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The EU and NATO: Towards a Common Strategy for the Central Mediterranean and Libya

This research project explores the root causes and implications of the Libyan crisis since 2011 and proposes innovative policy responses. The Mediterranean basin has become a theatre of socio-political turmoil, involving in particular the Middle East and North Africa region. In some cases, this led to armed conflicts that affect the European continent and transatlantic stakes in the region. Libya is an emblematic case where the Mediterranean problems – social turmoil, civil war, the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism, and the spread of refugee emergencies – are epitomised. Such issues are of crucial interest for both the EU and NATO. These organisations work side by side in crisis management, capability development, and political consultations, yet neither organisation has provided a credible response to the security needs of the central Mediterranean or of Libya more specifically. This project aims to address the causes of this failure, not only through a critical and integrated analysis of official sources, but also through interviews, bringing the perspectives of both state and non-state actors to the fore. This interdisciplinary approach will overcome the sectoral research horizon of previous studies on the matter, leading to the uniquely comprehensive analysis of the Libyan problem within the broader context of central Mediterranean security needs. In so doing, I aim to exploit my historical background as well as the experience acquired in the fields of Politics, International Relations and Strategic Studies. I will benefit from the tripartite structure of the Caroline Fellowship, integrating the perspectives of the EU and NATO with UCD's academic expertise to produce inter-sectoral and comparative research.

Conference presentation: [Post-Gaddafi Libya and the limits of liberal intervention](#)