

EuroMeSCo Working Group on Governance

The European-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMeSCo) is a network of independent institutes and research centers, which deal with subjects related to security, foreign policy and international affairs. PASSIA was one of the founding members in February 1994. Currently, EuroMeSCo is composed of 35 members and 8 observers from 27 countries of the European-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) area. Owing to its membership and the topics researched and discussed within the network, EuroMeSCo functions both as a confidence-building measure and a provider of expertise in areas of relevance to the EMP. Within the network, working groups are set up to conduct research on certain issues, the findings of which are regularly discussed in workshops organized and hosted by one of the member institutes.

The EuroMeSCo working group *Issues of Governance* is a cooperative undertaking launched in 2001 and led since by PASSIA of Palestine and the Berlin-based Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) of Germany. The idea of this cooperation was based on the fact that promotion of governance is an acknowledged goal of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. The project focuses on three broad topics - Civil Society, the Role of Institutions, and the Rule of Law - and consists of two main components – research and working group meetings, with contributions from individual researchers in various EMP countries.

Format and Contents

As part of the research component the project aims at analyzing and explaining why and how governance-related issues should be dealt with within the EMP context, how institutions (government agencies, civil society organizations and private sector) and individuals understand the processes of decision- and policy-making, how prevailing laws and policies effect their behavior, and how they participate in the process of policy formulation. In addition, means and instruments that could be employed to reach the common goals will be discussed. The research component includes the establishment of a database on experts and expertise in the field of 'Governance' from within the EMP (institutions and individuals), which will be made accessible to all members.

Besides coordinating meetings between the lead institutes on project related activities, the workshop component consist of a series of working group meetings in which research papers and other relevant issues related to civil society and governance are discussed, recommendations are made and guiding principles for decision makers and other actors are developed.



Activities in 2003

■ COORDINATION MEETINGS OF THE LEAD INSTITUTES

25 May 2003, PASSIA, Jerusalem

Directors' Meeting

Participants: Dr. Volker Perthes, Dr. Muriel Asseburg, and Bettina Huber from SWP; Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Deniz Altayli, and Elise Aghazarian from PASSIA.

The meeting discussed project prospects, activities and the remaining working plan for 2003.

21 September 2003, Dublin

Directors' Meeting

Participants: Dr. Volker Perthes, Dr. Muriel Asseburg, and Bettina Huber from SWP; Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, and Hijazi Natsheh from PASSIA.

The meeting examined and assessed the achievements of the project to date and discussed impending activities, such as producing and publishing the final report.

■ WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

23-24 May 2003, PASSIA, Ramallah

CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Organized by: SWP, Berlin & PASSIA, Jerusalem

Participants: Volker Perthes, Head of the Middle East and Africa Division, SWP, Berlin; Muriel Asseburg, Senior Researcher, Middle East and Africa Department, SWP Berlin; Bettina Huber, Research Associate and EuroMeSCo Coordinator, Middle East and Africa Department, SWP, Berlin; Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Head of PASSIA, Jerusalem; Deniz Altayli, Program Director, PASSIA, Jerusalem; Elise Aghazarian, Researcher, Coordinator of Governance Projects, PASSIA, Jerusalem; Anders Hellner, Program Director, Swedish Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), Sweden; Ulrich Wurzel, University of Applied Sciences (FHTW), Berlin; Iyad Masrouji, Managing Director, Masrouji Trading Company, Ramallah; Sam Bahour, Businessman and Writer, Al-Bireh; Hisham Awartani, Center for Private Sector Development, Nablus; Hassan Barari, Center for Strategic Studies (CSS), University of Jordan, Amman.

PROGRAM:

23 May 2003

Arrival

Welcoming Dinner, Ambassador Hotel

24 May 2003

- 9:30 – 10:30 **Introduction & Opening**
 Volker Perthes, *Director, SWP, Middle East Program, Berlin*
 Mahdi Abdul Hadi, *Head of PASSIA, Jerusalem*
- 10:30 - 11:00 **Session I:**
Civil Society and Economic Development in the Southern Mediterranean - The Impact of Socio-Political Structures on Technological Modernization, Investment, Competitiveness and Economic Growth
 Prof. Ulrich Wurzel, *University of Applied Science (FHTW), Berlin*
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30 - 12:30 *Discussion*
- 12:30 - 14:30 Lunch Break
- 14:30 - 15:00 **Session 2:**
The Palestinian Private Sector - Role and Relations within the Civil Society Context
 Iyad Masrouji, *Managing Director, Masrouji Trading Company, Ramallah*, and Sam Bahour, *Businessman and Writer, Ramallah*
- 15:00 - 16:00 *Discussion*
- 16:00 - 16:30 Break
- 16:30 – 18:00 *Discussion with Palestinian Civil Society Activists About the Current Situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.*

19-20 September 2003, Institute of European Affairs, Europe House, Dublin

GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETYOrganized by: SWP, Berlin; PASSIA, Jerusalem, and the IEA, DublinParticipant(s): Volker Perthes, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin; Mahdi Abdul Hadi, PASSIA, Jerusalem, Palestine; Hijazi Natsheh, PASSIA, Jerusalem, Palestine; Niall Greene, Institute for European Affairs (IEA), Dublin; Muriel Asseburg, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP); Bettina Huber, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP); Salah Abdul Shafi, Gaza Community Mental Health Program, Gaza, Palestine; Salam Kawakibi, Institut Francais du Proche-

Orient (IFPO) Aleppo, Syria; Hassan Barari, Center for Strategic Studies (CSS), University of Jordan, Amman.

PROGRAM:

19 September 2003

Arrival

Welcoming Dinner, Ambassador Hotel

20 September 2003

9:30 – 10:00

Opening

Niall Greene, *Institute of European Affairs, Dublin*

Volker Perthes, *Director, SWP, Middle East Program, Berlin*

Mahdi Abdul Hadi, *Head of PASSIA, Jerusalem*

10:00 - 12:00

Session I: Governance, Civil Society & the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) in the Mashrek

The Role of Civil Society in the Emergence of a New Political Elite in Palestine

Salah Abdul Shafi, *Gaza Community Mental Health Program, Gaza*

L'émergence d'une société civile en Syrie et le partenariat euro-méditerranéen (The Emergence of Civil Society in Syria and the EMP)

Salam Kawakibi, *Institut Francais du Proche-Orient (IFPO) Aleppo, Syria*

12:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 15:30

Discussion

15:30-16:00

Coffee Break

16:00-17:00

Summary of Working Group Work & Outlook

Governance and Civil Society in the EMP: An Outline of the Final Report

Bettina Huber, *German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin*

17:00-17:30

Closing Remarks

Niall Greene, *Institute of European Affairs, Dublin*

Volker Perthes, *Director, SWP, Middle East Program, Berlin*

Mahdi Abdul Hadi, *Head of PASSIA, Jerusalem*