

9/11/2022

17:30

Sociologický ústav AV ČR  
Místnost 207  
Jilská 1, Praha 1

Public lecture

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## Social issues in the Sahel within the security and development policies

In the last years, significant engagement has focused on security and development in the Sahel. The political situation in Sahelian countries and their capacity of managing social issues have major implications at economic, security and development level.

Inequality and sense of injustice permeate Sahelian societies. Insecurity and conflict hinder social and economic development in the region.

Demographic trends, rapid and unregulated urbanization, lack of access to basic services, increased food imports with fluctuating prices, youth unemployment, gender inequality, marginalization, stigmatization of communities are some of the challenges that the Sahelian countries are facing. The EU ambition is to realize through its consistent interventions the security-development nexus that is challenged by the serious humanitarian emergency caused by climate change, food insecurity and IDPs and refugees crisis, among others.

The European Union, through its policies, strategies and actions tries to respond to these challenges. The EU is acting at political level with a strong accent on governance that is seen as the synthesis of the needs to re-establish solid State systems in which real problems find an opportunity to be solved.

*EU Special Representative for Sahel **Emanuela C. Del Re** is an Italian scholar and sociologist. She is an expert in foreign policy, international relations, geopolitics, Conflict Studies, migrations, refugee issues, minorities, religious phenomena, connection axes and energy networks. She has carried out long researches on field in conflict areas and areas in transition since 1990 (with grants), following the social-political-economic transformation of countries and regions in Africa, the Balkans, the Caucasus, the Middle East and other. In witnessing the crises, she has given a voice to the populations from political representatives to the victims, through her publications, documentaries and academic activity as well as with her active participation in international fora.*

The lecture is organized by the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in Prague, the Italian Cultural Institute in Prague, the Centre for African Studies (Faculty of Arts, Charles University) and the Czech Association for African Studies.

