



Universität  
Basel

## Research Project

### Dissertation Soualhi: Breaking the Silence on Arab Maghreb Union: A Mapping and Analysis of European Studies in North African Countries

#### Project funded by own resources

**Project title** Dissertation Soualhi: Breaking the Silence on Arab Maghreb Union: A Mapping and Analysis of European Studies in North African Countries

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#### Organisation / Research unit

Europainstitut / European Global Studies (Weber)

**Project Website** <https://europa.unibas.ch/de/forschung/european-global-knowledge-production/european-studies-in-a-global-perspective/>

**Project start** 01.02.2020

**Probable end** 01.01.2024

**Status** Completed

The primary goal of the study is to map and analyze the development of European Studies in Arab Maghreb Union universities. European Studies have been of interest to academia for the past three decades due to myriad of factors: be it the colonial heritage or cultural influence and entangled political, economic and security interests, in addition to the large quantity of research this field has generated in the Maghreb region since the beginning of the last decade. Moreover, it traces the origins and institutionalization of European Studies in Maghreb universities by highlighting the links that the main actors have forged in Europe with the academic world and the European institutions. It will attempt to highlight the internal factors specific to each university and North African societies, as well as external factors, such as the Commission's initiatives and the tensions of European politics, which have influenced their development. At the crossroads of these factors, the challenge of establishing a critical and independent research program within an institutional framework that is primarily aimed at promoting the European Studies will be discussed. It will also highlight the partial weakness of teaching Europe in law and economics and other disciplines, mainly in comparison to its place in Political Science and International Affairs. Beyond this quantitative observation for which various explanations can be put forward, the teaching of "Europe" offers a fairly complete inventory of the debates that traverse the discipline around this theme, and proposes keys of reading relating to the circulation pattern of the modes of "thinking Europe" from one country to another.

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