

European Union initiatives to Empower Maghreb Youth and Foster Development



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Received date: 16/03/2024

Accepted date: 23/12/2024

Publication date: 01/01/2025

Abstract:

This study seeks to review the European Union (EU) initiatives in the Maghreb region to empower young leaders as an important partner in strengthening societies according to an empowerment and sustainable development approach to actively participate in the development of the region at all levels through various development projects, and to encourage good practices regarding the relationship between economic development and societal roles. Whereas in the past the EU's focus was limited to the security aspect, a new shift is emerging whereby activities such as community-based research, issue development, political thinking and analysis, direct action, youth organising, increasing civic participation, and building individual and collective leadership capacities for youth are all elements of a shift in European cooperation policies and projects towards the Maghreb countries.

The same study analyses the role played by Maghreb youth leaders in articulating their experiences and perspectives on how to develop and activate programmes and policies guided by the EU's future strategy for the region to face new threats while sharing the responsibilities of contributing to national, regional and continental development in light of the divergent policies of European countries. The study concludes with recommendations to enable policy makers in these countries to provide convincing and practical future responses and solutions that are customised, relevant and oriented towards the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Keywords: European Union; Maghreb Region; Youth Leaders; Empowerment; Civil Society.

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Introduction:

The European interest in the empowerment of Arab youth in general and the youth of the Maghreb region in particular is not a recent development, but is rooted in European cooperation policies directed towards the region. The Barcelona Process in 1995 contributed to strengthening cooperation and partnership relations within what is known as the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The EU has tried to mobilise a range of security policies and economic and developmental strategies through bilateral and multilateral agreements. However, these agreements did not live up to the aspirations of the Maghreb countries and their youth, as they showed an increasing interest in the security aspect, which focused more on combating illegal migration, unorganised crime and terrorist groups. The European Neighbourhood Policy (2004-2012) and the Union for the Mediterranean (2008) have emerged, and security concerns are no longer the main driver of Euro-Mediterranean integration policies, but sustainable development, climate issues, the Arab revolutions, the global economic crisis, the Russian-Ukrainian war, and the COVID-19 pandemic have become issues of common concern between the Maghreb countries and the European Union (EU). The aforementioned issues imposed more sustainable bilateral and regional cooperation to empower youth in the Maghreb countries in the future without politicisation and securitisation.

Problem of the study

Talking about the European Union's initiatives to empower youth in the Maghreb region puts us in front of analysing the promotion of opportunities and equality for youth in the region, enabling them to actively participate in society and achieve sustainable development. This approach is part of the EU's interest in youth, developing their capacities and enhancing their role in achieving peace and stability in the region, and reducing migration rates, especially towards Europe, as this has various implications for migrants in countries of asylum, especially the difficulty of integration into Western societies. Within this context, and as a contribution to knowledge and scientific debate on this important topic, we pose a key question: What are the dimensions of the shift in the EU's strategy for youth empowerment in the Maghreb region?

Sub-questions:

The above-mentioned main question can be deconstructed into a set of sub-questions as follows:

- How do security concerns affect European development projects aimed at supporting the youth of the Maghreb region?
- To what extent can the future of Euro-Maghreb cooperation for youth empowerment be strengthened in light of emerging challenges?

Study hypotheses

- Linking youth empowerment in the Maghreb to European security policies undermines the effectiveness of development strategies.
- The EU's management of the coronavirus crisis, the Russian-Ukrainian war, and the climate dilemma determines the future of Euro-Maghreb cooperation.

As such, the importance of studying the EU's strategy for youth empowerment in the Maghreb region falls within the framework of promoting an empowerment and sustainable development approach to activate the role of Maghreb youth on how to develop and materialise the programmes and policies directed by the EU to the Maghreb region within a mechanism that allows meeting the challenges of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, especially the human rights-based approach.

This study seeks to review the EU's strategy in the Maghreb region to empower youth, especially leaders, as an important partner in strengthening societies based on an empowerment and sustainable development approach, in order to understand the current shift in the EU's policies. After focusing in the past on security and combating illegal immigration and extremism, the new millennium, especially during the last decade, has seen the EU start to move towards empowering youth and enhancing their opportunities and participation in the political and economic process.

The study adopted a case study approach by examining the reality of the countries of the Maghreb region in the development initiatives directed to the region by the European Union. It also relied on the analytical approach, which is based on analysing the dimensions of the European strategy to empower Maghreb youth, in terms of studying the reality of development and the dimensions of the implementation of European policies, which were often linked to contradictions based on the security dimension. In addition to the two previous approaches, the research relies on the historical approach to understand the path of European cooperation in the Maghreb region by studying the historical context and the evolution that led to the transformation of European initiatives from unilateralism to multipolarity, from the European Partnership Agreement as a basic building block to the establishment of the Union for the Mediterranean to the more recent agreements.

Based on this, the study analysed a body of literature - most notably the studies focussing on the dimensions of European empowerment in the Maghreb region. For example, Abderrahmane Mebtou's study 'The Maghreb in its regional and international environment, cooperation between Europe and the Maghreb in the face of global geostrategic changes', April 2011, analysed the most important milestones of Euro-Maghreb cooperation and the challenges it faces, such as security threats, while Nassima Tawil's study 'The European Neighbourhood Policy and its Impact on the Southern Mediterranean Countries', Al-Mufkar Magazine,

Vol. 7, No. 1, highlighted EU policies and their impact on the Mediterranean region in general and the Maghreb countries in particular. In addition, the World Bank's 2022 report provides us with a detailed analysis of strategies for economic empowerment through enhanced trade cooperation to revive regional integration of the Middle East and the Maghreb in the post-Coronavirus era.

Based on the aforementioned literature, we will focus our analysis on the transformation of Euro-Maghrebian empowerment from mono-security to pluralistic non-security polarisation of Maghreb youth from multiple angles, as follows.

The evolution of Euro-Maghreb cooperation - towards greater flexibility:

a. Before the Union for the Mediterranean:

The ties of EU countries, especially France, with the Maghreb countries date back to the colonial days and this cooperation policy is still active today. The real start of this co-operation policy dates back to the end of the 1960s (1969) with an agreement that brought Algeria and Tunisia together with some European countries, which included the economic aspect, followed by a similar agreement in 1975 on the same subject, but it did not receive much attention, especially from the Maghreb side, as the European approach was still characterised by a hegemonic nature. (Sayesh, 2006/2007, p. 65)

The 1995 Barcelona Declaration focused on financing economic and social projects. The 5+5 Dialogue, which included five countries from the southern Mediterranean coast (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) and five countries from the northern coast (France, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain), provided a preferential framework to address the common security challenges of the 5+5 region in addition to developing other sectors, especially transport, education and finance. (Lefebvre, 2020, p. 53)

b. The UfM Declaration and recent agreements:

The establishment of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in 2004 - the European Neighbourhood Policy (2004-2012) - as an EU policy reflects the EU's aim to avoid drawing new dividing lines in Europe as the Union expands and strives to promote stability and prosperity within its new borders and beyond. The countries included in the ENP are not candidates for EU membership, as they are subject to a different logic based on the principle of 'partnership'. (Tawil, 2012, p. 217)

This partnership aims to promote economic and social development, prosperity and security on the southern shore of the EU and to work with countries of that region to address common challenges in areas such as the environment, public health, combating organised crime, as well as securing and ensuring safe

borders. European Neighbourhood Programmes (ENPs) attempt to activate contact between civil societies, work in the social, educational and cultural fields as well as foster cross-border contact between civil society groups and non-governmental organisations, which will support the promotion of local governance and democracy. (Tawil, p. 219)

Projects and areas of transformation in EU initiatives to empower youth in the Maghreb region:

a. Educational empowerment projects:

One of the most important cooperation projects in the educational field aimed at empowering Maghreb youth is the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean University in Fez, Morocco in 2012, where 18 universities adopted the programme to create or strengthen innovation spaces and educational pathways dedicated to social entrepreneurship and sustainable development goals, as well as relying on social responsibility governance.

The Satelit Knowledge Transfer Agreement within the Euro-Mediterranean Technological Innovation Project has adopted the following objectives:

- Establish high value-added joint training in the field of innovation and technology transfer.
- Improving the quality of support for public research results: Valorisation and commercialisation, acceleration, leaks, start-ups and women's entrepreneurship.
- Structure 6 university offices in charge of accelerating the innovation chain.
- Supporting the professional qualification of doctoral students.
- Contribute to the employment of young graduates.
- Increase regional co-operation through triple helix alliances, innovation seminars and skills transfer.
- Encourage a culture of innovation by creating an elite 'Euro-Mediterranean Leader' in the field of innovation and technology transfer.
- Increase the percentage of educational grants allocated to Maghreb students. (the Safer Ecosystem website)

According to the European vision, the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez (UEMF) is a new regional hub that contributes to strengthening stability and regional integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region through intercultural dialogue, knowledge exchange and cooperation in higher education, research and innovation. Its unique regional approach is reflected in the diversity of nationalities of students and staff as well as in the content of the study programmes, which are particularly focused on the themes of integrated growth in the Euro-Mediterranean region. EUMED aims to build a new generation of young people with a Euro-Mediterranean character, who can play an active role in the development of the

region from their future workplaces, in an effective and participatory manner between the two shores of the Mediterranean Sea, with a particular focus on the themes of integrated growth in the Euro-Mediterranean region. (<http://satelit-project.com/ar>)

Key figures

- 7000 students from across the Euro-Mediterranean region and sub-Saharan Africa in 2024.
- 650 highly skilled teachers, researchers, administrative and technical staff.
- 80% of students participate in mobility and exchange programmes abroad.
- 20% of students enjoy full or partial scholarships.
- 26 hectares dedicated to the university campus with full respect for the surroundings. (the university website)

During the COVID-19 response phase, the European Union granted an additional support of 4.5 million dirhams to the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez for the acquisition of informatics and laboratory equipment. Through this support, the university was able to ensure pedagogical continuity for the benefit of scholarship students and the manufacture of equipment for medical prevention.

As former partners in the development project of the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez, the European Union and the European Investment Bank supported two innovative and inclusive initiatives launched by the university as part of the efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. 19 Thanks to this support, 422 students received a laptop, a 4G modem and a year of internet access, enabling them to follow the university's education remotely. The Merit Scholarships are allocated according to specific criteria such as excellence, social inclusion and gender inclusion, and are awarded to outstanding students from low-income families. The support provided by the European Union also enabled the university to equip the university with 3D printers capable of producing between 500 and 1000 reusable medical masks and disposable filters that have been successfully tested according to international health protocols, and these medical masks and filters were destined for the University Hospital Centre in Fez. (The European Bank for Investment)

b. Economic Empowerment Projects:

Among the economically empowering projects is the mobility project funded for Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia on city-to-city migration in the Mediterranean. This initiative was created to provide best practices on migration management from a European perspective to 16 cities in the MENA region and was achieved through intensive dialogue between the cities and all relevant actors (central government bodies, private sector and selected civil society organisations).

The idea of 'brain drain' was introduced as early as the 1970s by economist Jagdish Bhagwati. It consists of taxing five to ten qualified migrants settled in host countries and paying the proceeds of this tax to the countries of origin. One alternative is to require young graduates to work for a few years in their country of origin after completing their studies, and one of the alternatives is to require young graduates to work for a few years in their country of origin after completing their studies. (KATEB, 2019, p. 9)

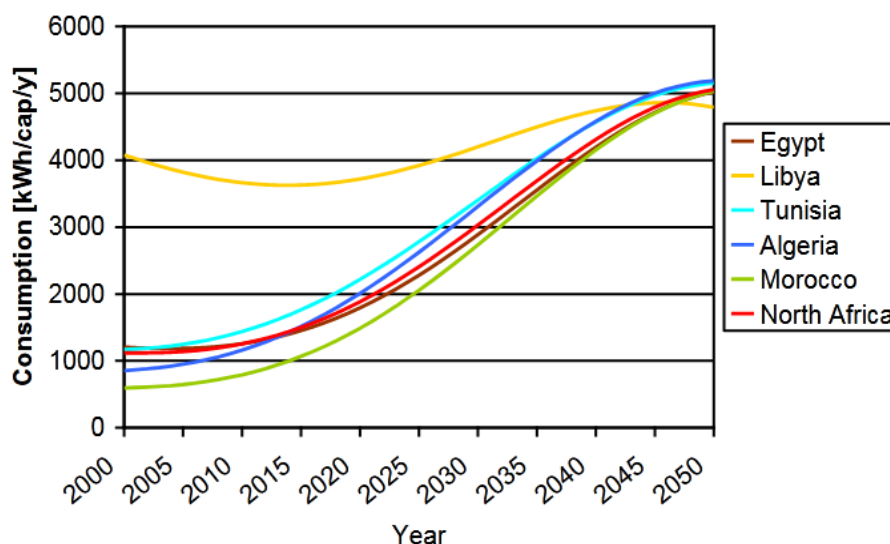
- The total budget allocated to ENPAD projects in the Southern Mediterranean is €6.8 million in addition to €63 million for comprehensive pilot programmes in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. (the EU official)
- The €1.8 billion Stabilisation and Addressing the Root Causes of Illegal Migration Trust Fund is the result of contributions from the EU budget and the European Development Fund. (the EU web site)
- The establishment of a Mediterranean Environment Fund 2025 aimed at strengthening climate change resilience within the UfM's 2030 Strategy for the Mediterranean. (KATEB, p. 9)

Adopted in September 2017, the External Investment Plan (EIP) is a European scheme that aims to finance projects outside the EU. Over the period 2017-2020, it has been provided with €4.6 billion in equity - €3.1 billion for blended finance and €1.5 billion for guarantees - in order to finance investments totalling €46 billion. This mechanism has been renewed and amplified for the period from 2021 to 2027, totalling 60 billion. The European Fund for Sustainable Development (FEED), the main financial instrument of the EIP, was created by merging two regional 'blended finance' mechanisms in operation since 2007: The Investment Platform for Africa (PIA) and the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) (Kateb)

At a time when China is openly courting the African continent, outgoing European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, in his State of the Union address in September 2018, called for a 'new alliance between Africa and Europe' that would be based on 'sustainable investments and jobs.' The EU-Africa summit in November 2017 in Abidjan insisted on the need to 'equip young people with the skills and opportunities they need by mobilising smart and targeted investments. Previously, the November 2017 EU-African Union summit in Abidjan insisted on the need to 'equip young people with the skills and opportunities they need by mobilising smart and targeted investments. (KATEB A. , 2019, p. 1)

Among the most promising investments for Maghreb youth is the renewable energy sector, where projects partly financed through 'green bonds' have enabled the emergence of national pioneers such as the NAREVA Group.

Figure 1 shows Europe and North Africa's energy co-operation from 2000 to 2050.



Source.....

According to projections, Europe will import 15% of its electricity needs from solar energy in 2029. The three Maghreb countries integrated into the European electricity grid (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) can offer viable economic and technical solutions, and the desire for joint sustainable development with the creation of more than 200,000 jobs spread across the two shores can be realised in a project to export 20 to 24 GW of electricity. This is equivalent to 50 billion cubic metres per year of natural gas. (Mebtou, 2011, p. 36)

The Mediterranean Digital Interconnection across the Mediterranean Sea (MEDUSA) is an ambitious project. A submarine cable system with 16 landing points connecting four North African countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt) and five European countries (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Cyprus), the new system, supported under the Southern Mediterranean Economic and Investment Plan with an EU grant of 40 million euros, is scheduled to be operational by 2026. (Várhelyi, 2023)

c. Promoting human rights and activating the roles of civil society:

SAFIR, a co-financing programme with the European Union, is an ambitious programme dedicated to youth and sustainable development goals in 9 countries of North Africa and the Middle East. The purpose of this programme is to support more than 1000 young men and women entrepreneurs with social, cultural or environmental impact, as well as to create a regional environment aimed at fostering dialogue between youth and public authorities.

The Safir programme accompanies 21 civil society organisations to upgrade their training techniques in order to advocate for the achievement of the SDGs and 7 local business incubators that the programme links together to contribute to the creation of a regional guide to accompany innovative social entrepreneurship, with a regional study and two case studies on the impact of culture on democratic processes. (the Sphere Ecosystem)

The creation of the UJEM, Union des Jeunes Euro-Maghrébins, which brings together many young people from the Maghreb countries and tries to promote the building of a Maghreb unity that unites freedom of movement and exchanges, defending a Euro-Maghreb partnership based on mutual respect and solidarity, rejecting the cycle of dependency and promoting mutual enrichment as well as the practice of political and cultural pluralism. Recognising the challenges of the future, UJEM intends to promote the unity of the Maghreb region and build bridges between Maghreb youth and Europe. (EU website)

The issue of women's empowerment has been one of the main themes of political reform within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership since the Barcelona Declaration. From 19 to 21 May 2015 in Barcelona, the UfM organised the Second Conference on Women's Economic Participation in which participants discussed how to overcome the main obstacles to women's full economic participation and solutions to enhance synergies and

The EU attaches great importance to strengthening the role of civil society in creating an inclusive and open domestic political landscape in the southern neighbourhood, increasing support to NGOs and establishing consultative forums to promote a more structured dialogue between the EU and CSOs. In order to implement its commitment, the EU promoted in 2013 the creation of the Mediterranean Civil Society Facility (MCSF) activated in 2023 to deepen EU engagement. The MCSF provides a structure for open and sustainable dialogue between local civil society, authorities and the EU.

Given the rich cultural, social and political landscape of the Maghreb countries, the Mediterranean Civil Society Facility reaches out to a wide network across the southern neighbourhood and its trainings and working groups aim to create entry points for local civil society to influence and design EU programmes in the region. (<https://bitly.cx/nRiiC>)

In 2019, the MEDPRO project provided an in-depth analysis of development and human rights issues in the Maghreb. The project analysed the current situation and future development in the key areas of socio-economic development, gender issues, sustainable development, human capital, education and skills development within the framework of strengthening Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in accordance with the 2030 Strategy. (<https://bitly.cx/43mX>)

The 1.8€ billion Trust Fund for Stabilisation and Addressing the Root Causes of Illegal Migration and Displacement in Africa, including the Maghreb countries, is the result of contributions from the EU budget, the European Development Fund, contributions from EU member states and other donors. The fund is targeted at African countries in transit or at the origin of migration and aims to help prevent irregular migration flows. These efforts naturally fall under policies to address the causes of destabilisation, forced displacement and irregular migration by promoting equal economic opportunity, security and development. (Boulby & Christie, 2018, p. 10)

The future of Euro-Maghreb co-operation to face regional and international crises and challenges:

a. Euro-Maghreb food security sustainability projects in the shadow of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

With increasing food insecurity and acute hunger, the entire continent of Africa is on the brink of a humanitarian crisis that will affect 174 million people. The economic and trade interdependence between the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the Maghreb region remains a source of concern showing how the Ukrainian-Russian crisis is affecting trade in general and increasing the prices of food, fertiliser and crude oil in particular globally. Armed conflicts are a major driver of food insecurity; the current war between Russia and Ukraine has created a new state of food insecurity and has highlighted the ability of countries and individuals to secure. Because of the interdependence between the MENA and European economies, Euro-Mediterranean co-operation is particularly important with regard to food security. The idea is to develop a grand regional strategy for food security that defines a roadmap to enable the most vulnerable segments of the population to access food.

At the EU level, France announced the FARM initiative in spring 2022. The three pillars of this initiative are: Mitigating trade tensions in agricultural markets, solidarity with Ukraine, and strengthening productive capacity in countries affected by the food crisis. Before the war, annual EU food aid (from the European Commission and individual EU countries) generally ranged from €1 billion to €1.4 billion (from 2016 to 2021). In late June 2022, the EU allocated €600 million in aid for food security, including €150 million in humanitarian aid and €350 million for medium- and long-term investment to support local agricultural production. (Zachmann, Weil, & Cramon-Taubadel, 2022, pp. 21,22)

The European Union and its member states are the largest provider of development aid globally. The EU has made significant efforts to align its support with growing and urgent needs. In June 2022, EU countries supported an €8 billion commitment for the period 2020-2024 for food security while in 2022 EU humanitarian funding grew by 32% compared to 2021, reaching €770 million. The

EU and its member states are also major donors to the World Food Programme (WFP). In addition, €225 million of the Food and Resilience Facility was made available to Southern Neighbourhood Partners in the Middle East and North Africa region. EU countries also contribute significantly to global food security by exporting a large part of their agricultural production to developing countries and more than half of EU wheat exports go to Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and Nigeria). (<https://bitly.cx/WVTJ>)

During the EU-Egypt Investment Conference, a grant agreement was signed for the construction of new wheat silos in Egypt. This Team Europe initiative, supported by a €60 million grant from the EU and implemented by the French Development Agency and the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade, aims to expand wheat storage capacity and enhance food security.

The EU is also intensifying its humanitarian support in response to growing needs and urgent calls from humanitarian agencies, providing around €2.5 billion in humanitarian food aid to the most vulnerable populations, along the humanitarian development and peace axis. This includes around €950 million in humanitarian aid for 2022 alone, representing a 60% increase compared to 2021. The EU has mobilised €395 million from emergency reserves for humanitarian aid to mitigate the most urgent humanitarian consequences. (Eu-Egypt strategic partnership, 2024)

The EU is also providing around €3.4 billion in 2021-2024 for medium-term investments in food security and sustainable food systems in partner countries, including an additional €350 million to promote sustainable food production in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The €350 million support is implemented through 20 local programmes with a common thread: Increasing sustainable food production while reducing dependence on unsustainable agricultural inputs. In the southern neighbourhood of the EU, the Food and Resilience Facility contributes for example to complementary programmes aimed at increasing local food production (Tunisia and Egypt), restoring cereal production potential or cereal storage capacity (Tunisia and Egypt), promoting organic farming, agricultural conservation and soil restructuring (Morocco and Tunisia), more efficient use of water for agricultural purposes (Jordan) and developing organic agri-food businesses Algeria. (Global Food security, Strategic Communications, European Union)

b. The climate dilemma - materialising the green transition and promoting renewable energy projects.

Ongoing international debates on climate and environmental movements are raising public awareness of the risks faced by urban communities in countries neighbouring the Mediterranean Sea: Desertification is increasing, pollution of seas and coasts is increasing, consumption of limited resources and energy is increasing

with population growth, the extent to which simultaneous progress is made on the so-called 'triple challenge' of balancing food security and nutrition, livelihoods and environmental sustainability especially in light of the systematic impact of mega-events - such as the COVID-19 pandemic. such as the COVID-19 pandemic to envisage different scenarios of climate change in the near future for the Maghreb region, scenarios that trigger a sustainable development approach and expand social and environmental impact assessments just as green bonds have helped accelerate renewable energy financing.

The EU and Algeria have developed a lasting and structural cooperation in the field of energy, which has become of paramount importance in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war. Since 2015, the EU-Algeria Strategic Energy Partnership seeks to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, which will help the partners fulfil their commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change. (<https://bitly.cx/HLBW>)

According to Silvia Crispini, Policy Officer at DG Climate, the EU Commission's expert panel concluded that EU financial support to the region to combat the effects of climate change is necessary but must be restructured to ensure that EU projects are mutually beneficial to partners, promote stronger climate and governance ambitions, and have greater local penetration.

To deal with the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure regional stability, the EU has offered Mediterranean partners an economic and investment package promoting a 'green, digital, resilient and equitable recovery' The plan includes €7 billion from the EU's international aid fund and up to €30 billion in private and public investments from the EU and its member states In 2021, the EU pledged to allocate at least 30 per cent of its international aid to climate action. This means that at least €2.1bn of EU aid funds for the Mediterranean region, including the Maghreb countries, part of which is used to address climate change and water security. (Ferrando, April 2022, p. 10)

Megan Ferrando argues that the Climate Action Plan recognises the importance of protecting natural resources and making food systems more sustainable, as well as the challenge that climate change poses to Maghreb countries, which is a good starting point, as it indicates that the EU recognises that these issues need to be dealt with together but the Climate Action Plan fails to recognise how to deal with seemingly contradictory objectives, such as expanding trade and economic growth on the one hand, protecting ecosystems and sustainable food systems on the other and does not discuss the negative impacts that expanding trade may have on protecting these ecosystems. (Ferrando, p. 12)

The EU also fails to take a truly coherent approach. The MEP programme focuses primarily on investing in capacity and green transformations in partner countries, but ignores how other policies may deplete the natural resources of its partners. (Ferrando, p. 13)

In the context of its co-operation strategy, the EU should adopt dedicated water and climate policies for the Maghreb region, in consultation with regional partners, and the EU and its Member States should continue the important investment they are already making in helping Maghreb partners to develop solutions that contribute to water security, such as improving irrigation systems, developing drought-resistant crops, repairing deficient water infrastructure, and investing in alternative water sources such as desalination technology. In parallel to these efforts, the EU should also further support the efforts of Maghreb governments and civil society to raise awareness of the value and scarcity of water among citizens in the region.

Conclusion:

The study concludes by confirming some of the findings as follows:

- The countries of the Maghreb region have realised that the EU focuses more on attracting talent according to its economic needs, which leads to the impoverishment of the region instead of contributing to its prosperity.
- The study showed by tracing the contradictory and fragmented policies that the EU focused more on the security aspect and combating illegal immigration and terrorism at the expense of development projects directed to the Maghreb countries, which dominated the funding available for EU cooperation in this context. The Arab uprisings and their repercussions did not change the EU's basic approach.
- Satisfaction was not the prominent feature of the Maghreb youth, but there was also a growing wave of criticism due to the failure of many government policies in the Maghreb countries, which led to the deterioration of the economy and the decline of development despite the efforts made.
- The weak role of the European Union in managing the Corona crisis within the framework of health cooperation, and this needs to be conditional on managing the post-Corona phase in the future with broader environmental, economic and social projects.
- If the EU really wants to support its partners in the Maghreb, it needs to rethink how its future policies, as well as those of EU member states, may perpetuate unsustainable practices.

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