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**Morocco**  
**Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities**  
**Interim implementation report**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Council of Europe policy with regard to its immediate neighbours**

This report presents the state of progress made in implementing the “Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Morocco 2012-2014”, a document endorsed by the Ministers’ Deputies at their 1140<sup>th</sup> meeting on 11 and 12 April 2012, and which is part of the Council of Europe (CoE) policy towards its neighbouring regions.<sup>1</sup>

These priorities in the CoE’s fields of expertise were identified in co-operation with the Moroccan authorities so as to aid the process of democratic transition in Morocco and help it to take up the national challenges relating to human rights, the rule of law and democracy. The main objectives assigned to this co-operation may be summarised as follows:

- for Morocco to benefit from the CoE’s experience in establishing democracy, in particular by providing expertise, good practice, training, advice, election observation, sponsorship, internships;
- to consolidate Morocco’s presence in the CoE structures with which it has already established co-operation and to encourage its participation in other partial agreements and mechanisms;
- to bring Moroccan legislation into line with CoE standards, with a view to the possible ratification of a number of the Organisation’s conventions open to non-member states, in conformity with the procedures described in the relevant conventions.

The beginning of the practical implementation of the co-operation priorities was the formal approval of the “Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Morocco 2012-2014” by the Secretary General of the CoE and by the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs at their meeting on 24 April 2012 in Rabat.

The CoE action in Morocco as well as in other countries of the South Mediterranean is carried out in close co-operation with the EU, on the basis of a privileged partnership, building on common values and aiming at supporting the transition of the countries of the Southern Neighbourhood.

### **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), signed between the CoE and the EU on 28 December 2011, fully funded by the EU and implemented by the CoE. The principal beneficiaries of this Programme are Morocco and Tunisia.<sup>2</sup> The Programme has enabled the CoE, once the co-operation priorities were approved, to assist Morocco in the processes of justice reform, combating corruption and money laundering and promoting democratic values.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. SG/Inf(2011)7rev2. “Council of Europe Neighbourhood Policy” of 19 April 2011.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

It has also made possible various actions in the fields where the CoE excels, for instance to support constitutional reforms, strengthen civil society and support parliament in its new role.

Voluntary contributions have also enabled action on key subjects to be initiated. Norway is funding the projects on combating violence against women and children as well as several activities conducted by the Venice Commission to aid democratic reforms. In addition, the launching of the Citizens' School of Political Studies of Morocco had the support of several donors (EU, Norway and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie).

Appendix I presents a summary of the budgetary situation with regard to the implementation of these co-operation priorities.

The Office of DG Programmes is actively pursuing efforts to raise funds with which to ensure the implementation of all the priorities identified.

### **Follow-up to the implementation**

Steps forward in implementing and ensuring the sustainability of the co-operation priorities have been regularly discussed at coordination meetings between the CoE Secretariat and the Moroccan authorities.

At its meeting on 5 February 2013, the Steering Committee set up under the South Programme<sup>3</sup> also discussed and validated the progress made in various projects implemented via the South Programme, of which there is a compendium in the document "Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Morocco 2012-2014".

Identification of needs and carrying out the action are done in close collaboration with other partners working in the targeted fields. In this context, regular consultations are held with the EU, including its Delegation in Rabat, and with other international organisations and bilateral donors.

The operational presence of the CoE in Rabat, established since April 2012, 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 Morocco and keeping up regular dialogue with national and international points of contact based in Morocco.

### **General assessment**

The results achieved over the thirteen months which have elapsed since the approval of the document "Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Morocco 2012-2014" demonstrate the importance attached by the Moroccan authorities to co-operation with the CoE and the greater visibility gained by the Organisation in this country. The co-operation with the Moroccan authorities has been characterised by constructive dialogue, mutual understanding and effectiveness in the implementation of on-going projects. This has enabled the CoE to obtain results as early as the first year of implementation of the co-operation priorities. Besides the very tangible advances in the various projects in hand, during this period Morocco has acceded to certain CoE Conventions and has, at its request, been invited by the Committee of Ministers to accede to several other instruments in these priority areas, consolidating this country's commitment to a being part of a common legal area with the European continent.

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<sup>3</sup> This committee comprises representatives of the countries and territories benefiting from the Programme, as well as the EU and the CoE.

It has to be stressed that, although ongoing projects have a clearly defined duration, they have been mostly conceived as a support to long-term reforms; as a consequence, the co-operation between the CoE and Morocco is likely to continue beyond 2014.

There nevertheless remain challenges to be met. Where certain projects are concerned, the specific role of the CoE has still to be settled with the EU and the Moroccan authorities (particularly combating trafficking in human beings). Likewise, Morocco's limited capacity to absorb some of the projects could slow down the implementation of the priorities.

Lastly, the Memorandum of Understanding between the CoE and the Kingdom of Morocco, under discussion for several months, has still not been concluded and should be formalised as soon as possible to enable the CoE to work under optimum conditions in this country.

## PROGRESS IN OBTAINING RESULTS

This report should be read in the light of the document “Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Morocco 2012-2014” which specifies the fields of action and the expected outcomes. It should be emphasised that the evaluations of needs, the exchanges with other players and the advances in implementation have in some cases given rise to a readjustment or redefinition of the expected results.

### 1. HUMAN RIGHTS

#### Protection and promotion of human rights

The priorities identified in certain fields of human rights are intended:

1. to make the Moroccan authorities and Moroccan society aware of the CoE standards and of the Organisation’s work;
2. to help bring Moroccan legislation closer in line with European and international standards, by facilitating Morocco’s accession to certain CoE Conventions open to non-member states;
3. to support the establishment of new democratic governance bodies, in particular those pursuant to the Constitution as revised in July 2011.

Over this period, Morocco acceded to certain conventions and also asked to be invited to accede to several other instruments identified in the co-operation priorities. To aid accession, a seminar presenting the accession procedure to certain CoE conventions and partial agreements will take place in Strasbourg in July 2013<sup>4</sup> (see section 2.5, [page 17](#)).

#### 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.

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<sup>4</sup> Seminar also intended for other countries of the region (Tunisia, Jordan, Algeria, Israel).

## **Progress**

- At the request of the Minister for Solidarity, Women's and Family Affairs and Social Development, the CoE is currently providing Morocco with assistance for the drafting of bills relating to the Authority for gender equality and combating all forms of discrimination (APLCD) and to the Advisory Council for Family and Childhood Affairs (CCFE). In this context, an exchange of views was held with a delegation from Morocco (comprising a Ministry representative and independent experts tasked with examining the law) on the creation of the APLCD at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Committee on Gender Equality of the CoE (Strasbourg, 10-12 April 2013).
- In addition, a hearing of CoE experts with members of the technical committees set up to work on the creation of the APLCD and the CCFE took place on 25 and 26 April in Rabat. The hearing allowed questions to be answered particularly regarding the APLCD's composition, independence and budget and the nature of its powers. The CoE also had contacts with the Ombudsman of Morocco and the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH), which gave the opportunity to discuss how these bodies' role and terms of reference would complement those of the APLCD. The involvement of the CoE in the preparation of the laws concerning the APLCD and the CCFE was welcomed by international organisations (UN Women) and by civil society.
- It should be emphasised that the implementation of all the other activities in Morocco has been 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.

**Funding:** voluntary contribution by Norway, South Programme (activities related to the setting-up of governing bodies provided for in the Constitution).

## **Prospects/ planned activities**

- It is planned that the Venice Commission should receive the corresponding bills from the Moroccan authorities in July 2013 and that, in co-operation with ECRI and DGI, it should submit its opinions to the Moroccan authorities in September 2013. The Venice Commission will also suggest to the Moroccan authorities that it play a role regarding the bills on the Ombudsman and the CNDH.
- Additional finance is being sought to commence other projects identified under this priority in which Morocco has confirmed its interest.

## **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.

**Progress**

- The Regional Programme on prevention of violence against women and children is intended for activities particularly in Morocco and Tunisia, and provides for a regional impact in the Southern Mediterranean. The programme began with a high-level conference in Rabat on 24-25 September 2012, organised in close co-operation with the Moroccan authorities, on the specific question of violence against women. The conference brought together over 400 participants from Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, the Palestinian National Authority and Azerbaijan, among them ministers and government representatives (including the Head of the Moroccan government), parliamentarians, experts and representatives of civil society.
- Following this conference, 2013 was declared the year of combating violence against women in Morocco, giving rise to considerable action on this issue throughout the country. The conference provided the opportunity to promote the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the “Istanbul Convention”). It also led to an agreement with the Moroccan authorities on the provision of assistance from the CoE in the legislative sphere (preparation of a framework law to fight violence against women and amendments to the Criminal Code and the Family Code).

**Funding:** voluntary contribution from Norway.

**Prospects/ planned activities**

- The Moroccan authorities have confirmed interest in a CoE expert opinion on the draft framework law concerning violence against women expected to be presented to the Moroccan parliament shortly. A new exchange of views between CoE and Moroccan experts is soon to be organised. In addition, in order to raise Moroccan parliamentarians’ awareness of issues regarding violence against women, the PACE will be organising a seminar on this topic.
- Various exchanges between CoE bodies and experts and Morocco will make it possible to agree with the authorities on the best way for Morocco to benefit from the CoE standards and from the good practices of its member states.
- The Moroccan authorities have stated their wish to organise a series of seminars to present CoE standards and expertise to the experts on violence against women. Seminars will be organised during the second half of 2013, also with the assistance of the PACE.

- The commitment of Morocco and particularly of the Minister for Solidarity, Women’s and Family Affairs and Social Development, Ms Bassima Hakkaoui, to combating violence against women, could elevate Morocco to a regional leadership position in addressing this issue. The Minister placed particular emphasis on her wish for Morocco to be the first CoE non-member state to accede to the Istanbul Convention.

## 1.2. 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Progress

- The CoE has established excellent working relations with the Moroccan authorities in this field. The Committee of Ministers has invited Morocco to accede to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (“Lanzarote Convention”), and the deposit of the instrument of accession is imminent (Moroccan experts attended the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of the Parties on 21-22 March 2013). It has also invited Morocco to accede to two other conventions relating to children (European Convention on the Exercise of Children’s Rights and Convention on Contact concerning Children). These conventions and other CoE reference texts are well known to the Moroccan authorities and serve as references for their work.
- The CoE has identified opportunities for co-operation with UNICEF (MENA Regional Office and National Office in Morocco) and with the National Observatory for Children’s Rights (ONDE).
- See also the expert assistance provided for the setting up of the Advisory Council for Family and Childhood Affairs (CCFE) (see section 1.1, [page 6](#)).

**Funding:** voluntary contribution by Norway.

### Prospects/ planned activities

- CoE expertise is awaited for the preparation of the governmental strategy concerning children’s rights (CoE experts could be involved with the working group co-ordinated by UNICEF) in order to ensure its alignment with CoE standards.

- Study visits are also foreseen in order to present the Moroccan authorities with good practice in selected CoE member states.
- The CoE will organise events to discuss the issues of violence against children and will prepare seminars for professionals involved in combating sexual violence against children to increase their capabilities and knowledge based on the Lanzarote Convention.

### 1.3. 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.

#### Progress

Morocco has confirmed its wish to benefit from CoE expertise in the framing of general disability policy and in preparing a law in that field. The CoE is seeking finance for this project in order to respond to the Moroccan authorities' request for assistance.

**Funding:** funding required.

### Ensuring social rights and promoting health

#### 1.4. 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

## **Progress**

In the field of public health and implementation of drug policies, several activities have been carried out as part of the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions (MedNet).

- A round table on the development and implementation of a drugs policy on 21 and 22 March 2013 brought together various ministries and NGOs to develop better co-ordination and communication in relation to a national prevention strategy, starting with assessment of the sector's specific needs.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> MedSpad national school survey was conducted on schools during the week of 20 May 2013.
- A course in addictology in the universities of Rabat and Casablanca (September 2012 – June 2013). Morocco took part in the regional seminars on addictology organised by the Faculty of Medicine of Tunisia (2013) was organised.
- In order to support the operation of a national monitoring centre on drugs and addictions (set up by decree in 2011), a scientific committee and a network of field operatives have been set up. A forum on the monitoring mechanism was held on 11 June 2013 with the Health Minister's participation.
- The preventive material on drug addictions intended for the community, for families and for drug users was widely distributed in the country in 2012, and distribution will continue in 2013. The material has also been translated into Berber to meet the needs of the entire population.

**Funding:** budget of the Pompidou Group, South Programme, voluntary contributions from France and Italy.

## **Prospects/ planned activities**

- The Pompidou Group will continue the courses in addictology and will give its support to the operation of the national monitoring mechanism for drugs and addictions.
- A second round table on national prevention policy will take place on 13 November 2013.
- The Pompidou Group will avail itself of Moroccan expertise to organise training courses on opiate substitution treatment in Tunisia.

## **1.5. 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.

## **Progress**

Morocco signed the Medicrime Convention on 13 December 2012.

## 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.

#### Progress

Co-operation between the CEPEJ and Morocco has made considerable progress, resulting in the granting to Morocco by the Committee of Ministers of observer status with the CEPEJ.<sup>5</sup>

Activities in this field have been carried out in close co-operation with the EU Delegation in Rabat and in co-ordination with other international organisations active in this field, in particular the World Bank.

The main advances are as follows:

- The head of the CEPEJ delegation attended a working meeting (videoconference) of the supreme authority for justice reform, focusing on modernisation of the judicial system (17 December 2012).

<sup>5</sup> Decision by the Committee of Ministers at its meeting of 29 May 2013 (CM/Del/Dec(2013)1171/10.2E).

- The CEPEJ carried out an assessment of the efficiency and quality of the judicial system, formulated specific recommendations, and shared its conclusions with the authorities (Evaluation report on the efficiency of justice in the Kingdom of Morocco and recommendations).
- In the light of the results of the above assessment, the CEPEJ drew up a working plan with the national authorities (February 2013). Co-operation began with three pilot courts (Casablanca, Sidi Kacem and Agadir). This provides for application of CEPEJ instruments on the quality of justice and judicial time management in these courts.
- Reports on judicial time management in the Casablanca and Agadir courts were handed over respectively in February and April 2013, and other reports are being finalised. The CEPEJ is currently discussing with the Presidents of the three pilot courts and the Ministry of Justice about the implementation of concrete projects in each court, which would allow for improvement of their performance related to judicial time management and the quality of services to justice users.
- Training activities for instructors on CEPEJ instruments are under way in co-operation with the Institut Supérieur de la Magistrature of the Kingdom of Morocco. These activities will help with the dissemination of CEPEJ instruments in other Moroccan courts.

**Financing:** South Programme.

**Prospects/ planned activities**

- CEPEJ co-operation with the Ministry of Justice will be pursued in 2014. The CEPEJ will continue to provide its assistance with a view to improving the efficiency of justice. An assessment on variations in the functioning of the judicial system on the basis of key data collected in 2012 will be handed over to the Ministry of Justice in the second half of 2013.
- CEPEJ collaboration with the pilot courts will continue: in September 2013, the courts will take part in the annual meeting of CEPEJ pilot courts which will deal with, among others, European good practices regarding the notification of judicial acts.
- A regional conference will be organised by the CoE in 2014 in order to promote the sharing of European good practices on the efficiency and modernisation of justice.

<b>Common standards and policies</b>
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**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.

<b>Expected result</b>
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ol> |
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## Progress

- The Venice Commission's initial focus was to establish a relationship of trust with the Moroccan authorities. Particular attention was paid to defining more closely the activities to be carried out subsequently.  
By way of example, representatives of the Venice Commission, together with DG1 and the ECRI secretariat had an exchange of views with the Ministry of Solidarity, Women's and Family Affairs and Social Development to reach agreement on relevant action and draw up a timetable for the activities to be carried out to help set up the Advisory Council for Family and Childhood Affairs and the Authority for gender equality and combating all forms of discrimination (see section 1.1, [page 6](#)). These meetings comprised a hearing of CoE experts with members of the technical committees set up for the Authority for gender equality and combating all forms of discrimination and the Advisory Council for Family and Childhood Affairs; meetings with the Ombudsman and the National Human Rights Council, UN-Women and civil society; discussions on identifying needs and expectations in the above fields.
- Representatives of the Venice Commission took part in an exchange of views, organised by the Congress, with a delegation of the two chambers of parliament, on the advanced regionalisation bill and on the draft Organic Law which will reorganise local and regional authorities (11 July 2012) and in meetings jointly organised by the PACE and the Moroccan Parliament (8 November 2012; 13-14 March 2013; 15 May 2013).
- A study seminar was jointly organised by the Venice Commission and the Moroccan Chamber of Counsellors as part of the preparation of a future organic law on the implementation of the constitutional provisions concerning the use of Amazigh as an official language (21 November 2012).
- A seminar on preliminary requests to the Constitutional Council was organised with the Constitutional Court (28-29 November 2012).
- The Venice Commission also organised a regional seminar in Marrakesh (14-15 May 2013) for drafters of the constitution, the purpose of which was to promote discussion and exchange of experiences on constitutional drafting between the countries concerned.
- The Venice Commission participated in several meetings with the Ministry of Solidarity, Women's and Family Affairs and Social Development, involving other CoE departments (25-26 April 2013). For co-operation with the Ombudsman, see section 2.4.

**Financing:** South Programme, voluntary contribution from Norway.

### **Prospects/ planned activities**

The Venice Commission will continue to offer advice at the request of the Moroccan authorities. In particular, it will co-operate with the Moroccan parliament and the Constitutional Council on the drafting of organic laws (on the Constitutional Court, on the functioning of the committee of inquiry, on the structure and functioning of government and on advanced regionalisation).

### **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.

#### **Expected results**

1. establishment of a legal environment more conducive to the work of journalists and the media, offering guarantees for freedom of expression;
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.

#### **Progress**

No activity has taken place.

**Financing:** funding required.

#### **Prospects/ planned activities**

Following the organisation of a round-table in Tunisia on 2 and 3 April 2013 on freedom of the media, the Moroccan authorities expressed their interest in principle in organising a similar exercise, particularly as major steps were currently being taken in this field (for example, reform of the Press Code, the setting up of a National Press Council and the abolition of prison sentences for journalists).



## **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).

### **Progress**

- Co-operation with the institution of the Ombudsman began in April 2012 (Venice Commission). It involves training for the institution staff on the challenges facing young institutions in the democratic transition process and other topics to be determined subsequently with the beneficiaries.
- The institution of the Ombudsman is involved with the National Human Rights Council in the drafting of bills relating to the establishment of the Authority for gender equality and combating all forms of discrimination, and the Advisory Council for Family and Childhood Affairs, and accordingly receives CoE support.

**Financing:** South Programme (for training) and voluntary contribution from Norway.

### **Prospects/ planned activities**

- The Venice Commission will continue its bilateral co-operation with the Ombudsman institution in 2013.
- A conference of Ombudsmen from the countries of the Mediterranean will be held in Jordan in 2013 (dates to be confirmed) and will be followed by a publication. It will afford the opportunity to focus attention on the importance of the role of the Ombudsman in the democratic transition process, including in European countries.

## **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.

### **Progress**

- In addition to the recent accession of Morocco to certain conventions, a number of procedures regarding accession to other instruments are under way (see Appendix II).

- A first seminar on CoE conventions and partial agreements will be held in Strasbourg on 1 and 2 July 2013. Other countries from the region (Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria and Israel) will be involved. The aim of the seminar is to outline the procedures for accession by non-member states. As far as Morocco is concerned, this event will afford the opportunity for a discussion with the Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law (DLAPIL) on the problems it has encountered in the procedures currently under way, and to look in closer detail at certain conventions which are of particular interest to Morocco.

**Financing:** South Programme.

**Prospects/ planned activities**

The seminar described above will be the first in a series of activities to assist Morocco in the process of acceding to certain key CoE conventions or implementing the instruments to which it has recently been invited to accede.

**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.

<p><b>Expected result</b></p>
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- |   |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ol> |
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**Progress**

Preliminary contacts have been made with the Moroccan authorities on this matter. They will be pursued at the first seminar on the CoE conventions and partial agreements, to be held on 1 and 2 July.

<p><b>Threats to the Rule of Law</b></p>
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**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.

**Expected results**

1. drafting of a work programme in agreement with the Moroccan authorities, specifying the priority fields of action for reform in this field. This work programme is the outcome of an analysis, conducted in close co-operation with the competent Moroccan authorities and institutions, on the basis of the various monitoring mechanism methods (beginning with GRECO's, and then including MONEYVAL's) and suitably tailored questionnaires, complying with CoE and international standards and practices;
2. application of resources (tools, networks) to develop co-operation between Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) in order to promote information exchange on European and international instruments, in particular those relating to anti-money-laundering and combating the financing of terrorism and specifically the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and Moroccan legislation on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. In this context, seminars could be held to raise greater awareness of the added value of CoE tools in this field (in particular, the CoE Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism).

**Progress**

- Further to the first assessment visits, it has been agreed to redefine priorities in this area as follows: an evaluation of the legal and institutional framework is carried out on the basis of GRECO methodology; capacities in the field of legal reforms are strengthened through legal advices and assistance in the drafting of legal texts thanks to sharing of best practice and co-operation with civil society; advices on political strategy and a sectorial risk analysis are provided to relevant institutions; modules, training and awareness raising actions are organised for both the institutions and civil society groups.
- Co-operation in this field has centred on strengthening the legal and institutional framework and resulted in the adoption of a detailed work plan which was jointly approved by the CoE and the Moroccan authorities. The main advances made include:
  - An evaluation of the legislative and institutional framework, using the GRECO and Moneyval methodology, is currently under way: a questionnaire has been finalised and training on its use has been devised for the staff of the main national institutions.
  - Contact persons in each beneficiary institution and a national co-ordinator (the Central Corruption Prevention Authority) have been appointed to facilitate co-operation.
  - A start-up workshop on GRECO and Moneyval working methods was held in Strasbourg (17-18 October 2012).
  - A technical workshop, for the relevant institutions, on examination of the results of the risk analysis in the health and transport sectors was held on 13 June 2013.
  - The launching of the assessment process, with scheduled on-the-spot visits by the team of experts from the CoE, and Morocco is foreseen in July 2013.

**Financing:** South Programme.

### **Prospects/ planned activities**

- The CoE will continue to provide its legal support in line with the requests from the Moroccan authorities (amongst other things, the CoE will be required to help with the operation of the “National Authority for Probity and for Preventing and Combating Corruption”, once the related bill approved).
- The CoE will assist the Central Authority for the Prevention of Corruption in its contribution to the national dialogue on judicial reform.
- Training offering certification and training modules will be run in 2013 on guidelines on the framing, the implementation and the monitoring of the performance of anti-corruption policies and policies on the fight against economic crime, and on the monitoring of its level of implementation; Training and modules will also focus on basic concepts in the fight against corruption and their institutional and legal aspects. Training of trainers on criminal procedures for economic-related offences will also be organised.

### **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.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Progress**

The country has been asked to accede to the CoE Convention on Cybercrime and its additional Protocol, and to the Data Protection Convention.

#### **Prospects/ planned activities**

The activity on Conventions which will begin in July 2013 (see section 2.5, [page 17](#)) should help Morocco’s accession to these instruments.

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

### Progress

- The contacts established by the CoE (official journeys on 27 September 2012 and 23-27 April 2013) confirmed the need to review the Moroccan legal framework in this field and retain a strong "human rights" dimension in all activities relating to trafficking in human beings.
- The Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights (DIDH) has confirmed its interest in having an exchange of views between the Inter-ministerial Commission created to this end and GRETA experts.

**Financing:** South Programme.

### Prospects/ planned activities

- The CoE is in the process of reviewing in more practical terms the country's needs in the light of recent developments, of specifying the type of support it could provide and how to ensure optimum co-ordination with the other partners in the field. The PACE could also play a role in raising awareness of the fight against human trafficking.
- Discussions are taking place with the EU Delegation in Rabat which is acting in this field in Morocco via other programmes (in particular TAIEX and MIEUX), in order to be able to define what action the CoE should take.

## 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 2011<sup>7</sup>, 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.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/XRef/X2H-DW-XSL.asp?fileid=18002&lang=EN>

**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.

**Progress**

The constitutional reform of July 2011 intensifies the role played by the Moroccan Parliament in decision-making processes. In accordance with its Resolution 1818, the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE (PACE) has been working on allowing the Moroccan authorities to take full advantage of CoE expertise in fields central to the reforms initiated by Morocco. In this connection, the PACE has organised several activities for the Chambers of Parliament in order to support the current transition:

- A seminar on parliamentary supervision of government action (8 November 2012), at which the experiences of several CoE non-member states were presented (Spain, France, Portugal, United Kingdom and Turkey).
- An information seminar for Moroccan parliamentary officials was held in Strasbourg (19-20 December 2012), enabling participants to familiarise themselves with the role and the internal functioning of the PACE, as well as those of the European Court of Human Rights and the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights.
- A seminar on the “popular legislative initiative” (Rabat, 15 May 2013), with the participation of an expert of the Venice Commission and parliamentarians of five CoE member states (Belgium, Spain, France, Italy and Switzerland). This seminar focused on examining systems to promote and implement popular legislative initiative and other instruments at sub-national (regional and local levels) in several European countries.
- An information seminar on the European Institutions for officials from both Chambers of the Moroccan Parliament (Brussels, 19 and 20 June 2013), providing the participants with important insights into the functioning of the European Institutions, particularly the European Parliament. The delegation also visited the Belgian Senate.

A hearing to assess the Partnership for Democracy with the Moroccan Parliament was organised by the PACE Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (Rabat, 13 March 2013), which has provided the opportunity to exchange views on the status of the CoE policy towards neighbouring regions and, in particular, on the co-operation between the CoE and Morocco.

A hearing on the theme “How can Morocco and Europe face up to the challenges and opportunities of North-South migration?” was also organised by the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons (Rabat, 4-5 April 2013).

PACE will examine, on the occasion of its 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session of 2013 (24-28 June 2013) a draft report on the assessment of the partnership for democracy. It should also adopt a resolution by which it could resolve to continue to assess the implementation of political reforms in Morocco as well as provide the Moroccan Parliament with its assistance.

**Financing:** South Programme and PACE Budget (for the hearing on the assessment of the Partnership and committee meetings).

### **Prospects/ planned activities**

- Further specialised sessions are also scheduled for 2013 and 2014, namely, two inter-parliamentary seminars, focussing respectively on violence against women/children (autumn 2013) and the other on “The rights of the parliamentary opposition” (2014).
- A regional conference on “Political change in the southern Mediterranean and the Middle East: the role of the representative institutions” will take place in November 2013

## **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.

### **Progress**

Since 2010, the CoE Congress of Local and Regional Authorities has been involved in the debate on regionalisation in Morocco. It has provided its expertise to the Consultative Committee on Regionalisation, which prepared the draft law on advanced regionalisation currently under consideration. During the reporting period, the following activities were implemented:

- Exchanges of views and meetings between members of the Congress, on the one hand, and representatives of the Moroccan Parliament and the mayors of Morocco’s largest cities, on the other, within the framework of the debate on regionalisation (14-15 February 2012). This dialogue has been pursued on the occasion of the PACE session with a delegation of Moroccan parliamentarians on the future law on territorial organisation (23-27 April 2012).

An exchange of views has eventually been organised between the members of the Congress and of the Moroccan Parliament with the participation of representatives from the Venice Commission on the draft law on advanced regionalization in Morocco (11 July 2012).

- Moroccan representatives have had the opportunity to address the Congress during its sessions. Thus, Mr. Abdelkebir Berkia, member of the Moroccan delegation to PACE and former President of the Regional Council of Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaer has been invited to the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Congress (20-22 March 2012). Mrs. Rokia Daoudi, Vice-President of the Rabat Urban Community has likewise addressed the 23rd Session on the occasion of the debate on local and regional democracy in Arab countries (16-18 October 2012).
- A member of the Congress and a representative of the CoE Centre of Expertise for local government reform have attended the international seminar organised by the Ministry of the Interior in Rabat on “Decentralisation, advanced regionalisation and human capital: challenges and best practice” (28-29 November 2012). They have had the opportunity to meet with the representatives of different Ministries. On that occasion, the Moroccan authorities have requested the CoE support to the setting up of the new association of local authorities (established on 27 May 2013).

**Financing:** Congress budget, ordinary budget.

#### **Prospects/ planned activities**

Discussions held in 2013 helped identify more closely the needs of the Moroccan authorities in this field. A series of proposals will shortly be finalised and submitted to potential donors. The Congress as well as the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform stand ready to provide their support particularly to the new association of local authorities.

### **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.

#### **Progress**

The Venice Commission has not yet received any requests from the Moroccan authorities.



### 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.

**Progress**

The Venice Commission has not yet received any requests from the Moroccan authorities.

**Prospects/ planned activities**

The seminar on “the rights of the parliamentary opposition” to be organised by the PACE in 2014 (see section 3.1, [page 19](#)) will of course address the key role played by political parties in democratic systems.

### 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**

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**

The Moroccan authorities have expressed the strong desire to offer training in human rights and democratic governance for young and future executive staff of the public administration (including the institutions established by the new constitution and sub-national public administrative authorities), parliament staff and students of the Moroccan Diplomatic Academy. For the latter in particular, the theoretical training would be supplemented by practical modules at the CoE.

**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.

**Progress**

The *Citizens’ School of Political Studies of Morocco* was one of the first Schools of Political Studies to be set up in a non-member state of the CoE.

- The School was inaugurated in Rabat on 14 March 2013. The inauguration ceremony was followed by a conference on “the challenges and limits of deliberative democracy”, attended by a wide range of representatives of the diplomatic community and the political, voluntary, youth and media sectors. The School has joined the existing network of CoE Political Schools, and took part in the World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg in October 2012.
- The School has also just launched its first training activities: the 1<sup>st</sup> session was held in Agadir from 23 to 26 May 2013. It comprised a Round Table on the concepts of Remembrance and Democracy and training workshops on Decentralisation, Governance and Local Democracy, a highly topical theme in Morocco.

**Financing:** South Programme, voluntary contributions from Norway, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

**Prospects/ planned activities**

- Three alumni from the Rabat School will attend the 44th annual training session of the International Institute of Human Rights (IIDH), which will take place in Strasbourg from 8 to 26 July 2013.
- The School will be taking part in events involving the whole Schools network, such as the meetings of School Directors and the World Forum for Democracy in November 2013, which is extremely useful for networking.
- In 2014, in addition to training activities, the Morocco School will be organising a regional (or international) seminar.

<b>Sustainable democratic societies</b>
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**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.

<b>Expected results</b>
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- |  |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> </ol> |
|--|

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.

### **Progress**

An Inter-Regional Seminar for researchers in the youth field and a Training Course for multipliers and trainers for the democratic participation of young people were organised in Rabat in April 2013, with the participation of representatives from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Europe. Both these activities facilitated initial sharing of knowledge and experience between specialists and practitioners from both shores of the Mediterranean. They should be regarded as the start of a process to be further developed.

**Financing:** South Programme.

### **Prospects/ planned activities**

- Morocco is currently setting up a Consultative Council on Youth and Voluntary Associations and the Ministry of Youth and Sport has accordingly requested CoE assistance in supporting this process.
- An expert delegation will visit Morocco in 2014 in order to assist with the introduction of policies and structures for youth participation and representation.
- In 2014 the CoE will be holding a national seminar on the democratic participation of young people. This activity will be based on the participation of executives' staff and trainers who took part in the training courses in 2013. Also in 2014, the CoE will organise an inter-regional workshop on the role of research in promoting programmes for democratic participation and citizenship and the development of evaluation tools and research in this field. A group will also be set up to monitor joint research projects.

### **3.7. Co-operation with the North-South Centre**

Morocco has been a member of the North-South Centre (NSC) since 1 July 2009.

**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 leaders. 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.

### **Progress**

- The NSC co-operates with Morocco in programmes relating to intercultural dialogue, human rights, particularly women's rights, migration, development and youth.
- Moroccan representatives of youth organisations have been actively involved in the Centre's activities relating to youth, development, intercultural dialogue, and Euro-African youth co-operation, as well as activities organised as part of the EuroMed youth partnership between the EU and the CoE, including the NSC.
- Morocco took part in several regional activities organised by the NSC in 2012 – several of which took place in Morocco: the Multidisciplinary Summer School on "Gender equality in the reforms and revolutions in the North African and Middle Eastern region" (2-6 July); Conference on "The gender approach to women's development in the Mediterranean" (7 July); North-South Process for the reinforcement of the role of women – Reinforcing human rights capacities and training (support to the training of five young Moroccan female lawyers) at the 43<sup>rd</sup> IIDH annual training session (9-27 July); 8<sup>th</sup> Euro-African training course for youth organisations (13-20 July); Training of trainers in education for youth global citizenship (16-23 September); Annual Conference on "reinforcing the political and socio-economic role of women on the basis of women's first-hand experience" (4-6 November); e-course on education for global citizenship and human rights education (5 November - 1 December); North African Sub-Regional Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter (10-13 December).
- A special mention has to be made of the Lisbon Forum (3-4 December 2012), on the theme "The Arab season: from change to challenges", which has been attended by more than 200 participants. This event has been characterised by a strong presence of the NSC partners from the countries of Southern Mediterranean, including Morocco, which sent a delegation comprising all components of *Quadrilogue* (Government, Parliament, Local and Regional Authorities, Civil society).

The Forum 2012 has provided the opportunity to discuss such topical subjects as the political reforms launched in the countries of South Mediterranean, the implementation of the constitutional principle of gender equality and regionalisation. It has also provided an excellent opportunity for networking.

**Financing:** South Programme (Lisbon Forum), NSC budget.

**Prospects/ planned activities**

- The NSC will continue its co-operation with Morocco in accordance with the Committee of Ministers decisions, as part of the current discussions on refocusing the NSC role.
- Preparations are under way to define, in co-operation with other partners, the theme of the 2013 Lisbon Forum, in which Morocco will be participating like other countries in the region. On this occasion, a new action in the field of social cohesion based on the « SPIRAL » approach of the CoE will be proposed for the countries of the South Mediterranean. This initiative is based on the CoE's experience in other countries and aims at developing local and national processes of consultation and social cohesion in the countries of the South Mediterranean, including Morocco, in order to enable in particular youth and women to play an active role in local life. Through the NSC's platform, some preparatory events could be organised prior to the 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.

### **Progress**

Morocco has applied for membership of the European Audiovisual Observatory. The process of appointing a Moroccan representative to the Observatory is currently being finalised. In this connection, the Director of the European Audiovisual Observatory met the Minister of Communications and the Chair of the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication on 24 May 2013.

### **Film production**

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

### **Progress**

No activity has taken place.

### **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.

### **Progress**

- On 1 March 2013 Morocco became a Contracting Party to the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches.
- Morocco has also expressed interest in acceding to the Anti-Doping Convention, and the Committee of Ministers invited the country to accede to this Convention on 13 February 2013.

## Appendix I - Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Morocco 2012-2014 - Financial table- situation as at 15/06/2013

	Estimated cost	EU	Voluntary contributions	To be funded
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b>				
<b>Protection and promotion of human rights</b>				
- Gender equality				
- Preventing violence against women	275 000		225 000 Norway***	50 000
- Protecting children against violence				
- Integration of disabled persons	150 000			150 000
<b>Social rights/ health</b>				
-Pompidou Group	380 000	60 000	50 000 Italy 23 000 France ***	247 000
<b>Subtotal - human rights</b>	<b>805 000</b>	<b>60 000</b>	<b>298 000</b>	<b>447 000</b>
<b>RULE OF LAW</b>				
<b>Justice reform</b>	500 000	500 000		0
<b>Common standards and policies</b>				
- Venice Commission	270 000	110 000	53 500 Norway	106 500
- Information society and Internet governance; freedom of expression, independence of the media	300 000			300 000
- Seminars on CoE Conventions/documentary management of international treaties	60 000	60 000 ***		0
<b>Threats to the Rule of Law</b>				
- Combating corruption and money laundering	500 000	500 000		0
- Combating cybercrime	300 000			300 000
- Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings	500 000	500 000		0
<b>Subtotal- rule of law</b>	<b>2 430 000</b>	<b>1 670 000</b>	<b>53 500</b>	<b>706 500</b>
<b>DEMOCRACY</b>				
<b>Democratic governance</b>				
- Co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	400 000	175 000		225 000
- Democratic governance at local and regional level	700 000			700 000
- School of Political Studies	189 000	80 000	95 000 Norway 14 000 OIF	0
- Training of young executive staff	100 000			100 000
<b>Sustainable democratic societies</b>				
- Youth	400 000	55 000		345 000
- Co-operation with the North-South Centre	150 000	75 000 ***		75 000
- Co-operation in the audiovisual and film production fields	0			0
<b>Subtotal-democracy</b>	<b>1 939 000</b>	<b>385 000</b>	<b>109 000</b>	<b>1 445 000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5 174 000</b>	<b>2 115 000</b>	<b>460 500</b>	<b>2 598 500</b>

### Notes

\*\*\*Estimated budget for Morocco- regional programme.

- Funding required
- Funding secured
- Partially funded

**Appendix II - Morocco – state of play regarding participation requests to Council of Europe Conventions**

<b>Convention</b>	<b>Application date</b>	<b>Committee of Ministers decision</b>	<b>Date of signature/accession</b>
CoE 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 (ETS 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 (ETS n°192)	2 July 2012	28 November 2012	
CoE 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	
CoE 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	
Convention on Cybercrime (ETS 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)	24 October 2012	OECD	Signature: 21 May 2013
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (ETS n°66)	16 January 2013	September 1988	
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	