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Morocco
Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities 2012-2014
Final implementation report

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the progress made in implementing the “Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Morocco 2012-2014”. These priorities were identified in Council of Europe (CoE)’s fields of expertise in co-operation with the Moroccan authorities so as to support the process of democratic transition in Morocco and help the country to take up challenges relating to human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

Partnerships/funding

A very significant part of the co-operation priorities is implemented under the Programme “Strengthening democratic reform in the southern neighbourhood” (South Programme), entirely funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the CoE¹.

Voluntary contributions have also made it possible for action in key areas. Norway has funded projects on combating violence against women and children, as well as several activities conducted by the Venice Commission to support democratic reforms. The Citizens’ School of Political Studies of Morocco has been supported by several donors (EU, Norway and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie). A voluntary contribution from Liechtenstein also made it possible for action to be initiated in the field of freedom of expression.

Some co-operation projects are still being implemented, including projects covering several countries in the region. The financial table enclosed in Appendix I presents the estimate of project cost by theme established in 2012 and an estimate of expenditure by theme until end of 2014. Detailed financial reports will be presented to donors in 2015, after finalizing project implementation, in accordance with the conditions agreed with donors.

Follow-up to implementation

Steps forward in implementing the co-operation priorities have been regularly discussed between the CoE Secretariat and the Moroccan authorities. The operational presence of the CoE in Rabat, in place since April 2012², has played a key role in the implementation of the co-operation priorities, by enabling the projects to be adapted to the real needs of the country and keeping up regular dialogue with national and international interlocutors in Morocco.

Follow-up to the implementation of co-operation with Morocco is under the responsibility of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE, notably its Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT). The GR-EXT is informed by the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes on the progress of programmes and projects, through a mid-term stocktaking report and a final implementation report. The interim report was submitted to the GR-EXT in July 2013³. This is the final implementation report.

¹ Apart from co-operation with Morocco and Tunisia, the South Programme comprises regional interest projects in countries and territories covered by the EU’s European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and the Palestinian National Authority).

² A Memorandum of understanding for the establishment of the Office was signed by Moroccan authorities on 1 April 2014.

³ [ODGProg/Inf\(2013\)9E - Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities - Interim implementation report](#)

A GR-EXT delegation visited Rabat on 26-28 May 2014 and had the opportunity to discuss the progress of co-operation⁴ with relevant stakeholders.

Both the identification of needs and the implementation of the actions have been conducted in close co-operation with the CoE's partners, primarily the EU, including its Delegation to the Kingdom of Morocco, and also other international organisations and bilateral donors.

The Steering Committee set up under the South Programme⁵ has discussed and validated the progress made in various projects. Furthermore, an independent evaluation of the South Programme was carried out by IBF International Consulting at the request of the European Commission. The [evaluation report](#), published in April 2014, underlines in particular the value added and the relevance of the CoE's work in the Southern Mediterranean region, which is based on the real needs of partner countries and has quickly produced results and a practical impact in those countries.

Overall assessment

Co-operation with Moroccan authorities was marked by dialogue, good mutual understanding and effectiveness in the implementation of many projects, making it possible to achieve very tangible results in most of the fields identified. Morocco acceded to several CoE Conventions and, at its request, was invited by the Committee of Ministers to accede to several other instruments (see Appendix II), thus gradually consolidating the country's commitment to being part of a common legal area with the European continent. The CoE also supported Morocco's constitutional reform process, by contributing to the drafting of organic laws and other legislative instruments and the actual implementation of constitutional provisions, including the setting up of bodies provided for under the Constitution. It also supported Morocco with its reforms in the fields of justice, the fight against corruption and money laundering and with a view to the promotion of democratic values with the aim of bringing the country closer to the relevant CoE standards. In most of the priority fields identified, the emphasis was placed on awareness-raising and capacity-building of relevant actors, including civil society.

The signature by Moroccan authorities of the agreement establishing the CoE Office in Rabat also reflects the good co-operation between Morocco and the CoE.

However, challenges remain. Morocco's limited absorption capacity in relation to certain specific projects prevented some expected outcomes from being achieved. In some cases, the implementation of reforms undertaken, setting-up of bodies and legislation prepared was not sufficiently effective. In other cases, the priorities identified were not achieved because of a lack of funding.

⁴ GR-EXT(2014)8E - Report of the May 2014 GR-EXT delegation visit to Tunisia and Morocco.

⁵ This committee comprises representatives of partners of the Programme, as well as the EU and the CoE.

A “Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco” covering the period 2015-2017 is currently being discussed with the Moroccan authorities. It will be based on Enhanced Political Dialogue and will seek to consolidate the results of the co-operation implemented since 2012, as well as to launch new areas of co-operation in keeping with national priorities.

1. HUMAN RIGHTS

Protection and promotion of human rights

1.1. Gender equality

Overall objective: to promote women's rights and participation in public and political life, particularly in the decision-making spheres.

Expected results:

1. expert opinion by the Venice Commission on legislation relating to the participation of women in political life, including an analysis of the participation of women in the electoral legislation, including recommendations. Awareness-raising seminars targeting relevant independent professionals and NGO representatives to exchange best practices on standards and mechanisms;
2. exchange of best practices on gender budgeting between Morocco and CoE member states in co-operation with the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie;
3. increased awareness brought about by actions targeting representatives of political parties, members of parliament, local and regional elected representatives and representatives of civil society on participation, empowerment and de jure/de facto gender equality;
4. assistance to the on-going project aimed at establishing an Authority for gender equality and linking it with the relevant European networks.

Results achieved:

Several activities relating to gender equality were carried out during the period with the aim of facilitating exchanges, sharing information and good practices, raising awareness about CoE standards and providing technical assistance and support (seminars on women's access to justice (December 2013, June 2014, Paris), the role and participation of women in political life (June 2014, Rabat) and the fight against gender stereotypes in the media (July 2013, Amsterdam, and February 2014, Marrakesh) and in education (October 2014, Helsinki).

The CoE also assisted with the drafting of the Law establishing the Authority for Parity and the Fight against All Forms of Discrimination (APALD), which is provided for under the Constitution. The draft law was the subject of an opinion produced by the Venice Commission in association with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the CoE's Gender Equality and Human Dignity Department. Implementation of other activities in Morocco was carried out with particular attention to the inclusion of the gender equality aspect ("gender mainstreaming") and ensuring application of the constitutional principle of parity in CoE assistance and its different expert appraisals in Morocco.

The activities of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre) regarding women participation also contributed to the achievement of expected result 3 in accordance with its mission.

Funding: voluntary contribution (Norway); South Programme; voluntary contribution (Monaco – transmitted late 2014 for 2015).

1.2. Combating violence against women

Overall objective: to combat violence against women.

Expected results:

1. greater awareness of the CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence among the key governmental players, Parliament and civil society, which could lead to the possible accession of Morocco to this instrument;
2. heightened awareness of this issue among civil servants and members of the Moroccan law enforcement agencies;
3. contribution to more effective action by the Multi-purpose Centres for women in difficulty, and to the provision of high quality services to women, victims of violence.

Results achieved:

Following the Regional Conference on violence against women organised by the CoE and the Moroccan authorities in Rabat (September 2012), co-operation between the Moroccan authorities and the CoE intensified as from 2013 – the Year against Violence against Women in Morocco – on the basis of an action plan designed, inter alia, to encourage changes of the legislative framework and awareness-raising on this question.

The Moroccan authorities expressed the wish to ratify the CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), which is already a reference tool on the subject in Morocco. In this context and in line with expected results 1 and 2, presentations and awareness-raising and capacity-building seminars were organised in that context (Rabat, January 2014, Venice, April 2014).

At the authorities' request, the CoE additionally provided expert advice on the draft legislation concerning violence against women which is currently in preparation and on some major amendments to the civil and criminal codes (repeal of Article 475) by submitting comments and proposals based on its standards and principles.

Funding: voluntary contribution (Norway).

1.3. Protection of children against violence

Overall objective: to enhance the protection of children against all forms of violence.

Expected results:

1. support for the implementation of measures to protect children from all forms of violence (2nd phase of the National Action Plan for Children (PANE 2012-2015)), including a national mechanism for protection reflecting Morocco's commitments following the 27th extraordinary session of the United Nations in New York in May 2002, and for the implementation of the "World fit for children" action plan, to which Morocco has subscribed;
2. heightened awareness of the dissemination of a culture of children's rights and of combating violence against children, including sexual violence;
3. strengthening the partnership with and capacities of local players to improve the range of services available and the quality of care provision for children;

4. identification of a network of professionals and enhancing the capacities of key players in the field of child protection, including the identification of children who are victims of violence.

Results achieved:

The major tangible outcome was Morocco's ratification of several CoE instruments in this field in February 2014: the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention), the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights and the Convention on Contact concerning Children.

In order to facilitate ratification, the CoE raised the awareness of the authorities and other stakeholders about the Lanzarote Convention and the implications of Morocco's accession to it (meetings of the Committee of Parties to the Convention (March and December 2013) and seminars (Rabat, October and December 2013, Venice April 2014)). A delegation from the Ministry for Women, the Family and Social Development participates on a regular basis in the meetings of the Lanzarote Convention. The Convention and explanatory leaflets were translated into Arabic and widely distributed in Morocco to promote greater knowledge and awareness of this subject.

The CoE contributed to framing the Integrated Public Policy for the Protection of Children by sharing the good practices and experience of European countries (Rabat, April 2014). The Ministry for Women, the Family and Social Development and the CoE are currently working together to set up monitoring and steering mechanisms.

The CoE provided technical support for the drafting of the Law establishing the Advisory Council for Family and Childhood Affairs, which is provided for under the Constitution.

Funding: voluntary contribution (Norway); South Programme.

1.4. Integration of people with disabilities

Overall objective: to help promote the rights of people with disabilities and improve their quality of life, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and drawing on the CoE action plan for people with disabilities 2006-2015.

Expected results:

1. review of the national disability legislation, policy and practice, in order to bring national legislation into line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
2. strengthening the capacities of the key national stakeholders (governmental, associations working in this field) to draft legislation, frame policies and draw up programmes in this field through targeted training measures;
3. assistance with the drawing up of a national disability strategy, including sectorial action in fields such as education, vocational training, employment and labour-market integration, communication, sport and culture.

Results achieved:

No work has been initiated in this area due to lack of funding.

Ensuring social rights and promoting health
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1.5. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking (Pompidou Group)

Overall objective: to improve public health and the quality of drug policy implementation in Morocco, with due regard for human rights.

Expected results:

1. evaluation of needs and consultation to ensure the application of existing legal provisions, in particular by improving communication between the justice and health departments in order to meet the needs of drug users;
2. setting up a drugs monitoring mechanism as a key institution in the fight against drug abuse, making it possible to frame a health policy on drugs, involving the different partners and creating the necessary conditions for its implementation;
3. building the capacities of staff working in health-care centres to treat drug users and assist in their rehabilitation

Results achieved:

Morocco has been participating for several years in the Pompidou Group's Mediterranean network (MedNET) and became a member in 2011.

In line with expected results 1 and 2, the CoE supported the launch of the national monitoring centre on drugs and addiction (inaugurated by the Minister for Health in June 2013) and contributed, via the MedNET network, to the carrying out of the second MedSPAD survey (the first was in 2009) on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use in Moroccan schools, whose findings will be used to put in place a national drug prevention strategy.

A regional MedSPAD survey was launched in 2014 on the basis of surveys among young people attending school in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use in schools. This regional project should make it possible to establish networks and promote exchanges of experience in this field, with the long-term aim of harmonising the collection of data on substance use prevalence among young people and adopting drug prevention policies adapted to each context.

In line with expected result 3, the Pompidou Group has maintained its support for addictology courses at the universities of Rabat and Casablanca since 2012. These were set up in 2008 to train medical personnel involved in therapeutic treatment of drug users. Morocco is the first country in the Arab world to have introduced opioid substitution treatment, thanks in particular to training organised by MedNET for medical personnel.

Funding: South Programme; voluntary contributions (France, Italy).

1.6. Fighting the counterfeiting of medical products

Overall objective: to support Morocco in its accession to the Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health.

Result obtained:

On 13 December 2012, Morocco signed the Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (MEDICRIME Convention).

Since then Morocco has participated regularly in the activities undertaken by the CoE to promote this Convention (regional conferences in Strasbourg in October 2013 and Madrid in November 2013 and meetings of the Committee of Experts on Minimising the Public Health Risks Posed by Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Related Crimes (CD-P-PH/CMED), April 2014, Strasbourg). This enables the Moroccan authorities to develop an increased awareness of these issues. In addition to this, the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare (EDQM) organised, in co-operation with the CIVI-POL consortium, a technical workshop on responses to the production of, and trafficking, in counterfeit medicines, aimed at professionals working in the justice system, the police and health regulatory bodies (September 2014).

Funding: South Programme; EDQM budget.

2. RULE OF LAW

Justice

2.1. Independence and efficiency of justice

Overall objective: to enhance the independence, efficiency and quality of justice by improving court performance, and supporting judicial reform and the legal framework.

Expected results:

1. drafting of a work programme, in agreement with the Moroccan authorities, specifying the priority fields of action for judicial reform. This work programme will be drawn up on the basis of the results of an evaluation of the efficiency of justice, carried out using the methodology of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ);
2. strengthening the legislative framework and capacities of the relevant institutions (in particular, the Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, and the Supreme Council of the Judiciary) by means of legislative expert opinions and training;
3. strengthening the capacities of justice professionals via specific actions focusing on: (a) evaluation of the training syllabuses of the Judicial Services Commission; (b) training courses on international and European standards on human rights and specialised fields of law; (c) Morocco's participation in existing training networks (see paragraph 4 below);
4. linking the Supreme Council of the Judiciary with similar institutions in Europe, through the already existing networks (such as the CoE Consultative Council of European Judges and the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary);

5. Morocco's participation in one of the CEPEJ's forthcoming meetings and, subsequently, application for observer status with this committee. This status would enable Morocco to have access to existing training networks (such as the Lisbon Network on judicial training);
6. specific recommendations for modernising and strengthening the regional organisation of the courts.

Results achieved:

In line with expected result 1, the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) carried out an assessment of the efficiency of the Moroccan justice system and put forward a number of recommendations which were incorporated by the Moroccan authorities in the Charter on the Reform of the Judicial System, whose aims are to strengthen, inter alia, the independence and the efficiency of the judicial system.

On the basis of this assessment, the CEPEJ drew up a working plan with three Moroccan pilot courts (Casablanca, Sidi-Kacem and Agadir) with the aim of implementing certain CEPEJ tools designed to improve the quality of justice and judicial time management.

Initiatives for the implementation of these tools have been taken independently by two Moroccan courts: an awareness-raising activity on CEPEJ tools by the Agadir court and the application by the Ouarzazate court (which is not one of the pilot courts) of CEPEJ tools and indicators in order to improve performance. It is important to stress these initiatives which prove the quality of the CoE's co-operation activities in this field and show that they have been taken on board by the Moroccan authorities.

In line with expected result 2, and at the request of the Moroccan Ministry of Justice and Liberties, the CEPEJ, the Venice Commission and the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCEJ) made a detailed expert appraisal of the two draft laws relating to the status of judges and the Supreme Council of the Judiciary. Following on from this, the Moroccan Ministry of Justice and Liberties recently requested the CoE's expert opinion on two draft laws relating to the codes of criminal and civil procedure. Furthermore, the successful experience in the field of the summons and notification system led in partnership with the Casablanca pilot court was reflected in the reform process of the Code of Civil Procedure.

In line with expected result 3, the CEPEJ recently set up, together with the *Institut Supérieur de la Magistrature*, a project for the training of trainers so that more Moroccan courts can benefit from the application of CEPEJ tools. Representatives of the three pilot courts participated regularly and actively in the various CEPEJ meetings and in the training activities organised by the CEPEJ on statistical tools, indicators, and reasonable length of proceedings. Also, the networking of the three pilot courts with other CEPEJ pilot courts continued.

In line with expected result 5, Morocco obtained observer status with the CEPEJ in June 2013, which is another major outcome.

Funding: South Programme.

Common standards and policies

2.2. European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)

Overall objective: to further develop the rule of law in Morocco by developing a legal framework, and stable and democratic and practices in accordance with European and other international standards.

<p>Expected result:</p>

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. as a result of Morocco's membership of the Venice Commission, direct access by the authorities to the Commission's constitutional and legislative expertise, enabling them to benefit from events organised in the country or in other member states of the Commission, allowing for a pooling of experience. |
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Results achieved:

The Venice Commission advised on the draft organic laws concerning the status of judges and the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, together with the CEPEJ and the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCEJ), and on the draft laws concerning two new bodies provided for under the Constitution (the Authority for Parity and the Fight against all Forms of Discrimination and the Advisory Council for Family and Childhood Affairs). The Venice Commission and the CEPEJ are working on two draft laws relating to the codes of criminal and civil procedure, as well as a draft law on civil society.

The Venice Commission also helped the Moroccan Parliament to organise debates in preparation for the drafting of the organic law on implementation of the official status of the Amazigh language and, with an eye to the future organic law on the plea of unconstitutionality, shared the experience of European and Arab courts relating to this matter with the Constitutional Council.

The Venice Commission organised regional workshops on questions relating to the drafting of constitutions, at which exchanges of experience took place between constitution drafters from the region, and in particular from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Mauretania, Tunisia and Yemen, as well as Morocco (Marrakesh, March 2012 and May 2013).

Funding: South Programme; voluntary contribution (Norway).

2.3. Information society and Internet governance; freedom of expression, independence of the media

Overall objective: to consolidate freedom of expression and media independence and plurality through the introduction of guarantees for press freedom.

<p>Expected results:</p>

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|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. establishment of a legal environment more conducive to the work of journalists and the media, offering guarantees for freedom of expression; |
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2. strengthening via training, the capacities of journalists and publishers of audio and television, print and online media in the fundamentals of professional and responsible journalism, including the fair and balanced coverage of elections and gender-related issues;
3. greater awareness, via training for the judicial and other law enforcement authorities, and for government officials, of freedom of expression and media standards in a democratic society;
4. a review and, if necessary, a refocusing by the public service media of their remit and governance arrangements in order to ensure independence, transparency, and accountability in the best interests of a democratic society;
5. contribution to a communication campaign targeting the public at large on freedom of expression and the media standards required for the construction of a democratic society, for people's effective democratic participation and for political, social and economic accountability.

Results achieved:

Following a round table held in Tunisia in April 2013 on media freedom, the Moroccan authorities requested the CoE's expert assistance in connection with the creation of a legal environment more favourable to the work of journalists in Morocco. In this context, the CoE organised in October 2014, together with High Authority on Audiovisual Communication (HACA), a workshop on the practice of journalism in a society in democratic transition, which was attended by representatives from the region, and particularly from Tunisia.

Funding: voluntary contribution (Liechtenstein).

2.4. Strengthening non-legal protection in the field of human rights through mediation

Overall objective: to support the institution of the Ombudsman with a view to increased human rights protection and an effective system of non-judicial protection, as well as the effective establishment of a regional Ombudsman in Morocco and to promote exchanges between Ombudsmen at regional and international level.

Expected results:

1. inclusion of specific modules on human rights in mediation training syllabuses;
2. support for the establishment of regional Ombudsmen as part of the Advanced Regionalisation Act;
3. increased awareness of civil servants and Ombudsmen of the mechanisms for the protection of human rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

Results achieved:

Since April 2012, the Venice Commission has been contributing to capacity-building of the staff of the institution of the Ombudsman by training them to deal with the challenges faced by young institutions in democratic transition processes and familiarising them with human rights protection mechanisms.

The Venice Commission has also contributed to two training sessions of collaborators of the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen and the Association of Ombudsmen and Mediators of la Francophonie which take place several times every year in Rabat, at the initiative of the Kingdom of Morocco's Ombudsman.

The last themes of these trainings dealt with “the role of institutions of Ombudsmen in the simplification of administrative procedures and access to public services” (November 2013), “Strengthening democratic reform in the countries of the south neighbourhood (April 2013), “the ‘auto saisine’, methods and effects” (May 2014), “Ombudsman’s means of intervention” (September 2014), and “the strategic planning as a vector for performance for Ombudsman/Mediator institutions in francophone areas” (December 2014).

Funding: South Programme; voluntary contribution (Norway).

2.5. Creation of a common legal area

Expected results

1. by means of a seminar, addressing in greater depth issues relating to the implications inherent in acceding to certain key CoE conventions;
2. official request from Morocco to be invited to accede to certain conventions.

Results achieved:

Since 2012, Morocco acceded to several CoE Conventions, and has been invited by the Committee of Ministers to accede to other instruments (see Appendix II).

The CoE holds regular exchanges with the Moroccan authorities on procedural questions relating to on-going or potential future accessions. Specific activities are organised to support the internal ratification process or provide detailed information on certain instruments (protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, protection of personal data, prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment violence against women). Morocco participated in the negotiation meetings of the draft convention against the manipulation of sports results.

Funding: South Programme; voluntary contribution (Norway).

2.6. International treaties and conventions signed by Morocco: documentary management

Overall objective: to strengthen the ability of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation in the field of archiving management and related procedures.

Expected result:

1. drafting of a work programme in the light of an analysis of needs in this field, and implemented through exchanges and a study visit to the CoE by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation.

Result obtained:

During a study visit to Strasbourg (July 2013), a Moroccan delegation was able to visit the archives of the CoE and obtain useful information on the filing and archiving system of CoE conventions.

Funding: South Programme.

Threats to the Rule of Law

2.7. Combating corruption, money laundering and terrorism

Overall objective: To promote good governance and the prevention of corruption and money-laundering on the basis of the relevant CoE standards, mechanisms and instruments by strengthening the policy framework and operational capacities.

<p>Expected results⁶:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. assessment of the legal and institutional framework on basis of the GRECO methodology is initiated and aimed at providing recommendations and policy direction in the area good governance and fight against corruption; 2. increased capacities on legislative reforms through legal advice and legal drafting concerning administration institutions through knowledge sharing of good practices and co-operation with civil society; 3. available policy advice and sector risk analysis to relevant institutions concerning good governance and corruption prevention tools / methodologies; and 4. provision of training, modules and awareness-raising for those relevant institutions and civil society groups in the area of good governance and fight against corruption and economic crime.

Results achieved:

The Programme has succeeded in strengthening the anti-corruption framework of Morocco through a significant reinforcement of institutional capacities of the leading anti-corruption authority and the development of systemic interagency coordination in this area.

An overarching assessment of the entire Moroccan anti-corruption regime delivered in 2013-2014 by the project led to the identification of a large number of gaps and shortcomings and included over 60 policy recommendations to the authorities. It was carried out with the methodology of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and involved over 20 government agencies. The Recommendations cover a vast number of sectors, including the judiciary, law enforcement, public administration, political parties and public procurement. The assessment resulted in a significant consolidation of the anti-corruption system and the central role of the Central Authority for the Prevention of Corruption – *Instance Centrale de Prévention de la Corruption* (ICPC).

Further activities with the ICPC were instrumental in preparing the reform of this authority in line with the 2011 Constitutional requirements aimed at enhancing its institutional standing and establishment of an investigative function. The project has significantly contributed to this process by designing internal regulations and guidelines for investigations as part of these reforms.

The project has made significant steps in setting up a risk-based anti-corruption framework in Morocco through the dissemination of European good practice examples and the promotion of CoE methodologies on the assessment of corruption risk.

⁶ Revised in coordination with the Moroccan authorities.

For this purpose, a number of training sessions to enhance the capacities of local authorities in undertaking sectoral risk assessments were held, as well as a full-scale pilot risk-assessment exercise in the external trade sector of Morocco. Similar risk-assessment practices have been introduced at the level of legislative drafting (so-called corruption proofing of legislation).

The CoE delivered a programme of training and capacity building in a number of key areas, including general awareness-raising on basic anti-corruption concepts, as well as targeted seminars on criminal law investigations, administrative inquiries, conflict of interest and political party financing.

Overall the deliverables and results achieved by the Programme in the anti-corruption sector in Morocco have significant sustainability potential in the context of the on-going reform process. At the same time it is essential that co-operation in this framework continue in order to ensure efficient implementation of anti-corruption reforms.

Funding: South Programme.

2.8. Combating cybercrime

Expected results:

1. assessments of the relevant legal framework in order to bring national legislation closer into line with standards of the Convention on Cybercrime;
2. provision by the Judicial Services Commission of advanced training for judges and prosecutors on cybercrime-related issues and electronic evidence. The national strategy for the information society and the digital economy “Maroc Numeric 2013” will provide for training in this field for all judicial officers;
3. progress in Morocco in the fight against cybercrime through international police and legal co-operation;
4. better implementation in practice of data protection legislation.⁷

Results achieved:

In February 2013, the Committee of Ministers invited Morocco to accede to the CoE Cybercrime Convention and this accession was ratified by the Moroccan Parliament in January 2014.

Under the GLACY (Global Action against Cybercrime) joint programme 2013-2016, funded by the EU and implemented by the CoE, Morocco is eligible for support in the fields of legislation, training for the judicial professions and the police, institution building, information sharing and international co-operation. A visit to Morocco was organised in February 2014 to identify the country’s needs.

Funding: EU (GLACY and South Programme).

⁷ Law No. 09-08 on the protection of individuals with regard to personal data processing 18 June 2009.

2.9 Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings

Expected results:

1. heightened awareness among professionals (both institutional and those in civil society) involved in the fight against human trafficking, especially by means of a seminar featuring a presentation of the CoE's instruments in this field;
2. capacity building of the different operators, by means of training;
3. drafting of a work programme with the Moroccan authorities on the basis of a needs assessment of the country's situation regarding trafficking in human beings.

Results achieved:

An analysis by the CoE of the Moroccan context relating to trafficking in human beings made it possible to identify a certain number of needs in this area (including greater public awareness, training for stakeholders, the need for direct assistance to victims, the establishment of a new legal and institutional framework and improved arrangements for collecting data on this subject). The CoE closely worked with international players (EU Delegation (EUD), UN agencies, International Organisation on Migration (IOM), Embassies) in order to improve the co-ordination and exchange of information on action taken to develop possible synergies (Rabat, November 2013).

As regards awareness-raising among the professionals involved and capacity building, training organised jointly by the EU and the CoE made it possible to familiarise the relevant Moroccan bodies with certain European mechanisms for combating trafficking and with the CoE's Convention on the fight against trafficking in human beings with a view to Morocco's possible accession to this instrument (Strasbourg and Rabat, 2013). Morocco also participated in several seminars (Tunis 2014, Geneva 2014) and study visits (February 2014) which provided the opportunity to build the capacity of participants, exchange good practices and raise awareness of the issue of human trafficking. A kit comprising an Arabic version of the CoE Convention, a handbook and leaflets about victims and monitoring was distributed to relevant actors. The Inter-Ministerial Delegation for Human Rights (DIDH) organises a seminar, in collaboration with the CoE, to present the Convention during the World Human Rights Forum in Marrakesh in November 2014.

A draft law on trafficking in human beings was finalised by the Moroccan authorities. The CoE will offer its support in implementing this law.

Funding: South Programme.

3. DEMOCRACY

Democratic governance

3.1. Co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly

Overall objective: to help strengthen the role and capacities of the Moroccan parliament, on the basis of the priorities jointly identified in the Partner for Democracy status granted in June 2011⁸, by making members of parliaments and parliament staff aware of the standards of the CoE in its core areas of work (human rights, democratic standards, rule of law) and providing technical support for reforms in these areas, particularly those for which organic laws will be passed in accordance with the constitutional reform of July 2011.

Expected results:

1. the initiatives taken will make it possible to present to the members of the Moroccan parliament the most relevant practices in CoE member states relating to the areas of draft legislation which are a priority for Morocco in the current legislative term and for which the Assembly has recognised expertise;
2. signature and ratification of the relevant CoE conventions opened for signature to non-member countries;
3. familiarisation of the parliamentary committees and members of parliament with the relevant CoE standards in the field of human rights, democratic standards and the rule of law, and use thereof, wherever possible, in their activities (see also the “Training of executive staff” project, below);
4. Provision of training to executive staff and civil servants in the two Chambers of parliament, giving an introduction to the CoE and the European institutions (in partnership with the European Parliament), and – for the members of the secretariats of certain committees – specific thematic training in their field of expertise.

Results achieved:

The objective of strengthening the capacities of Moroccan parliamentarians and raising their awareness of CoE standards relating to human rights, democracy and the rule of law was achieved within the context of the “partner for democracy” status granted to the Moroccan Parliament. PACE Resolution 1942 (2013) “Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco”⁹ underlined the very active participation of the Moroccan Parliament’s delegation to the Assembly. Granting partner for democracy status to the Moroccan Parliament has created new dynamics in the co-operation between the CoE and Morocco and has thus contributed to achieving progress in taking forward reforms.

More specifically, the PACE worked to enable the Moroccan authorities to derive maximum benefit from the CoE’s expertise in core areas of the reforms undertaken by the country. In this context, the PACE organised several activities for the Chambers of Parliament to support the ongoing transition and build capacity on the following issues: parliamentary oversight of government action (Rabat, November 2012), implementation of the official status of the Amazigh language (Rabat, November 2012), the role and internal functioning of the PACE,

⁸ <http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/XRef/X2H-DW-XSL.asp?fileid=18002&lang=EN>.

⁹ <http://www.assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewPDF.asp?FileID=19934&lang=en>.

the European Court of Human Rights and the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Strasbourg, December 2012), popular legislative initiative (Rabat, May 2013), the functioning of the European institutions and, in particular, the European Parliament (Brussels, June 2013), and the rights of the parliamentary opposition (Rabat, June 2014). The PACE is also contributing to the implementation of the new Moroccan migration policy (seminar organised by the PACE and the Moroccan Parliament on Morocco's new migration policy, October 2014).

Funding: PACE budget, South Programme.

3.2. Democratic governance at local and regional level

Overall objective: to assist the local and regional reform currently taking place and help strengthen local and regional democracy.

Expected results:

1. organisation of exchange seminars – possibly in conjunction with the PACE – between members of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and members of the parliamentary committee(s) responsible for drafting the Advanced Regionalisation Act;
2. strengthening of local and regional governance and the institutional capacities of local/regional authorities;
3. greater awareness of the standards and principles of the European Charter of Local Self-government and of the CoE Reference Framework for Regional Democracy;
4. greater citizen participation in local institutional life; strengthening of the National Association of Local Authorities.

Results achieved:

In July 2012, on the basis of its earlier contribution to the work of the Consultative Committee on Regionalisation (CCR) and in co-operation with the Venice Commission, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities organised an exchange of views with the Moroccan Parliament on the challenges involved in, and arrangements for, implementing advanced regionalisation in Morocco, based on the experience of CoE member states in this field.

The Congress and the CoE Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform also contributed to the seminar on “Decentralisation, advanced regionalisation and human capital: challenges and best practice” organised by the Ministry of the Interior on 28-29 November 2012.

The President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress held talks on this subject in October 2013 with the former President of the Consultative Committee on Regionalisation and with the Mayor of Tangier and President of the new Moroccan Association of Presidents of Municipal Councils set up in May 2013. The “Partner for Local Democracy” status was adopted in October 2014 in the presence of Mr Hassan Bouhriz, member of the Chamber of Representatives and Deputy Mayor of Tangier.

Funding: Congress' budget; ordinary budget.

3.3. Electoral assistance

Overall objective: to bring electoral legislation fully into line with international standards and to improve the functioning of electoral processes and institutions through assistance provided by the Venice Commission.

Expected results:

1. review of electoral legislation and practice and alignment with international electoral standards;
2. provision of technical assistance to the bodies in charge of electoral disputes;
3. provision of capacity-building support to the electoral management bodies;
4. participation of Moroccan officials in the network of electoral management bodies.

Results achieved:

The Venice Commission has not yet received a request from the Moroccan authorities, but the holding of local elections in 2015 might entail a special interest in this subject.

3.4. Political parties

Overall objective: to evaluate national legislation and practices on political parties so as to bring them into line with the relevant European and international standards.

Expected results:

1. expert opinion on the legislation on political parties;
2. organisation of seminars on European and international standards in this field.

Results achieved:

The Venice Commission has received no request from the Moroccan authorities concerning the legislation on political parties. However, Moroccan representatives took part in the 4th Intercultural Workshop on Democracy devoted to political parties (Bucharest, October 2013), which was the opportunity for an exchange of experience between representatives of national parliaments and academics from several countries¹⁰ on international standards and national legislation and practice relating to political parties on topics such as the funding of political parties and their participation in elections. The same theme was discussed during the 2014 Lisbon Forum, which dealt with the electoral processes in Southern Mediterranean countries (see point 3.7).

The seminar on “The rights of the parliamentary opposition” organised by the PACE (Rabat, 2014) also provided the opportunity to address the issue of the fundamental role played by political parties in democratic systems (see point 3.1).

Funding: South Programme, voluntary contribution (Norway).

¹⁰ Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, National Palestinian Authority, Tunisia and Yemen

3.5. Training in democratic governance

Overall objective: to bring a contribution on Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democratic Citizenship to Moroccan society by enlisting the future political leaders and civil servants as multipliers for the reform.

Establishment of a “School of Political Studies” in Morocco

Expected result:

1. A “School of Political Studies” is to be set up in the coming months in Morocco, in partnership with a local NGO.

Training of young executive staff in human rights and democratic governance

Expected results:

1. inclusion of specific modules on human rights and democratic governance in the relevant training plans, such as the Masters in human rights organised by the National Human Rights Council and the courses of the Diplomatic Academy.
2. organisation of a traineeship programme for students of the Diplomatic Academy.

Results achieved:

The Citizen School of Political Studies of Morocco, inaugurated in March 2013, was one of the first Schools of Political Studies to be set up in a non-member state of the CoE. Its student body consists of some thirty young leaders from political parties, associations, the administration and local authorities selected following a call at national and regional level for candidates wishing to receive training in a range of issues (human rights, citizenship, participatory democracy, gender equality, local development) in order to enhance their role as agents for democratic change.

The School immediately launched training activities on such subjects as deliberative democracy, the notions of remembrance and democracy, decentralisation, governance and local democracy. Moroccan representatives participated in the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Lisbon Forums, the 2013 and 2014 editions of the World Forum for Democracy and the first international seminar for students of the Schools of Political Studies (Strasbourg, June 2014) which provided the opportunity to establish contacts and exchange experience on a range of issues. The Tunisian and Moroccan Schools of Political Studies also join forces on the occasion of regional conferences taking place every year alternately in Tunisia and Morocco (“Understanding the Arab spring and its impact” (Tunis, November 2013) and “Post-Arab Spring Dynamics of Diversity”, (November 2014, Marrakech)).

The first training academy for young professionals from the Southern Mediterranean region on democratic governance was organised by the CoE, in partnership with the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation and Venice International University, organised. The beneficiaries of this pilot project were some thirty young professionals from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria working organisations supported by European projects. Its aim is to strengthen their capacities in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Funding: South Programme; voluntary contributions (Norway, *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*).

Sustainable democratic societies

3.6. Investing in youth

Overall objective: to support the Moroccan government in framing its youth policy through the evaluation and design of youth policies and strategies together with the organisation of development activities for youth leaders, and enhancing youth participation and democratic citizenship.

Expected results:

1. support to the Moroccan government in finalising its youth policy strategy, including an examination of national youth policies by a group of international experts, comprising recommendations for further policy development in line with international standards;
2. capacity-building of youth organisations to incorporate human rights education and youth participation within their programmes and activities, training and capacity-building of association executive staff and developing co-operation on a regional scale among the countries of the region in the field of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education. Strengthening of the capacity of youth organisations and youth worker training institutions to integrate human rights education and youth participation within their programmes through the training of staff and trainers and the development of supporting educational material;
3. action to promote gender equality and the participation of young women in public life through the strengthening of civil society (in conjunction with the National Institute of Youth and Democracy);
4. developing practices in education for democratic citizenship and human rights education in the education system through joint capacity-building of teacher trainers, youth workers and leaders of youth organisations;
5. developing a partnership with the CoE to carry out studies and research in the youth field via the Arab Youth Monitoring Centre (a body established by the Arab League, whose headquarters is planned to be in Morocco) and to provide executive staff and young people with CoE training in terms of blogs to combat hate speech. Encouraging Morocco's participation in the CoE's co-operation networks in this field.

As stated above, this programme will comprise a regional dimension, aimed at promoting co-operation among the countries of the region.

Results achieved:

Inter-regional seminars for researchers in the youth field and training courses for multipliers and trainers for the democratic participation of young people were organised in 2013 and 2014 with the participation of Tunisian, Moroccan, Algerian and Member States of CoE representatives. These activities provided the opportunity to share knowledge and experience about youth and its role in societies in transition and to strengthen the capacities of the participants in line with the expected results in this field. Young Moroccans were also invited to participate in the 2014 edition of the World Forum for Democracy, which focused on the role of youth in democracy.

The CoE gave the benefit of its experience of participation policies to the final conference on the setting up of the Consultative Council on Youth and Voluntary Associations.

Funding: South Programme.

3.7. Co-operation with the North-South Centre

Overall objective: to offer a platform of structured co-operation to Morocco at governmental, parliamentary, local and regional authority and civil society levels.

Expected results:

1. through Morocco's membership of the NSC, full integration of governmental, parliamentary, local, regional and civil society representatives of Morocco into the NSC's on-going processes, such as the annual Lisbon Forum, the University on Youth and Development and the Euro-Africa youth co-operation programme;
2. enhancement of the activities scheduled in Morocco to promote women's participation in public and political life, youth co-operation and the strengthening of civil society by means of the NSC's networking activities. Establishment of an online system of training in global citizenship for educators and youth organisation leader. Invitation to relevant Moroccan partners to participate in and benefit from events organised in other NSC member states;
3. use of the NSC as a platform for co-operation for regional or multilateral activities in the youth and civil society fields and in promoting women as key players in bringing about change.

This activity will comprise a regional dimension, aimed at promoting co-operation among the countries of the region.

Results achieved:

Morocco has been a member of the North-South Centre (NSC) since 1 July 2009 and participates in this quality in programmes relating to the rights of women, youth policies and intercultural dialogue.

Moroccan representatives have taken part in the Lisbon Forum every year since 2012. At the forums, the Moroccan participants had the possibility to exchange experiences with representatives from the Southern Mediterranean region and beyond on democratic consolidation processes (2012), the role of civil society (2013) and electoral processes in the countries of the Mediterranean (2014).

Funding: NSC budget, South Programme (Lisbon Forum).

3.8. Co-operation in the audiovisual, film production and sport fields

Audiovisual communication

Overall objective: to consolidate freedom of expression, media independence and professional ethics, while at the same time promoting the alignment of Moroccan regulations in the audiovisual sector with the CoE's instruments.

Expected results:

1. highlighting the gender equality issue in the Moroccan audiovisual media, in particular through the translation into English, French and Spanish of the "Summary report on the image of women", produced by the High Authority on Audiovisual Communications (HACA), to be distributed and discussed in the margins of the Tetouan International Mediterranean Film Festival;

2. promotion of the internal and external pluralism of Moroccan audiovisual media, via the organisation of an international conference to “Take stock of the management of audiovisual pluralism during referendums and parliamentary election campaigns in Morocco in 2011”, in preparation for the local and regional elections in 2012;
3. consolidation of cultural and linguistic diversity in the Moroccan audiovisual media, through the drafting of a thematic report, with the assistance of the CoE, the Ministry of Culture, Moroccan public institutions working in the cultural field and the HACA, involving broad consultation of the key stakeholders;
4. revitalisation of the process of the Kingdom of Morocco’s accession to the European Audiovisual Observatory, with the initiation, to this end, of the preparatory steps for the technical co-ordination, via the HACA, of the conditions laid down in Resolution CM/Res (92) 70 as revised by Resolution Res (2000)7 of 21 September 2000, to enable Morocco to transmit and have access to reliable, up-to-date and relevant information in the various audiovisual fields, which are necessary for monitoring developments in this strategic sector.

Results achieved:

In May 2014, Morocco became the 41st and first non-European member state of the European Audiovisual Observatory, thereby gaining access to reliable, up-to-date information on the legal and economic aspects of the European audiovisual industry.

The CoE carried out activities together with the High Authority on Audiovisual Communication (HACA) on strengthening freedom of expression in the media and promoting the CoE’s Conventions in the audiovisual sector (Skhirate, Morocco, October 2014), thus building the capacity and raising the awareness of regulatory and media stakeholders.

Funding: voluntary contribution (Liechtenstein).

Film production

Overall objective: to enter into co-operation with Eurimages and promote regional co-operation instruments in the film industry.

Results achieved:

The CoE has received no concrete request from the Moroccan authorities.

Sport

Overall objective: to promote Morocco’s accession to the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches, and the Anti-Doping Convention.

Results achieved:

Morocco became a contracting party to the Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events, and in particular at Football Matches on 1 March 2013.

Morocco acceded to the Anti-Doping Convention on 19 June 2013.

Morocco participated in the drafting of the new Convention on Manipulation of Sports Results.

Appendix I - Financial table – Estimation until end of 2014

	Total estimated cost	Estimate of expenditure	
		EU	Voluntary contributions
HUMAN RIGHTS			
Protection and promotion of human rights			
- Gender equality			
- Preventing violence against women	275 000		250 000 Norway***
- Protecting children against violence			
- Integration of disabled persons	150 000		
Social rights/ health			
-Pompidou Group	380 000	95 000***	50 000 Italy 70 000 France ***
Subtotal - human rights	805 000	95 000	370 000
RULE OF LAW			
Justice reform	500 000	500 000	
Common standards and policies			
- Venice Commission	270 000	110 000	230 000 Norway**
- Information society and Internet governance; freedom of expression, independence of the media	300 000		35 000 Liechtenstein
- Seminars on CoE Conventions/documentary management of international treaties	60 000	80 000 ***	
Threats to the Rule of Law			
- Combating corruption and money laundering	500 000	500 000	
- Combating cybercrime	300 000	*	
- Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings	500 000	50 000	
Subtotal- rule of law	2 430 000	1 240 000	265 000
DEMOCRACY			
Democratic governance			
- Co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	400 000	220000****	
- Democratic governance at local and regional level	700 000		
- School of Political Studies	189 000	100 000***	95 000 Norway 14 000 OIF
- Training of young executive staff	100 000	25 000***	15 000 Norway***
Sustainable democratic societies			
- Youth	400 000	70 000	
- Co-operation with the North-South Centre	150 000	120 000 ***	
- Co-operation in the audiovisual and film production fields			
Subtotal-democracy	1 939 000	427 000	124 000
TOTAL	5 174 000	1 762 000	759 000
TOTAL FUNDED			2 521 000

Notes

* Through EU/CoE Joint Programme Global Action on Cybercrime (GLACY) and seminars on Conventions

** Part of the total VC amount is for 2014-2015

*** Estimated budget for Morocco- regional programme

**** Including regional activities

Appendix II - State of accession to CoE conventions

Convention	Date of the request	Decision of the Committee of Ministers	Date of signature/ratification/accession
Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (CETS n°211)	12 June 2012	24 October 2012	Signature: 13 December 2012
European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (CETS n°120)	2 July 2012	28 November 2012	Accession: 17 January 2013
European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights (CETS n°160)	2 July 2012	28 November 2012	*
Convention on Contact concerning Children (CETS n°192)	2 July 2012	28 November 2012	*
Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS n°198)	2 July 2012	28 November 2012	
Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS n°201)	2 July 2012	28 November 2012	*
Anti-Doping Convention (CETS n°135)	2 July 2012	28 November 2012	Accession: 19 June 2013
Convention on Cybercrime (STE n°185) and Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems (CETS n°189)	2 July 2012	28 November 2012	*
Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (CETS n°108)	2 July 2012	30 January 2013	
Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (CETS n°127, amended in 2010) and its amending Protocol (CETS n° 208)	24 October 2012	OECD	Signature: 21 May 2013
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (CETS n°66)	16 January 2013	September 1988	Accession: 19 June 2013
European Convention on Information on Foreign Law (CETS n°62) and Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Information on Foreign Law (CETS n°97)	16 January 2013	November/December 1988	Accession: 19 June 2013

* Internal process completed. Accession pending to the deposit of the instrument of accession to the CoE