

# TRANSLATING AND UNDERSTANDING THE ARAB WORLD IN 2023

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A visit by the Maltese Diplomatic Academy to Paris  
Hosted by the EUISS

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13 April 2023, EUISS Headquarters, 100 Avenue de Suffren, 75015 Paris

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## CONCEPT NOTE

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 has directly impacted the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Socioeconomically, the crisis in Eastern Europe has impacted the MENA in several ways, most notably through increased food and energy costs and interruptions to global supply lines. How have MENA countries been impacted one year since the beginning of the war in Ukraine? Are there notable differences between countries? Are there losers and winners?

Also, geopolitically, where do MENA states stand? Russia has spent the past two decades establishing itself and refining its narrative in the MENA. Russia's military engagement in Syria in 2015 allowed the country to enhance its presence and influence through a renewed collaboration spanning arms sales, oil production coordination (OPEC+), nuclear energy cooperation and security problems alignment.

This lecture will investigate how the war affected MENA countries and Russia's involvement in the area. It will also explore the impact of the conflict on the region, the changing attitudes and perceptions of Russia, the geopolitical dynamics in the MENA region, and how the EU should modify its priorities in a region still shaken by the Arab uprisings of 2011.

## AGENDA

10.00

Welcome Breakfast

10.30-10.45

Presentation on the EUISS and the work of the MENA team

*Speaker: Caspar Hobhouse*

**EUISS – Trainee: Middle East and North Africa**

10.45 -11.30

State of MENA affairs and Moscow's Enduring Shadow in the region.

*Speaker: Dr Dalia Ghanem*

**EUISS – Senior Analyst: Middle East and North Africa**

11.30-12.30

Q&A and Remarks

12.30-14 :00

Lunch with the delegation at EUISS HQ