Academic Conference
Crisis and Regional Cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean: The European Union's Role, Challenges and Strategic Perspectives
14-16 April 2027

CALL OF PAPERS

The East-Med Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (EXCELEM 2.0) of the University of Piraeus is pleased to announce the organisation of an international academic conference entitled "**Crisis and Regional Cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean: The European Union's Role, Challenges and Strategic Perspectives**", to be held on the premises of the University of Piraeus, Greece, on **14–16 April 2027.**

Conference Rationale and Objectives

The Eastern Mediterranean constitutes a region of strategic importance for the European Union (EU), situated at the intersection of European, Middle Eastern and North African geopolitical, economic and security dynamics. Characterised by protracted conflicts, geopolitical rivalries, shifting power relations and multiple economic, environmental and societal challenges, the region presents both significant risks and opportunities for regional cooperation.

In this increasingly complex and volatile environment, the European Union's role as a regional and global actor merits particular attention. Through its external action, neighbourhood policy, security and defence initiatives, economic partnerships and cooperation frameworks, the EU seeks to promote regional stability, resilience, sustainable development and multilateral cooperation. At the same time, its capacity to shape regional developments is affected by internal and external challenges, competing geopolitical interests and the evolving strategic priorities of both regional and international actors.

Against this backdrop, the conference aims to offer a comprehensive and interdisciplinary examination of the impact of crises and geopolitical transformations on the Eastern Mediterranean, with particular emphasis on the European Union's role, policies and strategic interests in the region. It seeks to explore the EU's contribution to regional governance, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, energy security, economic connectivity, the green and digital transitions, migration management and the strengthening of institutional and societal resilience.

Furthermore, the conference will examine the interaction between European integration and regional developments, addressing the opportunities and limitations of EU engagement, the effectiveness of existing cooperation mechanisms and the prospects for strengthening relations between the EU and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

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By bringing together academics, researchers, policymakers and practitioners, the conference will provide a platform for critical academic debate, interdisciplinary research and the exchange of policy perspectives. In line with the objectives of the Jean Monnet initiative, it will also seek to advance knowledge and understanding of the European Union, its external relations and its contribution to addressing contemporary regional and global challenges.

The Jean Monnet Dimension

As an initiative of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, the conference places particular emphasis on advancing research, teaching and academic dialogue on European integration and the European Union's role in the international system. It aims to foster a deeper understanding of EU policies, institutions and external relations, while encouraging critical reflection on the Union's contribution to regional cooperation, peace, security and sustainable development.

The conference particularly welcomes contributions examining the interaction between European integration and the geopolitical, economic and societal transformations of the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as research exploring the opportunities and challenges of EU engagement with the countries of the region.

Five pillars of the conference

We welcome (BUT NOT LIMIT) the submission of abstract proposals around the five pillars of the conference:

1. EU External Action and Geopolitical Influence

EU foreign policy, strategic autonomy, international relations, diplomacy and regional governance. EU–US–China–Russia relations and geopolitical competition in the Eastern Mediterranean

2. Conflicts and the Middle-East Peace Process

Regional rivalries and tensions. The prospects for a regional security architecture in the Middle East. EU diplomacy, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the Middle East Peace Process.

3. Security, Energy and Economic Resilience

Regional security, economic connectivity, green transition and crisis management. EU energy policy, energy diversification and security in the Eastern Mediterranean

4. European Integration and Societal Transformation

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Higher education, academic cooperation and mobility, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion and European values. European civil society networks, democratic governance and the promotion of peace and stability

5. Regional Cooperation and the Future of Euro-Mediterranean Relations

EU partnerships, multilateralism, civil society, conflict resolution and sustainable regional cooperation. EU public diplomacy, cultural relations and digital diplomacy. EU enlargement, Neighbourhood Policy and the Future of Euro-Mediterranean Relations.

Submission Guidelines

Interested scholars and researchers are invited to submit an abstract of **250–300 words**, written in English, by **21 December 2026**.

Each submission should include:

- Paper title
- Author's/Authors' full name(s)
- Academic or professional position/title
- Institutional affiliation(s)
- Contact e-mail address
- 3–5 keywords

Abstracts will be subject to an evaluation process by the Conference's Scientific Committee.

Publication Opportunities

Following the evaluation process, selected conference contributions will be invited for publication in an edited collective volume. The final papers should not exceed **7,000 words including references** and must be submitted by **21 March 2027**.

Further information regarding the submission procedure and publication requirements will be communicated to selected contributors.

All abstract submissions should be submitted through the e-mail: **excelem2.0@gmail.com**

Important Dates:
21 December 2026: Deadline for abstract submission
6 January 2027: consignment of answers
31 January 2027: Preliminary Program
21 March 2027: Deadline for full contributions
23 March 2027: Final program

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