



**Welcome message from IMISCOE Coordinators Daniela Vintila and Jean-Michel Lafleur, and
IMISCOE Senior Network Officer Angeliki Konstantinidou**

Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM), University of Liège

Dear members and friends of IMISCOE,

A very warm welcome to the first edition of the IMISCOE Forum, taking place from 28 to 30 October 2026 in Agadir (Morocco) and online.

The IMISCOE Forum is a new addition to our network's calendar of events, emerging from collective discussions involving IMISCOE's External Affairs Committee, Board of Directors, Executive Board, Network Office, and members of our wider scholarly community, who envisioned a new platform for exchange within our growing network.

As IMISCOE continues to evolve and diversify, the Forum complements the IMISCOE Annual and Spring Conferences by creating an additional space for interaction and dialogue among migration researchers working on specific world regions from diverse disciplinary, epistemic, and methodological perspectives. In doing so, it aims to foster collaborative knowledge production that deepens our understanding of the regional specificities of migration dynamics. The Forum also reflects IMISCOE's commitment to promoting a reflexive and critical approach to how migration research is conceptualized, produced, and circulated globally. This commitment has guided the transformative journey that IMISCOE has recently embarked on as it continues to strengthen its role as a globally connected scholarly network, while fostering new international collaborations for migration research.

This inaugural edition of the IMISCOE Forum focuses on the complexities of Afro-European migration across the Mediterranean space. Inspired by a shared vision of fostering an equitable and inclusive Afro-European dialogue on migration, this first major IMISCOE scholarly event to be organized in Africa marks an important milestone in laying the foundations for future scholarly collaborations and the co-production of knowledge in migration research across different world regions. The outstanding number of high-quality submissions received reflects the strong interest in this new IMISCOE initiative. It is truly inspiring to see so many colleagues from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, career stages, institutions, and countries come together to exchange ideas, build new partnerships, and advance migration research.

The Forum organization is also the result of a collaborative endeavor between the Faculty of Languages, Arts and Human Sciences at Ibn Zohr University, our host and co-organizer, and the colleagues at GRITIM-University Pompeu Fabra, who have co-organized the event. We are deeply grateful to both teams for their remarkable dedication, hard work, and close collaboration with the IMISCOE Network Office at the University of Liège in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and intellectually stimulating environment for all participants, whether joining us in Agadir or online. We also extend our thanks to the EuroMedMig network for its support in planning this event.

We look forward to welcoming you to this inaugural edition of the IMISCOE Forum! We hope this event will provide a valuable opportunity to continue our collective scientific dialogue on decentring and advancing the dynamic and evolving field of migration research. Your presence and contributions

will make the Forum a vibrant space for open dialogue, mutual learning, meaningful exchange, and the development of new collaborations that we hope will continue well beyond this event.

We wish you all an excellent IMISCOE Forum!

Daniela Vintila | IMISCOE Coordinator

Jean-Michel Lafleur | IMISCOE Associate Coordinator

Angeliki Konstantinidou | IMISCOE Senior Network Officer

