Annual Meeting

Youth and Local Government as Partners in Security?

1-2 October 2018
Golden Bay Beach Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus

This meeting is organized in partnership with:

George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies
Gernackerstrasse 2, 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
Youth and Local Government as Partners in Security?

The Mediterranean Discourse on Regional Security

Insecurity in the MENA region has been growing significantly over the last two decades. In spite of tremendous efforts, the regional, national, and human security situation has only worsened; human security remains in an especially concerning condition.

*We have to face reality.* Put simply, “more of the same” actions will risk “more of the same” consequences: a continued and notably acute deterioration of security. It is imperative to develop new approaches to security around the Mediterranean. Faced with grave questions, we need to seek new answers. Fresh approaches can only emanate from innovative, out-of-the-box thinking.

Continuing the discourse

The 2017 Mediterranean Discourse on Regional Security concluded that trustful, meaningful security partnerships based on a vision of shared responsibility are crucial for fostering successful new approaches to security, be it on a regional, national or human level. The track record of regional security cooperation since the Arab Uprisings and the Migration and Refugee Crisis exhibit that an integrated approach based on common goals has been consistently rejected in the pursuit of national goals.

While the 2017 workshop of the Mediterranean Discourse on Regional Security highlighted the importance of a common vision of shared responsibility for security partnerships, the 2018 workshop will focus on how to translate this common vision into practice. Participants of the 2017 workshop identified a range of relevant issues in relation to shared responsibility; the 2018 workshop will address three of these topics, each of utmost importance for security around the Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean Discourse on Regional Security 2018 will be characterized by the pursuit of greater understanding of regional security around the Mediterranean, as well as by the drafting of decisive policy recommendations on how to empower local governance and youth in security partnerships.
Youth

In all MENA countries, the demographic majority is under 35. This generation experiences acute political and economic exclusion; they are, by and large, left feeling that there is no future for them in their respective countries. However, this generation will inevitably shape the human, national and perhaps regional security situation of tomorrow. Thus, the modality of their integration into the societies of today matters greatly. Although experienced less acutely on the northern shores, the young generation in many southern European countries faces similar evil, particularly unemployment. Therefore, one of the most urgent questions we must answer: How can youth play an effective role in security partnerships?

Local Government

Local governance is rarely addressed in deliberations about security, especially in regards to national and regional security. This is a grave error, particularly because the root causes of regional crises are often local. In this sense, the EU and its individual member states stress that solutions to the Migration and Refugee Crisis must address causal factors rooted in countries of origin.

Hence, the questions to be discussed will include: How can local actors share responsibility for security around the Mediterranean? How can solutions be construed and pursued locally?

Human Security and its Relevance for National and Regional Security

Over the past two decades, the significance of human security has gained consensus. However, contemporary security dilemmas across the MENA region suggest otherwise. Despite positive rhetoric, national and regional security interests are pursued at the expense of human security.

The 2018 workshop will focus on youth and local governance to offer fresh insights into the interrelationship between human and national/regional security.

What insights will be gained from discussions about security partnerships around the Mediterranean in regards to a common vision of shared responsibility?
Youth and Local Government as Partners in Security?

Sunday, 30 September 2018 – Arrivals

All day: Workshop participants arrive at Larnaca International Airport, transfer to Hotel

1730 - 1900: Buffet Dinner

1900 - 2000: Les Etoiles conference room – informal icebreaker

Monday, 1 October 2018 - Workshop Day 1

0700 - 0830: Breakfast (for Hotel guests only)

0900 - 0925: **Intro to the topics of the workshop**

  Dr. Petra Weyland (GCMC)

  Dr. Constantinos Adamides (Diplomatic Academy, University of Nicosia)

0925 - 0930: **Administrative Remarks**

  CPT Stefan F. Marks (GCMC)

0930 - 1030: **Introduction of the workshop topics:**

  - Human & National Security
  - Youth
  - Local governance

1030 - 1100: Coffee Break

1100 - 1200: **Working Group Session**

1200 - 1330: Lunch Break

1330 - 1530: **Working Group Session - Finalize Inputs to Joint Statement**

1530 - 1600: Coffee Break

1600 - 1700: **Working Group back brief**

  MDRS Group only

1830 - 2000: Dinner (for Hotel guests only)
Tuesday, 2 October 2018 - Workshop Day 2

0700 - 0830: Breakfast (for Hotel guests only)

0900 - 1030: Working Group Session - Finalize Briefings

1030 - 1100: Coffee Break
Marshall Center Alumni and Distinguished Visitors arrive

1100 - 1200: Plenary presentation of
• findings / recommendations
• final statement
  in attendance of distinguished speakers/visitors of afternoon panel and alumni / visitors

1200 - 1220: Distinguished Visitor Remarks
• Honorable Franz Josef Kremp, German Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus
• Senior Representative of USA Embassy Nicosia (TBC)

1220 - 1230: Workshop wrap-up
Dr. Petra Weyland (GCMC)
Dr. Constantinos Adamides (Diplomatic Academy, University of Nicosia)

1230 - 1330: Working Lunch: GCMC activities and opportunities
Ms. Donna Janca (GCMC)

1330 - 1500: Moderated panel: “What determines the success of security partnerships?”
• Dr. Mel McNulty (Political Advisor to the Commanding Officer of NATO Joint Forces Command Naples)
• Dr. Alexandros Lordos (Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development)
• Vice Mayor Lefteris Papagiannakis (Vice Mayor for Migrants, Refugees and Municipal Decentralization, City of Athens)

1500 - 1600: Hosted Reception
Opening remarks by Dr. Nikos Christodoulides (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Cyprus)

1600: End of Workshop

1830 - 2000: Dinner (for Hotel guests only)
Wednesday, 3 October 2018 - Departures

0700 - 1000: Breakfast

All day Workshop participants are transferred to Larnaca International Airport for departure.