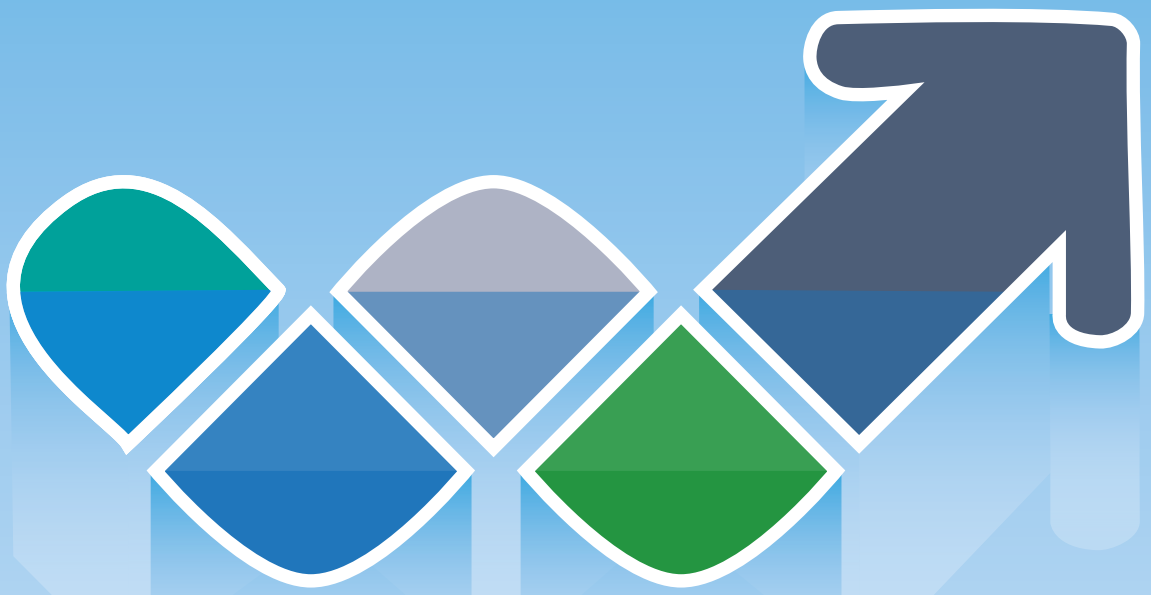
MED RESET

مِد ريست

INFOGRAPHICS



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MEDRESET
Infographics

MEDRESET is a consortium of research and academic institutions focusing on different disciplines from the Mediterranean region to develop alternative visions for a new Mediterranean partnership and corresponding EU policies. It aims at designing an inclusive, flexible, and responsive future role for the EU in the region based on the multiple perspectives of local and bottom-up actors.

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MEDRESET
مِد ريست

Learn more at **medreset.eu**

Survey

ELITE SURVEY

MEDRESET's Elite Survey in numbers

For more information:
www.medreset.eu

MEDRESET

Our partner institutions conducted a regional survey between ***July 2017 & May 2018***

169 Interviews

9 Countries

Aimed to

Assess the perception of EU, and the effectiveness and potential of EU policies in the Mediterranean region from the perspective of local elites

Target profiles

- Decision makers
- Bureaucrats
- Business people
- Academics
- CSO and media representatives
- Young professionals
- Aged between 20-70 years
- 113 men, 53 women & 3 unidentified

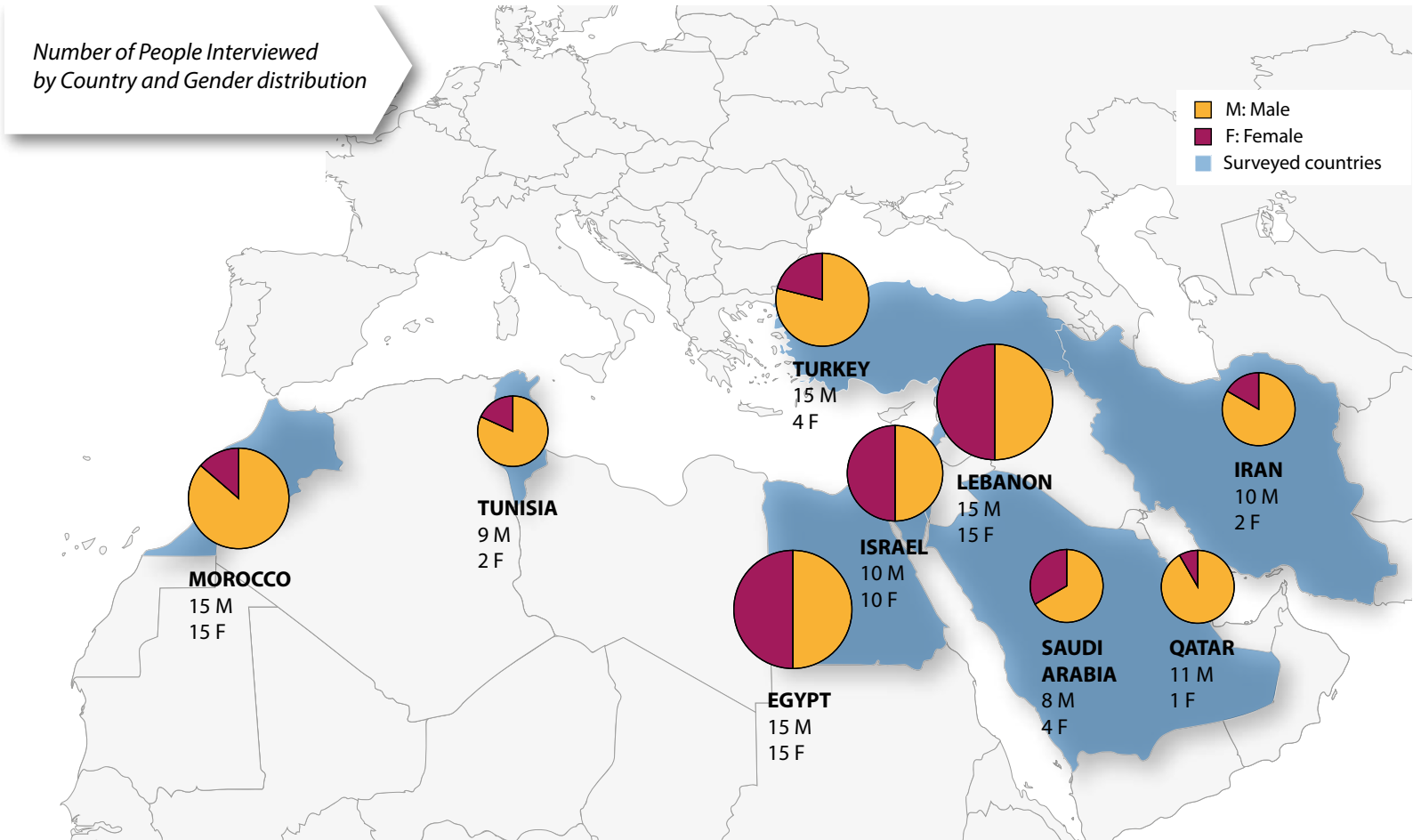
Asking about

- ***Perception of the EU policy*** *in the Mediterranean and how it has evolved*
- *Particular areas where enhanced* ***cooperation*** *with the EU could prove beneficial?*
- *Which are the most pressing* ***policy issues*** *in the countries and in the Mediterranean*
- *Which are the major* ***geopolitical challenges***

Outputs

9 Country Reports
1 Policy Report
1 Policy Brief

Number of People Interviewed by Country and Gender distribution



Findings

MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

For more information:
www.medreset.eu

WP4 points to the urgent imperative for the EU to press the reset button in Euro-Mediterranean relations by putting human rights and social justice upfront, rather than security and stability

NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN

Perceived as a **CLOSED** region

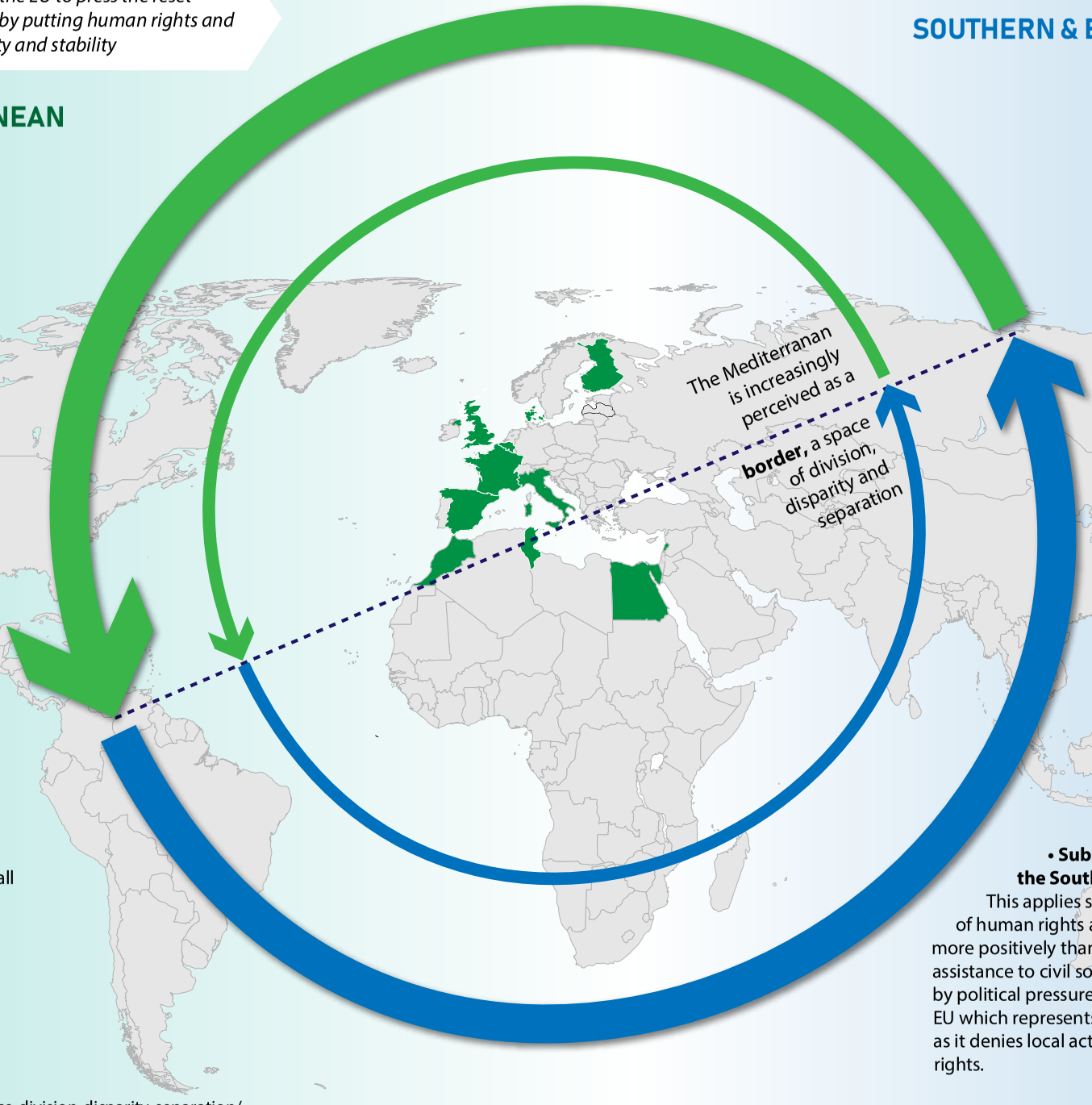
Dominant narratives N-S:

EU institutional perspective:

The Mediterranean is perceived as:
- a space crucial for EU interests
- a geopolitically diverse space,
- and a dangerous space, while the EU is seen as secure, stable and peaceful.

EU civil society perspetive:

The Mediterranean is perceived as a space:
-in which all types of universal rights (civil, political and socio-economic rights; the rights of migrants and refugees; the rights of civilians under war and occupation; and the rights of women) are being violated;
- that is economically, but not geopolitically or ideationally, dominated by the EU;
- where civic space is shrinking and xenophobia, authoritarianism and "wall politics" are prevailing.



SOUTHERN & EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Perceived as an **OPEN** region

Dominant narrative S-N:

South Mediterranean civil society perspective:

The Mediterranean is perceived as a space:
- open to the North and closed to the South
- economically dominanted by the North
- in which the key issues are inclusion, social justice, and education, not terrorism or migration

EU ineffectiveness is driven by:

• **Invisibility:** EU policies are frequently unknown or overshadowed by the policies of the member states.

• **Lack of coherence:** There are perceived contradictions between the position of the EU (specifically its agenda of democracy, human rights and social equality) and those of individual member states.

• **Substantial gap between expectations in the South and actual EU policy output:** This applies specifically to the area of human rights and social justice. While EU aid is seen more positively than the aid of other actors, assistance to civil society is not enough when not backed up by political pressure. A civilizing rhetoric on the part of the EU which represents universal rights as European is rejected, as it denies local actors their agency in fighting for their rights.

For more information:
www.medreset.eu/mediterranean-space-division-disparity-separation/

EU POLICIES ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

For more information:
www.medreset.eu

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MAIN PROBLEMS & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

EU POLICIES ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Divergence between EU's instruments and local needs

Main problems at the EU Level:
- Underperformance
- Lack of local knowledge
- Lack of monitoring/follow-up
- Inflexibility
- Increasing securitization of EU Policies

TOP-DOWN APPROACH

Imposing policies or programmes in an unilateral manner, without considering the beneficiaries' opinions and needs.

The EU should embrace a wider stratey, covering:
- Sustainability & Climate Change
- Better working conditions for agricultural workers
- More attention to local production for food security
- A gender perspective at the policy level (and not only through projects or specific programs)
- New strategies to increase the EU's visibility

Local demands on prioritarian issues remain ignored by the EU

Funding *Funding* *Funding*

Local demands on prioritarian issues remain ignored by the EU

NATIONAL STRATEGIES OF THE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

EU's funds are increasingly transefered to the Local Governments and then distributed to selected programs

Main problems at the National level:
- No attention paid to food security, inequalities and poverty in rural areas
- Corruption & clientelism
- Benefits large-scale holdings and ignores small producers

MOROCCO
Moroccan Green Plan

TUNISIA

LEBANON

LOCAL DEMANDS

Tariffs

Climate change

Depleition of soils and water

Access to land and property

Excess of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

Better working conditions

Sustaining local production to ensure food security

A sustainable and equitable model

Main problems at the Grassroots level:
- Lack of information on how to reach the EU funding and market
- Unable to meet EU's regulations and standards
- If the aid is not balanced or well targeted, it widens unbalances and makes small-producers less competitive

LOCAL RECIPENTS /PRODUCERS

Farmers in the Mediterranean countries of the EU worry about the competition they must face in their trade in fruit, vegetables, olive oil and wine, while SEM farmers would like to have more access to EU markets

For more information:
www.medreset.eu/eu-policies-agriculture-rural-development-mena/

INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY DYNAMICS

Challenges and opportunities for the EU and SEM countries

For more information:
www.medreset.eu

1. MAJOR PERCEPTIONS ON THE ACTORS

ON THE EU POLICIES:

- Top down policies, that do not bring in local actors
- Not specifically oriented to industrial development nor job creation, but to trade
- Very complicated process to apply and fulfil the administrative procedures & product standards
- Small network of stakeholders, often limited to the government and public administration
- Lack of coordination between international organizations or even within the EU agencies
- The establishment of free trade areas accompanied by high social costs

EU remains invisible

Since most of the EU's funding is channeled through the national government agencies, its role as donor remains quite invisible and unknown to the private sector and the civil society.

Most of the EU's policy instruments are not specifically targeted to industry development.

The main **impacts are indirect,** and through projects that support infrastructures, capacity-building and the bussiness climate.

ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

- Corruption and clientelism are still perceived as main challenges
- Under the investment current scheme, Small and Medium Enterprises are out of the equation.

It would be a very positive move to allocate **FDI to clusters of SME** that would produce synergies and industrialization hubs.

2. MAJOR PERCEPTION ON THE INSTRUMENTS & DYNAMICS

EU LEVEL
AID-FOR-TRADE PARADIGM
EU's trade policies rely strongly on trade liberalization of industrial sectors excluding agriculture and services where SEM could have advantages

The EU has not foreign direct investment scheme

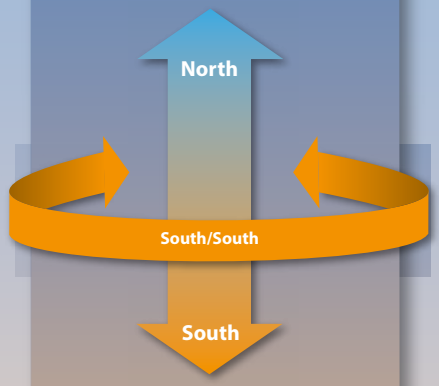
FDI is mainly invested bilaterally by the member States and focuses on low-labor intensive sectors, such as banking , oil and real state. Energy accounts for a peripheral part of European aid

Energy cooperation between the EU and the SEM countries is mainly market-oriented and fragmented, based on a member state basis.

There is a lack of social assessment of EU trade and energy policies and programmes

The EU should be more committed by undertaking systematic investigations and consultations with different stakeholders (not only state organizations, ministries and think tanks) but also civil society, local communities and workers.

There is a lack of regional integration both in trade and energy: the region remains one of the least integrated in the world and the national grids of the SMCs are hardly connected



Trade policies do not consider people's welfare and their needs

EU trade and energy policies in the Mediterranean appear not to comply with people's expecta-tions for better wages and creation of good quality jobs and environmental justice. There is need of a EU-wide, long-term strategic plan including both shores of the Mediterranean

The challenge of South/South trade

The regions experiments very low intraregional trade, and remains as one of the least integrated in the world

The gender issue is absent in both EU trade policy and the different bilateral and multilateral EU energy-related projects

This is in spite of the fact that women in Tunisia and Morocco, for example, are likely to suffer from bad working conditions in the export-oriented sector and as entrepreneurs are met with difficulties.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
Focused on regulation but do not have an industrial strategy that the EU can clearly support and engage with in terms of priorities and realistic schedules.

RESETTING THE MEDITERRANEAN(S)

Migration and mobility issues: perceptions and challenges

For more information:
www.medreset.eu

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In the migration policy field, the Mediterranean appears as a network of multiple bilateral relations between sending, transit and receiving countries. Each country has its own interests and specificities, but as a result of our research, we have identified two main approaches to migration policies in the region: the Northern Africa and Maghreb one, and the Middle East one.

NORTHERN AFRICA AND MAGHREB POLICY AGENDA

Morocco and Tunisia

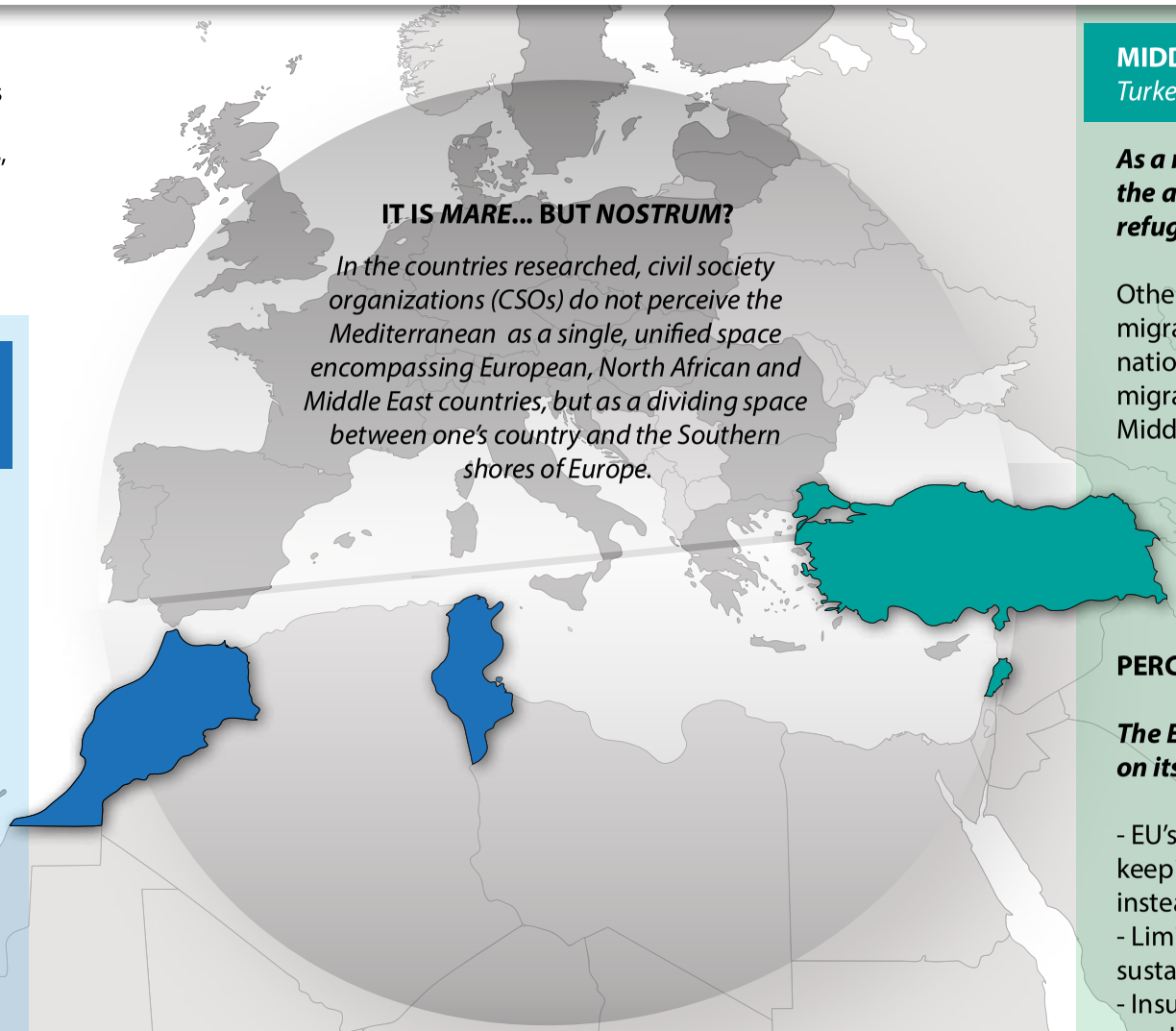
Differentiated and comprehensive

Considers three migratory dimensions:
- Own nationals' migration to Europe
- Sub-Saharan migration (not only transit)
- Refugee issues

PERCEPTION OF THE EU'S ROLE:

Eurocentric and security-oriented approach

- Civil society actors from North and South Mediterranean agree that all policy instruments adopted so far are focused on **irregular migration**, border control and **effective returns**.
- This approach is short-sighted and does not broaden regular ways to migrate to Europe.
- After the Arab Spring, the EU launched a Mobility Partnership with the two countries that is perceived more positively and to be strengthening civil society organizations in both countries.



IT IS *MARE*... BUT *NOSTRUM*?

In the countries researched, civil society organizations (CSOs) do not perceive the Mediterranean as a single, unified space encompassing European, North African and Middle East countries, but as a dividing space between one's country and the Southern shores of Europe.

HARDENING BORDERS, VISA REQUIREMENTS AND READMISSION

EU's policy instruments are not focused on tackling the root causes of migration, such as socio-economic problems in origin and transit countries

MIDDLE EAST AGENDA

Turkey and Lebanon

As a result of the Syrian War, the agenda is dominated by refugee issues

Other dimensions of the migratory phenomenon (own nationals' emigration, transit migration, labour migration to Middle East) are relatively deprioritized.

PERCEPTION OF THE EU'S ROLE:

The EU is shifting the responsibility on its neighbours

- EU's agenda always comes first: keeping refugees out of Europe instead of protecting them
- Limited effectiveness and sustainability of funded projects
- Insufficient knowledge of local needs and political contexts/dynamics
- Lack of coordination with other donors (governments and NGOs)
- No long term/sustainable strategy
- Insufficient monitoring and assessment mechanisms
- Unbalanced distribution of funds (geographic, by sectors, by beneficiaries).

The Project's Consortium:

The Project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme for Research and Innovation under grant agreement n 693055