

EXPLORING THE COMMONALITIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION



TURKISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES





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*Exploring the Commonalities
of
the Mediterranean Region*

Ankara-2019

Euro Mediterranean Academic Network (EMAN) as an autonomous network including the academies of sciences of the Mediterranean countries is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit organization, whose mission is to promote the growth and coordination of a Mediterranean science area. The general objective of the EMAN is to act as an independent Euro-Mediterranean forum to encourage the academies of this area to cooperate and discuss the scientific aspects of problems of common concern, to prepare joint statements on major issues relevant to the development of the Mediterranean Region, and to provide mutual support to member academies.

Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA) is an autonomous apex body for the development and promotion of sciences in Turkey. The origins of the Academy go back to “Encümen-i Daniş” (Society of Scholars), which was founded in 1851 and known as the first Turkish science academy in the modern sense. TUBA is the single national academy in Turkey and it comprises all fields of sciences which are grouped under three categories namely a) basic and engineering sciences, b) health and life sciences, and c) social sciences and humanities. TUBA contributes to the promotion of sciences through its working groups, grants and awards, scientific reports and collaboration with sister academies in the world.

Exploring the Commonalities of the Mediterranean Region

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PREAMBLE

Muzaffer Şeker

President, Turkish Academy of Sciences

TÜBA-EMAN symposium, titled as “Exploring the Commonalities of the Mediterranean Region”, was held two years ago. It was our wish to publish the full texts in the aftermath of the symposium and editorial process. The publication has been delayed due to, among other reasons, the transitional period that TUBA has gone since then.

The Chapters comprises the full texts of the papers, the original symposium programme and abstracts of the presented papers. TUBA sees itself as part of the global scientific community and values its cooperation with sister academies and inter-academy organizations. We shall do our best to contribute towards the activities of EMAN in the future as well.

I would like to express my thanks to those academicians who showed relentless efforts in writing and preparing this scientific book, most notably Pavao Rudan, the President of EMAN, Ahmet Cevat Acar, the then President of TUBA, and A. Nuri Yurdusev, the then Vice President of TUBA. I would also like to thank the contributors to this Proceedings and our staff in TUBA as well.

WELCOME ADDRESS

A. Nuri Yurdusev

Vice President, Turkish Academy of Sciences

Dear colleagues, esteemed members of the Euro-Mediterranean scientific community, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to this symposium on “Exploring the Commonalties of the Mediterranean Region”, jointly organized by the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA) and the Euro-Mediterranean Academic Network (EMAN). On behalf of TUBA, I would like to express our thanks to Professor Pavao Rudan, President of EMAN, and other members of EMAN, for enabling us to organize and host this symposium here in Istanbul, by any account a truly Mediterranean city.

It is no doubt that the commonly shared elements constitute a fertile background for development in economic, political, social, cultural and educational spheres. This symposium aims at bringing together the representatives of the EMAN members as well as other scholars to discuss the commonalties of the Mediterranean region. A comprehensive analysis of those elements commonly shared by the countries and peoples of the Mediterranean region will help to enhance the regional cooperation. We hope that our symposium will uncover some of those elements and unleash the potentialities of further cooperation.

Once again, I would like to thank you for coming to this symposium and wish you fruitful discussions and a nice time in this magnificent city.

OPENING ADDRESS

Pavao RUDAN

*President, Euro-Mediterranean Academic Network
Secretary General, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts*

Dear friends, distinguished members of the Euro-Mediterranean scientific community, honourable scholars and teachers, dear colleagues. It is a great privilege for me to speak in front of you, esteemed ladies and gentlemen, and to be able to contribute with the welcome address to this very important Symposium.

I would like to greet you all with heartfelt sentiments, affections and respect. Today we witness a significant moment in terms of our scientific and cultural cooperation especially here in the Mediterranean area – we are participating in the opening ceremony of our TÜBA-EMAN Symposium under the title: “Exploring the Commonalities of the Mediterranean Region” here in Istanbul, organized by the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) and the Euro Mediterranean Academic Network (EMAN) and supported by The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency Directorate (TIKA).

Honourable Professor Ahmet Cevat Acar, President of the Turkish Academy of Sciences,

Honourable Professor A. Nuri Yurdusev, Vice-president of the Turkish Academy of Sciences,

Honourable Professor Malika Allab Yaker, President of the Algerian Academy of Sciences and Technologies,

Honourable Professor Dragan M. Vukčević, President of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts,

Honourable representatives and members from the Academies of Sciences, Arts and Humanities from Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Israel, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Turkey, dear representatives of the Organizing Committee and especially dear representatives of The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency Directorate (TIKA), dear ladies and gentleman:

Our present collective effort gives a comprehensive sense of the scope and possibilities of current scientific cooperation today and provides a powerful demonstration of a wide range of its applications in addressing complex issues in human lives. I feel confident, ladies and gentlemen, that the Symposium we are opening today will contribute to the current cooperation among the Mediterranean countries, offering a set of intriguing contributions that look at the past while setting the tone for future research and for the synthesis of current scientific applications. I am sure that our meeting will really contribute to the perceptive synthesis of our disciplines.

I greet you all, honourable colleagues, with affection and respect, by emphasizing that we signed last year in Paris, during the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the French Academy of Sciences, “The Declaration of Science”, which should be the beacon of light of our scientific achievements giving us a comprehensive sense of the scope and possibilities of current scientific and humanistic research today, and in which it is stressed that “...over the centuries, the construction of scientific knowledge is a source of progress. It catalyses culture, development, creative cooperation and is sometimes the source of unexpected applications. Scientific knowledge, its progression through research and its accompanying technologies are part of the heritage of humanity that should be with no further delay passed down to all.”

Being a Croat and thus belonging to a Mediterranean, maritime nation, I am very glad to be in Istanbul, a city of exceptionally rich history, and the capital of three great empires – Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman, with which the earliest beginnings of the presence of Croatian nation in the Mediterranean are closely connected. According to the writings by Byzantine emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus dated in the 10th century, it was Byzantine emperor Heraclius who had in the 7th century invited the Croats to settle in the territory of ancient Dalmatia. Soon after settling there, the Croats mixed with the inhabitants and took root in the Adriatic basin of the Mediterranean Sea as a maritime nation, having inherited the tradition of the Antiquity. The Croats are indebted to Constantine Porphyrogenitus for some of the most important data regarding their earliest history. Moreover, the Croats take pride in their Glagolitic heritage, Glagolitic script and Croatian Cyrillic script, in which some of the most important monuments of Croatian literature and culture have been written. Here in Istanbul, at the Library of the Topkapı Sarayı, the most richly ornamented and decorated Croatian Glagolitic manuscript (containing 96 miniatures and 380 initials) – Hrvoje’s Missal – is held in safekeeping. This Missal is considered the most beautiful book ever to have been written in Croatian language. I am indeed grateful to the city of Istanbul for taking good care of this precious monument of the Croatian culture.

Today, the Croats and the Turks are befriended nations, who seek – in their centennial common history – for the things that may create bonds between them, in particular in the spheres of culture, sciences, and arts. In the recent years, we have with pleasure discovered traces of Ottoman culture, in particular in architecture

and urban planning. Many Croats enjoy relaxing watching Turkish television series, which have revealed the Turks as a nation rather close to us. The political and trading relations established between the Ottoman Empire and the Dubrovnik Republic had been especially intensive and mutually useful through hundreds of years. The important source to introduce Croatia and its towns in 17th century is the *Seyahatname* (Book of Travel) by Turkish traveller Evliya Çelebi. It makes me proud that the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, of which I am the Secretary-General, has since 1927 had in its possession the Oriental Collection, which includes 2,100 codices from the long period between the 13th and the 19th centuries. It is thus one of the largest collections of Arabian, Ottoman Turkish, and Persian manuscripts in the Southeast Europe. The codices of the Oriental Collection include texts covering diverse scientific disciplines and literary genres; moreover, there are transcripts of the Koran, numerous vocabularies, as well as codices that were written in Croatian towns during the Ottoman rule. A few years ago, we were extremely happy that with the exceptional support of the Turkish Institution YUNUS EMRE in Zagreb all 2.100 codices were digitalized, and together we organized an excellent exhibition of that marvellous collection and the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts published the book under the title “Word, letter and picture” under the editorial leadership of, here present Professor Tatjana Paić Vukić.

Many Croats lived and worked in Istanbul during the Ottoman era as traders, sea captains, sailors, manual workers, printers, publishers, and industrialists. Their descendants, living in Istanbul today, still nurture memories of their Croatian roots. Croatian is hence one of many languages spoken in the streets of Istanbul, which is one more reason why the Croats feel welcome here.

I am certain that this Symposium in Istanbul – following the previous meetings held in Paris (2008), Rome (2009), Alexandria (2010), Rabat (2011), Paris (2012), La Valetta (2013), Dubrovnik (2015) and Genova (2017) - will also contribute to the perceptive synthesis that is currently extremely necessary to all of us coming from the countries united by the Mediterranean Sea – as I like to stress again and again - all of us that address the Mediterranean as MEDITERRANEUM – MARE NOSTRUM.

At the end I wish you honourable colleagues a fruitful and successful meeting.
















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