



**Workshop 07**

***Socio-economic Dilemma, Cultural Challenges and their International Dimensions***

**directed by**

**Boumghar Lotfi**

INESG, Algeria

[lboumghar@hotmail.com](mailto:lboumghar@hotmail.com)

**Melasuo Tuomo**

University of Tampere, Finland

[tuomo.melasuo@uta.fi](mailto:tuomo.melasuo@uta.fi)

***Workshop abstract***

The socio-economic evolution in many Maghreb, Middle Eastern and South-East European societies is growing in importance in order to explain their long term perspectives. Today the conflicts between states are less important than half a century ago. In our days, more and more conflicts take place inside the societies. It is generally admitted that the internal conflicts are connected with socio-economic development and overall conditions of the people.

These new trends are influencing peace and conflict research. This co-organised workshop intends to study a triangle formed by socio-economic, cultural and international development and its impact on different kind of conflict potentiality in Europe and in its immediate vicinity.

We will concentrate on the socio-economic changes which can be seen in human mobility, for instance. We want also to understand the challenges these developments represent together with demographic evolution to the general living conditions of the majority of people.

These socio-economic evolutions are also influencing the cultures producing new challenges which can be seen in radicalisation but also in different attempts to consolidate their co-existence.

Socio-economic as well as cultural development are today very deeply connected to international relations. Globalisation has an importance in this development. Modest living condition and the lack of justice in international relations have an impact on how culture is felt and what is the role of

religions, for instance. Let us notice that many cultural and political movement have also solid social roots.

The workshop proposed by TAPRI together with INESG and IFPO aims to rise an academic discussion on how these three domains can be approached theoretically so that their interdependence could become one of our main concerns.

### *Workshop description*

The socio-economic development in many North African, Middle Eastern and South-East European countries is increasing in importance to explain recent and long term evolution of these societies. Today armed conflicts between states and countries are less important than still half a century ago. Instead of these, more and more conflicts take place within the societies, inside them. It is almost generally admitted that these internal conflicts are strongly connected to socio-economic development and overall living conditions of the inhabitants.

The above mentioned new trends have an impact also in peace and conflict studies. This co-organised workshop intends to study a triangle formed by socio-economic, cultural and international development and its impact on different kind of conflict potentiality in Europe and in its immediate neighbourhood, that is the Southern and Eastern part of the Mediterranean.

We will pay high attention to socio-economic changes which can be seen, for instance, in human migration, even Aillegal@, but also in rural exile and in urbanisation. We want also to understand the challenges these developments represent together with demographic evolution to health care, education and housing conditions of the majority of people in these areas.

These socio-economic evolutions have also an impact on culture producing new challenges which can be seen in radicalisation but also in different attempts of dialogue between cultures. The relations between cultures are so dependent more on socio-economic surroundings of the societies than on their own existential character we presume.

Both these domains, that is the socio-economic and cultural evolution are today more than ever connected to international relations. Communication technology and globalisation, at least virtual, have also an importance in this development. Poor living conditions and a feeling of injustice in international relations have an impact on how culture is lived and what is the importance of religions, for instance. Let us remember that many cultural and political movements have also solid social background.