

SOUTH PROGRAMME II

EU - Council of Europe Joint Programme (2015-2017)

NEWSLETTER N. 5 (June - September 2016)

Towards Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean

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Stepped up efforts in the implementation of National Preventive Mechanisms against torture in Morocco and Tunisia



The prevention of torture and all forms of ill-treatment remains a major challenge in the Southern Mediterranean. The Council of Europe's (CoE) support of partner countries in this area has been advancing steadily through instruments such as the South Programme II, which has in recent months borne concrete results with the establishment of the National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM) against torture in Morocco and Tunisia. National authorities and civil society of both countries- which are signatories of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OPCAT)- have worked in partnership with the CoE and other international partners - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Organization against torture (OMCT) and the Association for the prevention of torture (APT) - on the design and development of the structure, functioning and

working methodology of the NPMs.

In Morocco, the NPM devised to be housed within the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) hosted on 30-31 May in Rabat, one of the first coaching programmes developed jointly by CoE and the APT. The workshop familiarised members and secretariat of the NPM with the preventive mandate and role of the mechanism whilst discussing the national and international legal frameworks for the fight against torture and its prevention.

Progress has also been achieved in the operationalization of the Tunisian National Authority for the Prevention of Torture (INPT) through a series of [working sessions](#) organised by the CoE with other international partners such as the APT, on issues relating to the financial resources, internal organisation, procedures, work plan and the capacity development programme for the INPT.

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Morocco and Tunisia: important legislative advances in the fight against human trafficking



Two major developments have recently taken place in the fight against human trafficking in Morocco and Tunisia. The Law No. 27/14 on the fight against human trafficking was passed by the House of Representatives of Morocco on 31 May 2016; whilst in Tunisia, the Assembly of People's Representatives adopted the equivalent Law No. 29/2015 on 21 July 2016. The definitions of trafficking and the provisions for the prevention of torture, protection of victims and prosecution of perpetrators are inspired by international standards including the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

The fight against trafficking in human beings is one of the priorities of the Neighbourhood Partnerships with Morocco and Tunisia for the period of 2015-2017. As such, the CoE has been closely involved in this process by drafting the two bills, organizing workshops (November 2014, November 2015, December 2015 and January 2016), conferences (March 2014 and January 2016) and study tours (February 2014). Such stepped up efforts allowed the exchange of information as well as raising awareness of the norms and international

standards, familiarizing with experiences and relevant good practice so as to be able to draw useful lessons for the establishment of a system appropriate to each country.

The work of the CoE is expected to continue throughout the implementation of these standards in close cooperation with relevant partners and international organizations.

PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW

Tunisian representatives participate in the 27th plenary session of the CEPEJ



A Tunisian delegation took part in the 27th plenary meeting of the CEPEJ, which was held on 30 June – 1 July 2016 in Strasbourg. The meeting focused on the adoption of the reports of the

2014-2016 evaluation cycle on the functioning of the European judicial systems, for which the publication is scheduled on 6 October 2016. Discussions also covered the state of the implementation of the CEPEJ cooperation programmes. Participation in the CEPEJ plenary meetings enables partner countries to benefit from sharing experiences and good practices as well as networking on an equal footing with CoE member states.

**European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice
(CEPEJ)**

Tunisia and Jordan participate in CEPEJ SATURN-Centre and Network of Pilot Courts plenary meetings



On 20-22 September 2016, representatives from Tunisia, Jordan and Morocco^{[\[1\]](#)} participated in the 20th meeting of the steering

group of the SATURN Centre for judicial time management alongside the 11th plenary meeting of the Network of the CEPEJ pilot court which was held on 21 September 2016.

With focus on the co-operation with the Jordanian Ministry of Justice, the agenda of the steering group of the Saturn Centre touched on the development and implementation of automated judicial dashboards and reporting frameworks. In the case of Tunisia, discussions centred on the implementation of SATURN judicial time management tools. As a forum of information and reflection, the event has fostered networking between the North-South and South-South pilot courts and the exchange of good practices on efficient management of judicial timeframes, quality of justice and mediation.

[\[1\]](#) The participation of Moroccan representatives was financed by the EU-CoE programme “ Support the justice sector reform - improving the functioning of justice in Morocco using the tools of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)”



Strengthening the legal framework of the electoral process in Jordan

A representative of the Venice Commission paid a two-day visit to Jordan ahead of the parliamentary election that took place on 20 September 2016. This joint mission with the election monitoring delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) provided legal assistance on the legislative framework for the election. The expertise provided reviewed in particular the role played by the various institutions of Jordan's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) as well as the role and involvement of political parties in the electoral process. Side meetings were also held with representatives of UNDP, the EU Delegation and the Regional Network of Arab Electoral Authorities.

**Council of Europe Venice
Commssion**



The Tunisian Anti-corruption Authority rehearses anti-corruption inquiry techniques with SNAC2 experts.

In the framework of the South Programme II, experts of the South Neighbourhood Anti-corruption Project II (SNAC 2) organised a training seminar on anti-corruption inquiry techniques for the corruption investigating team of the Tunisian anti-corruption Authority (INLUCC) and representatives of other control and inspections bodies of Tunisia on 11-12 July 2016 in Tunis. The session provided local case studies on corruption in public procurement and the customs sector along with practical examples of financial investigation techniques which participants were made to explore in the Tunisian context. Emphasis was also placed on the exchange of information and a well-functioning inter-institutional co-operation for a more effective fight against corruption.

SNAC 2 Project

SUSTAINING DEMOCRACY

Forging better civics across Europe and beyond: The Moroccan School of Political Studies takes part in the Civic Roundtable programmes in Berlin and Strasbourg



The South Programme II funded the participation of a Moroccan representative in the two working sessions of the Civic Roundtable which were organised in

Berlin (2-4 May) and later in Strasbourg (16-17 June) by the European School of Political Studies in Istanbul jointly with the CoE and the Network of Schools of Political Studies. The Civic Roundtable is a new platform which brings together young leaders from different European countries and SPS alumni to probe into trends and challenges, and to identify alternative ways to better shape civics in Europe and worldwide. The sessions, animated by renowned experts and political figures, focused primarily on inclusive economic growth, inequality, social mobility and migration. A joint report “Towards a new European civics” drawn from such sessions was then presented to the Secretary General of the CoE at the Strasbourg meeting. This last session saw the participation of the directors of the Tunisian and Moroccan Schools of Political Studies, also present at the SPS directors’ meeting on 16 June 2016. The latter meeting reviewed developments in the SPS Network, partnership projects between schools whilst laying groundwork discussion on future activities and the 5th World Forum for Democracy, which will take place in Strasbourg on 7-9 November 2016.

Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe

Kick-off of the Moroccan Network of Intercultural Cities and Seminar on Social Innovation for refugee integration



The official launching of the Moroccan Network of Intercultural Cities (RMCI) took place in Tangier, on 18 July 2016, in the presence of the city’s director of international relations, representatives of Moroccan ICC member cities, the coordinator of the Spanish ICC Network and the United Cities and Local Governments’ (UCGL) Coordinator of the World Work Group of I-Cities and CoE experts. The municipality of Tangier announced to provide the venue of the Network in what will become a cultural centre hosting the “House of Africa”, the “House of Europe” and a centre for immigrant support. Among the key points addressed in the meeting were the thematic priorities of the Network and the design of the RMCI anti-rumor campaign for 2016-2017. The programme included also discussions on particular structural challenges of the Network; issues related to inclusion strategies and practical examples of local multicultural initiatives.



An example of the remarkable value of these exchanges of best practices was given at “Social innovation for refugee inclusion” seminar which was organised in Brussels on 12-13 September 2016 by the European Council of

Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) in collaboration with the CoE and its ICC Network, the United States Mission to the European Union, and the Mission of Canada to the European Union. The seminar allowed four of the Jordanian ICC coordinators to join peers, social innovators, refugee groups, representatives of civil society organisations and local authorities in an exchange of ground-breaking initiatives, new approaches and policies which contribute to the integration and inclusion of refugees. Participants were brought to explore the potential role and importance of local public-private partnerships, increased involvement of refugee communities and better coordination between different actors for an effective and increased sustainability of refugee integration initiatives

Council of Europe Intercultural Cities

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Workshops on corruption proofing methodology and anti-corruption in the private sector, 5-6 October 2016, Amman, Jordan
- Participation of Moroccan representatives in ICC seminar “Tackling Prejudice and Engaging with Religious Minorities”, 27-28 October, San Sebastián, Spain
- Participation of Moroccan and Tunisian Schools of Political Studies in the World Forum for Democracy, 7-9 November 2016, Strasbourg, France
- Lisbon Forum 2016, 24-25 November 2016, Lisbon, Portugal
- Paths module three training workshop “Human Rights in practice”, 6-9 December 2016, Venice, Italy
- South Programme II regional Steering Committee meeting, 13 December 2016, Nicosia, Cyprus
- Seminar on Council of Europe Conventions, 14-15 December 2016, Jerusalem, Israel



For more information about the South Programme II



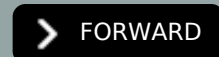
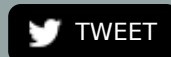
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