Mediterranean region via the creation of an observatory.

Tool: A partnership between CSOs and EU institutions in developing this study, and a report that will be discussed during the next summits in order to have an inclusive visibility.

***Session 3: The legal and humanitarian dimension***

Recommendation: Mobilize all necessary means in order to build the institutional capacities of CSOs, and allow them to implement programmes aiming at a better protection of immigrants and refugees, and a more efficient coordination of support and assistance programmes.

Tool: Set up an appropriate financial and technical mechanism, specific to civil society, beyond regular international mechanisms.

***Session 4: Preventing and fighting all forms of abuses and violence against migrants***

Recommendation: Encourage alliances, partnerships and networking between the different CSOs of countries of origin, transit and reception, in order to build their capacities, and allow them to fulfill their missions regarding the protection of migrants against risks (violence of their rights, marginalization and discrimination) and sensitize local communities to initiate a stronger sense of solidarity with the migrants and the refugees.

Tool: Develop a governance strategy based on rights and adopt an integrated programme to support and assist migrants and refugees as well as create coalitions based on task forces “experts from north and south” in the light of all of the studies conducted.