

# THE ARAB SPRING AND ITS INFLUENCE ON EUROPEAN UNION POLICY

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## **Abstract**

*The scale of incidents related to Arab Awakening and the consequences of movement in MENA region surprised the European Union and international community. However, the report of the Arab Human Development Report predicted in 2009<sup>1</sup> that the Arab world will face security challenges associated with growing population, which can lead to internal tensions between different communities. The Arab Spring has contributed to the creation of new political, economic and social realities which forced EU to take necessary action to adapt to this situation. Significant efforts were taken according to financial support which was delivered in increased budgets of European Neighborhood Policy projects, The European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Due to the fact of immigration from region increases anxiety on the South of EU. In order to prevent illegal border crossing EU established Joint Operation Hermes 2011<sup>2</sup> to resolve problem. However the Tunisami consequences are still considered as a threat to European Union security.*

**Key words:** Arab Spring, European Union, European Neighborhood Policy, Migration

1 The Report in Brief, Arab Human Development Report, Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Arab States, <http://www.arab-hdr.org/publications/contents/2009/execsummary-e.pdf>.

2 General Report 2011, FRONTEX, Warsaw, 2011.

## Introduction

In order to understand of the situation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) better, it is important to recollect that this region bears the burden of colonialism and the post-colonial system. Natural for this region paternal system of power was replaced by colonial system of governing. Metropolis created in region the artificial nation system with borders which divide ethnic groups and its territory in factitious way. Ties of connection between metropolis and its colonies stay up to now<sup>3</sup>.

The term Arab Spring defined uprising against dictatorships in MENA region. The term was a reference to the uprisings in Eastern Europe in 1989. According to Samuel P. Huntington, The Arab Spring gain by some observers the name of the new forth wave of democracy. However Henry Kissinger is sceptical -“I don't think that the Arab Spring is necessarily a democratic manifestation, I think it is a populist manifestation,” H. Kissinger told for the Wall Street Journal<sup>4</sup>. The background of protests in the region had complex nature.

Arab world reached turning point on December 17, 2010. Then Mohamed Bouazizi burned himself in the Tunisian town of Sidi Bouzid. This self-immolation occurred to be the beginning of future changes in MENA region. Attallah Kuttab described that the Jasmine Revolution started Tunisami<sup>5</sup> phenomenon. The argument for entitlement to a similar determination by the author is spilling wave of protests from Tunisia by the Arab world like a tsunami. The European Union did not expect the change on the position of power in the region<sup>6</sup>. Foreign relations were maintained with the regimes of MENA countries, despite

<sup>3</sup> DODGE T., From the 'Arab Awakening' to the Arab Spring; the Post-colonial State in the Middle East, [http://www.lse.ac.uk/IDEAS/publications/reports/pdf/SR011/FINAL\\_LSE\\_IDEAS\\_fromTheArabAwakeningToTheArabSpring\\_Dodge.pdf](http://www.lse.ac.uk/IDEAS/publications/reports/pdf/SR011/FINAL_LSE_IDEAS_fromTheArabAwakeningToTheArabSpring_Dodge.pdf), Viewed May, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> The Fourth Wave of Democratization, <http://iris-bg.org/files/stID-25-07-13.pdf>, Viewed May, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> KUTTAB A., The 'Tunisami': some insights into events in the Arab Region, 10 February 2011 [www.alliance\\_magazine.org](http://www.alliance_magazine.org) [http://en.welfareassociation.org/images/stories/wainthenews/2011/alliance\\_magazine.pdf](http://en.welfareassociation.org/images/stories/wainthenews/2011/alliance_magazine.pdf), Viewed May, 2014.

<sup>6</sup> COLOMBO S. TOCCI N., The EU Response to the Arab Uprising; Old Wine in New Bottles? Ed, Re-Thinking Western policies in light of the Arab Uprising, IAI Research Papers, 2012 p.71.

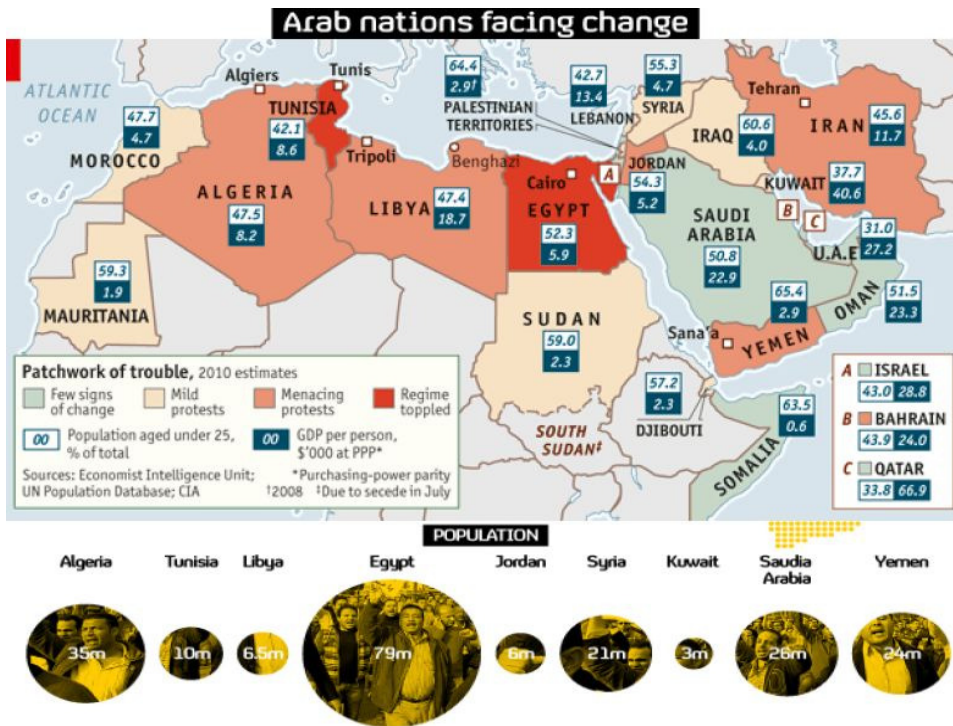


Figure 1. Trends shaping higher education in the middle east and north Africa, 30 January 2013, <http://monitor.icef.com/2013/01/trends-shaping-higher-education-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/>, Viewed May, 2014

undemocratic attitude of power, nepotism, corruption and low standards of living societies<sup>7</sup>. There was a belief that the reform of the political system will inevitably be associated with the Islamist groups coming to power and often associated with terrorist organizations. The Arab Spring was connected inseparably with the need of taking action in order to create a new line of policy towards the region as well as the adoption of a new approach to the political changing terrain. Actions aimed

7 Read more: LAREMONT R.R., *Revolution, Revolt and Reform in North Africa: The Arab Spring and Beyond*, Routledge, 2014r, Álvaro de Vasconcelos, *Listening to Unfamiliar Voices - The Arab Democratic Wave*, Paris: European Union Institute for Security Studies, 2012r., p. 83- 90, THE WORLD BANK Annual Report 2013, Middle East and North Africa, p.40;K. Kozłowski, *Kolory rewolucji*, Wydawnictwo Poltext, Warszawa, 2012r; Middle East and North Africa, *Growth and Poverty Reduction*, <http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTDECPROSPECTS/0,,contentMDK:23112547~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:476883,00.html>.

new approach to build a healthier relationship<sup>8</sup> with the Southern neighbours<sup>9</sup>. The Arab Awakening still constitutes a threat to European security<sup>10</sup>.

The scale of incidents and the consequences of the Arab Spring surprised the international community. However, the *Arab Human Development Report*<sup>11</sup> already predicted in 2009 that the Arab world will face security challenges associated with the growing population, which can lead to internal tensions between different communities. Potential conflicts are also based on perceived competition for diminishing natural resources, which will result in tensions between the countries of the Arab and non-Arab participants in international relations.

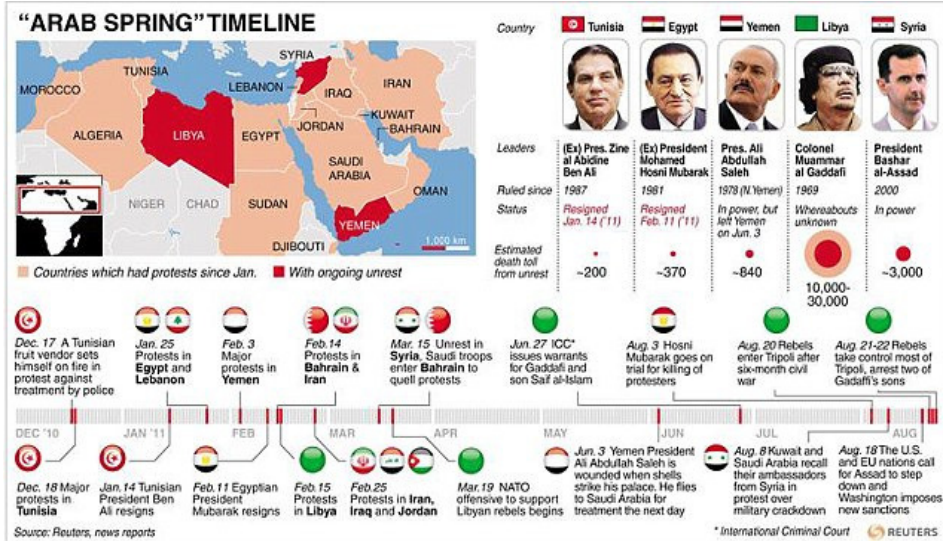


Figure 2. Three down, two to go: Obama gives veiled threat to violent Syrian regime as residents inspired by Gaddafi death pour into streets, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2051683/Gaddafi-dead-Obama-warns-Syrian-President-Bashar-al-Assad.html#ixzz2yI7GUff>, Viewed May, 2014

8 DWORKIN A. WITNEY N, A Power Audit of EU-North Africa relations, European council on foreign relations(ECFR), 2012, p. 5.

9 EU response to the Arab Spring, [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/ neighbourhood/ arab\\_spring /index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/ neighbourhood/ arab_spring /index_en.htm), Viewed May, 2014.

10 Still Awake: The Beginnings of Arab Democratic Change, Report of the Polish Institute of International Affairs and the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Warsaw, 2012, p. 5.

11 The Report in Brief, Arab Human Development Report, Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Arab States, <http://www.arab-hdr.org/publications/contents/2009/execsummary-e.pdf>, Viewed May, 2014.

## Political issues

European policy toward MENA region have pursued the same objectives for 65 years: security, energy and market. This main goal of interests has been the purpose of the Global Mediterranean Policy (1972-1992), the Euro-Arab Dialogue (1974-1989), the Renewed Mediterranean Policy (1990-1996), the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (1995-2008), the European Neighbourhood Policy (2004-2012) and, finally, the Union for the Mediterranean (2008-2012). Sometimes, two or three overlapping policies were conducted at the same time<sup>12</sup>.

The European Union concentrated on three main aspects in the neighbourhood policy:

- the political and security basket,
- economic basket,
- cultural and social basket.

Conviction that democratic states do not conduct wars strongly revealed after the attacks of September 11, 2001. “War on terror” was by seen undemocratic states as a roots of evil. The principle role in solving the problem of terrorism was cooperation with authoritarian pro – Western regimes. According to Hannu Juusola the lack of democracy in the region is a challenge not only for European<sup>13</sup>. Union but also negative influence on international standards<sup>14</sup>. The Middle East and North Africa countries are perceived as “long lasting region with the lowest level of democracy in the world.” In MENA region governing change had violent course. This caused instability in the region. According to the researches of Moataz Abdel Fattah<sup>15</sup> from 2006 and Richarda Auxiera<sup>16</sup> from 2011, public opinion in the

**12** KHADER B., *The European Union and the Arab World: from the Rome Treaty to the Arab Spring*, European Institute of the Mediterranean, 2013.

**13** JUUSOLA H. Juusola, EL FELGIERY M., BEHR T., “The Arab Spring,” in Timo Behr (Ed.), *Hard Choices. The EU’s Options in a Changing Middle East*, The Finnish Institute of International Affairs, FIIA Report 28, 2011.

**14** *Hard Choices: The EU’s Options in a Changing Middle East*, FIIA REPORT 28, Juvenes Print, Tampere 2011, p. 69.

**15** FATTAH M. A., *Democratic values in the Muslim world*, Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2006.

**16** AUXIER R. C., *Egypt, Democracy and Islam*, Pew Research Center, [http:// www.pewresearch.org/2011/01/31/egypt-democracy-and-islam/](http://www.pewresearch.org/2011/01/31/egypt-democracy-and-islam/), Viewed May, 2014.

region imagine democracy in the way different from the West standards. In both researches the role of Islam and its influence was seen in a positive way in most of the countries.

In Europe, democratic structures evolved over the centuries<sup>17</sup>. Values such as democracy, the role of law and human rights underpin the functioning of the EU. However, European countries showed ambiguity in relations with the region MENA, by supporting dictatorships in the Southern Mediterranean region. Demonstrated ambivalence in its approach to the Arab region has undermined the credibility of the EU. Islamic movements were suppressed under the dictatorship, but they remained active in the social life of the Arab world. No link to the “degenerate” West contributed to the liking of certain groups of citizens.

Policy of the EU's toward the Southern Mediterranean has a longstanding tradition. In the 1970s, relations began with a patchwork of measures which were targeting at trade and development. The end of the Cold War caused security concerns in relations between EU and MENA region. The policy approach was visible in Barcelona Processes established in 1995 and known also as the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP). Cooperation in this program included 12 Mediterranean states. Association agreements were limited mainly to trade. Bilateral relation also take important role as promotion of the democracy standards. The EMP was conceived also as a regional forum of economic stability and better understanding among people through cultural and social initiatives<sup>18</sup>. In 2005 the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was launched. The project was set for the Southern and Eastern neighbours. The Union's security clearly played the main role in the ENP agenda. In case of reflecting more on relationships between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in 2008 was established<sup>19</sup>.

**17** FINGERLAND J., What the revolutions mean for us, 30 May 2011 Mladá Fronta DNES <http://www.presseurop.eu/en/content/article/683071-what-revolutions-mean-us>, Viewed May, 2014.

**18** WOLFF S., Southern Europe's Role After the Arab Spring: Winning Back Voice and Access, <http://www.lse.ac.uk/IDEAS/publications/reports/pdf/SR017/Wolff.pdf>, Viewed May, 2014.

**19** INGEBORG T. The EU's New Neighbourhood Policy: An Appropriate Response to the Arab Spring?, <http://www.e-ir.info/2013/05/29/the-new-neighbourhood-policy-of-the-eu-an-appropriate-response-to-the-arab-spring/>, Viewed May, 2014.

The current Western economic crisis from 2008 caused the division of Southern European members with fragile economics and Northern European members with dynamic economics. In EU significant increase of support is not observed. However southern region of EU seems to ask for the shift in the allocation pattern of resources or providing them. Crises in North Africa, apart from the case of Libya, demand, above all, economic and civilian resources<sup>20</sup>. Economic problems in southern part of Europe cause intensification of nationalism<sup>21</sup>. The risk that weakens Southern Europe may undermine the policy of the EU towards the Arab world is nonetheless real. Southern region of Europe has always strongly advocated the policy of balancing EU aid between Southern and Eastern neighbours.

After Arab Awakening European Union revised policy according to this region. In February 2011 and in next months of 2011 the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection reacted on the situation donating the region with the amount of EUR 80.5 million. Help was divided on baskets which covered a 'EUR 40 million emergency decision; EUR 20 million Humanitarian Implementation Plan (i.e. programmed funding), EUR 10 million for the reintegration of Chadians from Libya, EUR 10.5 million from the Civil Protection budget line for evacuation of third country nationals'<sup>22</sup>. New approaches were visible in the Joint Communication *A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean*. It announced that the region of North Africa got extra €1.2 billion funds. In budget for the period 2011–13 region gain the €5.7 billion. Some aspects of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) changed<sup>23</sup>. In May 2011<sup>24</sup>, the European Commission and the European External Action Service launched partly in response to the 'Arab Spring' confirm reinforced engagement and strategy of strengthening individual and regional relations between

20 ALIBONI R., Southern Europe and the Mediterranean from Cold War t the Arab Spring, Ed. Southern Europe and the Mediterranean: national approaches and transatlantic perspective. Mediterranean Paper Series, Istituto Affari Internazionali, 2011.

21 According to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs society was afraid about their safety.

22 EU response to the Arab Spring, [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/\\_enpi-south/documents/eu\\_response\\_to\\_the\\_arab\\_spring\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/_enpi-south/documents/eu_response_to_the_arab_spring_en.pdf), Viewed May, 2014.

23 European Commission and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, "A Partnership For Democracy And Shared Prosperity With The Southern Mediterranean", Brussels, 8 March 2011, [http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/docs/com2011\\_200\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/docs/com2011_200_en.pdf), Viewed May, 2014.

24 Joint Communication "A new response to a changing Neighbourhood" 25 May 2011.

the EU and MENA region<sup>25</sup>. Revised policy made up the two slogans “more for more” and the “3Ms” – money, mobility and markets<sup>26</sup>. *A new response to a changing Neighbourhood* program was based on three elements. First was ‘deep democracy’ transformation which included the rules of democratic institution-building. This point particular focused on fundamental rules of European Union as human rights and freedoms. The reforms included fight against corruption of the Judiciary. The second rule was a stronger partnership with the people, with specific emphasis on civil society support and on enhanced opportunities for exchanges and people-to-people contacts with a particular focus on the young. Third point emphasised sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Development should include especially small and medium enterprises. This point was also according to improving health and education systems, educational training, and development of the poorer regions<sup>27</sup>

The European Investment Bank (EIB) increased its help for the countries of Mediterranean to €1 billion in the same period of time. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) set up a new found of investments of €1 billion for emerging Arab democracies. The scale of investments was estimated to increase to rate of €2.5 billion in the future. The EU is also providing around €700 million in grants for the Southern neighbourhood in SPRING programme. The founding provided the Support for Partnership Reform and Inclusive Growth. The support was given to southern region as a commitment to progress in democratic reform<sup>28</sup>.

One of main challenges for EU politics is the creation of mutual trust. The principal role for the countries of MENA region in the post-colonial policy was sovereignty. However it was visible that relations with metropolis was far more tighten. The more democratic the new governments are, the more assertive they are likely to

25 Euro-Mediterranean statistics, Eurostat, Luxemburg, 2013.

26 DWORKIN A. WITNEY N., A Power Audit of EU-North Africa relations, European council on foreign relations(ECFR), 2012, p. 27.

27 Joint Communication to the European Council, the European Parliament, The Council, The Economic and Social Committee and the regions a partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean, Brussels, 8.3.2011 COM(2011).

28 EU's response to the “Arab Spring”: The State-of-Play after Two Years, [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-13-81\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-81_en.htm), Viewed May, 2014.



be about their identity. New position of power and their relations with Europe might not be to the liking of European countries.<sup>29</sup>

## **Muslims in Europe. Perception of citizens from MENA region**

John Feffer in publication *Crusade 2.0: The West's Resurgent War on Islam* stand on the point of view that anti-Islamic sentiment in the West intensified after 9/11. *Crusade 2* underlines that the situation which can be observed now is not a simply "clash of civilization". The situation is associated with geopolitical factors such as power, demography, territory and economic aspects. One of main coefficient which caused the increased fear of Islam is demographic structure<sup>30</sup>. According to Nathalia Tocci and Jean -Pierre Cassarino the "fear of terrorism, political Islam, smuggling and organized crime, an authorized migration and the wider spill over effects of instability, has induced most Europeans, leaders and publics alike, to deepen a policy of containment in recent years."<sup>31</sup>.

There are approximately 20 million Muslims out of 500 million<sup>32</sup> residents in the EU. Total number of Arabs living in Europe is estimated between 7 to 8 million. About 80% of them are Maghreb origin. It is important to take into account that Arab migrants are Arab expatriates regular and irregular migrants, naturalised and non-naturalised<sup>33</sup>.

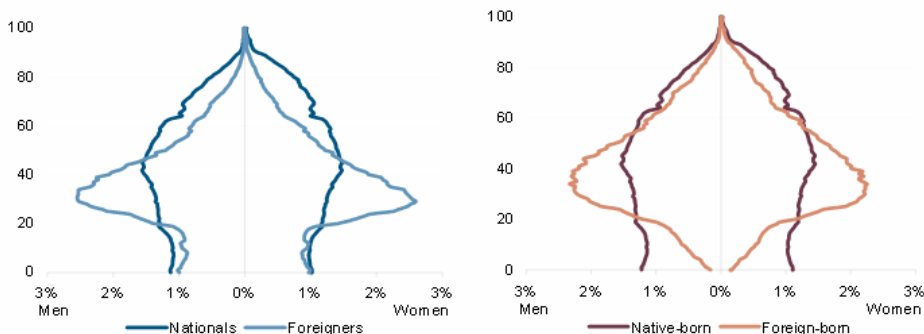
**29** BALFOUR R., *EU Conditionality after the Arab Spring*, European Institute of the Mediterranean, 2012, p. 26.

**30** FETTER J., *Crusade 2.0: The West's Resurgent War on Islam*, City Lights Open Media, 2012.

**31** SEEBERG P., *The Arab Uprisings and the EU. EU migration policies towards the Mediterranean: learning to cope with "a Changing Neighbourhood"* Center for Mellemøststudier, Odense, 2011.

**32** VASILEVA K., *Nearly two-thirds of the foreigners living in EU Member States are citizens of countries outside the EU-27*, Eurostat, Luxemburg, 2012.

**33** KHADER B., *The European Union and the Arab World: from the Rome Treaty to the Arab Spring*, European Institute of the Mediterranean, 2013.



Source: K. Vasileva, Population and social conditions, Eurostat, Statics in focus 34/2011, Viewed May, 2014.

**Figure 3. Population age structure by citizenship and country of birth, EU-27, 2010**

After Arab Awakening islamophobia has intensified in some states of Europe. Increasing number of Muslims immigrants from northern Africa causes fear in societies on the south and west Europe. It is estimated that in 2011 two million Arabs leave homes and migrate to the West. According to the statistics of Eurostat, the number of refugees from Tunisia increased to about 92,5 percent, from Libya 76 percent and from Syria 50 percent<sup>34</sup>.

The problem of the influx of immigrants from North Africa mostly touched Malta, Greece, Italy - especially strongly the island of Lampedusa and Spain<sup>35</sup>. Some estimates indicate the number of over 20 thousand irregular immigrants to Europe<sup>36</sup>. In the first quarter of 2011. 33 thousand of irregular migrants arrived to the EU. Comparing this figure with the 15 thousand from the first quarter of 2010 it is observed a twofold increase. The European Commission assumed in 2011 that in the future the influx of migration will be more visible in the region

<sup>34</sup> BARRY A., Europe's Dilemma: Immigration and the Arab Spring, [http://fpif.org/europes\\_dilemma\\_immigration\\_and\\_the\\_arab\\_spring/](http://fpif.org/europes_dilemma_immigration_and_the_arab_spring/).

<sup>35</sup> V. Novotny, Opening the door? Immigration and Integration in the European Union, Centre for European Studies, 2012 r., s. 17.

<sup>36</sup> European Commission, Communication on Migration, COM(2011) 248 final, 4 May 2011.

of North Africa. It is also assumed that many of them will need international protection<sup>37</sup>.

Countries in which migrants cross borders with European Union had to manage with the responsibility of Dublin II treaty. Dublin Regulation establishes criteria identifying the Member State responsible for the examination of an asylum application claim and family links in Europe. European States are determined to ensure effective access to an asylum procedure. <sup>38</sup>.

Schengen Zone led to travel easily migrants between member states. Refugees without the necessary documents were sent to the country of the first border crossing with European Union. Some countries especially Italy and Greece were frustrated about such policy. These states are entry points for immigrants because of their location<sup>39</sup>

Some important action was to try to manage with the wave of migrants through observation and reconnaissance operation “Hermes 2011” launched on February 20, 2011. by Frontex. Operation started on formal request for assistance in strengthening EU’s external borders in the form of a Joint Operation. On February 15th the Italian Ministry of Interior requested FRONTEX in cause of regarding the extraordinary migratory situation in the Pelagic Islands. The request also concerned the analysis of future migratory pressure on region. Approximately, 6,000 irregular migrants who arrived at the Italian coast. Half of irregular migrants were Tunisian nationality who arrived in one month time, after February 11<sup>th</sup> according to the Italian Ministry of Interior. The situation was seen as a risk because before February 11th, the number of Tunisian origin immigrants were 14 people<sup>40</sup>.

Movements in Africa and the Middle East caused the challenge of immigration and its perception in European Zone countries. The immigration problem has

37 European Commission, A Dialogue for Migration, Mobility, Security with the Southern Mediterranean Countries, COM (2011) 292 final, 24 May 2011 r.

38 Dublin Regulation, <http://www.ecre.org/topics/areas-of-work/protection-in-europe/10-dublin-regulation.html>, Viewed May, 2014.

39 A. Barry, Europe’s Dilemma: Immigration and the Arab Spring, [http://fpif.org/europes\\_dilemma\\_immigration\\_and\\_the\\_arab\\_spring/](http://fpif.org/europes_dilemma_immigration_and_the_arab_spring/), Viewed May, 2014.

40 Hermes 2011 Starts Tomorrow in Lampedusa, <http://frontex.europa.eu/news/hermes-2011-starts-tomorrow-in-lampedusa-X4XZcr>, Viewed May, 2014.

not affected all EU countries to the same extent. In 2011, approximately 54% of all European citizens thought that most immigrants stay legally in their countries while 35% had opposite point of view. The society of the states exposed to a large influx of immigrants expressed concern about situation in Maghreb and Arab revolution.

One of example is Italy where government focused on boat arrivals and possibility of an 'invasion'. Public's stance was divided in terms of the view of immigrants. 48% saw it mainly as a problem, 28% perceived immigration as an opportunity and 18% recognized the positive and negative aspects in situation. Researches indicated 64% Italians perceived that immigrants are present illegally, in Spain the number of respondents who shared that view was about 49%. The lowest concern presents Germany with 13% where immigrants were seen by nearly half respondents as a opportunity for the country.

Below, the bar graph presents concerns about immigration in perception of some nations. Respondents were asked whether they were worried about illegal immigration. The majority of the respondents bothered about that problem. The highest rates of concern were in Italy (80%), followed by Spain (74%), and the United Kingdom (71%)<sup>41</sup>.

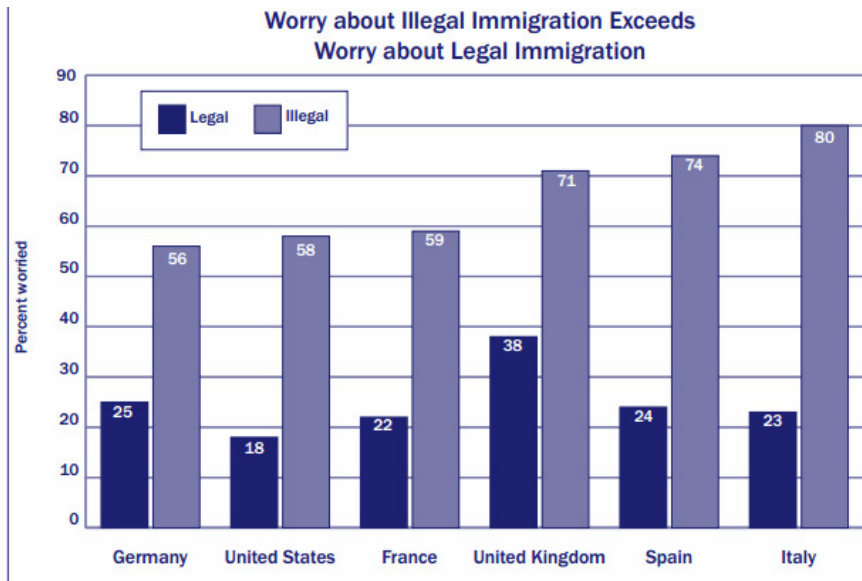
According to Migration Policy Center report from August 2012, in four countries of European Union Italy, Spain United Kingdom and Germany the number of immigrants was increasing. This statement provides annual statistics of legal immigration and situation after the Arab revolution was comparable to trend which is visible from more than five years. The increase of migration about 90,839 from Middle East and South Africa in 2011 was similar to the increase in previous years 67,214 in 2010 and 111,738 in 2009<sup>42</sup>.

In the third quarter of 2013, FRONTEX observed that there had been a massive influx of illegal immigrants in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. Reported cases of illegal border crossings at the maritime borders of the EU. There were more than in any phase of the Arab Spring in 2011. At the same time, the number

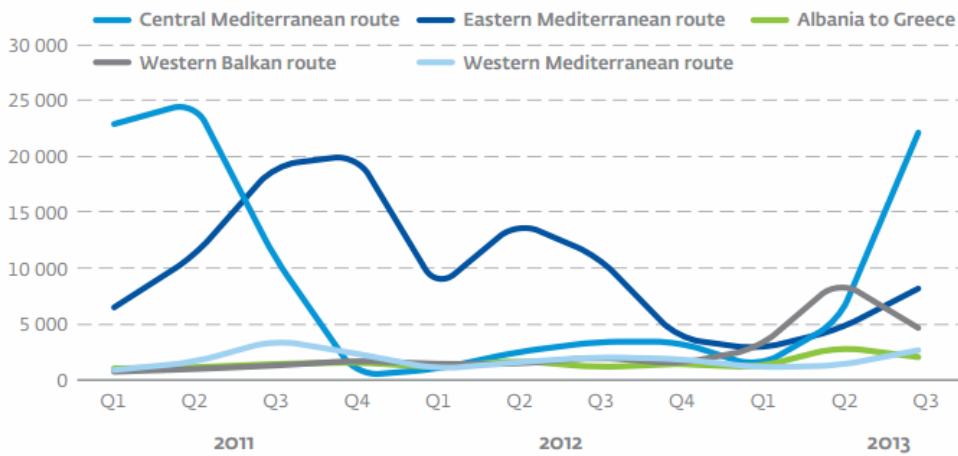
<sup>41</sup> Transatlantic Trends: Immigration 2011, TRANSATLANTIC TRENDS, p 6-7.

<sup>42</sup> P. Fargues, C. Fandrich, Migration after the Arab Spring, Migration Policy Centre, Research Report 2012/09.

of applications for international protection in the EU increased, comparing with any other period since 2008 the year when data began to be collected for this indicator. The Syrians were the nationality at the forefront in the rates of illegal migration, such as even crossing the border (in different locations types of border crossings) or illegal residence in several Member States. The Syrians also presented more asylum applications than any of the other nationalities. So the Syrians were included in the report FRAN Q3 as the nation that permits the most common illegal migration. The level of illegal crossing of the borders has grown to a level comparable to the one which was last seen during the initial phase of the Arab Spring during seasonal growth in the maritime border routes where so far it performed a much smaller scale.



**Bar graph 1 Worry about Illegal Immigration Exceeds Worry about Legal Immigration (Transatlantic Trends: Immigration, 2011 Partners, TRANSATLANTIC TRENDS, 2011)**



Source: FRAN Quarterly, Quarter 3, 2013, p. 15.

**Figure 4. Detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs by main irregular migration route**

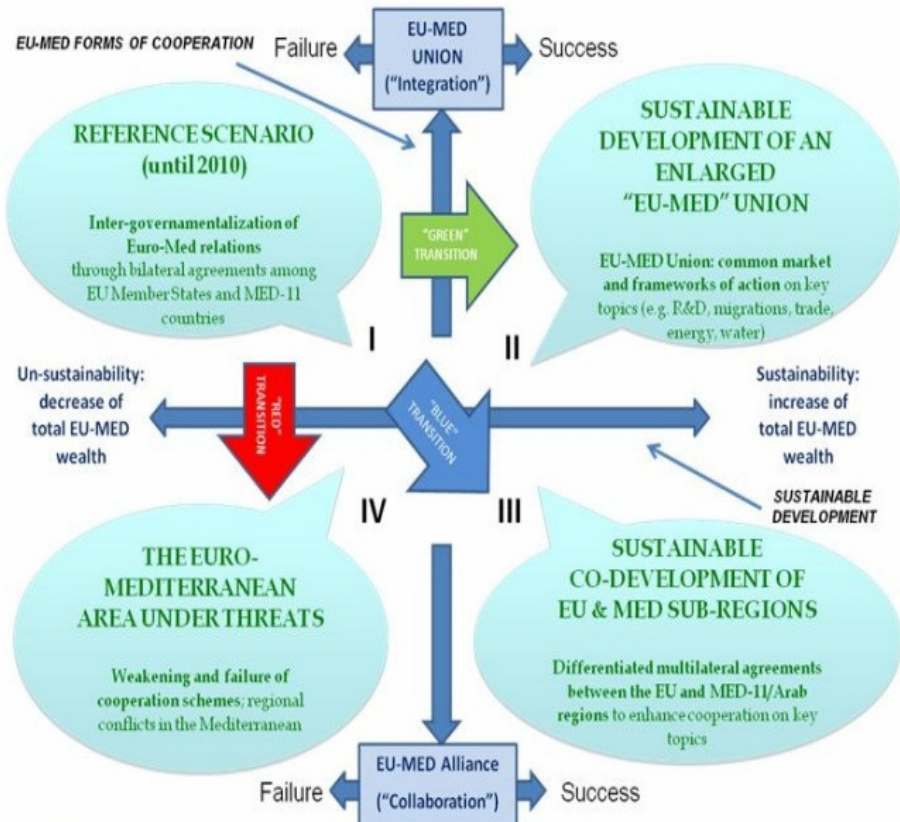
## Summary

European Union face many security challenges after government change in MENA. Emerging societies demand independent policy. New regional powers won't allow to intervene into inside affairs of these countries<sup>43</sup>. Reforms in EU's policy reacted on transition of power in MENA region<sup>44</sup>. The policy to the Euro-Mediterranean region may have some scenarios. Rym Ayadi and Carlo Sessa predict the ways of evolution at the situation after the post-Arab Spring.

<sup>43</sup> J. Fingerland, What the revolutions mean for us, 30 May 2011 Mladá Fronta DNES <http://www.presseurop.eu/en/content/article/683071-what-revolutions-mean-us>, Viewed May, 2014.

<sup>44</sup> INGEBORG T. The EU's New Neighbourhood Policy: An Appropriate Response to the Arab Spring?, <http://www.e-ir.info/2013/05/29/the-new-neighbourhood-policy-of-the-eu-an-appropriate-response-to-the-arab-spring/>, Viewed May, 2014.

*Alternative scenarios of Euro-Mediterranean policy in 2030*



**Figure 5. What scenarios for the Euro-Mediterranean in 2030 in the wake of the post-Arab spring?** Rym Ayadi and Carlo Sessa, *MEDPRO Policy Paper No. 2/October 2011*

The Arab Spring is regarded as an opportunity and a challenge by both the EU and the countries of the MENA region. The events of the Arab Awakening contributed to the need for a redefinition of policy towards the region. The new important direction in its activities occupy economic, political and social aspects. Moreover, an important part of creating safety is also a cultural, historical and ideological factor. Mutual improvement of cultural awareness can help to improve relations. The economic crisis has strongly raised European society's awareness of the phenomenon of immigration. This social phenomenon is particularly evident in countries that have a high percentage of immigrants in society. Society still feels uncertainty about the economic situation caused by the economic crisis, which

may potentiate the anti-immigration views. The events of 9/11 also contribute to a number of concerns related to immigrants from the MENA region and potential phenomena of terrorism. The region receives financial support from the EU, in order to stabilize the situation, as well as limiting the influx of immigrants to Europe. An important question is how they perceive the state of democracy in the MENA region. Are there stereotypes in mutual perceptions that hinder cooperation? How should we build mutual cooperation?