

SOUTH PROGRAMME II

European Union - Council of Europe Joint Programme (2015-2017)

NEWSLETTER N. 6 (October 2016 - February 2017)

Towards Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean

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Where we are at: The Steering Committees of the South Programme II take stock of bilateral and regional co-operation progress since 2015



The last two months of 2016 have been particularly intense for the South Programme II, as its Steering Committees were convened to evaluate the progress of country-specific and regional co-operation projects implemented since 2015. The second regional Steering Committee, the second bilateral Steering Committee with Tunisia and the first Steering Committee with Jordan, were held on 13 December, 22 November and 6 December 2016 respectively. The Steering Committee with Morocco will take place in the first half of 2017.

In all the three sessions, the Committees were composed of a large number of representatives of ministries, parliaments, human rights and democratic governance institutions as well as the academic sphere alongside representatives of the Council of Europe and the European Union. The regional Steering Committee held in Nicosia (Cyprus) was attended by representatives from Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine[*] and Tunisia.

[*] This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member States on this issue



The partners discussed the achievements and accomplishments of the first two years of the Programme and validated the work plan and strategic framework

for 2017.

The exchanges underlined the key role of the South Programme II in:

- accompanying beneficiaries in the development of constitutional processes, democratic governance bodies and justice reform;
- consolidating the common legal area between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean;
- promoting good governance by preventing corruption, money laundering and terrorism;
- sharing of good practices and capacity-building through Council of Europe networks.

An overview of some of these undertakings and accomplishments is given in the next sections of this 6th edition of the South Programme II Newsletter.

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

The Council of Europe presents the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings at the University of Hassan II Casablanca

In increasing the knowledge base for the implementation of Morocco's law no. 27-14 on combating trafficking in persons, a presentation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings was delivered in the International Forum on "Migration: challenges and prospects" that was organised by the University of Hassan II Casablanca on 19 December 2016 in Morocco. Through the South Programme II, co-operation with Morocco in anti-trafficking initiatives has involved a support in the drafting of the law, a series of awareness-raising seminars ran throughout 2015 and 2016 and this latest rehearsal of the Convention in the midst of academia with its valuable potential for greater outreach. The Forum has allowed to debate on recent

trends in migration, asylum and the fight against trafficking in human beings with the ultimate aim of developing and incorporating these themes with Council of Europe assistance in the University's courses for 2017.

Tunisia inaugurates its anti-trafficking authority



One of the major accomplishments in the co-operation with Tunisia was brought to light with the launching of the national authority against trafficking in human beings by the Minister of Justice, Mr Ghazi Jeribi, at a conference organised by the Council of Europe jointly with the Ministry on 8-9 February 2017 in Tunis. The appointment of the president of the institution and its 16 members were also made official in the presence of 120 participants including government officials, parliamentarians, international experts, representatives of diplomatic missions and international organisations, the media, civil society and academic bodies. During the conference, participants examined the challenges associated with the introduction of the counter-trafficking law and the work of the newly established authority. The programme also included the first training of the appointed members of the authority focused on the conceptualization of trafficking in human beings combined with an overview of the international and Tunisian legal framework.



The Tunisian and Moroccan National Preventive Mechanisms against torture and their introduction to an effective monitoring

of abuse and ill-treatment

Bringing to fruition a yearlong work in the design and development of the capacity-building programme for the Tunisian National Authority for the Prevention of Torture (INPT), the Council of Europe, jointly with international partners, delivered the first training module on the places of deprivation of liberty on 1 November 2016 in Tunis. Using practical cases, the session introduced some 14 staff and members of the INPT to the nature and management of detention centres while allowing them to explore the gist of effective planning and conduct of successful visits. The second module of the training dedicated to an in-depth look into the monitoring visits of detention facilities was later held on 9-10 November 2016 in Tunis. The workshop presented the INPT members to the different conditions relating to the planning of visits, observation and preventive analysis, the organisation of visiting teams and the collection of information.

Following the same line of development, the Council of Europe experts met on 19 January 2016 in Rabat with representatives of the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH) – which is expected to house the Moroccan NPM – for a consultation over the forthcoming launching of the training programme developed for its staff and members of the Regional Human Rights Commissions (CRDH). An important outcome of this meeting has shed light on the unique instrumentality of the South Programme II in promoting regional co-operation as the CNDH commits to open the sharing of know-how and experience to a member of its Tunisian counterpart.

PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW

Fostering the judiciary capacity of Tunisia

Experts of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) delivered a two-day training session on judicial management tools on 2-3 November 2016 in Monastir (Tunisia). Some fifty judges, clerks and lawyers of the CEPEJ pilot courts were brought to explore judicial dashboards, the preparation of civil law cases and the management of civil law hearings as well as alternative dispute resolution. In addition, the CEPEJ delegation was able to meet the new Minister of Justice, Mr Ghazi Jeribi, on 4 November in Tunis, and to confirm the Ministry's continued support of the co-operation work. The reinforcement of the Tunisian judiciary capacity has further seen the participation of Tunisian representatives in the 28th plenary meeting of the CEPEJ on 6-7 December 2016 in Strasbourg, and CEPEJ experts' training programme on 8-9 December 2016. Aside from the opportunity to network, share experience and good practice, the Tunisian delegation was enabled to familiarise with the CEPEJ tools related to the quality of justice, judicial time management, the evaluation of judicial systems and cyber-justice.

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

Strengthening the independence of the regional network of Electoral Management Bodies

The Venice Commission, in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



and the Independent High Electoral Commission of Tunisia, has assisted the organisation

of the 2nd Annual General Assembly of the Organisation of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (ArabEMBs) in Tunis on 7-9 February 2017.

'Strengthening the Independence of Electoral Management Bodies' was the theme of the assembly, which was attended by 80 representatives from ministries, electoral authorities, human rights institutions as well as international organisations.

The workshop allowed the EMBs of Arab States to network, share experience and exchange on the tenets of EMB independence, international and regional standards, as well as the best practices for securing the impartiality of EMBs. A prominent part of the discussions was also dedicated to identifying main independence challenges that face the Arab Electoral Management Bodies in a bid to encourage mutual support in overcoming hindrances to nonpartisan and transparent elections.

Council of Europe Venice Commision

Jordan: Promoting anti-corruption standards and best practices for the private sector and reducing terrorism-financing risks for NGOs Morocco: strengthening capacities of the Financial Intelligence Unit

The South Neighbourhood Anti-Corruption Project (SNAC 2) organised an awareness-raising workshop on anti-corruption compliance in the private sector on 6 October 2016 in Amman. Twenty representatives from various government departments, private sector networks, the Jordanian Integrity and Anti-corruption Commission and civil society organisations were brought together to review international standards together with good practices on improving the integrity and anti-corruption controls in the private sector. Exchanges between the various stakeholders were ultimately summoned up into proposed actions for enhancing the private sector's role in fighting corruption.

A scoping mission aimed at assessing terrorism financing risks in the non-profit sector took place on 6-8 November in Amman. Based on the findings from the mission, policy proposals for improving the legal framework of the non-profit sector together with guidelines for interagency co-operation and information exchange will be submitted to the authorities.

The sharing of good practices and the investigation into the working methods of the Moroccan Financial Intelligence Unit - Unité de Traitement du Renseignement Financier (UTRF)- were also the core objectives of a scoping mission to Rabat on 13 October 2016. Based on the analysis of the institutional capacity to detect corruption related anti-money laundering cases, red flag indicators were formulated for use by the UTRF.

SNAC 2 intensifies efforts to

reinforce the Tunisian institutional capacity and the anti-corruption legal framework

SNAC 2 experts conducted a scoping mission in Tunis on 11 October 2016 with the purpose of enhancing the functioning and human resource management of the Tunisian Anticorruption Authority (INLUCC). Consultations held with INLUCC representatives enabled to identify the main challenges to the effective and efficient performance of the institution. In response, recommendations for a lean management approach, which can help increase efficiency and optimise work procedures, were presented at a workshop held on 20-21 January 2017 in Tunis.



Last but not least, the assessment of the Tunisian legislative and institutional anti-corruption framework conducted throughout 2015-2016 on the basis of the GRECO methodology, reached a milestone with a series of meetings held between Council of Europe and the Tunisian authorities on 28-29 November 2016 in Strasbourg and on 31 January 2017 in Tunis. These have allowed thorough discussions of the assessment report and its conclusions ahead of its official presentation at a high-level conference in Tunis on 1 February 2017. The policy and legislative advice proposed in the report will contribute to the ongoing institutional and operational reforms carried out by the Tunisian authorities.

SNAC 2 Project

Tunisia takes a major leap forward in harmonising its legislation with Council of Europe standards



Working on the harmonisation of human rights standards, the Council of Europe organised a seminar on 14 November 2016 in Tunis to present its Convention against Organ Trafficking and the Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (Medicrime Convention). Around 70 representatives from various ministries and experts in the field of health were introduced to the provisions of these instruments, which are open for signature and ratification. Later on 23 November 2016, the country's potential interest to accede to both conventions was further discussed during the annual meeting of the joint Tunisian-Council of Europe working group on convention held in Tunis. This last meeting has also provided the opportunity to take stock of the country's progress in harmonising its national legislation with Council of Europe standards in areas such as trafficking in human beings, combating all forms of

violence against women, and children while encouraging accession to relevant Council of Europe conventions.

SUSTAINING DEMOCRACY

The Moroccan and Tunisian Schools of Political Studies debate the “role of education” in the 5th World Forum for Democracy and “climate change” in a regional seminar



For the second time since the start of the South Programme II, the eagerly awaited 5th World Forum for Democracy gathered in Strasbourg from 7 to 9 November 2016 the Moroccan and Tunisian Schools of Political Studies

(SPS) for an analysis of the theme: “Democracy and equality: does education matter?”. Together with some five hundred peers from sister schools in the Network of the Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies, the Tunisian and Moroccan participants took part in different debates and interactive lab sessions, where speakers from around the world gave presentations on initiatives supporting democracy through education. Some of the side events they have attended included visits to the European Court of Human Rights, speed networking lunchtime events and a diploma ceremony with the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Finally, the two Northern African Schools were also invited for a roundtable discussion on migration with the Schools from the Visegrád countries and Turkey. Democratisation, at the crossroads of climate change, was equally at the heart of the regional seminar organised by the Citizenship School of Political Studies of Rabat in partnership with the Tunisian SPS on 16 to 18 November 2016 in Marrakesh (Morocco). Organised on the sidelines of the COP22 Summit, the event brought together about 65 participants from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya with experts from the two shores of the Mediterranean for a discussion of cross-border risks and challenges such as terrorism, migration and the impact of climate change in the region.

Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe

Lisbon Forum 2016: “Migration and human rights: how to structure effective collective action? Best practices and shared knowledge in the Mediterranean and European space”



The current migration crisis and the related human rights issues were at the heart of the 22nd edition of the Lisbon Forum held on 24-25 November 2016 in Lisbon. Organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, this unique platform brought together around 200 representatives of national governments, parliaments, frontline practitioners and academics from European and Southern Mediterranean countries along with the Schools of Political Studies and international organisations for a reflection on how best to swiftly address the migration crisis. By raising awareness of the global dimension of the migration crisis, the Forum has allowed to exchange information, experience and good practice on successful co-operation between national, regional, and local structures - governmental and non-governmental- for coordinated actions that protect migrants’ access to rights, in particular vulnerable groups such as children and women.

North-South Centre

Exploring “human rights in practice” through PATHS third module

“Human rights in Practice” was the focus of the third module of the Programme of Advanced Training in the field of Human rights, the Rule of law and democracy for Southern Mediterranean (PATHS Programme) delivered on 6-9 December 2016 in Venice (Italy).

23 national experts, lawyers, human rights professionals and scholars from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine* and Tunisia took part in the 13 sessions of the module exploring topics such as prosecutions, detention, terrorism, non-discriminatory treatment, protection of children rights, protection against gender-based violence including refugee women and girls.

Through presentations, case studies and exchanges participants were brought to explore the protection of human rights in practice, on one side by assessing the guarantees



afforded to individuals during the investigation and their detention, and other side by setting the focus on legislations aiming to protect individuals against discrimination, and vulnerable groups against dangers as trafficking or violence.

UPCOMING EVENTS



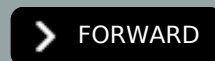
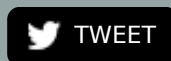
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