

# Europe and the Mediterranean Participants



**Jaafar Abdul Karim**  
Deutsche Welle, Berlin,  
Germany

Jaafar Abdul Karim is the host of Deutsche Welle Interactive Talkshow Shabab Talk (a socio-political talk show format). He holds M.A. in Leadership and Communication at the Quadriga University in Berlin. Medium Magazin in Germany named him among top 10 "Journalist Newcomer of the Year 2012".



**Prof. Dr. Immacolata Amodeo**  
Villa Vigoni, Lovenio di  
Menaggio, Italy / Jacobs  
University of Bremen, Germany

Secretary General of Villa Vigoni since 2012; Professor of Comparative Literature.



**Dr. Hind Arroub**  
Think Tank Hypatia Institute,  
Rabat, Morocco

Hind Arroub, is a Moroccan political & social scientist, researcher, writer, human rights activist, international consultant and poet. She is the Founder & the Director of a Think Tank based in Rabat (Hypatia of Alexandria Institute for Reflexion and Studies). She has a PhD in Law and Political Science. Hind's researches take an interdisciplinary approach. Her interests revolve around Morocco and the Arab World with a focus on: politics and religion, authoritarian regimes and democracy, good governance, riots and social movements, media freedom, human rights, and global politics' relationship to the Arab World (such as the Iraq war, international terrorism and the impact of globalization). Hind was a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University and she is also an associate researcher with CNRS at University of Strasbourg in France. She is a Regional Manager for North Africa with the international project on Democracy "Varieties of Democracy" led by Gothenburg & Lund Universities / Sweden; Boston University & Kellogg Institute at Notre dame University/ USA. Hind is a reviewer for the Journal of North African Studies Published by American Institute for Maghreb Studies. Hind is a former lecturer of Political Science at Hassan II University/ School of Law- Casablanca. She has 10 years' experience in journalism in Morocco and abroad. Her latest book published in September 2012 called: "The Sacred & The Political Detention in the Contemporary Morocco: Case Studies".



**Robert Attallah**  
UNHCR – Syria Operation,  
Cairo, Egypt

Robert Attallah is a Senior Community Services assistant at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Syria Operation. Through this context, he's working directly with the Syrian community in Egypt to leverage their capacities for community based protection. He had studied "Public Policy and Child Rights" after making an acute career shift from construction engineering.



**Aida Ben Ammar**  
Group of International Financial  
and Technical Partners to  
Support the Tunisian Media  
Sector, Tunis, Tunisia

Coordinator since 2012 the "Group of international financial and technical partners to support the Tunisian media sector," Aida Ben Ammar, 26, knows the media sector in Tunisia and the expectations and goals of international support operators. She also works as a project coordinator for the Free Press Unlimited (Dutch NGO) for over a year.



**Prof. Dr. Yamina Bettahar**  
Université de Lorraine, Nancy,  
France

Yamina Bettahar is a sociologist and political scientist specializing in the Maghreb and Euro-Mediterranean area. Doctor of Political Sciences (Sciences Po Paris), she joined the Lorraine University and the Laboratory Archives Henri Poincaré (UMR 7117, CNRS), for several years. In research area, she specializes in higher education policy and reforms, human capital and international labor market in the context of the mobility of skills and knowledge diasporas (brain gain). Former head of international relations, she contributes to the development of Euro-Mediterranean relations in the framework of European projects on modernization of higher education in the Maghreb; lessons taught in different universities of the Mediterranean basin and she is the author of several publications. Since 2010, she actively participates in the activities of the WEM Foundation for a Euro-Mediterranean area of knowledge.



**Filiz Bikmen**  
Social Investment and  
Philanthropy Adviser, Istanbul,  
Turkey

Filiz Bikmen is a social investment and philanthropy adviser, working with families, foundations and companies to create strategies and programs for social change. She has 15 years experience working with some of Turkey's largest foundations, mainly Sabanci Foundation and the Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), as well as international foundations and NGOs. She is an author of several publications and an active lecturer at several university programs, including Harvard Non Profit Management Certificate Program, on subjects related to philanthropy and civil society in Turkey.



**Jun.-Prof. Dr. Manuel Borutta**  
University of Bochum,  
Germany / Käte Hamburger  
Kolleg | Centre for Global  
Cooperation Research,  
Duisburg, Germany

Manuel Borutta is Juniorprofessor for Mediterranean history at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum. He joined the faculty in 2010. After publishing his award-winning PhD thesis and teaching at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Universität zu Köln he was a fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, at the Université Paris II and the German Historical Institute in Paris and at the Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme in Aix-en-Provence. His main interest is currently in connected history approaches and their contribution to an understanding of the Mediterranean entanglements between Southern Europe and Northern Africa during the colonial and postcolonial period. He has a background in German and Italian, French and Algerian, Western European and Mediterranean history, and he has worked extensively on issues of nation-building and colonization, anti-Catholicism, secularisation and the culture wars, gender, media and emotions.



**Luis Castellar Maymo**  
EU Delegation to Afghanistan,  
Kabul, Afghanistan

Luis has been working for over 13 years managing good governance development projects in conflict and post-conflict settings such as Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Israel, Haiti, Lebanon, Mozambique, RD Congo and West Bank and Gaza Strip. Currently he is Task Manager for democratization and accountability at the EU Delegation in Afghanistan. Previously he has worked for the UN, the EU, the Spanish MFA, the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation and different NGOs. He has supported several Mediterranean countries through the EU MEDA programme.



**Andreu Claret**  
Anna Lindh Foundation,  
Alexandria, Egypt

Former journalist reporting from Central America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Mena countries. Analyst on International Affairs. Director of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (Barcelona) during 5 years. Headed the Anna Lindh Euro-mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue Between Cultures (Alexandria) from 2008 until March 2015. Consultant on EuroMed affairs and management of diversity challenges.



**Nora Derbal**  
Free University of Berlin,  
Germany

Nora Derbal is a PhD student at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies. Her thesis deals with civic engagement in Saudi Arabia and asks how charitable initiatives approach the growing phenomenon of poverty in the kingdom. Her field research includes several journeys to Saudi Arabia in 2012 and 2013. From 2005-2011 she studied Islamic Studies and History at the Freie Universität Berlin, the Oriental Institute at Oxford University and King Abd al-Aziz University in Jeddah.



**Julia Dreher**  
Sorbonne University Paris,  
France

Julia Dreher did her undergraduate studies at Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen. Before she continued her Masters degree at Sorbonne University in Sociology and Philosophy (including one semester at Columbia University, New York) she did internships at the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Cairo, Egypt and also at the House of World Cultures (HKW) in Berlin.



**Hadeer Elmahdawy**  
Freelance Journalist, Cairo,  
Egypt

Hadeer Elmahdawy graduated from political science department at 2006 - worked as a journalist since then in many Egyptian, Arab, and foreign websites and newspapers, covering political, social, cultural, and art scenes in Egypt. she is writing her masters thesis at the department of European Mediterranean studies - Cairo university titled " political culture and protests- Comparison between Egypt and Greece (2008-2012)"



**Prof. Dr. Henry Frendo**  
University of Malta, Valletta,  
Malta

Chairman of the Council of Europe's Euromed Group in the 1990s, Henry Frendo is the author of 'Coexistence in Modernity: A Euromed Perspective' (The European Legacy, Routledge, x, 3, 2005); Colonialismo e nazionalismo nel Mediterraneo (Universita' degli Studi di Urbino, 2008); and of 'Europe, Empire, Mediterranean', Les Rendez-Vous de l'Histoire (with Jacques Le Goff, Eric Hobsbaum, Carlo Ginzburg, Miroslav Hroch et al; Seuil, 2009). Professor of History and Director of the Institute of Maltese Studies, he currently chairs the UNESCO National Commission and the Malta University Press.



**Rana Göroğlu**  
Mediendienst Integration,  
Berlin, Germany

Rana Göroğlu has studied History, Political Science and Turcology in Göttingen and Berlin and graduated from the Master's program „Euroculture“ at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). Since 2003 she worked as a freelance journalist and editor for different media such as ZDF, rbb and Berliner Zeitung. Furthermore she supervised publications of governmental and non-governmental institutions on migration, Integration, antisemitism, and islamism. She is one of the co-founders of the "Neue deutsche Medienmacher", an initiative aiming to promote more diversity in the media. Since 2012 she works as editor and deputy director at „Mediendienst Integration“ a research platform and service for journalists about the topics migration and integration.



**Anne Grüne**  
University of Erfurt, Germany

Lecturer (Assistant Professor) at the Chair for International and Comparative Media and Communication Studies, University of Erfurt, Germany; research specialization: global communication, media and everyday culture, theories of hybridity and inter-/trans-/multiculturalism.



**Prof. Dr. Kai Hafez**  
University of Erfurt, Germany

Chair Professor for International and Comparative Media and Communication Studies, University of Erfurt, Germany; research specialization: media and globalization, media and the Middle East, Islamophobia, Islam in Europe, Islamic-Western relations.



**Dr. Sahar Hamouda**  
Alexandria and Mediterranean  
Research Center / Bibliotheca  
Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt

Sahar Hamouda is the Director of the Alexandria and Mediterranean Research Center at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and the Chairperson of the Department of English Language and Literature at Alexandria University. Her research interests include the heritage and modern history of Alexandria.





**Mevlyde Hyseni**  
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung  
Prishtina, Kosovo

Mevlyde Hyseni studied German Language and Literature at the University of Prishtina. Since five years she is working for the German political foundation Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Prishtina. In the foundation she is dealing mainly with youth issues and political education.



**Kristina Kausch**  
FRIDE (Foundation for  
International Relations and  
Foreign Dialogue), Madrid,  
Spain

Kristina Kausch is Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at FRIDE, a Madrid- and Brussels-based think tank. Her research focuses on Europe's relations with the Arab world and Middle Eastern geopolitics. She also teaches postgraduate International Relations at the CEU San Pablo University in Madrid.



**Dr. Nora Lafi**  
Zentrum Moderner Orient  
(ZMO) / Federal Ministry of  
Education and Research,  
Berlin, Germany

Nora Lafi is a Senior Researcher (Urban Studies) at Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO-BMBF). Since 2013 she is a 'Privat Dozentin' (Free University of Berlin, Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies). Berlin She is co-editor of H-Mediterranean. She is currently working on cities of Ottoman Empire.



**Christian Much**  
German Ambassador to Libya,  
Tripoli, Libya / German Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs, Berlin,  
Germany

Since 2013, Christian Much is the German Ambassador to Libya, currently residing in Tunis. After his studies of law and anthropology, Mr Much joined the German Foreign Service in 1980. He served inter alia in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, in New York (United Nations) and in Italy (Rome and Naples).



**Prof. Dr. Volker Nienhaus**  
University of Bochum,  
Germany

Volker Nienhaus was professor of economics at the Universities of Trier and Bochum (1989-2004) and president of the University of Marburg (2004-2010). He is currently visiting professor at the University of Reading (UK) and adjunct professor at the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF, Kuala Lumpur).



**Fides Ochsenfeld**  
Maecenata Foundation, Berlin,  
Germany

Fides Ochsenfeld studied Political Science in Paris, Freiburg, Madrid and Munich. Having worked with a development NGO in Indonesia for one year after her graduation, she is now a project manager with the Maecenata Foundation in Berlin.



**Dr. Rosaria Puglisi**  
Istituto Affari Internazionali  
(IAI), Rome, Italy

Chief of Staff in the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Libya (EUBAM Libya) between September 2013 and December 2014, Rosaria has been engaged in CSDP/CFSP structures, mostly in post-conflict contexts, for the best part of the last ten years. With a strong focus on countries of the former Soviet Union, she has held positions as Head of the EU Liaison Office to Turkmenistan, Senior Political Advisor in EUMM Georgia, Political Adviser to the EUSR for Moldova, Political Officer at the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. With an academic background on international relations and the former Soviet Union, she holds a PhD from the University of Glasgow.



**Verena Ringler**  
Stiftung Mercator, Essen,  
Germany

Verena Ringler is a project manager on Europe with Stiftung Mercator, a large private foundation in Germany. Previously, Verena worked with the ICO/EU Special Representative in Pristina, Kosovo (2006-09) and as associate editor with Foreign Policy magazine (2002-06). She spoke at TEDx, received an EU Young Journalist Award and completed her studies at the JHU/SAIS.



**Guillem Riutord Sampol**  
European External Action  
Service (EEAS), Brussels,  
Belgium / Spanish Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs, Madrid, Spain

Diplomat and Lawyer. After joining the Spanish Diplomatic service at the age of 25, Guillem Riutord specialised in European Affairs. In Spain, he worked on European Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and at the Ministry of Public Administration. He was then seconded to the European External Action Service in 2012, where he dealt first with Mexico and Central America and then with Regional Affairs within the Americas Department. In early 2014, he joined the EEAS Division for Regional Policies for the Southern Mediterranean to work on EU – League of Arab States relations and the Union for the Mediterranean. He has published several academic and press articles and participated in a number of conferences on European Affairs. He was born in Majorca in December 1984.



**Dr. Alessandro Rospigliosi**  
Boldrocchi – Hascon  
Engineering, Milan, Italy

Alessandro graduated in Chemical Engineering at UCL and was awarded a Gates Scholarship to read for a PhD at the Cambridge Department of Engineering. He worked for international and Italian PE and VC funds, first as investment analyst and subsequently as associate. He then served as Investment Manager at Boldrocchi Srl, a 100 year old Italian industrial equipment manufacturer, which supplies industrial machines and plants to customers worldwide, including the ME. In Egypt he recently established a local company to bid and work for an air pollution control plant at the largest Steel producing plant in Cairo.



**Pierantonio Rumignani**  
Maecenata Foundation, Berlin,  
Germany

After graduation cum laude in Political Economics at the Bocconi University, Milan in 1975, I held several positions in the banking and financial world. During the last period until my jubilation in 2012 I filled top management positions in the area of Corporate Development. Main career steps were Dresdner Bank, Deutsche Bank, Grupo Santander and UniCredit. Presently I give advice to corporate clients and also enjoy my time going after my own interests.



**Omar Shaikh**  
Islamic Finance Council UK,  
London, United Kingdom

Omar Shaikh is a Chartered Accountant by profession and specialises in Islamic finance and private equity. He leads the IFC's activities in the arena of government policy advisory. Omar has been at the forefront of establishing the UK Government's strategy for making the City a leading Western hub for Islamic finance through the UKTI, HM Treasury Committees and Mansion House trade delegations. He has lectured at various global conferences and universities and is involved in development initiatives relating to waqf, shariah governance and Islamic microfinance. Omar background includes working with Ernst & Young where he was recognised as the UK firms Subject Matter Expert for Islamic finance and successfully led the build out of the Islamic finance offering within the UK office. At EY he also worked with the UK Private Equity team and the multi-award winning EY Islamic Financial Services Group in Bahrain.



**Dr. Orhan Silier**  
History Foundation of Turkey,  
Istanbul, Turkey

Historian; Researcher on Civil Society Organisations; Founding General Secretary (1991-2002) and Former President (2002-06) of the History Foundation of Turkey; Former Member of the Board of the Europa Nostra (2006-11) and Founding President of the Europa Nostra-Turkey (2010-11).



**Prof. Dr. Udo Steinbach**  
Governance Center Middle  
East | North Africa / Humboldt-  
Viadrina Governance Platform,  
Berlin, Germany

Dr. Udo Steinbach has studied oriental and classical philology. He spent the longest period of his academic career (1976-2007) as director of the German Institute of Middle East Studies (Deutsches Orient-Institut) in Hamburg. He is the author of numerous works on contemporary history of the Arab world, Turkey and Iran. His book on "A history of the Arab people in the 20th century - between revolt and repression" will come out in a few months.



**Dr. Rupert Graf Strachwitz**  
Maecenata Foundation, Berlin,  
Germany

Dr. Rupert Graf Strachwitz graduated in Political Science and History in 1974 and has been active in and with civil society all his life, as volunteer, professional manager, board member, consultant, researcher, academic teacher, and writer. He is now the Executive Director of the Maecenata Foundation and Director of the Maecenata Institute for Philanthropy and Civil Society, a research and policy think tank, in Berlin. With an international family background, having lived in Italy for some years, and with connections to Malta, his interest in the European project and the Mediterranean is emotional as well as intellectual.



**Prof. Dr. Bernd Thum**  
Karlsruhe Institute of  
Technology / Fondation Espace  
du savoir Europe –  
Méditerranée (WEM),  
Karlsruhe, Germany

Dr. Bernd Thum is Professor Emeritus for Medieval and Intercultural German Studies at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). As Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences as well as institute director for many years he was running several teaching and research projects with partners at Tunisian and Moroccan universities. He is founding president of the Stiftung Wissensraum Europa-Mittelmeer/ Foundation 'Euro-Mediterranean Knowledge Space ' (WEM) and member of the research advisory board of the ifa (Institut fuer Auslandsbeziehungen, Stuttgart and Berlin).



**Stefanie Wahl**  
Denkwerk Zukunft –  
Foundation for Cultural  
Renewal, Bonn, Germany

Stefanie Wahl is managing director of Denkwerk Zukunft - Foundation for Cultural Renewal, a think tank that aims to contribute to more sustainable lifestyles than the present. She holds a degree of political science from the University of Geneva and is member of the advisory board of several German foundations.