

A closer look at EU support for the southern and eastern Mediterranean region after the Arab Spring

16-19 May 2012 London UK

This workshop aims to familiarise reporters from the southern and eastern Mediterranean region (SEMED) with the EU institutions and European financial architecture that will aid the democratisation efforts in SEMED countries after the Arab Spring; a particular emphasis will be placed on the European Neighborhood Policy, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Following two days of preparation, participants will attend the EBRD annual meetings in London, where they will be able to pursue stories while having access to step-by-step guidance from two experienced trainers from the Guardian Foundation.

Schedule

May 16

9.00 - 11.00 - Introduction of participants and trainers; objectives and expectations;

The EU and its neighbors, past and present (presentation and Q&A): a headlines introduction to EU accession, enlargement and the European Neighbourhood Policy, its political origins and ongoing evolution, with a particular focus on the SEMED region; session by John Palmer

Break

11.30 - 12.30 - Followed by SEMED journalists' perspectives on the EU and ENP (discussion and debate): what impacts has the EU, and the ENP in particular, had on neighbouring countries in the past (including SEMED) and what are the expectations of EU democratisation efforts going forward; session by John Palmer and David Gow

Lunch

13.30 - 15.00 - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (presentation and Q&A): the EBRD's unique mandate to promote democracy, free markets and sustainable development, and the new challenges it faces in the SEMED region (including an overview of its SEMED strategy and vision for the region) and related institutional developments unfolding at the annual meetings; session by EBRD representative

Followed by EBRD through the eyes of SEMED journalists (discussion and debate): perceptions and expectations from the EBRD; potential discussion of some criticisms on the basis of media coverage from the region; session by John Palmer and David Gow

Break

15.30 - 17.30 The European Investment Bank (presentation and Q&A): the EIB's historical and now expanded role in the SEMED region, with a focus on Euro-Med partnership/Barcelona

process, its vision and plans for the region; session by EIB representative

Followed by the EIB through the eyes of SEMED journalists (discussion and debate): perceptions and expectations from the EIB; potential discussion of some criticisms on the basis of media coverage from the region; session by John Palmer and David Gow

Break

Mapping who's who at the EBRD annual meetings (discussion and professional development) with a focus on EBRD institutional structure, external meeting participants e.g. European, SEMED finance ministers and linked to the previous discussion i.e. to identify relevant interviews; plus interview techniques and tips; session by John Palmer and David Gow

May 17

9.00 - 11.00 European civil society perspectives on EU SEMED strategy (breakfast briefing) past experience with EU financial and political institutions; with a particular focus on energy and transparency; presentation of EBRD energy lending study

Followed by presentations of Arab, European civil society (discussion and debate)

Break

11.30 - 12.30 The EU in crisis and its impacts abroad, focus on recent economic and political developments and the implications and likely developments abroad (presentation and Q&A); session by David Gow

Lunch

13.30 - 15.30 Economic crisis and political transformations in SEMED region (discussion and debate)

Followed by anticipated themes of EBRD annual meetings (presentation) the “unofficial” bigger picture stories and what to expect, establishing the annual meetings in the broader context of what has been discussed during the training; session by David Gow and John Palmer, Bankwatch representative

Break

16.00 - 17.30 Workshop: making sense of EBRD AGM schedule and structure, what session to follow for chosen story, what interviews to pursue, etc; explain tutoring during the annual meetings, registration for EBRD annual meetings; session by John Palmer and David Gow

May 18 and 19

EBRD annual meetings - trainer available for consultation/coaching on story leads, development and writing