



Dear Sir or Madam,

In the wake of the Arab Spring, political and societal transformation processes emerged in many countries in the region. Politically and economically marginalized, young people, who are not taken seriously by political decision-makers, played a central role in these developments.

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung conducted a large-scale representative survey of youths and young adults in eight countries in the Middle East and North Africa to assess the situation of youth in the region today. Encompassing around 9,000 young people from Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia, the results offer fascinating insights into their attitudes to life, self-image and perceptions of the future.

The study has i.e. revealed that young people face enormous economic problems and scant scope for upward mobility. Two-thirds of young people work only on a temporary basis or not at all, and almost half of those in work are in insecure employment. Due to their precarious situation, the young people in question are often torn between temporarily considering emigration and their profound ties with their home countries and families. In this context, emigration is however by no manner of means viewed as an “easy way out”. In fact, only a small group (less than ten percent) is firmly resolved to emigrate.

On the occasion of the publication of the English edition of the youth study, we cordially invite you to our book launch and discussion followed by a light lunch.

## **Coping with Uncertainty: Youth in the Middle East and North Africa**

**Presentation and Discussion of  
The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung’s MENA Youth Study**

with

**Francesca Fabbri**, European Policy Centre

**Jörg Gertel**, University of Leipzig

**Nadine Sika**, American University Cairo

**TBC**, Representative of the European Commission, DG NEAR

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**Monday, 1 October 2018, 11:00 – 12:30**

**Followed by a light lunch**

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

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1000 Brussels

**Francesca Fabbri** is a Policy Analyst in the Europe in the World Programme of the European Policy Centre (EPC). Among her areas of expertise are EU external policies and relations with the Southern Mediterranean, i.a. Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon. Prior to joining EPC in January 2016, she has been a research fellow at the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). Francesca has also been a Blue Book trainee at the European External Action Service (EEAS). She holds a B.A. in International Relations and an M.A. in International Cooperation with the Middle East and North Africa.

**Jörg Gertel** is professor for Arabic studies and for economic geography at the University of Leipzig. He has been associated with the Universities of Freiburg, Damascus, Cairo, Khartoum, Seattle, and Auckland, and specialises in the field of global studies with a focus on insecurity and uncertainty. His research interests include youth, food, and urban studies. He developed the questionnaire and coordinated the academic debate for *Coping with Uncertainty: Youth in the Middle East and North Africa*.

**Nadine Sika** is an assistant professor of comparative politics at the American University in Cairo. She was Humboldt Foundation Visiting Fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin and has been a consultant to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Regional Arab Office on good governance. Her research interests are in democratization, contentious politics and youth civic and political engagement in the MENA region. She has been team leader and principle investigator of two international collaborative research programs on youth civic and political engagement in the MENA.