



# EMBRACE

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## 1st Newsletter

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The EU-funded **EMBRACE project** investigate obstacles to democratisation in the European neighbourhood and identifies ways to overcome them. It examines various types of blockages (behavioural, institutional, structural) and studies the cultural, historical and geopolitical contexts in which they emerge. The project engages partners from EU and non-EU countries. Its work includes the development of an innovative policy toolkit supporting the EU's efforts in promoting democracy in its Eastern and Southern neighbourhood.

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We wish you a peaceful holiday season and a healthy start to the new year.

## Spotlight: Get to know EMBRACE



Watch our video  
introduction to  
EMBRACE!

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## In Memoriam



### EMBRACE mourns loss of Mahmoud Alnaouq

Mahmoud (26) was a researcher at PalThink for Strategic Studies, an EMBRACE consortium partner. He worked to better understand the blockages to democracy in Palestine. At the end of September, Mahmoud received an acceptance letter from an Australian University for a master's degree. Mahmoud's ambition and dreams were without limit. He was killed in the shelling of Gaza, alongside his family, at the end of October.

Our sincere condolences go to Mahmoud's family, his friends and colleagues.

## Past Activities



### Stakeholder engagement

The EMBRACE teams conducted 6 stakeholder committees in the 5 regions under study and one with stakeholders from EU institutions. Discussions ranged from the role of the EU to the concept of democracy in general. Read the reports on the meetings on our website.

[Read more](#)



### Joint panel at ipb conference

EMBRACE organised a panel at the annual conference of the ipb, Institute for Protest and Social Movement Studies "Social Movement and Peace Research in Dialogue" on 5.-6. October, co-organised by the INTERACT Center for Interdisciplinary Peace and Conflict Research at the Free University Berlin. Véronique Dudouet and Lara Azzam (both Berghof Foundation), Sarah Rennick (ARI), Laura Luciani (Gent University) and Sandra Pogodda (University of Manchester) presented on international peace interventions and grassroots mobilisation in Armenia, Lebanon, Syria and Libya.



## Public Roundtable

On April 26, as kick-off to the Methodology Workshop, a public Roundtable on the future prospects for the EU's eastern partnership was hosted by the University of Konstanz. A lively discussion between the speakers from Ukraine, Serbia, Belarus, and Germany ensued (Karina Shyrokykh, Stockholm University; Nebojsa Vladislavjević, University of Belgrade; Olga Shparaga, Institut for Human Sciences, Austria; Dirk Leuffen and Sonja Grimm, both Konstanz University). Themes raised were inter alia the balance of focus on stability and security vs democratisation and progressive change, the importance of recognizing all relevant actors in a society including opposition and civil society, the mismatch between the aspirations of countries in the EU neighbourhood and the EU's Neighbourhood Policy.



## Methodology Workshop in Konstanz

The EMBRACE consortium gathered at the end of April in Konstanz for the Methodology Workshop. During the Workshop, the overarching methodology of the project was presented by Sonja Grimm as scientific lead, while the leads of the five thematic workpackages presented their methodologies. Rich discussions and feed-back by colleagues and members of the external advisory board (including Christoph Zürcher, Anke Höffler, Anja Osei, Olga Shparaga, Julia Leininger and Kate Fearon) in the plenary and small group sessions were the excellent result of the 2-day workshop.



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Wird diese Nachricht nicht richtig dargestellt, klicken Sie bitte **hier**.

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