



### *Mehdi Lahlou, Bio note*

Mehdi Lahlou is of Moroccan nationality, born in Fez, Morocco, on December 22, 1952.

He holds a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Paris-I, Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris, France), in 1982. He obtained his bachelor's degree in economics at the Mohammed V University of Rabat, Morocco. He is now an associate researcher, after having taught as a Professor of Higher Education at the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (INSEA-Rabat), Morocco. He has also collaborated as a researcher with the Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, Romania, and as a visiting teacher with the Institute of Political Studies (IEP) in Bordeaux, France.

M. Lahlou has an in-depth knowledge of the Moroccan economy and its developments since Morocco's independence, as well as African economies; he is also very committed as a researcher and member of Moroccan and international NGOs in the issues of migration and the defense of the rights of migrants and refugees as well as the issue of water, both to claim the right of access to it for all humans and to preserve it for all living beings (humans, flora and fauna).

& He is a member of the International Secretariat of the World Federation of Scientific Workers (WFSW). In charge of the partnership with UNESCO and also a member of the Federation's Working Group dedicated to Peace and disarmament issues. He is an active member of the group dedicated to the training of hydrologists in Africa.

& He is the honorary President of the Association for a World Water Contract - Morocco, of which he was one of the founders in 2006;

& He was a founding member of the University of the Common Good (UBC). Brussels, November 2001. Launch of the Faculty of Water. Brussels, February 2002;

& He has extensive expertise in the issue of international migration and the analysis of the different migratory flows in the Mediterranean and between the Maghreb, the European Union, and North America. He has conducted numerous studies on this topic, with the support/and/or contribution of academic and research entities and international organizations (such as the International Labour Organization, the European Union, the University of Montreal, the European University Institute in Florence, the Institute of International Affairs – IAI, in Rome, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development of Migration -ICMPD in Vienna, IEMed in Barcelona, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane - Morocco, etc.).

& He coordinated in Morocco, between 2019 and 2024, a project called "MADAR" (for Maghreb Action on Displacement and Rights). A project supported by Keele University, United Kingdom, to improve the humanitarian protection of vulnerable displaced people in the Maghreb;

& He contributed between October 2018 and September 2022, as a senior researcher at the Mohamed V University of Rabat, to the H2020 project – called GREASE – on "The Governance of Religious Diversity in Europe, Asia, and North Africa". Project funded by the European Union. 2018-2022

& He was a member of the advisory board of the European H2020 project on "Co-radicalisation of young people in Europe: Islamophobia versus Islamism". Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey. 2019-2023 ;

& He was the coordinator of the programme for the return of migrants and refugees, known as RNO - "Back to New Opportunities", with the support of DVV International and GIZ – Germany. Morocco, 2018-2020;

& He is a member of the Advisory Committee of "Metropolis Francophonie Mondiale", as he is invited as a visiting professor at the University of Ottawa and the Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), as well as at the Université de l'Ontario Français in Canada;

& He is a member of the International Migration Association, AMI – Morocco;

& He is a founding member of the Academic Network on Migration in North Africa (NAMAN) – Morocco. A Maghreb network, founded in July 2019. As part of this network, he led a research on the International mobility of qualified people, a large-scale project on "Mobilization of Moroccan skills abroad", between 2021 and 2022, concluded by a synthesis report, published in two parts by the ICMPD. Project on the contribution of Moroccans around the world to the development of their country, an example of what could be done in the same direction for all of Africa.

### **International awards:**

- The "Energy Globe Award Morocco – 2015", Distinction granted by the ENERGY GLOBE Foundation, Vienna, Austria. For his commitment to issues related to the right to access water and the protection of water resources in the world as for his theoretical and field contributions linking access to water and the education of young girls, especially in rural areas.
- The “Youssef Alouane” National Prize in "Training and Human Resources Management", Tunis, Tunisia, 2014. The prize was awarded in recognition of his contributions on the role of education and human capital training in the economic and social development.