

Cohésion territoriale et croissance inclusive dans une Méditerranée en transition

6 NOV 2015, Villa Méditerranée, Marseille

OVERVIEW

PANEL 1: What policies of territorial cohesion are in the Mediterranean?

Framing: Paul Kriss, Lead Urban Specialist, World Bank

- › Sébastien Abis, Principal Administrator of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)
- › Reem Eltaib, Coordinator of the NGO Committee of the Governorate of Alexandria, Egypt
- › Mohamed Mbarki, General Director of the Agency for Promotion and Economic and Social Development of the Oriental Region, Morocco
- › Bernard Valero, Ambassador, Director of the Avitem, France

Summary of the session:

The State has a fundamental role to play reducing regional inequalities, especially when it comes to the creation of appropriate institutions and funds to develop certain marginalized areas.

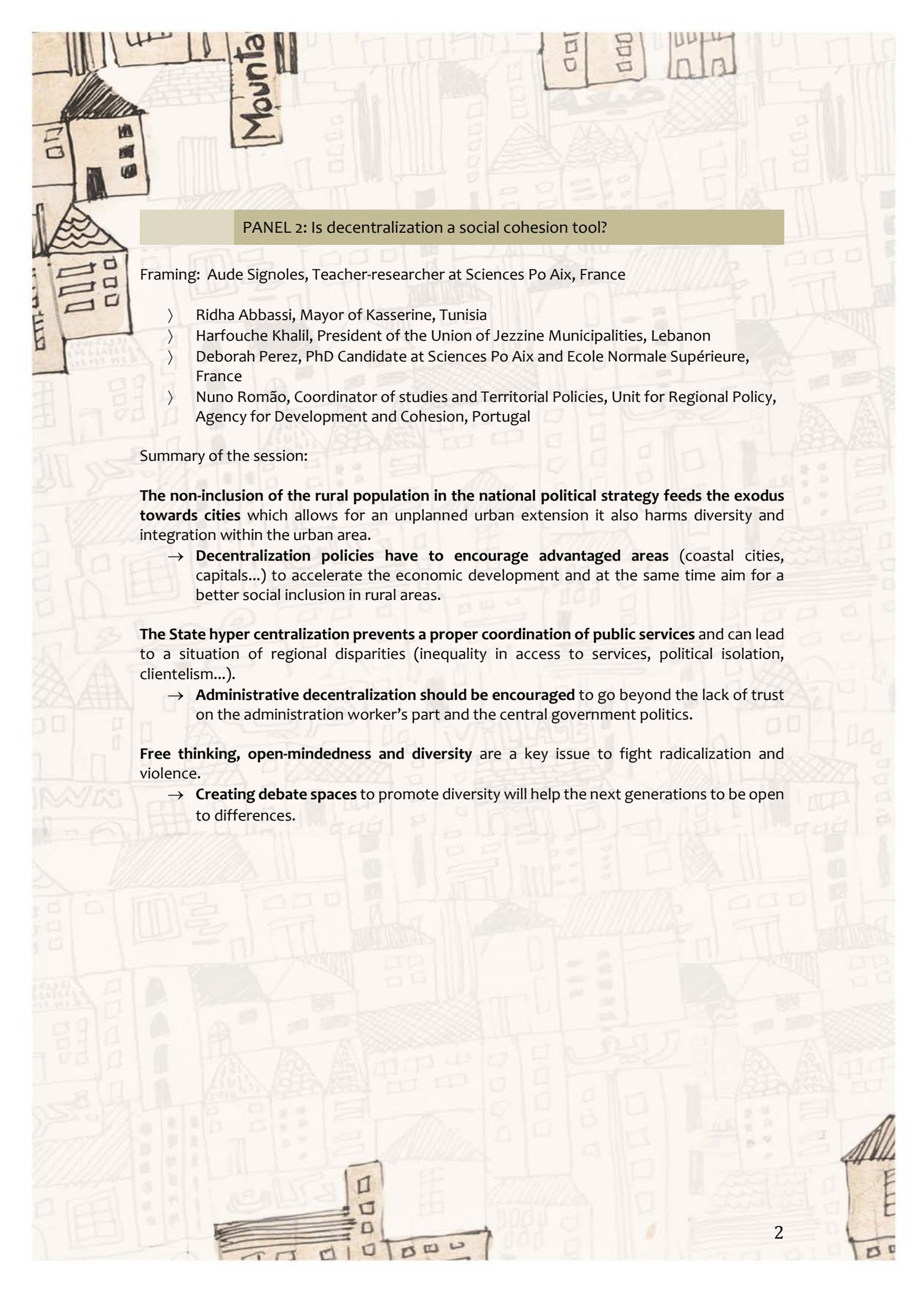
- Creating development opportunities can be achieved through guaranteeing economic security and encouraging entrepreneurship which can be reached by maintaining territorial balance and providing equal opportunities to both urban and rural areas residents.

Agriculture is a key sector that positions the region on the global economic map and provides employment for the majority of women and young people living in rural areas.

- The development of agriculture should be prioritized as a way to create employment and to reduce the gap between different areas through knowledge sharing and the decreasing of gender inequalities.

Europe has a role to play in territorial cohesion in the Mediterranean.

- **Policies of territorial cohesion in the Mediterranean** also called on Europe to show solidarity to neighboring countries same way it has during the European reconstruction and the various other crises it has undergone. Europe was also called upon to **capitalize on its cultural, geographical and social proximity** as a regional player directly concerned by the social and territorial cohesion in the Mediterranean.



PANEL 2: Is decentralization a social cohesion tool?

Framing: Aude Signoles, Teacher-researcher at Sciences Po Aix, France

- > Ridha Abbassi, Mayor of Kasserine, Tunisia
- > Harfouche Khalil, President of the Union of Jezzine Municipalities, Lebanon
- > Deborah Perez, PhD Candidate at Sciences Po Aix and Ecole Normale Supérieure, France
- > Nuno Romão, Coordinator of studies and Territorial Policies, Unit for Regional Policy, Agency for Development and Cohesion, Portugal

Summary of the session:

The non-inclusion of the rural population in the national political strategy feeds the exodus towards cities which allows for an unplanned urban extension it also harms diversity and integration within the urban area.

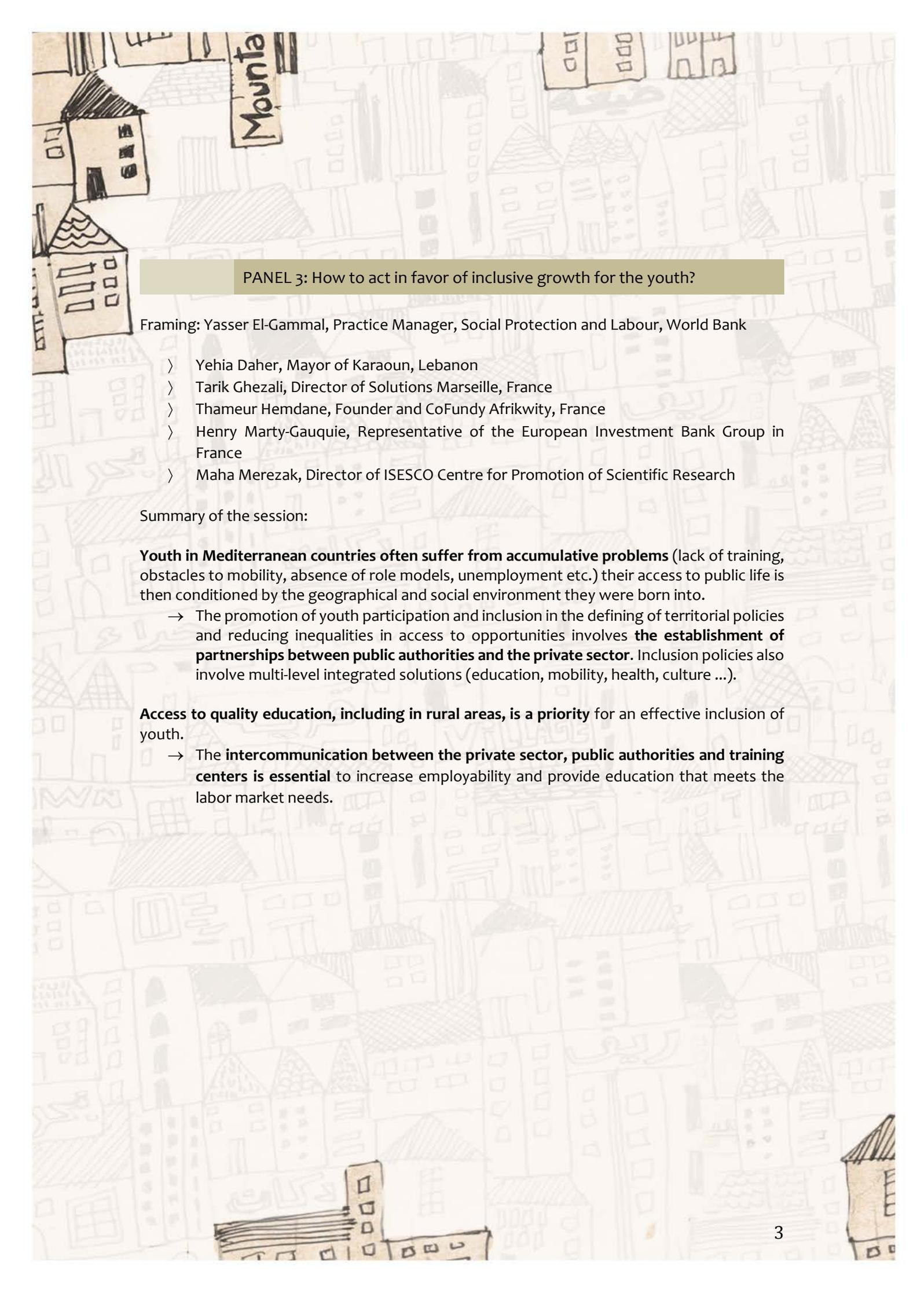
- **Decentralization policies have to encourage advantaged areas** (coastal cities, capitals...) to accelerate the economic development and at the same time aim for a better social inclusion in rural areas.

The State hyper centralization prevents a proper coordination of public services and can lead to a situation of regional disparities (inequality in access to services, political isolation, clientelism...).

- **Administrative decentralization should be encouraged** to go beyond the lack of trust on the administration worker's part and the central government politics.

Free thinking, open-mindedness and diversity are a key issue to fight radicalization and violence.

- **Creating debate spaces** to promote diversity will help the next generations to be open to differences.



PANEL 3: How to act in favor of inclusive growth for the youth?

Framing: Yasser El-Gammal, Practice Manager, Social Protection and Labour, World Bank

- › Yehia Daher, Mayor of Karaoun, Lebanon
- › Tarik Ghezali, Director of Solutions Marseille, France
- › Thameur Hemdane, Founder and CoFundy Afrikwity, France
- › Henry Marty-Gauquie, Representative of the European Investment Bank Group in France
- › Maha Merezak, Director of ISESCO Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research

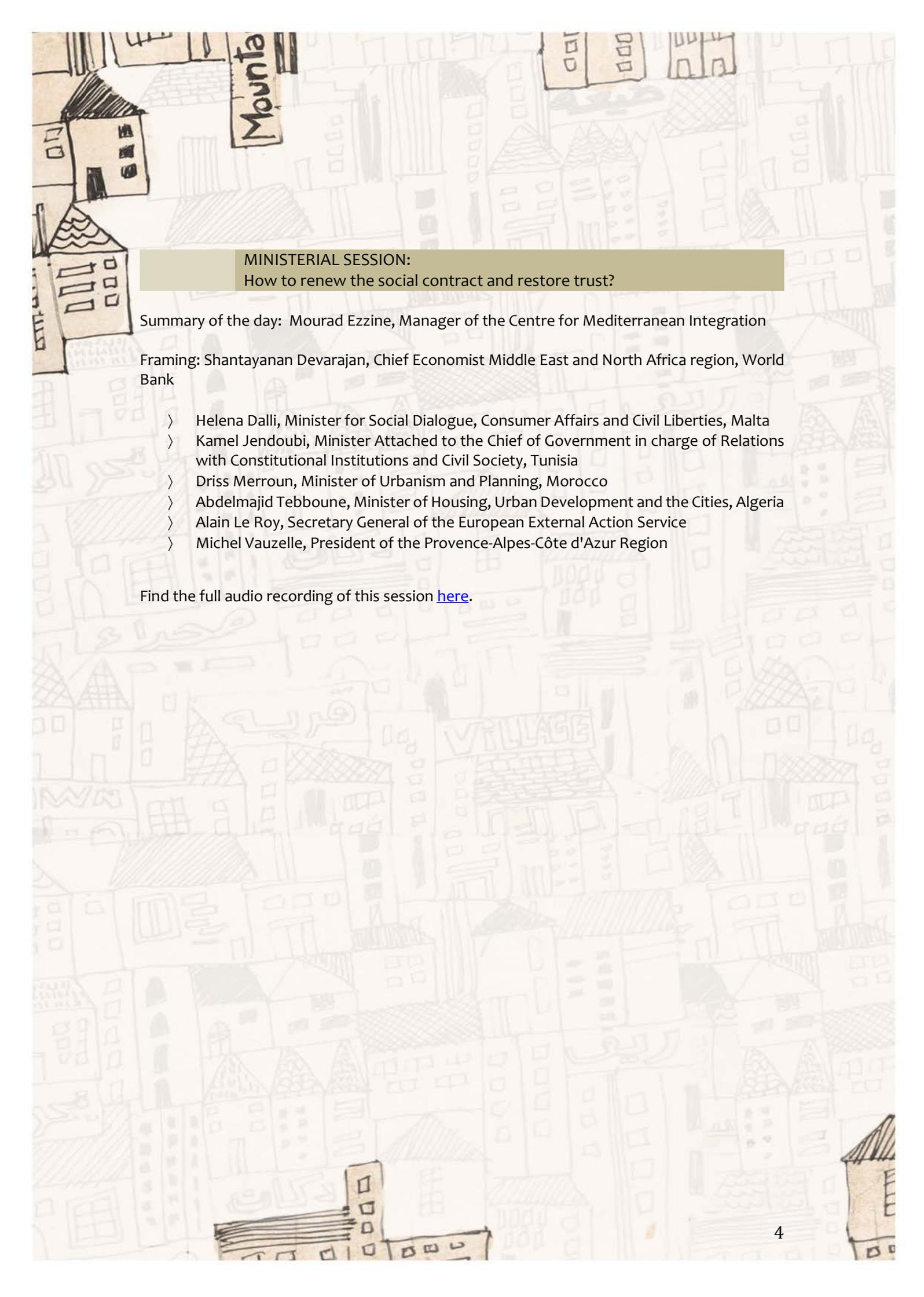
Summary of the session:

Youth in Mediterranean countries often suffer from accumulative problems (lack of training, obstacles to mobility, absence of role models, unemployment etc.) their access to public life is then conditioned by the geographical and social environment they were born into.

- The promotion of youth participation and inclusion in the defining of territorial policies and reducing inequalities in access to opportunities involves **the establishment of partnerships between public authorities and the private sector**. Inclusion policies also involve multi-level integrated solutions (education, mobility, health, culture ...).

Access to quality education, including in rural areas, is a priority for an effective inclusion of youth.

- The **intercommunication between the private sector, public authorities and training centers is essential** to increase employability and provide education that meets the labor market needs.



MINISTERIAL SESSION:

How to renew the social contract and restore trust?

Summary of the day: Mourad Ezzine, Manager of the Centre for Mediterranean Integration

Framing: Shantayanan Devarajan, Chief Economist Middle East and North Africa region, World Bank

- > Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, Malta
- > Kamel Jendoubi, Minister Attached to the Chief of Government in charge of Relations with Constitutional Institutions and Civil Society, Tunisia
- > Driss Merroun, Minister of Urbanism and Planning, Morocco
- > Abdelmajid Tebboune, Minister of Housing, Urban Development and the Cities, Algeria
- > Alain Le Roy, Secretary General of the European External Action Service
- > Michel Vauzelle, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region

Find the full audio recording of this session [here](#).