



EDARA
European Development And Research Academy

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

EUROPEAN
DEVELOPMENT
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ANNUAL REPORT 2024

INTRODUCTION

EDARA , hereby announces the publication of its Annual Report , 2024. As an active research centre, over the past year we have once again acquired a considerable amount of knowledge and introduced new areas of study and working methods. It is evident that qualitative research and analytical work continues to provide us with new insights into different areas of research, particularly in relation to policy making, geopolitical trends, the energy crisis and the significant threat of terrorism in the world. These challenges are, and will continue to be, critical and global in nature.

It is imperative that we see an increase in evidence-based research and reporting, particularly in the following areas: the evolution of extremist groups, terrorism, the importance of training and education, the impact of digitalisation & new Media, The necessity for development, democracy and dialogue is paramount. We have provided training and publications on topics such as peacebuilding, leadership, governance and countering extremism. We also focused on the needs of young people and women, encouraging them to take greater responsibility in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and emphasising the importance of governments investing more in human resources and education.

This report provides an overview and insight into the work of EDARA in 2024. Political dynamics of the current crisis and war between Russia and Ukraine. We have provided insights into the role of technology in national and transnational contexts.

BRAHIM LAYTOUSS
DIRECTOR EDARA



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INTRODUCTION

Our international collaboration has been pursued in the EU, Africa, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Latin America. EDARA has organised conferences, workshops, roundtable discussions and media sessions, participated in international conferences and produced reports on security issues, such as:

intellectual security, energy security and social security, climate change, countering extremist narratives and terrorism etc.

The organisation's contributions included the documentation of the repercussions of global conflicts, Russia – Ukraine war and with a particular focus on the ongoing confrontations between Israel and Gaza and Lebanon, which have led to significant regional instability and thousands of innocent civilians, exacerbating existing polarisation and radicalisation trends on a global scale.

In 2024, we provided insights into the role of security governance in national and international contexts. We contributed significantly to this effort by publishing three books and over 10 articles exploring key aspects of security issues, terrorism and violent extremism. In addition, we produced reports on climate change, energy security and Islamism. We also hosted and participated in impactful EU and international events. Geographically, EDARA projects spanned Europe, the MENA region, Africa, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and other regions.

The activities of EDARA are to be enhanced in order to strengthen its position as a strategic research centre, operating from the heart of Europe. The objective of the initiatives and programmes that we have implemented is twofold: firstly, to facilitate the establishment of a culture of peace, and secondly, to enable its realisation in the field.

A key part of different scientific programmes has been discussed with our partners for the coming years. The same trend is to be continued in 2025 by publishing in different languages (Dutch, Arabic, French and English), with the aim of reaching new audiences in Europe and abroad.

EDARA, as a provider of independent research and analysis, seeks to ensure that its work contributes positively to global peace and security in Europe and worldwide.

The gratitude of the EDARA staff and members is extended to all, and the organisation looks forward to continued improvement in the coming years.

In the forthcoming year, 2025, EDARA will reach a significant milestone: the 13th. anniversary of its foundation. This occasion will be marked by a series of celebratory events and initiatives, which will provide an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of ongoing conflicts around the world and to anticipate future challenges.

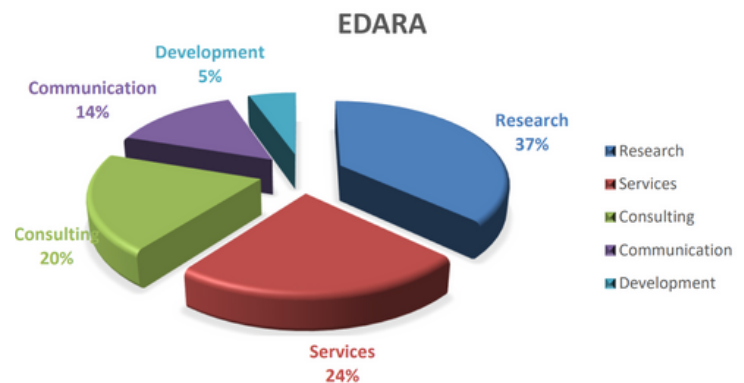
DIRECTOR EDARA



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EDARA Brief Overview:

1. The organisation analyses and (co)produces periodical articles and publications.
2. It identifies new potential threats and develops solutions and innovative frameworks to global challenges.
3. It also advises governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as international institutions.
4. It evaluates ongoing policies on Security issues and threats.
5. It organises debates with experts and annual conferences, both in Brussels and elsewhere.



Reports & New publications 2024:

1. 50 Years recognition of Islam in Belgium (1974 – 2024)
2. The influence and risks of foreign interference on European institution
3. The Belgian experience in dealing with the Muslim Brotherhood
4. Muslims of Africa in face of Terrorism
5. The Belgian Muslim council activities
6. Education and training
7. Academic and international conferences
8. Climate changes & Energy Security

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND MASTER CLASSES :

1. Changing the Playing Field - Leadership 4.0
2. Security governance , management and climate change
3. New insights to tackle Extremism & Terrorism
4. Digital transformation and innovation
5. The role of youth and women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution
6. The implementation of SDG's in 2030 and global challenges
7. Human rights and justice

PUBLICATONS

50 years recognition of Islam in Belgium (1974 – 2024)



The present study explores the recognition of Islam in Belgium, focusing on its historical development and contemporary status. The analysis delves into the recognition of Islam in the country, tracing its evolution over the past five decades. The study sheds light on the legal framework, societal attitudes, and religious practices associated with this recognition. The research seeks to contribute to the understanding of the dynamics between religious recognition and societal integration, offering insights that may inform policy makers and scholars in similar contexts.

The influence and risks of foreign interference on European institutions



"The Influence and Risks of Foreign Interference on European Institutions" examines how external actors can influence the decision-making and integrity of European institutions. The book addresses the risks posed by interference from states, corporations, and other external entities, analysing the impact on the EU's political, economic, and security structures. Focusing on contemporary threats such as disinformation, cyberattacks, and political manipulation, it provides insights into the vulnerabilities of European institutions and the need for enhanced protection against foreign influences.

Publication with Trends Research and Advisory centre in Abu Dhabi

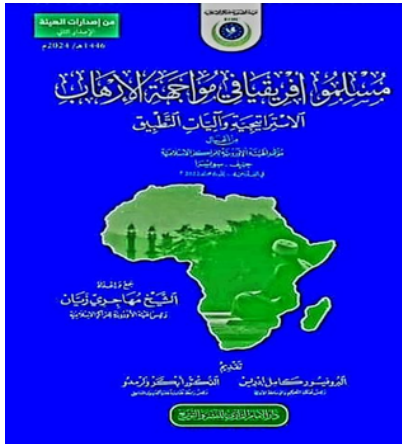
Political Islam : The Belgian experience in dealing with the Muslim Brotherhood



The Muslim Brotherhood (MB) has historically occupied a pivotal role within the broader landscape of political Islam, exerting influence over Muslim communities across the globe, including those in Europe and specifically in Belgium. The Muslim Brotherhood was established in Egypt in 1928, and its ideology has undergone significant expansion and adaptation in response to changing contexts over the decades. The objective of this book is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the historical development, organizational structures, challenges faced by Belgium in controlling its influence, and the methods through which the MB finances its activities and engages with different institutions and Muslim communities.

PUBLICATIONS

Muslims of Africa in face of Terrorism:



The present book constitutes a collaborative effort between several researchers, and its title is Muslims of Africa in the Face of Terrorism. The publication features contributions from a variety of perspectives, which offer illuminating insights into the escalation of terrorism and extremist organisations in Africa. Furthermore, the publication explores contemporary security issues and underscores the significance of counter-narratives in shaping the discourse surrounding these topics. Published by Dar El imam Razi for publication and distribution, Cairo, 2024.

EDARA CONFERENCES AND DEBATES 2024

Political debate :

EU – Elections, 7th May 2024



The European continent has long been a central player in global politics, economics, and culture, however a series of crises (Syria, Afghanistan, Covid, Ukraine, Gaza, to name but a few), have put in a sharp light the perception of an increased irrelevance of the EU on the global stage by a growing number of stakeholders, internally and externally. At every European elections for the last 5 terms, the issue of lack of interest from European citizens has been flagged out, generating promises of doing better, of improving democratic governance, of getting the EU closer to the citizen. Elected MEPs will have a crucial mission to contribute to this reconciliation. The proposed debate hopes to contribute in bridging this gap and reinforcing the link between future Belgian MEPs and voters as well as policy makers.

The objective of these round table discussions is to bring together the lead candidates of the different Belgian political parties to exchange ideas, insights, and visions for the future of Europe. By engaging in a constructive dialogue, we aim to identify common ground, highlight areas of disagreement, and ultimately contribute to shaping a shared vision for Europe by 2030, while providing policy makers and voters with useful insights on the potential upcoming priorities of the new EP.

KEY THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

Economic Sustainability: How can Europe ensure sustainable economic growth in the face of globalization, technological innovation, and demographic changes? **Social Cohesion:** What strategies can be implemented to address social inequalities, promote social cohesion, and ensure the well-being of all European citizens? **Security Challenges:** How should Europe respond to security threats, both internal (e.g., terrorism) and external (e.g., geopolitical tensions)? **Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability:** What role should Europe play in combating climate change, promoting renewable energy, and protecting the environment for future generations? **Digital Transformation:** How can Europe harness the potential of digital technology while addressing concerns related to data privacy, cybersecurity, and the digital divide? **Global Leadership:** What is the role of Europe in shaping global governance, fostering international cooperation, and defending democratic values on the world stage?

EDARA CONFERENCES AND DEBATES 2024

A European conference for Female leaders from 13 EU countries & USA , Brussels, 26- 27 February 2024.

Over the last decade, an increasing number of Muslim women have taken it upon themselves to step into the field of Muslim (religious) leadership by publicly assuming the role of a religious leader, a function long-time considered in the imaginaries of Muslims and non-Muslims alike as being exclusively reserved to men.

Providing a safe and secure networking space for Muslim female leaders, with the view to build and reinforce the bonds of sorority and mutual care;

Providing a platform to share a vivid representation of their key concerns, engage in a conversation with European decision-makers on the eve of the European elections;

Offering a chance to examine future steps to strengthen transnational cooperation and support among other female Muslim leaders.

As the meeting was particularly rich in terms of content and the variety of issues and perspectives brought to the fore by the panelists, our report articulated around two questions summing up key concerns that was expressed during the conference:

A) WHAT ARE THE KEY CHALLENGES FOR EUROPEAN FEMALE MUSLIM LEADERS?

B) WHAT ARE POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF FEMALE MUSLIM LEADERS, STARTING FROM THEIR OWN COUNTRIES?

Muslim female leaders face safety concerns due to threats coming from extremist segments both from inside and outside Muslim communities. Muslim female leaders face deep-seated prejudices and gender biases about their roles inside and outside Muslim communities leading to a lack of acknowledgement of their contribution, importance and role, leading them to have to struggle substantively more to have their voice heard. Loneliness and lack of support networks also have an impact on their development.

The lack of resources compels female Muslim leaders to work mostly on a volunteer basis, impacting their capacities to reconcile their family and professional life, and their community engagement as spiritual leaders. They lack sufficient resources to establish and secure their own physical spaces, where they could welcome those interested in their approach, and provide spiritual care, education, and support, while also remaining independent from the interference of institutional or private donors.



NEWS 2024



**AN INVITATION TO ATTEND A CELEBRATORY
EVENT, AS WELL AS A MEETING WITH THE
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO BELGIUM,
LUXEMBOURG & THE EUROPEAN UNION**



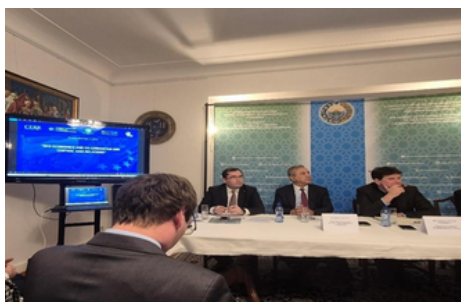
**AN INVITATION AT THE EUROPEAN
EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE : CELEBRATING
30 YEARS OF EU – UZBEKISTAN
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, BRUSSELS, 19
NOVEMBER 2024.**



**COP 29 , UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE ,
BAKU , NOVEMBER 2024.**



NEWS 2024



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION AT THE EMBASSY OF UZBEKISTAN: GEO ECONOMICS AND EU – UZBEKISTAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN RELATIONS , BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 2024.



THE THIRD EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ENERGY SECURITY , MALTA, 7 DECEMBER 2024.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FATWA AUTHORITIES WORLDWIDE (GSFAW), CAIRO, 21 JULY 2024.



THE CONTRIBUTION OF MUSLIM LEADERS TO COMBATTING HATE SPEECH, BRUSSELS, JUNE 2024.

NEWS 2024



**UNITAR : ANNUAL INTERFAITH DIALOGUE,
GENEVA, 9 FEBRUARY 2024**



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: EMBRACING
DIVERSITY, TACKLING ISLAMOPHOBIA, BAKU, 8
– 9 MARCH 2024.**

**Egypt hosts 1st International
Symposium on the Promotion
of Intellectual Security**



**THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN
SAFEGUARDING INTELLECTUAL SECURITY IN AL
AZHAR UNIVERSITY, CAIRO, 15 & 16 DECEMBER 2024.**



**DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE VICTIMS
OF TERRORIST ATTACKS ON 22 MARCH AT
THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT IN BRUSSELS.**

PARTNERSHIPS SIGNED IN 2024:

North Africa

Moroccan Center for Media and Human Rights Studies



The Horn of Africa

Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU)

The Center for Sustainable conflict Resolution (CSCR)



The West of Africa

Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU)

la Ligue pour la solidarité Arabo Africaine (LUSAA)





EDARA

European Development And Research Academy

About EDARA

EDARA is an EU independent, non-profit, research centre (do & think tank), founded in 2012 and based in the capital of Europe. Our aim is to provide training and improve policy and decision-making at European and international level. Through analyses and reports, we develop strategic studies, organise conferences and workshops for governmental and non-governmental organisations and civil society to find inclusive solutions and address the main causes of insecurity, global challenges, conflicts and the world's complex mix of intertwined economic, geopolitical, social and environmental threats.

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