



**EUROPEAN PROJECT "A EUROPE OF DIASPORAS"
ROUND-TABLE SEMINAR 1
Paris, 26-28 June 2015**

Fondation de Monaco
Cité universitaire, Paris
47 A Boulevard Jourdan, 75014 Paris, France

PROGRAMME

Friday 26 June 2015

DAY 1: REDISCOVERING DIASPORAS

9h00 Arrival and registration

9h30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Jane Braden Golay, President, European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS)
Jonathan Mack, Secretary General, Phiren Amenca International Network
Nicolas Tavitian, Director, Armenian General Benevolent Union - Europe

10h00 THE JEWS, ARMENIANS, ROMA AND THE OTHERS

This session aims to provide an initial introduction and insight into the background and perspectives of seminar participants. It will follow the methodology known as "World Café", a method to create an interactive space, to share experiences, to get to know each other and to start debates.

At the end of the session, all participants will be familiarized not only with the generalities of each group, but also with the subjective approach of participants to group identity and its relevant to their lives and work.

Key questions to address:

- Identity: Why is my diaspora identity important for me?
- Activism: Why am I involved? What triggered it? What are the challenges I see?
- Vision: What do I want to achieve through my activism? What is our vision?
- Cooperation: What brings us together? What similarities and differences are there between us (participants)? What questions should we address together?
- Knowledge: What should others know about my identity?

11H30 Coffee break

12H00 PLENARY

Sharing of the World Cafe discussions and conclusions

13.00 Lunch



15h00 AN INTRODUCTION TO DIASPORAS AND TO EUROPEAN DIASPORAS

What are diasporas and what does the academic world say about them? This session will provide an introduction to some of the academic thinking on the subject. This will be followed by a general discussion. Its objective is to provide initial intellectual markers to better ascertain the scope and significance, as well as the diversity of the diasporic phenomenon. This session will be open to a wider public.

Will diasporas survive? A brief introduction to Diasporas

Georges Prevelakis, Professeur des universités, Université de Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Diasporas: strength or burden?

Philippe Lazar, Chief editor, revue “Diasporiques”

Panel discussions

Discussants (tba)

18h00. A short heritage tour: the Paris of Diasporas.

20h30. Dinner



Saturday 27 June 2015

DAY 2: EXPLORING THE ISSUES

Discrimination, prejudice and self-doubt, but also cultural and language preservation, conflicting identities, relationship with a “motherland”, exclusion, schooling and youth movements, migrations, social and professional promotion, etc. What are the Jewish, Armenian and Roma diasporas concerned with? To what extent are these concerns specific to their situation? To what extent are these concerns shared by the different diasporas.

This session will aim to exchange views on the challenges, difficulties and opportunities facing diasporas in practice. The discussion will be based both on the direct experience and second-hand knowledge of each participant. Discussions will be held in workshops at first; they will then be continued in the entire group in the afternoon.

9h30 Introduction to the day.

9h45 Parallel workshops:

1. Remembrance and heritage
2. Conflicts and discrimination
3. Empowerment and education
4. Diaspora-state issues

11h00 Coffee break

11h15 Workshops, continued.

13h00 Lunch

14h30 Plenary: reports from each working group and general discussion.

17h00 Meeting with diaspora leaders in Paris and presentation of our conclusions

17h45 Reception at the Armenian house

20h00 Dinner and social event



Sunday 28 June 2015

DAY 3: A CAMPAIGN FOR DIASPORAS

9h30 - Further exploration: mapping out subsequent seminars

This session will conclude the discussion on issues and outline the agenda of subsequent seminars. It will also seek to identify additional individuals who should be involved in these discussions.

1h30 Next steps in the project

The project has planned a toolkit to help disseminate the ideas of the seminar and promote exchange and feedback well beyond the seminar room. Organizers will present this toolkit. They will present their plans and submit them to discussion in various breakout seminars.

Breakout seminars:

1. Photo and mapping of the diasporas
2. A survey
3. Exhibition panels
4. Publicity and dissemination

13h00 Lunch

14h30. Plenary and conclusions

15h30: Meeting of the project steering group

19h30 Dinner

