



## ArabTrans

### **MAJOR NEW RESEARCH PROJECT CALLS FOR RADICAL CHANGE IN EU POLICY TOWARDS MENA COUNTRIES TO AVOID GREATER LEVELS OF EU MIGRATION AND FURTHER RADICALISATION OF THE REGION**

On the eve of the fifteenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, a major new EU-funded study across seven Middle East and North African (MENA) countries highlights the need for a radical re-think of EU policies in the region.

The Arab Transformations Project reveals alarming levels of mistrust in national governments by survey participants five years on from the Arab Uprisings of 2010-2011. Citizens see their governments as having comprehensively failed to respond to the challenges of constructing stronger societies.

In an appeal to policy makers the Arab Transformations Project is calling for changes in EU policies to stabilise the region and reduce the potential for even greater levels of economic migration to Europe.

‘Current policies are failing and can only lead to greater migration and greater radicalisation through creating structural conditions where radicalisation can take place,’ comments Dr Andrea Teti, project-director of the Arab Transformations consortium and a specialist in Middle Eastern and EU politics at Aberdeen University.

Specifically the Arab Transformations Project proposes a re-think of the Paris Agenda with greater co-ordination between state and non-state donors through an organised planning process engaging recipient states. In addition the Project recommends a re-think of the free market model of growth which may not be the most appropriate form of stimulation for these economies. Finally the Project is calling for EU policy to provide the means for effective action on corruption, capital flight and taxation.

The Arab Transformations Project will reveal the key findings of its research at a press conference:

**Date: 8 September, 2016**

**Time: 12.30 pm**

**Location: Scotland House, Rond-point Robert Schuman 6, 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium**

**RSVP: Adam Fletcher [adam.fletcher@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:adam.fletcher@abdn.ac.uk)**



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Please register your interest in attending this press conference by **Friday 2 September**. For security purposes we will require the full names of all attendees by **Wednesday 7 September**.

### Notes to Editors

The Arab Transformations Project is an international research consortium which has conducted extensive research focusing on Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq, to understand and evaluate political, social, and economic transformations before and after the Arab Uprisings of 2010-2011.

Funded by the European Commission's Research Council, the survey dataset and collated secondary data gathered between 2000-2015 makes it possible to look comparatively at trends in attitudes and behaviour across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

For further information on the work of the Project please visit our website:

<http://www.arabtrans.eu/>

Speakers are available at the press conference in French, Arabic, Italian and English.

**Andrea Teti** is a specialist in Middle Eastern and EU politics at the University of Aberdeen. Andrea is project director for the EU-funded Arab Transformations consortium. He has published extensively on the Arab Uprisings and European governments' responses. Andrea has appeared on national and international media, including the BBC, Al-Jazeera, France24, and Deutsche Welle, and is available for interview and comment in English and Italian. (mob: +44 (0) 7879773837; email: [a.teti@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:a.teti@abdn.ac.uk); Tw: @a\_teti; Skype: andrea.teti)

**Francesco Cavatorta** is Associate Professor in Middle East Politics, Department of Political Science, Universite' Laval in Quebec, Canada. Francesco's research is on processes of democratic change and authoritarian survival in the Middle East and North Africa with a more specific focus on Islamist movements, parties and associations. He has published more than fifty peer-reviewed journal articles and nine books and has a forthcoming volume edited with Fabio Merone on Salafism after the Arab Awakening. Francesco is available for interview and comment in English, French, Italian and Spanish.

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**Pamela Abbott** is Professor in the School of Social Sciences at Aberdeen University, and Director for the Centre for Global Development. Pamela is responsible for the quantitative analysis of the survey research within the Arab Transformations Project, as well as political and economic analysis. Pamela has published extensively on quality of life, development, gender and political economy in sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Eastern Europe. Her most recent book 'The Decent Society (with Claire Wallace and Roger Sapsford) was published in May 2016. Pamela is available for interview and comment in English. (mob: + 44 (0)7421077553 email: [p.abbott@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:p.abbott@abdn.ac.uk) )

**Valeria Talbot** is senior researcher and head of the Mediterranean and Middle East Programme of Institute of International Political Studies (ISPI), based in Milan. She is a member of the steering committee and ISPI scientific coordinator of the Arab Transformations Project. She is also a Lecturer of Middle East History at IULM University in Milan and scientific coordinator of the "Med and Gulf Executive Briefing" Project. Valeria has contributed to a variety of research projects and published a number of papers, articles and book contributions. Before joining ISPI, Valeria worked at the University of Catania and at the European Parliament in Brussels. Valeria is available for interview and comment in English and Italian. (mob: +39 02 86 33 13 265, email: [valeria.talbot@ispionline.it](mailto:valeria.talbot@ispionline.it))

**Munqith Dagher** established IIACSS in 2003 while he was a Professor of Public Administration/ Strategic Management at Baghdad University. He has managed more than 500 public opinion and various market research projects, and has lectured widely and published several articles and books in different countries. In 2015 he was awarded the Ginny Valentine Badge of Courage for Bravery in keeping research alive in multiple conflict zones from the Research Liberation Front. Munqith was professor of public administration and strategic management in Baghdad, Basrah and National defence universities.

Munqith's area of specialisation is Iraq and he is available for interview and comment in English and Arabic. (mob:+ 962 799 672 229; email: [munqith\\_dagher@iiacss.org](mailto:munqith_dagher@iiacss.org) )