

Project title: "CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN NORTH AFRICA (MOROCCO, ALGERIA, TUNISIA, LIBYA, EGYPT) AND THEIR RELEVANCE FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMICAL EU STRATEGIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA"

TOPICS:

The project deals with recent constitutional changes in North African countries involved in s.c "Arab spring". Political events in these countries, often interconnected with each other as well as with other regional geopolitical dynamics, influence the political situation in the whole Mediterranean area, which is of great interest to the European Union.

The research intends to contribute to a better understanding of the political and economical dynamics of North African Countries. In particular, the research would help to improve knowledge of the institutions of these countries, in order to assess the key factors that determine the rise and fall of political leadership as well as the development of economic and political cooperation. For this, it will be evaluated the role of internal and external actors: political institutions, the judiciary, the Islamic movements (particularly the Muslim Brotherhood), political parties, NGOs and Trade unions. The research will also address the risk of political destabilization of the region and of its consequences in term of security and of protection of human rights as well.

Finally, the research intends to propose an innovative approach to the constitutional experiences of Muslim countries. The so-called "Arab Spring", in fact, is an interesting case-study for western scholars, which are compelled to face the dynamic aspects of Islamic constitutional experiences. In particular, one should consider critically some clichés, like for example the presumed contradictions between Islam and constitutional democracy as well as the dependence of the contemporary Islamic public law from the European Constitutionalism.

EXPECTED IMPACT:

With this research is expected to contribute to improving the understanding of the political and institutional dynamics of these countries, with particular reference to the formation of the ruling class and new political and religious elites and the role that they have in economic development and regional relations . It also aims to contribute to better define the role of the EU in the area, both in the development of democracy both in the economic as well as cultural cooperation. Finally, we expect to encourage cooperation among scholars in the Mediterranean area to search common rules for the management of geopolitical and humanitarian issues in the Region

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