

VISION DOCUMENT

EAST MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM 2023-2025

“Security in East Mediterranean”



Milli Savunma ve Güvenlik Enstitüsü
National Defence and Security Institute

TASAM
TÜRK ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ
TURKISH ASIAN CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

EAST MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM

2023-2025

“Security in East Mediterranean”



VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

EAST MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM

“Security in East Mediterranean”

(2023-2025, Istanbul-Türkiye)

The Mediterranean region surrounded by the North Africa, Middle East, Anatolia, Balkans and Western Europe is the basic geographical area, where the premodern world history was written. The civilizations, such as the Ancient Greece, Rome, Ancient Egypt and Ottoman Empire sprouted and lived thanks to the geopolitical opportunities provided by the Mediterranean. But today, new opportunities and risks have emerged for the future of the Mediterranean, as production has shifted to Eastern countries, especially China and India.

Almost 98% of the crude oil needed by the energy markets, and 90% of the commercial cargoes (according to the UN sources) are transported on sea routes at the beginning of the 21st century. Today, maritime transport contributes just about 500 billion dollars to the world economy, and 30% of this share flows through the routes of the Mediterranean basin. Given the surface area of the Mediterranean Sea is almost 1% of the world's seas, it can be seen how important the Eastern Mediterranean Sea in geostrategic terms and the extent of the international rivalry.

At the present time, the most important problem among the countries surrounding the Mediterranean is the development disparity and the inequality of income distribution among the countries. An important portion of the people living in the region is deprived of expressing themselves politically. And this situation causes numerous security problems, in particular terrorism, illegal immigration, human trafficking and drug trafficking. Furthermore, the economic activity in the Region is substantially performed among few rich countries and non-regional countries. However, even making use of the favorable transportation opportunities offered by the Mediterranean is a candidate to provide a very serious added value for the regional, economic and political relations. In the event that the communication opportunities among the countries surrounding the Mediterranean and the people living there are improved, there is no significant obstacle in front of the Region to become a completely new center of attraction.

In this conjuncture; It is important for distinguished civil society representatives from all Mediterranean countries, especially think-tanks and universities, to gather and discuss issues of mutual interest, in order to reduce the tension between regional powers, promote peace and stability among them, and deepen understanding and cooperation with friendly and allied countries. Even possibly reducing tensions in this manner has the potential to contribute to CBMs (Confidence Building Measures) among nations.



EAST MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM

2023-2025

“Security in East Mediterranean”



In order to promote effective communications and strategic capacity through free and candid interaction in a civil and academic environment, the first event of the **East Mediterranean Program** is planned to be a 3-day **workshop** titled **Security in the East Mediterranean** with international Institutional participation **in Istanbul** (Sheraton Istanbul City Center) on the **dates of 17-19 July 2023**, to be held by **NESA** and **TASAM**.

Sub-Themes

Great Powers’ Relations and Competition

Counter-Terrorism and Asymmetric Threats

Open and Independent Common Domains

US Security Engagement and Assurance Vision

Regional Powers and Governance of Competition

Economic Development, Political Stability and Regional Cooperation

Arab - Israeli Peace Process

Cyprus

Climate Change, Economy and Energy Security

