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FORUM ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

A better
understanding of
the drivers and
impacts for forward-
looking policies and
programmes

29 MAY 2018
FAO's headquarters - ROME

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Forum on Agriculture, Rural Development and Migration in the Mediterranean

A Better Understanding of the Drivers and Impacts for Forward-looking Policies and Programmes

Sheik Zayed Center, FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy

29 MAY 2018

ABSTRACT - Most rural areas in the Mediterranean and beyond are characterised by migratory flows, which affect local economies, societies and agroecologies. This is significant for both the countries of origin and those of destination. The implications of this phenomenon are relevant in terms of food production, natural resource management, territorial integration, social protection, diasporas and inclusive development – with impacts on the overall sustainability and resilience of our society.

On 29 May 2018, at the Sherik Zayed Centre, FAO Headquarters in Rome, the CIHEAM, FAO, UfMS and EUI's Global Governance Programme jointly organised the Forum on Agriculture, Rural Development and Migration in the Mediterranean. The aim of the event was to discuss rural migration in the Mediterranean from the perspective of rural and agricultural development, to provide policy recommendations and establish a regional multi-stakeholder platform for decision-makers at different levels. The event brought together experts from international organisations, development cooperation agencies, research institutions, policy makers, field practitioners and civil society with the objective to support adequately informed national, regional and international political agendas.

The morning sessions focused on the patterns and drivers of rural migration in the Mediterranean region, as well as on the implications and impacts on both countries of origin and destination. The afternoon sessions were devoted to exchanging good practices and lessons learnt on how to harness the potential of migration for agricultural and rural development. This document reports the proceedings of the forum, together with the main conclusions and recommendations reached at different levels. The event has been organized under the Patronage of the *Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale*.

A complete collection of the event materials and presentations can be found on:

http://www.ciheam.org/en/news_and_events/conferences_seminars

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The **Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies**, created in 1992 and currently directed by Professor Brigid Laffan, aims to develop inter-disciplinary and comparative research on the major issues facing the process of European integration, European societies and Europe's place in 21st century global politics.

The Centre is home to a large post-doctoral programme and hosts major research programmes, projects and data sets, in addition to a range of working groups and ad hoc initiatives. The research agenda is organised around a set of core themes and is continuously evolving, reflecting the changing agenda of European integration, the expanding membership of the European Union, developments in Europe's neighbourhood and the wider world.

For more information: <http://eui.eu/rscas>

The **Global Governance Programme** is one of the flagship programmes of the Robert Schuman Centre. It is a community of outstanding professors and scholars that produces high quality research and engages with the world of practice through policy dialogue. Established and early-career scholars work on issues of global governance within and beyond academia, focusing on four broad and interdisciplinary areas: Global Economics, Europe in the World, Cultural Pluralism and Global Citizenship.

The Programme also aims to contribute to the fostering of present and future generations of policy and decision makers through its executive training programme: the Academy of Global Governance, where theory and 'real world' experience meet and where leading academics, top-level officials, heads of international organisations and senior executives discuss on topical issues relating to global governance.

The Cultural Pluralism Research area, directed by Prof. Anna Triandafyllidou, hosts major research projects, working groups and ad hoc initiatives including a major research project (www.pastres.org) on Pastoralism, Human Mobility and Resilience, led by Dr. Michele Nori.

For more information: <http://globalgovernanceprogramme.eui.eu>

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Founded in 1962, the **Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes (CIHEAM)** is a Mediterranean intergovernmental Organisation devoted to the sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries, food and nutrition security and rural and coastal areas. It is composed of 13 Member States (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) and operates in more than 50 countries through its 4 Institutes based in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France) and Zaragoza (Spain) and the Headquarters based in Paris.

CIHEAM's actions rely on a bottom-up collaboration and are problem-solving oriented, connected to the peculiar needs of the countries. With its Member States, public and private partners and academics the CIHEAM strive to meet the 4 following challenges: (1) Struggling against "triple waste" (Knowledge-Natural Resources-Food); (2) Boosting Sustainable Agriculture and Food; (3) Investing in new generations and fragile territories; (4) Preventing risks and managing tensions.

CIHEAM activities contribute to the development of a global, innovative and committed vision for the Mediterranean. The Organisation main fields of action are: Education and training; Research, networks and open knowledge platforms; Projects and technical assistance; Political dialogue and partnerships.

For more information: <http://www.ciheam.org/en/> | Facebook: www.facebook.com/CIHEAM.Organisation

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CIHEAM>

The **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** is the specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide with the aim of achieving food security for all and making sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

With its mission of ending food insecurity and malnutrition, eliminating poverty and promoting the sustainable management of natural resources, FAO is uniquely placed to support countries in addressing the rural dimensions of migration, its implications for rural populations, and its impact on the future of agriculture and food systems. In particular, FAO has an active role to play in working across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This involves integrating the rural and agricultural dimensions of migration into the core of the migration agenda and spurring greater coherence between migration policies and sectoral policies linked to agriculture and rural development. Together with its partners, FAO is currently expanding on its work to boost alternatives to migration in rural areas, while strengthening the positive contribution that migrants can make toward poverty reduction, improved food security and nutrition, and resilience of rural households.

For more information: <http://www.fao.org/migration/en/> & <http://www.fao.org/rural-employment/en/>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNFAO/?ref=mf |
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/faoknowledge> & <https://twitter.com/fao4members>

The **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)** is the intergovernmental Euro-Mediterranean organisation that brings together all 28 countries of the European Union and 15 countries from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. The UfM provides a forum to enhance regional cooperation and dialogue, as well as the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives with tangible impact on the citizens, with an emphasis on young people, in order to address the three strategic objectives of the region: stability, human development and integration.

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean is the platform to operationalise decisions taken by the Member States, implementing strategic regional projects through a specific methodology based on dynamic multi-partner networks and the exchange of best practices and innovative tools: more than 50 regional projects labelled by the Member States worth over €5 billion, mainly in the areas of inclusive growth, youth employability, women empowerment, student mobility, sustainable urban development and climate action.

For more information: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/>
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PROGRAMME

SHEIK ZAYED CENTER, FAO'S HEADQUARTERS, ROME, ITALY
29 MAY 2018

9:30 - 10:00: Opening session: *Welcome and introductory remarks*

- **Kostas Stamoulis**, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Dept., FAO
- **Gianni Bonini**, Vice-President, CIHEAM
- **Anna Triandafyllidou**, Professor, Global Governance Programme, EUI
- **Saïd Bhira**, Special Counsellor to the Secretary General, UfMS
- **Leonard Mizzi**, Head of Unit at European Commission, DG DEVCO
- **Luca Maestriperi**, Deputy Director General, General Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- **Leonardo Carmenati**, Director, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

I. Morning session: Understanding the drivers of migration in the Mediterranean from a rural and agricultural perspective

10:00 - 11:00 – 1st Roundtable: Migration patterns and drivers in the Mediterranean

MODERATOR: **Apostolos Papadopoulos**, Rural Sociologist, CIHEAM

TOPICS DISCUSSED

Rural migration patterns: definition of rural distress migration, migratory flows (origin, socioeconomic characteristics), migratory routes.

Drivers of rural migration in the Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan countries (unemployment, rural poverty, environmental degradation and constraints, conflicts).

SPEAKERS:

- **Paola Alvarez**, Migration and Development Specialist, International Organisation for Migration
- **Malika Abdelali-Martini**, Rural Development Specialist, Gender Officer, FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa
- **Alessandra Corrado**, Research Expert, University of Calabria
- **Audrey Lenoel**, National Institute for Demographic Studies
- **Mohammed Charef**, Director of the Laboratory of Studies on the Migrations, Anthropology, Spaces and Societies, ibn Zohr University

11:15 - 12:30 – 2nd Roundtable: Impacts of migration on agriculture and rural development

MODERATOR: **Ahmad Sadiddin**, Economist, Agricultural Development Economics Division, FAO

TOPICS DISCUSSED

Opportunities and risks of migration for rural development in origin areas: remittances and diaspora, food security, environmental issues.

Impacts on agriculture and rural development in rural destination areas.

SPEAKERS:

- **Michele Nori**, Research Fellow, Global Governance Program, European University Institute
- **Flore Gubert**, Research fellow, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
- **Olivier Le Masson**, GRDR, Migration-citoyenneté-développement
- **Yoan Molinereau Gerbeau**, Researcher, Spanish National Research Council
- **Pedro De Vasconcelos**, Programme Coordinator of the Financing Facility for Remittances, International Fund for Agricultural Development

II. Afternoon session: Rural development programmes addressing the challenges of Mediterranean migrations

2:15 - 4:15 - 3rd Roundtable: Exchange on policies and programmes to harness the potential of migration and better manage rural labour mobility for the future of Mediterranean food systems

TOPICS DISCUSSED – PARALLEL SESSIONS

1. Addressing the drivers of migration through inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural development.

MODERATOR: Amr Adly, Political Economist, Middle East Directions Programme, EUI

SPEAKERS:

- **Peter Wobst**, Senior Economist, Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division, FAO
- **Mohamed Elloumi**, National Agricultural Research Institute of Tunisia
- **Jean-Paul Pellissier**, Deputy Director, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier
- **Leonard Mizzi**, Head of Unit at European Commission, DG DEVCO – General Directorate for International Cooperation and Development

2. The continuum between humanitarian programmes and development: actions in response to forced migration and displacement in the rural Mediterranean

MODERATOR: Rima Al-Azar, Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO

SPEAKERS:

- **Biagio di Terlizzi**, Deputy Director, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari
- **Marcello Scalisi**, Director, Mediterranean Universities Union
- **Eugenio Donadio**, Director, International Programmes, GVC Italia
- **Abdallah Ahmad**, Director of Social Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs of Lebanon

3. Policy coherence in the Mediterranean regarding rural and agricultural development in origin and destination countries: agriculture, trade, education, employment and migration.

MODERATOR: Giuseppe Provenzano, Junior Expert, UfMS

SPEAKERS:

- **Pascal Bergeret**, Director, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier
- **Christian Fusillier**, Agro-economist, Project Manager, Agence Française de Développement
- **Ibrahim Awad**, Director, Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, American University in Cairo
- **Pietro Pippi**, Head of Rural Development and Food Security Office, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
- **Stefano Pisotti**, Deputy Head, Unit of Strategy, Global Processes and International Organisations, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- **Hyeshin Park**, Project Coordinator, Migration and Skills Unit, OECD Development Centre

4:30 - 5:00: Final session: *Closing remarks*

SPEAKERS:

- **Junko Sasaki**, Director of the Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division, FAO
- **Marie Hélène Le Hénaff**, Director for external relations, CIHEAM
- **Michele Nori**, Research Fellow, Global Governance Program, EUI
- **Giuseppe Provenzano**, Junior Expert, UfMS

Concept Note

Agriculture, Rural Development and Migration in the Mediterranean

International migration and its impacts on both origin and destination countries have become major concerns in national, regional and international political agendas. Governments, development cooperation agencies, international organisations and NGOs have addressed the stakes of migration in order to formulate possible long-term solutions. In such context, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the European University Institute (EUI) – Global Governance Programme and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) have agreed to set up a comprehensive framework for rural migrations in the Mediterranean from the perspective of rural and agricultural development.

Migration can indeed represent opportunities for the development of both origin and destination countries as well as for increasing regional cooperation among stakeholders. At the same time, the growing vulnerability of rural livelihoods is a major trigger for ongoing migratory flows, with rural populations moving towards areas with higher economic potential. Most rural areas in the region and beyond are characterised by outmigration. This affects the local economy, society and agroecology. The implications of this phenomenon are significant in terms of food production, natural resource management, skill management, territorial integration, social protection, diasporas and inclusive development – with impacts on the overall resilience and sustainability of our society. In the Mediterranean, this is particularly intense due to a multiplicity of interrelated factors.

A shifting agrarian world

The Mediterranean is affected by a number of socio-economic, political and environmental dynamics. These have implications on migration and mobility patterns, conflicts and political instability, inadequate access to income opportunities and decent jobs as well as to financial services and social protection in rural areas.

The region is intensively exposed to climate change dynamics, such as drought and desertification processes, which contribute to the amplification of the vulnerability of rural livelihoods. In the last two decades, the population has doubled due to a high growth rate; demographic trends follow an asymmetric and diverging pattern, between a decreasing and ageing population in most European countries, and fast-growing population rates in Africa and Asia. Such processes take place at a fast pace on a rich but fragile resource base, with acknowledged limitations in terms of land, water, and food production, especially on the southern and eastern shores, where agriculture is mostly characterised by rainfed production and agro-pastoral systems.

At the crossroads of three continents, all Mediterranean countries are areas of origin, destination and transit of migratory flows coming from sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and central Asia. Even if agriculture and rural livelihoods are priority fields in policy agendas in all countries across the region, public investments have consistently decreased in recent decades. Furthermore, rural development represents a main strategic pillar of development cooperation between the EU and its partners in the Mediterranean and beyond. Despite relevant political and financial commitments, growing rates of poverty and outmigration in rural areas indicate that appropriate strategies have yet to be forged. Additionally, regional processes may help tackling long-term drivers by creating synergies and fostering projects creating social and inclusive development.

Rural mobility

Migration represents an increasingly important source in the livelihood strategies of many rural households, and the mobility of rural populations plays a growing role in restructuring the rural landscape. Migration is rarely an informed, voluntary choice but rather undertaken out of extreme necessity due to poverty and livelihoods' deterioration, or due to a conflict or protracted crises. The implications and consequences of migratory flows are relevant in countries of origin and destination alike.

The **impacts of rural mobility on development in areas of origin** are many-folded. They may reduce pressures on local resources, and increase exposure to technical innovations and financial investments through the transfer of know-how and remittances, which could be reinvested locally. There are indications that in an increasing number of areas, remittances have overtaken agriculture as the main source of income and investment. However, migration can also be problematic in terms of labour shortage or increased social disparities at household and community levels. In particular, outmigration of rural youth may lead to significant challenges for local productivity and resilience, labour shortage and development, and ultimately for the sustainable future of the agrarian systems. There are also gender aspects to consider, both in terms of economic empowerment of women as well as challenges in increasing or perpetuating imbalances.

Impacts of mobility in rural areas of destination are also significant. In the EU, the agricultural sector and rural communities are characterised by a declining and ageing population, with related problems of workforce availability and generational renewal. Intense immigration in rural areas has definitely represented a key factor affecting resilience for the EU in rural areas, especially during the financial crisis. The contribution of the immigrant workforce is particularly relevant in a) intense systems in high potential agricultural areas as well as in b) marginal rural settings (i.e. mountainous communities, remote villages, and islands), where it represents a main asset helping to maintain these territories alive and productive, with relevant social and environmental implications. However, due to the informal nature and invisibility of agricultural migrant workers, their conditions and rights are often a matter of concern. A fairer and more effective integration of migrants in the European countryside and agricultural sector is one of the main objectives of the Common Agriculture Policy reform envisaged in 2020.

The dynamics and complexity of migration as a phenomenon, as well as its significant impact on the future of agrarian systems across the Mediterranean, call for policy dialogue and exchange at regional level, both among the Mediterranean countries as well as across policy sectors. In fact, agriculture provides for push and pull factors affecting migratory flows on the different Mediterranean shores. Hence, considering migration dynamics and impacts from the perspective of agriculture and rural development is essential to move towards more sustainable and inclusive food systems and rural worlds.

Additionally, research and innovation hold a key role in developing solutions and understanding the root causes of migration and the inter-dependencies between different drivers for migration including economic, political, social, demographic, conflict-related and environmental drivers.

The Mediterranean region proves to be a relevant setting enabling to explore the relationships between agriculture, rural development and migration. Sustainable rural development leads to social and territorial cohesion, job creation in agro-food value chains and the conservation of natural resources. These are essential to improve livelihoods and food and nutrition security in rural areas, and therefore to address the adverse drivers of migration. The region also offers unique experiences in terms of the contribution of remittances to poverty alleviation and economic growth. Experience shows that the integration of a gender perspective in development policies and programmes related to migration have the potential of making them more efficient and sustainable. A focus on youth could also address the issue of youth unemployment in the Mediterranean.

- **Maria Helena Semedo**, Deputy Director-General FAO

Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Forum on agriculture, rural development and migration in the Mediterranean: a better understanding of the drivers and impacts for forward-looking policies and programmes, jointly organised by FAO, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the European University Institute (EUI) and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS).

Migration is part of development, and it is a phenomenon driven by many factors, from individual decisions, to social dynamics and structural forces. Importantly, migration has major implications in terms of food production, natural resource management, social protection and inclusive development.

The Mediterranean represents probably one of the most remarkable regions with several migratory patterns co-existing, which are gradually becoming more complex and diverse. It is simultaneously a region of origin, destination and transit for Mediterranean populations and the populations of peripheral regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa.

Over the past 20 years, the large movements of people across and within the Mediterranean region have been accompanied by major shifts in food production, natural resource management, skill management, social protection, inclusive development, agricultural workforce and markets. This event is a great opportunity to reflect on main drivers, challenges and impacts of rural migration in the Mediterranean as well as to discuss main policies and strategies designed to harness the potential of rural mobility.

In particular, FAO believes that investing in agriculture and sustainable rural development, climate change adaptation and resilient livelihoods is an important part of the global response to migration. With that in mind, we are working at all levels to bring an agricultural and rural development perspective into the policies and programmes addressing migration-related challenges. We work along the humanitarian and development continuum, and generate evidence for more informed policies and programmes. At regional and country level, we enhance policy dialogue and strengthen capacities especially of agricultural and rural stakeholders, as well as foster partnerships and collaborations with key actors, such as IOM. We are also present in major global processes and for a related to migration, such as the GMG, of which FAO is co-chair this year, as well as the Global Compact for Migration, and that for Refugees. Specific to the Mediterranean, the increased complexity calls more than ever for policy dialogue and exchanges at regional level. Such policy dialogue needs to aim at policy coherence, with dialogue among countries of origin, transit and destination, across different levels of governance as well as across policy sectors.

Moreover, research and innovation play a key role in understanding the drivers of migration, including economic, political, social, demographic, conflict-related and environmental drivers. We should promote exchanges of experiences and build on lessons learned to develop and promote innovative and durable solutions. In a nutshell, we should aim towards a forward-looking dialogue between Europe, the Mediterranean countries and Africa. This is essential to promote food security, foster more inclusive rural development, and better manage migration.

With these words, I would now invite our distinguished representatives of CIHEAM, EUI, UfMS, European Commission, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

I thank you for your participation and I wish you all enriching and fruitful discussions.

- **Gianni Bonini**, Vice-President, CIHEAM

The International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) is committed to fulfilling a major mission: find solutions, through agriculture and rural development, to face the major development issues and challenges at stake in the Mediterranean through the scientific, technical and political Dialogue. CIHEAM operates through cooperation in education and research to promote sustainable agriculture and fisheries, ensure food and nutrition security and better development of rural and coastal territories. Recently, in 2016, CIHEAM adopted a new Strategic Plan (CAPMED) to focus its action in order to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development goals (SDG). Migration is one of these major challenges that our societies have to face today.

Throughout history, people have always been on the move, especially in the Mediterranean, which has long been a region of migration and mobility. However, this phenomenon has dramatically increased due to the effects of population growth, socioeconomic inequalities, globalisation, climate change, conflicts and crises. Since some years now, the refugees' crisis made the migration issue a crucial one, placing it at the very heart of today's concerns, in the Mediterranean region in particular, but also on the world scale. The *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* adopted by the 193 UN Member States in 2016 and the negotiations towards the adoption of the *UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* (GCM) in 2017 demonstrate both the increased importance of the migration issue and the strong will to address it at global level. There are multiple drivers of migration and significant impacts, both positive and negative, in destination, transit and origin countries. The factors triggering displacements have changed, and today, more than ever, it is necessary to identify and understand the drivers of migration, in order to integrate them in a model of sustainable development, so as to effectively face the major challenges posed by this situation. To fulfill this mission, it is necessary to gather a multiplicity of actors, and to mobilize and use a great variety of tools, programmes, and policies in different fields of action, at local, regional, and global levels. Among these tools, Agriculture and Rural Development have a role to play.

Indeed, instability, poverty and marginalization of rural and coastal areas, especially related to land access, food insecurity, depleted natural resources, extreme climatic events, underemployment, lack of opportunities and conflicts are among the factors which compel populations to leave their territories. Thus, agricultural and rural development policies ensuring food security, rational use of natural resources, sustainable rural development - both economically, socially, and environmentally - job creation in value chains, inclusiveness of women and youth, as well as social cohesion can contribute both to mitigate distress mobility and to harness the positive impacts of migration in the areas of origin, transit and destination. Agriculture and rural development have strong potentials to provide new insights and actions towards practical and effective solutions with regard to the migration challenges. However, there is still an urgent need for a better identification of the links between migration and agricultural and rural development. There is also still much to be done to raise awareness about the importance to consider agricultural and rural development programmes and policies as essential tools to address the migration issue and the challenges and opportunities it represents.

Our organisation, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) -, which is committed to contribute to the development of the Mediterranean region through cooperation in Agriculture and Rural development could play a role by working hand in hand with other relevant stakeholders: international organisations, research institutions, policy makers, the civil society, and private actors at local and regional levels. It is only by working all together, and developing a deep and strong cooperation on these matters, that we will be able to cover the complex dimensions of migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. This is why I am happy to open with our partners from FAO, UfMS and EUI this "Forum on Agriculture, Rural Development and Migration in the Mediterranean - A better Understanding of the Drivers and Impacts for Forward-Looking Policies and Programmes". The Mediterranean has always been a melting pot of populations and cultures, even in times of crisis and conflict. We must preserve this identity and save this uniqueness that has significantly marked modern civilization. Let's take this opportunity to draw up pioneering proposals and recommendations on these major challenges, contributing to build up, together, the world of tomorrow.

- **Anna Triandafyllidou**, Director Cultural Pluralism, Global Governance Programme, EUI

It is our contention that the relationship between migration and development should be reversed, focusing not on what migration can do for development but rather on how specific forms of development generate emigration in some countries and immigration in others. In other words, migration needs to be properly contextualised within the global production and trade systems.

We need to ask questions such as:

Why specific forms of development and of integration of (origin and transit) countries in the global economy generate emigration?

What are the consequences of such integration into the global economy and into migration systems for those countries - since they become subordinate/functional to the economies and trade of the destination countries, lose their best and most dynamic youth, perpetuate a chain of dependent development?

This event pays special attention to rural development and agriculture as they are important economic sectors in countries of origin and transit particularly in Africa and indeed it is these countries that bear the brunt of processes of climate change which further may affect, in less visible ways, both intra-regional and inter-national migration dynamics.

The European University Institute is committed to producing high-level research that is both basic and applied on issues of societal relevance. At the Global Governance Programme, we are particularly interested in the global (beyond Europe) socio economic dynamics that influence migration and development and hence we are very happy to participate in this initiative.

We hope that this collaboration with CIHEAM and FAO and UfMS is only the first of a series and that we very much look forward to actively taking part in this project and its discussions and publications.

Wishing everybody a fruitful day.

- **Saïd Bhira**, Special Counsellor to the Secretary General, UfMS

Ladies and Gentlemen, Representatives of Co-organising Institutions of the Forum,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Government Representatives,

Dear colleagues,

First of all, I regret not being among you this morning due to unexpected commitments that keep me in Barcelona. However, I would like to express all the support of the Union for the Mediterranean to this first regional meeting devoted to the dynamics of rural migration in the Mediterranean and to the essential role of multi-stakeholder cooperation in this field.

My speech will revolve around three key messages.

Firstly, I would like to recall that “the Mediterranean has always been a space of mobility and migration”. Historically, in this shared sea, civilisations meet and mingle, and human, academic, technological and cultural ties are forged, which stimulate trade, investment and innovation.

In host countries, especially in rural areas of the northern rim, the presence of a large population coming from southern Mediterranean and African countries is a valuable asset, a possible tool enabling to build bridges between the two shores. Their contributions to agriculture and to resilience in rural areas is obvious.

These are themes that closely resonate with the new UfM Roadmap for Action adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 43 UfM countries in January 2017 with the aim of strengthening human development, stability and integration in the Mediterranean. Our Ministers are committed to building a positive agenda for youth in the Mediterranean.

This will be the subject of my second point. In accordance with this Roadmap and with the Valletta Declaration on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation (2017), the UfM advocates a “Migration and Development” approach by choosing to place youth employability, job creation, education or women empowerment, at the heart of its agenda.

Today, it is essential to address the root causes of migration to ensure regional stability. This cannot be done in isolation. The magnitude of mass movements in the region and the changes underway require increased joint action with all stakeholders.

The Union for the Mediterranean is convinced that understanding rural migration implies establishing a real dialogue shared between all stakeholders to encourage regional solutions to regional problems.

Lastly, the prospects. As you know, regional cooperation is essential to build more prosperous, more inclusive and more sustainable societies in the Mediterranean: strengthening synergies, replicating best practices, exchanging experiences, mutual learning, for a more visible and lasting impact on the ground especially for youth and women.

In coordination with all actors concerned, it is necessary to implement an approach based on Migration and Development that places employability, job creation, education, socio-economic women empowerment and the territorial dimension at the heart of the Mediterranean agenda.

I therefore expect that practical recommendations will be formulated today that could be made operational, discussed and implemented in order to maximise the benefits of mobility, minimise the suffering of forced migration and make all countries of origin, transit and destination more resilient and sustainable.

This is why you have our full support and we will be attentive to the concrete proposals that emerge from your work.

I wish you fruitful discussions and thank you for your attention.

- **Leonard Mizzi**, Head of Unit at European Commission, DG DEVCO

In recent years, migration has moved at the top of the political agenda. According to the latest figures published by UNDESA in December 2017, there are now an estimated 258 million people living in a country other than their country of birth - an increase of 49% since 2000. Migration is a crucial part of development for individuals, communities, countries. Supporting our development partners to better address the challenges – and also seize the opportunities – of migration is an integral part of EU development policy, as expressed in our *New European Consensus on Development*. Our engagement is multifaceted and includes both short- and long-term actions. Often, there are structural drivers at work, linked to socio-economic development, security, stability, and governance. The key is to really understand what drives migration, focusing on relevant demographic profiles or geographical areas, and on ambitions and aspirations of specific migrants, like youth.

The Communication "*Progress report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration*" has been adopted on Wednesday 16 May 2018 and provides an overview of progress and developments of the *European Agenda on Migration* since the Commission's last report in March 2018. As set out in previous reports, the current situation confirms that the drivers behind migratory pressures on Europe are structural. Protracted conflicts such as the one in Syria are unlikely to reduce. Climate change is creating new reasons for people to move. Demography points to a long-term trend of growing populations in the EU's neighbourhood.

Among these drivers, there is a strong gender dimension, which is at the centre of our strategy. This is not only because of our *Gender Action Plan*, which since 2015 identified gender equality and women's empowerment as a core activity: the EU is committed to tackle the deep-rooted values that discriminate against women and girls through a transformative approach that focuses on supporting women to have a stronger voice in decision making at all levels. Special vulnerabilities of women and girls, including rural and migrant women and girls need to be recognised, by incorporating a gender perspective into policies, national laws and programmes, so that human rights and dignity of all migrants are respected. The EU is a strong supporter of the rights of women and girls. Last year, together with the United Nations, we launched the *Spotlight Initiative*, embracing the challenge of eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls.

Its first action had the ASEAN region at his heart with the € 25 million programme "*Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region*". This new regional programme will contribute to improving the labour migration conditions for women. Together with UN Women and the International Labour Organisation, the EU will work with governments, community-based organisations, civil society and service providers to improve labour laws, access to information and services, and ultimately prevent and put an end to violence and trafficking of women and girls.

Violence is only one of the problems we are trying to address. Discriminatory practices in accessing resources is another – a problem with far-reaching consequences for gender inequality. This could lead households into a downward spiral of poverty and food insecurity that can be passed on to future generations. In this respect, the EU and the FAO have recently finalised a very useful guide on how to influence policy around food and nutrition security from a gender perspective.

As this event focuses on rural areas, let me also recall that the Sixty-second session of the *Commission on the Status of Women* of the United Nations in March 2018 agreed conclusions on "*Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls*". As indicated in these conclusions, while all women and girls have the same human rights, rural women and girls in different contexts have particular needs and priorities, requiring specific responses. Many rural women continue to be discriminated, marginalized and economically and socially disadvantaged due to limited access to economic resources, decent work, social services, agricultural inputs and limited financial inclusion.

I would also like to highlight the importance of social protection to safeguard individuals and their families and ensure they can meet their basic needs throughout their lives. It can play a role in the management of migratory flows, in encouraging sustainable development, and addressing some of the root cause of migration. Among such causes, we can name poverty, lack of jobs and opportunities for youth, lack of access to services, and environmental reasons. In a way, migration could also be considered as a social protection strategy, notably as a mean to escape vulnerabilities in country of origin.

Social protection is a policy response to vulnerabilities. Migrants face different types of vulnerabilities, therefore different and innovative social protection responses could have a potentially significant role in the management of migratory flows. Low-income labour migrants, moving in search of better job opportunities and a secure livelihood are a particularly vulnerable category, as they could be exposed to exploitation by recruiters or employers. Irregular migrants are also particularly vulnerable due to the irregular nature of their job, payment below minimum wages and lack of access to employment-based social security provisions. This would require specific social protection instruments developed by host States. Rights to social protection are in fact highly contingent on legal status and depending on the country of destination; regular labour migrants may have some rights similar to those of the citizens, such as access to public services, notably education and health. Irregular migrants have instead restricted rights to access public services, due to the nature of their irregularity.

The EU has tried to achieve policy coherence in supporting social protection. Taking migration and social protection as an example, I would like to mention Kyrgyzstan, where the links between migration and social protection were well integrated into EU social protection support and in Turkey the EU has ensured that the cash transfers programme supported is extended to Syrian refugees.

Portability of social protection benefits are also a promising practice. For example, the International Labour Organisation is implementing an EU-funded project titled "*Extending social protection access and portability of benefits to migrant workers and their families in selected RECs in Africa*". By extending social protection to migrant workers in Africa the project will contribute to provide an incentive to use regular channels of migration, as well as facilitating the return and reintegration of migrant workers by maintaining their entitlement to social protection benefits.

This discussion on social protection is in fact also relevant in the context of returnees: migrants who are considering returning to their home would be more willing to do so if protection systems were in place and portability of social security benefits ensured.

Social protection can therefore be a promising tool not only for its effect of reducing inequalities and poverty, but for its potential impact in reducing the reasons for migration. However, let me stress the fact that there is no common understanding yet on how social protection might prevent migration.

Protecting vulnerable people and providing potential migrants with decent opportunities in their home countries is a central element to the discussion on migration and migration management. Core actions need to be taken at different levels: strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks, implementing economic and social policies, notably for the empowerment of rural women and youth, as well as strengthening sustainable production and consumption patterns, access to services and increasing financial literacy.

This is our responsibility: the need to secure decent work for all workers, including migrant workers, is expressly recognized in the Agenda 2030, under SDG 8 "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all".

Thank you very much for your attention.

- **Luca Maestriperi**, Deputy Director General, General Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Allow me, first of all, to congratulate FAO and CIHEAM for the organisation, together with the European University Institute and the Union for the Mediterranean, of this important initiative. I would like to seize this opportunity to briefly illustrate the vision of the Italian development cooperation on a critical issue for the stability and the prosperity of the wider Mediterranean region: the migration-development nexus.

Let me start by saying that, in our view, human mobility should not be addressed as an emergency - unless it originates from a humanitarian crisis - but rather managed in a long-term perspective, acting on root causes of distressed migration and transforming human mobility into an opportunity for economic growth and social development both for the countries of origin and destination.

If we only consider that Africa's population, now estimated at 1.2 billion, is projected to reach 1.7 billion in 2030 and 3 billion in 2063, it becomes evident that the question is not whether people will move, but how many will move, where they will move to and under what conditions.

This scenario calls for stronger efforts towards a new vision for international collaboration on sustainable development and migration management that could contribute more effectively to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth across the Mediterranean and beyond.

Comprehensive strategies and solutions shared by all the countries involved are required. It is in this perspective that Italy strongly supports the UN process towards the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

In this context, I want also to highlight the crucial importance of developing and sharing comprehensive and reliable data on migratory flows, and their interconnections with food insecurity, fragile institutions, instability and conflicts. In our vision, investing in countries of origin, both through ODA and the involvement of the private sector is key to tackle the root causes of distressed migration, such as food insecurity, rural poverty and lack of opportunities for young generations; in turn, well managed human mobility is a crucial factor in achieving the sustainable development goals at global level.

Italy has promoted, at the bilateral level, within the European Union and globally, a long-term integrated approach for "sustainable migration", in the belief that development policies should be coherent with migration policies and address the structural causes of migratory flows.

Consistent with this approach, the issue of migration has been mainstreamed in policies and strategies of the Italian development cooperation, as well as in the activities carried out in the field.

This is why we are currently focusing our efforts towards increasing decent employment opportunities in our partner countries, especially for young people, by investing in education and vocational training to create a technically qualified workforce.

In rural areas, we promote a development model focused on family and smallholder farming, that proved to be more labour-intensive and inclusive than industrial, large-scale production; on sustainable agro-ecological practices that respect the environment and biodiversity; on strengthened integration of small producers into local food systems; on improved resilience to external shocks and climate change.

We also believe that the support to rural cooperatives of our Mediterranean partners, using the Italian experience as a reference, would be particularly relevant in this context: the network could facilitate access to local and regional markets, provide support in difficult times to single producers and facilitate economic inclusion. Promoting the entrepreneurial role of rural women is also a key factor for inclusive growth and social stability.

We will continue to provide institutions of our Mediterranean partners with policy advice on the nexus between rural development and migration in all its dimensions (out-migration, immigration, internal displacements, return migration, the role of remittances), promote policy coherence and raise awareness on the actions needed to address the challenges of rural migration.

In a “circular migration” perspective, we also aim at facilitating bi-directional movements, both of migrants and of knowledge, skills and capital. In this context, we promote the involvement of diaspora communities in Italy, to stimulate entrepreneurship in their countries of origin, especially in the agricultural sector, also through an efficient use of remittances.

We are perfectly aware that our efforts alone, through ODA, are not sufficient: for this reason, the Italian development cooperation is supporting the creation of new partnerships with the private sector, in order to attract responsible investments; with civil society organisations, to better connect our policies with the actual needs of people we aim to help; with the United Nations Rome-based Agencies - FAO, IFAD and WFP - as well as the CIHEAM-IAMB and other International organisations - whose activities and knowledge are a critical asset in implementing rural and agricultural development projects in partner countries.

By sharing the universal spirit of the 2030 Agenda, Governments, Parliaments, local authorities, International organisations, academia, private companies, diaspora associations, civil societies should all contribute to give hope to the most vulnerable people and turn challenges into opportunities.

Through promoting effective partnerships, our aim is to serve as a catalyst for sustainable development promotion, fostering synergies and maximizing impact, in a collective effort to make the Mediterranean a space of shared prosperity and stability for our and future generations.

Thank you for your attention.

SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS OF WORK SESSIONS

I. Understanding the drivers of migration in the Mediterranean from a rural and agricultural perspective

Migration patterns and drivers in the Mediterranean

MODERATOR: Apostolos Papadopoulos, Rural Sociologist, CIHEAM

Migration in the Mediterranean is a complex phenomenon driven by a wide range of interrelated factors. Migration decisions are influenced by so-called “push factors” that incentivize people to move and “pull factors” that attract people to particular destinations.

Examples of push factors are:

- Demographic pressure and population dynamics,
- Rural poverty and food insecurity,
- Depletion of natural resources due to environmental degradation and climate change,
- Lack of employment, income-generating opportunities and access to social protection.

Examples of pull factors are:

- Better standards of living,
- Better job opportunities,
- Declining rural demography in destination countries.

The debate highlighted the need for further **research and analysis** in order to inform targeted policies. Particularly, data and knowledge gaps were identified with regards to:

- migration drivers and patterns (with a focus on labour migration);
- the positive contribution of migration to rural development of countries of origin and destination, with a focus on the demographic aspect (e.g. generational renewal in countries of destination).

From a **policy point of view**, the debate highlighted the limited stocktaking of existing sustainable development initiatives in Mediterranean countries, which prevents from building synergies. Increased focus on how to maximize migrants’ positive contributions to destination countries was also identified as necessary when developing migration policies and programmes.

Impacts of migration on agriculture and rural development

MODERATOR: Ahmad Sadiddin, Economist, Agricultural Development Economics Division, FAO

In many rural areas, migration is a livelihood strategy to maximize income and minimize risks. Migration as a risk-management strategy is particularly important in rural areas, as agriculture is a volatile sector that is exposed to a wide range of risks, both natural and man-induced.

Migration brings both opportunities and challenges to rural areas in countries of origin, transit and destination. On the one hand, migration can contribute to rural development of countries of origin through the use of remittances for investments in agriculture, natural resource management as well as food security. An example from Senegal shows that there is a very high association at the regional level between higher remittances flows and lower cereal deficits. On the other hand, impacts of migration on schooling are mixed: remittances might enable households to send their children to schools, but also increase dropping out rates (for instance when left-behind, mothers are not able to control their children's school attendance).

Male migration from rural areas has been associated with the feminization of agricultural labour, where an increasing number of women are drawn into agriculture performing mainly manual activities. This phenomenon can represent both an opportunity and a challenge for rural women: it can lead to empowerment when it is associated to increased women's decision-making power (as demonstrated by cases in the Ivory Coast), but it can also lead to increased burden and vulnerability when women have to simultaneously perform their traditional duties (e.g. care and reproductive) and agricultural activities.

Migration between territories that are experiencing different demographic dynamics (e.g. from countries with high-demographic dividend to countries with ageing populations) can be instrumental to fill labour gaps and counter the phenomenon of ageing farmers. For example, in Europe the average age of farmers is 55 years, and lands suitable to agriculture are being abandoned.

Overall, it is necessary to ensure that migration occurs through safe and regular channels. This is necessary not only to protect migrants' rights throughout the migration journey, but also to unlock migration potential for origin, transit and destination countries.

II. Rural development programmes addressing the challenges of Mediterranean migrations

Exchange on policies and programmes to harness the potential of migration and better manage rural labour mobility for the future of Mediterranean food systems

Session 1. Addressing the drivers of migration through inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural development

MODERATOR: Amr Adly, Political Economist, Middle East Directions Programme, EUI

The panel explored the relationship between migration, agriculture and rural development and focused on how to make rural areas more attractive, especially for young people. The positive inverse relationship between migration and rural development was challenged by the acknowledgment that rural development and higher agriculture productivity might also increase migration, by improving rural incomes and removing financial constraints that were preventing people from embarking on migration.

However, investing in rural development was recognized as a potential strategy to convert migration-prone areas into areas where people can find jobs and create economic value, hence creating valid alternatives to migration. To achieve this aim, four main points of actions were identified:

1. Changing the **“social status”** that is traditionally associated with agriculture in order to make it an attractive option for youth in rural areas. Social and cultural aspects should not be underestimated and addressed in conjunction with structural constraints such as limited access to markets, land and financial services.
2. Promoting **diversification of the rural economy**, including through entrepreneurship development and business incubation programmes.
3. Reducing the **urban bias** that hampers the development of rural areas and is reflected in food policies, subsidies and pricing mechanisms.
4. Developing **regional markets**, especially in Africa.

Agriculture suffers from a long history of bias against the sector. The policy frame favouring urban consumers on rural producers has carried relevant implications on the viability of agriculture and of rural livelihoods. In the case of Tunisia during the 1950s and 1960s, policies aimed at incentivizing urban-based industrialization led to a decline in the share of agriculture in the GDP and major migratory movements towards large cities that we unprepared to absorb this workforce.

With reference to North Africa, it was underlined that the general interest at the national and regional levels in supporting entrepreneurship and investing in SMEs usually excludes the agricultural sector. To successfully integrate agriculture into business and entrepreneurship strategies, structural challenges that affect rural areas (e.g. lack of access to land and financial services) should be addressed first. Development interventions are crucial in addressing these challenges, but these are to be coupled with political will at the national and regional level.

Finally, the panel highlighted the benefits that emigration can bring to rural areas, for instance easing pressure as local labour markets and fostering investments in new technologies and techniques to increase the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector. Migration is indeed an intrinsic part of structural and rural transformation, with great potential for development, provided that it is managed through efficient policies.

Session 2. The continuum between humanitarian programmes and development: actions in response to forced migration and displacement in the rural Mediterranean.

MODERATOR: Rima Al-Azar, Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO

When it comes to migrations, the humanitarian – development nexus is more of a *contiguuum* (which calls for simultaneity and complementarity of different initiatives and instruments to increase their effectiveness) rather than a *continuum* (with humanitarian actions covering the first phase after the outbreak of a crisis and development programmes following chronologically and focusing on longer-term recovery).

This *contiguuum* needs to be addressed in the country of origin (with a focus on risk reduction, conflict prevention, increasing resilience and building the capacity to absorb shocks); in those of transition (with a focus on protection) as well as in those of destination (providing initial relief, designing programs that promote cohesion between migrants and host communities and livelihood programs, focusing on guaranteeing dignity). A number of examples were discussed and lessons drawn accordingly.

As example of short term emergency measures that are coherent with medium and long term development, CIHEAM shared the experience of a project in Syria that aims at building the capacity of farmers in the agriculture and livestock sector, setting up a revolving fund and at the same time selling part of the local agriculture products to the World Food Programme (WFP), which eventually served for humanitarian assistance.

A discussion took place on the advantages of “organised” migration as opposed to “forced” one, and the fact that going for organised migration is a political challenge and not a technical or financial one.

Session 3. Policy coherence in the Mediterranean regarding rural and agricultural development in origin and destination countries: agriculture, trade, education, employment and migration.

MODERATOR: Giuseppe Provenzano, Junior expert, Union for the Mediterranean

Research has shown that there is no univocal path on the relationships between development and migration; evidence indicates that increased development tends to enhance emigration in the medium term, even though with different patterns and trends according to various countries and communities.

More in general a main theme of concern is the isolation of knowledge on migration, and the need for more exchanges and joint capacity building, for instance through research and training. Policies would be more effective with a strengthened policy-research nexus and if accompanied by a degree of coordination between stakeholders, at public, private and civil society levels.

Coherence and consistency, together with the interacting complementarities amongst the different policy domains and levels, are critical to ensure the effectiveness of the policy framework, such as the case for the agriculture labour market. A closer synergy between agriculture and rural development policies is key to support investment in rural areas and processes of decentralisation hold relevant potentials in increasing coherence of policies at the local, rural level.

Policies enhancing integration are those with higher degree of success; good examples and practices in this domain should be disseminated. Education policies have been singled out for their potential in development, social cohesion and circular migration. All migration-related policies should be coherent to human rights and the right of movement of every individual. On this topic, the crucial negotiation of the UN compact on migration was welcomed.

The principle of co-ownership in joint projects was discussed as fundamental for ensuring their success. Likewise, involving and supporting migrants’ agency hold relevant development potentials - such as partnering with diaspora in accumulating knowledge and finances to migrants` countries of origin.

Summary of working groups discussions

The relationships between development and migration are complex and controversial; this is particularly true in rural worlds. Development is about enabling people to improve standards of living, which may not coincide with keeping them in their areas of origin. Increasingly, anywhere in the world emigration of some household members represents a relevant component of any rural livelihood strategy.

A main reason that spurs emigration out of rural areas is the negative bias that traditionally affects agriculture. The policy frame favouring urban consumers over rural producers - for example food strategies, subsidy schemes, pricing mechanisms - has carried relevant implications for the viability of agriculture as a rural livelihood. The social and cultural aspects of such process should not be underestimated, as the negative image agriculture has inherited does not provide good incentives for the engagement of younger generations.

Redressing such bias would involve tackling structural constraints such as access to productive assets, limitations in marketing and overall low returns. Investing in agriculture goes hand in hand with enhancing diversification of the rural economy, which could also involve emigration, especially where labour force exceeds the availability of and access to land resources.

Specifically in the eastern and southern rims of the Mediterranean (MENA countries) agriculture should be better integrated into strategies that focus on more entrepreneurial approaches. Development interventions from international agencies could represent an important leverage to redress policy frameworks and investment gaps on the institutional and structural aspects of rural development.

The impacts of rural mobility in areas of origin are highly context-dependent, and often contradictory. These might include reducing pressures on local resources and increasing local communities' exposure to technical innovations and financial investments through the transfer of know-how and remittances. Evidence attest that these bear mostly positive outcomes associated to poverty reduction and food security, though they could contribute widening existing social and territorial disparities and inequalities.

Impacts in destination rural communities are also significant. In the EU, the agricultural sector and rural communities are characterised by a declining and ageing population, with related problems of workforce availability and generational renewal. Immigrants' increasing presence in rural areas has definitely represented a key resilience factor, enabling many farms, rural villages, and agriculture enterprises to remain alive and productive throughout the recent crisis.

While most research has addressed the main push and pull factors triggering rural migrations in the Mediterranean, more research should be carried out to discern the different patterns and to link them to the wider policy framework. Overall, scientific research and policy making would benefit from strengthening interfaces and synergies. This needs to be accompanied by enhanced coordination amongst stakeholders at the different levels.

- **Junko Sazaki, Director of the Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division, FAO**

Excellences,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to close and wrap-up this very important event, which shed light on the ways migration can generate development opportunities through forward-looking policies and programmes in the Mediterranean context.

But first, I would like to express my gratitude to all participants for your valuable contributions. In particular, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the panellists for their participation and for their significant inputs to what has been a stimulating discussion.

Needless to say that the topics that were discussed during today's sessions are crucial for the future of the Mediterranean region. Characterised by a long history of migration, the Mediterranean is at the crossroads of civilizations, ideas and goods. It is a hub for economic growth, innovation and sustainable development, but also a region characterised by a highly fragile resource base and complex socio-economic, political and demographics trends.

It is our shared responsibility to revitalize rural development as a strategic pillar of cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region and to unlock the potential of migration for regional economic growth. After our very productive exchanges of ideas and experiences, I hope we are a step closer to achieving these objectives. Before closing the event, I would like to briefly recap the main issues that were discussed throughout today's discussions.

We focused our morning session on the foreseeable scenarios for migration patterns and drivers in the Mediterranean region with the ultimate aim of understanding how we can improve and use this knowledge to inform policy-making. Particular attention was placed on the drivers we should focus on in developing our interventions in order to make migration a voluntary choice and not a necessity.

The second session shed light on the specific challenges and opportunities that are associated with migration in countries of origin and destination.

The afternoon sessions were devoted to exchanging good practices and lessons learned on how to harness the potential of migration for agricultural and rural development. Three sub-themes were chosen, according to their relevance for the work of FAO, CIHEAM, EUI and UfMS:

- First, migration as a vehicle for sustainable rural development, provided that an enabling policy framework is put in place.
- Second, the need for an integrated approach, which combines development and humanitarian interventions. The session highlighted the importance of investing more efforts in combining humanitarian and development actors together in order to prevent and mitigate main risks leading to migrating while also strengthening the development of countries of origin.
- Third, policy coherence as a prerequisite for any intervention that aims to address the multiple and intertwined drivers and impacts of migration. The session focused on the need for integrated regional initiatives, which foster synergies among countries' policies and programmes.

I hope that each one of us can take home the outcomes of today's discussions for further thinking and action. Migration is a complex phenomenon, which touches upon a multitude of aspects and cannot be addressed without effective coordination among researchers, policy makers, development and humanitarian actors. I hope this event is the starting point of enhanced collaboration among all the experts that joined today's discussions.

Thank you for your participation and invaluable insights.

- **Marie H el ene Le H enaff**, Director for external relations, CIHEAM

Migration in the Mediterranean is both a cause and a consequence of various imbalances affecting both origin and host societies of migrants. They reveal the adaptability of these societies but also the difficulties or inadequacies of their political and economic environment.

We have managed to bring together a multi-stakeholder platform. However, a day is not enough and I thank the distinguished speakers, whatever their origin, researchers, NGO members, national or international officials, including my CIHEAM colleagues, for their valuable contributions despite the short time available.

We need to continue seeking to achieve a better understanding of migratory phenomena and their implications for the agricultural and rural sector in order to better ACT.

As finally, this is all about action. The challenge for the future is to enhance the positive effects of migration while reducing the negative effects.

In this respect, innovations, social ones above all, emerge here and there to reinforce these capacities of adaptation. Their study and documentation can be a source of inspiration for informed intervention and appropriate public policies, aimed at reducing the suffering brought by migratory flows and at enhancing the opportunities they provide and those of the rural territories themselves.

Throughout the day, several examples from Lebanon, Turkey, Africa and Europe illustrated these innovative dynamics: pilot projects to strengthen the resilience of territories hosting Syrian refugees and to improve the fate of these refugees; establishment of agricultural production cooperatives in southern Tunisia, or fishermen in the Kerkennah archipelago to promote the emergence of alternative paths to youth migration; initiatives to create social ties between migrants and residents in some major European cities; administrative innovations to facilitate the access of migrants to public services in host areas.

However, the solutions brought by agriculture will only be implemented and effective if this sector is truly recognised as a source of prospects, not only for food security or environmental protection and the fight against climate change but also as a job provider in rural or peri-urban areas.

These solutions can be developed through adapted, coordinated, convergent and coherent public policies but also through public-private partnerships that are intelligent and concerned with sustainability in its three dimensions: economic, environmental and social.

With the strong support of the Ministers of Agriculture of its Member States, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) has integrated the issue of rural migration in the Mediterranean in its Strategic Agenda. The CIHEAM therefore strives to implement a holistic approach to the rural migratory phenomenon, combining operational actions on the ground (projects), intellectual and theoretical work (publications) and actions facilitating political dialogue.

I will therefore not conclude without also thanking our partners: the European University Institute, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and of course, the FAO which is chairing the Global Migration Group of the United Nations this year and that has warmly welcomed us today.

Coordination of actors and policies, cooperation at international level and a multilateral, regional and global approach are indeed required.

Our conviction and our ambition are that agricultural and rural development contributes to a safer, orderly and regular migration which will be the object of an agreement between the States within the framework of the Global Compact at the intergovernmental conference to be held at the end of the year.

- **Michele Nori**, Research Fellow, Global Governance Program, EUI

On behalf of the European University Institute,

I think we all have to be proud of this day. It has not been an easy endeavour as we have people from different perspectives here, from the academy, policy makers, and from the field.

It is not always easy to talk the same language and to look in the same direction.

Putting together different perspectives is always challenging, and it is even more challenging when this takes place for the first time, as it was the case here, today.

We made a great effort and I think the outcomes are quite surprisingly good.

When we started this morning, we were requested to provide practical recommendations and policy advice, so to remain very operational, to come up by the end of the day with something practical that we could bring back home, office, institution.

The main messages are in my opinion that we have to:

- a) Understand the efforts of people moving out from their areas of origin and undertake an adventure that pushes them crossing through deserts, seas and even mountains, in a kind of biblical move. In order to perform something that has been quite natural and normal throughout the history of mankind.
- b) Acknowledge what takes place in destination areas, including the products and the services incoming people bring to the agricultural sector and to rural areas.
- c) Recognize the skills and the rights rural migrants deserve, not just as workers, but as citizens of a countryside they come to contribute to with their lives.

Because when you leave your country to establish in a new one, the only capital you can play with is your life, and that is what is put into jeopardy.

To end up these conclusions, the perspective that could help us looking in the same direction, whether we come from the academy, or policy-making or whatever office or agency – the main perspective that may put us all on the same track is the one migrants themselves have and apply.

As discussed during previous panels, very often when somebody migrate, he/she does not do so for him/herself, but rather for his/her children, his/her nephews. This generational challenge, the challenge of the future, is the one we shall keep in mind when thinking about policy coherence, policy framework, development programs or any kind of investment.

We know it is difficult to think beyond our generation, but that is the effort migrants teach us to do. The best way to enhance the policy coherence that has been evoked at different levels is to look further, into a future where agriculture is a sector where lands are utilised, and not abandoned. Agricultural workers could sooner or later graduate into farmers. People that remain behind could enjoy healthy and sustainable rural development settings where to operate.

Let's look to the future to overcome the problems and the constraints we are facing today.

Thank you for your attention

- **Giuseppe Provenzano**, Junior Expert, UfMS

One of the overarching questions that I feel today every participant tried to answer is “How can investigating and investing in agricultural and rural development help address the adverse drivers of rural migration?”. Our distinguished panellists have provided a wealth of experiences and perspectives. A real challenge will be capitalising from this Forum’s recommendations for creating more joint actions based on a “coordinated and partnership approach in the Euro-Mediterranean area” and beyond.

Rural development has the potential to be a pillar of partnership between the two shores of the Mediterranean, especially if based on the Mediterranean youth, which experiences record unemployment in the region, with direct effects on its stability and drivers of migration. Despite the opportunities for joint development, poverty rates and development indicators show that appropriate strategies have to be designed or strengthened on the basis of co-ownership and past experiences through dialogue.

Two points I would like to stress:

- Mobility for developing instruments such as academic mobility, training, internship and competitions for talent could be powerful tools for rural development and great examples of circular mobility that should be strengthened.
- As indicated by the Valletta Declaration on *Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation*, research and innovation hold a key role in developing solutions and understanding the root causes of migrations and the inter-dependencies between different drivers for migration including economic, political, social, demographic, conflict-related and environmental drivers. Research has the capacity of assessing the issues in a useful way for policymakers, and in this there is a continuous need to strengthen the policy-research nexus through dialogue between the research and the policymaking communities. Innovation is a powerful tool for tackling issues such as water shortage, food security, sustainable energy needs, climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental degradation.

I would like to present two practical examples of this approach where the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is already an involved partner:

- The PRIMA Initiative, of whom the UfM Secretariat is co-chair in the scientific committee, is already implementing an increased focus on R&I in water, food and energy issues, with overall resources overpassing 500 million euros during 10 years.
- The UfM Secretariat is also in close cooperation with the European Commission for extending to the South and Eastern Mediterranean countries, the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the BLUEMED Initiative, which aims at promoting sustainable growth through the blue economy.

But in this region there is the need and space for much more to be done in partnership. For instance, there is a need for more academic mobility, research and innovation. Research communities could assess gaps and needs. Regional initiatives could benefit by a reinforced nexus between science and policy.

As there is no stability without development, and no development without stability, I think that today's experiences have shown that all stakeholders at all levels, Governments and development agencies, international/regional institutions, research communities and so on, have fundamental inputs to contribute for more cooperation on addressing the drivers of rural migration. Nevertheless, it should always be kept into consideration, as stated in the UfM Roadmap for action approved last year by Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the 43 UfM Member States that “the Mediterranean has always been an area of mobility and migration.”

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

Migration is a growing global phenomenon driven by a wide range of factors, from individual decisions, to social dynamics and structural forces. As migrations connect and relate territories experiencing different dynamics, **the Mediterranean provides a quite unique setting** to address migrations, as the region is characterised by important agro-ecological as well as socio-economic asymmetries.

Throughout the region, **emigration is an integrated component of livelihoods strategies of rural households**, and local youth seem decreasingly interested in undertaking agricultural livelihoods in their communities of origin.

Redressing agricultural policies and investing in rural development are crucial to provide sustainable livelihood alternatives to ensure that migration is a matter of choice rather than a necessity. Support to entrepreneurship and skills development related to agriculture, food systems and employment creation in rural areas plays a key role in this regard.

At the same time, it is necessary to **enhance the positive contribution and opportunities migration can generate** in countries of origin and of destination, by supporting investments in farm and non-farm activities, and facilitating the transfer of knowledge, skills and technologies. Integration of migrant workers in rural areas could contribute addressing critical matters including agricultural labour and generational renewal.

Considering the multiple and intertwined drivers and impacts of migration, there is a **need for an integrated approach**, which combines different perspectives and effective coordination among researchers, policy makers, development and humanitarian actors. Coherence and consistency of the policy and investment frameworks in closer synergy with a strengthened policy-research nexus are critical in supporting agricultural development and rural livelihoods throughout the region.

Specific to the Mediterranean, the increased complexity calls more than ever for **policy dialogue** and exchanges among countries of origin, transit and destination to further strengthen protection along the journey, and to foster integration and development with a view to seize the opportunities that migration brings to all societies. Better stocking of existing initiatives, experiences and practices are necessary, both for learning and dissemination purposes.

