Condensed Summary: Youth and Local Government as Partners in Security?

To whom it may concern:

The following written work is a condensed draft, and thus data is compressed and key points remain unelaborated. For any further questions or research guidance, please contact the author.

Youth in the MENA Region: Literature Review - human & national security in the MENA region and European Union – impacts on European (dis)integration and security. How to foster security in terms of ‘Shared responsibility’ (-> security through human development)

The following paper opens with a summary of the recent social and political developments across the Mediterranean shores, and provides an overview of the implication of these developments for European security. Pursuing with a shortened repetition of the problem analysis of the last seminar on this topic and a short discourse of the Youth approach as a crucial factor of transition and security, this paper ends up with some implemented projects and a short conclusion.

This paper aims to provide theoretical and empirical foundations conducive to the development of policy recommendations. In addition, a review of contemporary literature will be provided.

Introduction

According to UNHCR data, the forcibly displaced population worldwide increased from 65.6 million in 2016 to 68.5 million individuals by the end of the year 2017. This grown global number is a result of violence, conflict, and persecution. Including 25.4 million refugees (divided in 19.9 million refugees under UNHCR’s mandate and 5.4 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA’s mandate), 40.0 million internally displaced people, 3.1 asylum-seekers (cf. UNHCR 2017, p.2). This significant increase is defined as ‘world record’ (cf. Kolb 2018).

68% of all refugees worldwide fleeing from Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia (cf. UNHCR 2017, p.3). Emphasizing that especially developing regions or countries hosted 85% of the world’s refugees (cf. ibid. p.2). In this respect, the main countries of asylum for refugees were: Turkey, Pakistan, Uganda, Lebanon, Islamic Republic of Iran, Germany, Bangladesh, and Sudan (cf. ibid. p.3). Within this list, Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees compared to its national population. Followed by Joran and Turkey (cf. UNHCR 2017, p. 2, 3).

About half of the refugee population in 2017, as well as in 2016 (cf. UNHCR 2018), are Children below the age of 18 years (cf. UNHCR 2017, p. 3).

European level & German approach: Referring to the world refugee day on 20th of June 2018, following some key points of Angela Merkel speech. She pointed out, that the number of 68.5 million people who are fleeing is the highest figure since World war two. Migration as a global issue challenges Europe to regain cohesion and solidarity. Therefore a common asylum and migration policy consists of an inner and extra European dimension. In doing so it is necessary to strengthen peace and stability in the countries of origin and foster democracy, the rule of law, education and employment options. To deal with or solve a crises hard power only is insufficient. Unless it will be combined with soft power and comprehensive development policy and humanitarian aid. Therefore she emphasized the link between this two measures with the words: ‘There is no development without security – and no security without development.’ (Merkel 2018).
Referring to German news landscape and in particular to Europe, the migration policy seems to dominate the actual discourse. The EU, or rather more the member states, have problems finding common sense concerning this phenomenon of globalization -> migration. In retrospective it is not a new issue, it is a very common one - looking back in history (e.g. Hungary 1956 etc.), current legal migration inside the EU and a lacking exchange to the EU.

The Visegrad countries¹ (V4) and some other social economic challenged EU-member states illustrate their lacking abilities and capabilities in terms of integration and guaranteeing human rights and mainly focusing on European security measures.

The European cohesion and identity process seems to be quite closely connected with a common solution for migration-, asylum- and European security policies. Concerning this issue, the Global strategy of the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy emphasizes an integrated approach (EU 2016, p.11).

The nexus between security and development is further explained in the European Global strategy as follows: ‘Internal and external security are ever more intertwined: our security at home entails a parallel interest in peace in our neighboring and surrounding regions. It implies a broader interest in preventing conflict, promoting human security, addressing the root causes of instability and working towards a safer world.’ (EU 2016, p.14).

**MENA-region:** After the uprising in 2011, the insecurity in the MENA-region is constantly rising, the socio-economic environment gets worse and the high share of young people are faced with an inauspicious economic outlook (cf. UNDP 2016, p. 22). In the MENA region, 30% of the population is between 15 and 29 (cf. ibid.). Unfortunately, the lack of future opportunities within a growing population and unemployment the local government provides no perspectives. This fact tempts young people to search for a better future in neighboring countries like the more developed Gulf region, North America and in particular Europe, as the closest destination, associated with democratic freedom and social economic possibilities. Also, Europe needs to cope with this, especially reasoned by own failures in the MENA region in the past, e.g. restricted market access or rather market foreclosure and an extensive supporting of autocratic regimes (cf. Fuertig 2013).

Additionally, this region is challenged with providing essential support for refugees (cf. UNHCR 2017, p.2,3). Despite the labile social and political environment and challenging circumstances in this area, it opens up the question, if there might be the opportunity of change or rather a transition. In UNDP’s 2016 report on youth empowerment, youth in the MENA region were identified as the main agents of transformative change in Arab countries (cf. UNDP 2016, p.21).

Furthermore, how can the EU and related actors of the MENA-region in terms of ‘Shared responsibility’ turn potential risks or security challenges into opportunities for both sides?

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**Repetition: Problem analysis:**

Four outputs of the last seminar:

1. demographic change in the MENA-region -> integrated approach (human & national security)
2. goals and means of current programs
3. prognosis, if the status quo of current programs persists further

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¹ The Visegrad group or abbreviated V4 encompasses Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic (cf. bpb quoted after Lippert 2013).
4. policy recommendations

Challenges: Demographic transition, current youth bulge, poor resources concerning infrastructure in the MENA region, a potential risk for European security (migration, radicalization, and terrorism);

Or opportunity? (Europe’s shortage in qualified workers, possible transferring of human capital, if people return to their home states-> contribution to the development of the MENA region and shaping a better (economic) cooperation between the EU and MENA (cf. Roloff et al. 2018).

⇒ 3 platforms: MENA region, EU and the cooperation of both in particular-> ‘Shared responsibility’
⇒ conclusion: Two important stakeholders for Security partnerships: the youth & local governance – focus: Reanimation of Institutions and empowering the youth

The Youth on both shores

To put the word Youth in concrete terms, it can be described as the period from childhood to adulthood or referring to the statistical definition of the UN as an age of an individual between 15-24 years (cf. UNDP 2016, p.22). Within the resolution 2250 of the Security Council, the term Youth has been defined as an individual’s age between 18 through 29 (cf. UN Security Council 2015). Another definition emphasizes the period from 15 to 29 and offers a more regional specialized approach (cf. Middle East Youth Initiative quoted after UNDP 2016, p.22). Overall, to describe or define Youth or the term MENA-region many different perceptions and sources can be found and are varying in a certain aspect.

Nevertheless, the category Youth has become more attention in global politics especially with regard to a growing youthful generation in the MENA-region and the danger of youth unemployment and marginalization (cf. Pioppi 2018, p. 325). Furthermore, the challenging period from childhood to adolescence, a transition in itself, is crucial in terms of developing independence and autonomy as well as strengthening abilities (cf. UNDP 2016,p.25). Additional social, political and economic deficits and deprivations (e.g. poverty, exclusion, economic stagnation, conflict, war) in this time may cause negative consequences when they become older and affect their families and whole communities (cf. ibid.). This vulnerable process of growing up and impacts of the social environment (or socio-political circumstances) are quite important out of the point of a human development perspective (cf. ibid.).

After the revolutionary movements of the Youth in 2010/11 against some authoritarian regimes in the Arab countries, the Youth has been associated with a positive and a negative narrative. On one hand as a threat to social stability in terms of unemployment and on the other hand as transformative power or so called as ‘inner progressive spirit as the engine for positive regional change’ (Pioppi 2018, p. 325 quoted after AHDR 2016).

2 The MENA-region can encompass the following countries, like: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territory, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, The United Arab Emirates and Yemen (cf. Roudi 2011, p.2).

3 In Egypt, the youth unemployment rate was more than 43% in 2015 (cf. BMZ 2017, p.16).
Different perceptions: (MENA)-Youth as...

- a multiplying and decisive factor: ‘It is youth who often translate broader social problems into an explosive and radicalizing mixture’ (UNDP 2016, p.22).
- innovative and resilient agent: ‘(... Youth themselves become resolute actors in the process of change.”(UNDP 2016, p.25; omission:M.H.).
- transformative agent: ‘Youth has emerged as a catalyzing force for change in societies.’ (UNDP 2016, p. 21). In terms of Egypt, some scientists combine youth activism with a positive attitude and as a progressive movement to encounter authoritarian regimes. This emerged dynamic is mainly driven by the Exclusion and Control of Youthfulness (cf. Sika 2017 and Tohamy 2016 quoted after Pioppi 2018, p.326/327).
- an indicator: ‘the Youth are the most relevant indicator of a healthy country’ (EuroMed Non-Governmental Platform 2016)
- criminals: ‘(…) narrative of juvenile radicalism and of the youth as a potential security threat’ (Pioppi 2018, p. 327; omission:M.H.).
- objects: ‘Many of those who commit violence are victimized by depraved adults who abuse youthful innocence.’ (Ban Ki-Moon quoted after UNDP 2016, p. 42).

Concerning this contradictory perceptions Pioppi asks a substantial question if the youth can be recognized as a collective political actor? (cf. Pioppi 2018, p.326). She argues that the Youth itself is diverse and especially the inequality in societies (e.g. Egypt) is problematic as well. Therefore she emphasizes different kinds of youth or rather more different social backgrounds, which may lead them to different (re)actions. The urban and middle-class Youth may focus on a progressive change, whereas the Youth living in slums struggling with unemployment and are more affine to radicalism (cf. ibid. p. 327). The Youth is heterogeneous and their socioeconomic backgrounds differ within and across countries (cf. UNDP 2016, p. 22). Therefore regional analysis can provide more information (cf. ibid.).

Bearing in mind that the UNDP refers to a very crucial aspect, which is also mentioned in transition and elite theory. Thereby a transition can only be fulfilled with a consensus of the elites of the country (cf. Uni source). ‘Social change is not engineered by youth, but it is most manifest among youth, who must be at the center of any movement forward in the Arab countries.’ (UNDP 2016, p.22). Therefore the local government as an essential actor needs to create a comprehensive reform (cf. ibid. p. 25) or to get to the point the ‘reform must be political’ (UNDP 2016, p. 25). The result after five years of the Arab spring is that in some Arab countries (e.g. Syria, Libya, Yemen, and Iraq, except Tunisia) autocrats regained their power by means of violent repression escalating in civil wars, terrorism and an additional deterioration of the socio-economic situation (cf. Rosiny and Richter 2016). In respect of this challenging circumstances Perthes emphasizes that Europe should be more cooperative concerning MENA-societies in transition/transforming MENA-societies, who share the same values of freedom, justice, and human dignity (cf. Perthes 2012 quoted after Matschke 2017, p. 65/66).

Therefore the central approach of the Arab Human Development Report (ADHR) focuses on Empowering Youth and tries to find solutions for an enabling and inclusive environment for the MENA-Youth (cf. UNDP 2016, p. 25/26).

Not finished:

- ‘Positive change can only be home-grown, and may take years to materialize.’ (EU 2016, p. 27).
Empowering the Youth – bottom-up-approach: (Youth in Europe and MENA-region)

- How to reach the Youth and in particular social disadvantaged young people? (e.g. with limited access to universities?). For instance, the Project “Young Arab Voices” (YAV) addresses young people from different social and geographical backgrounds.

- **How to address youth:** MENA youth and EU youth (exchange and prevention of extremism)

  ➔ Concerning the Global strategy, the EU counters terrorism with a preemptive approach also addressed to Youth. ‘We will deepen work on education, communication, culture, youth, and sport to counter violent extremism. We will work on counter-radicalization by broadening our partnerships with civil society, social actors, the private sector and the victims of terrorism, as well as through inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue.’ (EU 2016, p.21).

  ➔ ‘Societal links will also be strengthened through enhanced mobility, cultural and educational exchanges, research cooperation and civil society platforms. Full participation in EU programmes and agencies will be pursued alongside strategic dialogue with a view to paving the way for these countries further involvement in CSDP’. (EU 2016, p. 25). ->, For instance, the Anna Lindh Foundation provides a cultural exchange.

- Furthermore, regarding migration management, the EU engages in international cooperation within the UN agencies, regional organizations, local communities and civil society in terms of shared global responsibilities and solidarity (cf. EU 2016, p.28) and ensures possibilities for human mobility (EU 2016, p.27).


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**Visions & Missions**

On an abstract level, the EU is aiming to strengthen the resilience of the surrounding regions because of the link between resilience and security as well as the result of this dynamic (cf. EU 2016, p.23). ‘A resilient state is a secure state, and security is key for prosperity and democracy’ (EU 2016, p. 23). Resilience is defined as ‘the ability of states and societies to reform, thus withstanding and recovering from internal and external crises’ (EU 2016, p.23). This concept includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aims to reach a broader audience of all individuals (ibid. p.24). As mentioned above the two actors, like states and the society needs to become resilient. The Global Strategy of the EU addresses also marginalized groups: ‘We will nurture societal resilience also by deepening work on education, culture, and youth to foster pluralism, coexistence, and respect. (…). We will fight poverty and inequality, widen access to public services and social security, and champion decent work opportunities, notably for women and youth.’ (ibid. p. 26: omission: M.H.). Within this resilience approach of the EU, the SDGs are crucial in terms of guaranteeing sustainable security (cf. ibid. p.23/24).

Concerning the ‘shared responsibility’ aspect, which is also mentioned in the Agenda 2030 (adopted in Sept. 2015) and implies that global challenges can only be faced with co-operation and common solutions.

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4 CSDP= Common Security & Defense Policy.
Especially sustainable development and social justice are targeted. The core of this agenda is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN. These objectives are indivisible and interdependent as well as focused on the “five P’s: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership” (BMZ). This agenda aims to integrate weak actors in particular with the vision and mission - leaving no one behind - (cf. BMZ).^5

Following, main objectives of some projects are ranged in the list of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with regard to the thought ‘we don’t have to re-invent the wheel’.

**UN – sustainable development GOALS**

1.  **No poverty**
2.  **Zero hunger**
3.  **Good health & well-being**
4.  **Quality education**
5.  **Gender equality**
6.  **Clean water & sanitation**
7.  **Affordable & clean energy**
8.  **Decent work & economic growth**
9.  **Industry, innovation & infrastructure**
10. **Reduced inequalities**
11. **Sustainable cities & communities**
12. **Responsible consumption & production**
13. **Climate action**
14. **Life below water**
15. **Life & land**
16. **Peace, justice & strong institutions**
17. **Partnerships for the goals**

(United Nations – Department of Public Information)

- The EuroMed Non-governmental Platform/Reseau EuroMed France (REF) provides an intergenerational meeting and discussion about four topics (employment, citizenship, mobility, and freedom of expression and creation) to improve the deteriorated situation of the Youth in the MENA region. In particular themes like the Youth’s access to employment and training, Youth mobility, citizenship, Youth participation etc. (cf. EuroMed Non-governmental Platform 2016). --> **SDGs: no. 4. 8. 10. 11.**

- The project ‘Beschaeftigungsoffensive Nahost oder Cash for Work’ des BMZ (initiated by the German government at the Syrian conference in February 2016) offers Syrian refugees and locals job opportunities to earn money in Jordan, North Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey. Furthermore, Education, job training, and opportunities, repairing of infrastructure and reconstruction (cf. BMZ 19.06.18). Achieved outcomes in this area (cf. ibid.). --> **SDGs: no. 1.2.4.6.8.9.11**

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^5 For further information see e.g. Implementation reports High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
• The organization “Terre de hommes” provides Integration-support for Syrian refugee families in the neighboring countries/communities (Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, Syria) due to growing challenges inside these host countries. As well as education of child-protection-standards and especially trauma therapy for children and their families in the countries mentioned above (cf. BMZ 2017, p. 36 and Terres de Hommes e.V.) -> SDGs: no. 3.4.10.16.17.

• OECD-MENA business forum -> Empowering Women in Business (cf. OECD 2010) -> SDGs: no. 4

• The regional programme called “Young Arab Voices” (YAV) empowers young people across the Arab region (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia) to debate and is aimed to develop their soft skills. This programme is organized within the cooperation of schools, universities, and NGOs and has been established by the Anna Lindh Foundation and British Council. This institution provides also education and training in terms of an active and intercultural citizenship, religious diversity and a common history approach (cf. Anna Lindh Foundation). -> SDGs: no. 4.10.16.17.

Conclusion

Overall in an interdepend & interconnected world, it seems to be necessary to find common ground within understanding each other and keeping us apart from separate national approaches. Therefore in a globalized world Isolation is no solution. To address European security Merkel and Mogherini emphasizing the necessity of hard and soft power (cf. EU 2016, p.4, 49/50 and Merkel 2018). Thereby the EU handles both approaches to foster European security⁶, working together with countries of origin and transit to improve the situation of refugees and migrants, reform the common European asylum system, improves regular options for human mobility (cf. EU 2016, p.27/28) and provides comprehensive support regarding development aid and policy (cf. EU 2016, p.36). For instance, the EU Trust Fund for Africa contributes to better and human rights orientated migration management (cf. European Commission 2018).

Concerning a better management of migration the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants⁷ and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)⁸ is in the process (cf. Merkel 2018). It contains the duty of the UN-members to protect human rights, addresses the root causes of forced displacement within supporting of host and conflict countries as well as ensuring a secure, ordered and regular migration or rather better migration management on the basis of shared responsibility (cf. UNHCR 2017a, p.5).

As Merkel points out ‘It’s always about sharing responsibility.’ (Merkel 2018).

Moreover much more attention and Empowerment needs to be drawn to the integration and protection of women, who are even more confronted with a challenging and exclusive situation in the Arab countries (cf. UNDP 2016, p. 28).

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⁶ Cf. EU 2016, p. 10,11.
⁷ Further information to the New York Declaration, see: https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/declaration
⁸ More information, cf. UNHCR 2017a,p.4.
Sources:

Anna Lindh Foundation (19.06.18): Young Arab Voice, see: [http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/young-arab-voices](http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/young-arab-voices) or [http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/anna-lindh-chair](http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/anna-lindh-chair), last access: 19.06.18.

BMZ (18.06.18): Internationale Ziele. Die Agenda 2030 fuer nachhaltige Entwicklung, see: [http://www.bmz.de/de/ministerium/ziele/2030_agenda/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/de/ministerium/ziele/2030_agenda/index.html), last access: 18.06.18.


United Nations – Department of Public Information (18.06.18): Sustainable Development Goals. 17 Goals to transform our World, see: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/, last access: 18.06.18.

Terres de Hommes e.V. (19.06.18): Hilfe fuer Kinder in Not. Wir helfen Kindern im Nahen Osten, see https://www.tdh.de/was-wir-tun/projekte/naher-osten.html, last access: 19.06.18.


Further information:

- **Mendez, Galvez Jorge/Rey, Marie-Estelle/O'Sullivan, Anthony** http://www.oecd.org/mena/49036903.pdf
- **IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Center** -> gmdac.iom.int/