

Editorial

The staff of the "Mediterranean Social Sciences Network" heartily welcomes twenty-five new contributors to this third issue of our Newsletter. By now we have established contact with fifty-one Institutes within the Mediterranean, who acknowledged our initiative with enthusiasm and who sent us information about their Institute to be diffused through the Newsletter. Thus we have already spoken about institutes from various places along the coast of the Mediterranean basin, including the following countries: Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

However there are still some areas, like the Balkans and others in the Near East, from where no reply has as yet been forthcoming. I do hope that this will be accounted for in the near future, possibly by the next issue of the Newsletter.

No efforts are being spared in order to continue with the experiment of the Network. The Newsletter is being sent not only to those institutes that have answered our call and are already part of the Network, but also to several others with the aim of furthering our contacts. Not every Institute receiving the Newsletter has as yet answered our questionnaire or supplied us with information about their Institute for inclusion in our Newsletter. For those who are interested a copy of the questionnaire is being included in this issue on page 46.

At this point in time it is worth mentioning, perhaps, that no subscription fees are paid in order to join the Mediterranean Social Sciences Network. No formal membership system exists. It is just an opportunity to diffuse information about one's own Institute with its facilities and activities, and in like manner to come to know of other similar Institutes.

This point is being emphasized following the International Conference held in Bodrum, Turkey, organized by the Mediterranean working group of E.A.D.I. There I had the opportunity to present this project to the participants. This was one of the questions which some of those present asked me privately, that is, whether there is some sort of formal membership because in that case bureaucratic procedures would have to be followed, possibly impeding or slowing down actual participation. This may be one reason why some have hesitated to join the Network. For this reason I felt the need to clarify our position, namely *that there are no formal fees to be paid at all*. I think it is also necessary to stress that there is no real need for an Institute to focus specifically and solely on Mediterranean studies. Any Institute, no matter what its area of concern may be, could form part of the Network. As long as it is an Institute of any field in the Social Sciences and is situated within the Mediterranean Basin, it can form part of the Network. Social Sciences Institutes outside the Mediterranean region may also be included in the Network, if they specialize in Mediterranean Studies.

Once I have mentioned the E.A.D.I. conference held in Bodrum, I find it only fitting to speak about the latest developments concerning the Network, which were highlighted during the Conference. Not only was the idea of the Network enthusiastically received (and those who saw the Newsletter for the first time openly expressed their appreciation particularly for its presentation) but an agreement was also reached for stricter collaboration between the Mediterranean Working Group of E.A.D.I. and the Mediterranean Institute at the Foundation for International Studies, Valletta, Malta, designated by the Vienna Centre as the focal point of the Mediterranean Social Sciences Network. The E.A.D.I. Mediterranean Working Group will be making use of the Network to diffuse information about its activities and of the Newsletter for the publication of papers delivered in conferences.

For this reason, we are including in this issue information about E.A.D.I. and the Vienna Centre as the creator and pioneer of the Mediterranean Social Sciences Network. Besides information about Institutes and their activities, this issue also includes an article by Gencay Saylan, delivered at the Bodrum Conference, on Religious Revivalism and its influence on Politics, considering Religious Revivalism as a central political force. It is an analysis of the Turkish situation.

Finally I would like to renew my appeal to all readers to send material i.e. articles, contributions, essays, news and information about publications and activities in any field of Social Sciences to be printed in our Newsletter.

Carmel Tabone O.P.

Coordinator

Mediterranean Social Sciences Network