

CALL FOR PAPERS

EISA European Workshops in International Studies

Izmir University of Economics, 1-3 July 2026

Izmir, Turkey

Convenors: Professor Thomas Diez, University of Tübingen, Germany and Dr. Ipek Ruacan, MEF University, Turkey

Workshop Title: The Eastern Mediterranean in International Society: Identifying the Challenges and Opportunities for Building a Regional Order

Overview and Paper Subjects: This workshop explores how we may conceptualise the Eastern Mediterranean with its competing identities, conflicts, international and transnational networks from an international society framework, and, vice versa, how studying the Eastern Mediterranean helps us to clarify and advance core concepts within such a framework as well as their relationship.

Throughout its rich history, the Eastern Mediterranean has been a cradle of different civilizations and major religious traditions while also serving as a busy commercial hub. The collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the emergence of new post-imperial states as well as colonization and de-colonization have shaped regional dynamics in the twentieth century. The workshop aims at exploring the historical and contemporary forces that continue to shape the Eastern Mediterranean. We want to do so primarily through the lens of the international society tradition, which provides a framework to fruitfully explore dynamics of colonialism, regionalism, power competition, armament, and the interplay of state structures and international politics as well as of civil society and interstate relations.

Papers may for instance explore;

(i) The tensions between order and justice in conflict resolution in Cyprus or Palestine, or in relation to the Kurdish question; the processes of and obstacles to state recognition in international society related to northern Cyprus and the Palestinian Authority; the status of contested states in international society; or the question of arms control in the Eastern Mediterranean;

(ii) Efforts at developing a regional international society and its contestations in the East-Med Gas Forum, EU-related processes and the New Pact for the Mediterranean proposed by the European Commission; the ways in which the consequences of climate change and the shortage or discovery of natural resources such as gas and water affects patterns of conflict and cooperation within regional and global international institutions;

(iii) The role of memory and the Ottoman legacy in the region; or the ways in which religion is instrumentalised and affects the formation of inter- and transnational societies;

(iv) The role and development of power competition and cooperation in the region, as well as the influence of outside powers in shaping dynamics in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Please submit your paper proposals through the official EISA submission site and also email the workshop convenors.

EISA Submission Site: <https://eisa-net.org/ewis-2026/> **E-mail addresses:**

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