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@SAHWAPROJECT



SAHWA Project



Researching
 Arab Mediterranean Youth:
Towards a New Social Contract

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PRESENTATION

As the Arab Spring unfolds into its fourth year, research on the whys and wherefores of this process have mostly focused on dynamics of transition. Although Arab youth was at the forefront of the popular protests that initiated such a process and have remained as the most dynamic social actor, little albeit increasing attention has been paid to young people in the Arab Mediterranean countries, their views and prospects. As a result, despite the growing interest for the region, a glaring lack of knowledge about Arab youth (ways of life, socio-economic conditions, values, perceptions, etc.), and as a consequence about Arab societies, has marked the views of external actors and policy-makers so far.

In this context, the SAHWA Project brings together fifteen partners from Europe and Arab countries to research youth prospects and perspectives in a context of multiple social, economic and political transitions in five Arab Mediterranean countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon). The thematic axes around which the project will revolve are education, employment and social inclusion, political mobilization and participation, culture and values, international migration and mobility, gender, comparative experiences in other transition contexts and public policies and international cooperation.

PROJECT

Building on the existing academic and policy-oriented research on Arab and global youth, SAHWA aims at addressing a variety of issues related to the youth in Arab Mediterranean countries with four broad objectives:

Conceptualizing transition in Arab Mediterranean countries with a focus on youth, from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Mapping political, socio-economic and cultural change in the Arab Mediterranean world in a context of multiple transitions, focusing on:

- **Perspectives** from different countries and stakeholders
- **Prospects** for youth and trends to anticipate future change
- **Identification** of opportunities for youth, considered as a transformative agent.

Comparing to similar transition processes in other historic contexts as possible models to inform the management of political and economic transformations in the Arab Mediterranean.

Informing policy-makers with a range of tools and original frameworks of analysis to achieve a better understanding of the role of youth and contribute to a better design of national public policies and EU cooperation to support change in the region.

SAHWA

Is an interdisciplinary collaborative project that brings together socio-anthropological, economic and political, sociological and cultural approaches. SAHWA methodological approach will be articulated on three “moments”:

1. Empirical Research:

- **A Multi-country Youth Survey** carried out amongst 10.000 young people in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia to take the pulse of Arab youth in these countries. The questionnaire will cover all the research questions of the project and will constitute a significant comparative dataset for the region.
- **A Fieldwork in Local Context** research to explore the youth conditions and values in different socio-economic contexts within each country and across countries. Based on social ethnographic techniques, this fieldwork will serve as a basis for a set of youth life stories, a cartography of change, a documentary on “Being 20 in Arab Mediterranean countries” and a Shababpedia.

2. Thematic Research Focuses

- **Youth Opportunities:** Education, Employment and Social Inclusion
- **Youth Empowerment:** Social and Political Mobilization and Participation
- **Youth Cultures:** Values, Representations and Social Conditions

3. Cross-cutting Perspectives

- **Gender Equity**
- **Migration and International Mobility**
- **Comparative Transition Experiences**
- **Public Policies and International Cooperation**

OUTCOMES AND DISSEMINATION

