

*Ministers' Deputies / Rapporteur Groups*

**GR-EXT**

**Rapporteur Group on External Relations**

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**Council of Europe Neighbourhood Partnership with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2015-2017) – Interim progress report**

Document prepared by the Office of the Directorate General for Programmes and the Directorate of External Relations

**Item to be considered by the GR-EXT at its meeting on 6 September 2016**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017 with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was adopted by the Committee of Ministers at its 1218<sup>th</sup> meeting on 4 February 2015. Developed jointly with the Jordanian authorities, the Neighbourhood Partnership aims at assisting Jordan with the process of democratic reforms underway and tackling challenges related to human rights, the rule of law and democracy. The co-operation established since 2012<sup>2</sup> has been consolidated and since 2015 new areas of co-operation have been launched, namely in the field of fight against corruption and money laundering.

The Enhanced Political Dialogue offers widespread opportunities for dialogue between the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Jordanian authorities, ranging from high-level exchanges on topics on the bilateral agenda and political issues of common interest, to discussions on concrete co-operation activities relevant to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership, and to participation in CoE expert bodies. Jordan has confirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Enhanced Political Dialogue. However, the regional situation in which Jordan is playing an important role understandably provides a difficult context for co-operation with the CoE. The Enhanced Political Dialogue with Jordan has nevertheless developed at the technical level with representatives of specialised ministries. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) "Partner for democracy status", granted to the Jordanian Parliament in January 2016, has also provided a useful framework for political dialogue. Participation of Jordanian experts in some relevant CoE intergovernmental committees and working groups is a probably less visible but important dimension of the dialogue, since it contributes to the institutional involvement of the partner country in the Organisation and to the further development of a common legal space.

The Neighbourhood Partnership is primarily financed by the European Union/Council of Europe regional Joint Programme "Towards Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean" and till May 2015 by the bilateral EU/CoE Joint Programme "Support to the Jordanian authorities in improving the quality and efficiency of the Jordanian justice system". This has been complemented by the financial support of several member States to the region, namely Estonia, Malta and Portugal. For 2015-2017, the estimated needs amount to €2 000 000. Funding of more than €1 575 000 is currently secured.

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<sup>1</sup> This document has been classified restricted until examination by the Committee of Ministers.

<sup>2</sup> Under the previous co-operation framework, the "Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities with the Kingdom of Jordan 2012-2014".

Jordan has benefited from country-specific and regional actions aimed at supporting the development of effective legal frameworks, facilitating the creation of a common legal space, reinforcing the capacities of relevant national institutions, improving training and promoting best practices. The new area of co-operation in the field of fight against corruption and money laundering has been successfully developed and aimed at bringing institutional capacities and legislation framework reforms increasingly in line with European standards (e.g. protection regime of whistleblowers). The Venice Commission and other CoE institutions and the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) continued the well-established co-operation. The Venice Commission initiated co-operation in the electoral field. The CEPEJ continued to consolidate achievements in the area of judicial management modernisation in particular by supporting the Ministry of Justice in the process of setting up automated judicial scoreboards and reporting systems.

Co-operation with Jordan in 2015 and the first half 2016 can be seen as positive. The granting of the PACE Partner for Democracy status to the Jordanian Parliament in January 2016 constitutes a new impetus for co-operation as it encourages Jordanian Parliament to work on areas in which further progress is needed and to co-operate closely with the Council of Europe.

Jordanian authorities have shown a strong interest to co-operate in the field of children rights. Co-operation could be further strengthened in this field pending voluntary contributions.

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### List of acronyms and abbreviations

CARIN	Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network
CEPEJ	European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice
CM	Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
CODEXTER	Committee of Experts on Terrorism
CoE	Council of Europe
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EMBs	Electoral Management Bodies
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
GR-EXT	Rapporteur Group on External Relations
ICC	Inter-cultural cities
JP	CoE/EU Joint Programme
JACC	Jordanian Anti-Corruption Commission
MedUni	Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship
NCFA	National Council for Family Affairs
Neighbourhood Partnership	Neighbourhood Partnership with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 2015-2017
NSC	North-South Centre
ODGP	Office of the Directorate General of Programmes
PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
PATHS	Programme of Advanced Training in the field of Human rights, the rule of law and democracy for Southern Mediterranean
PC-OC	Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co- operation in Criminal Matters
T-CY	Cybercrime Convention Committee
UN	United Nations
Venice Commission	European Commission for Democracy through Law

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### PART I – ENHANCED POLITICAL DIALOGUE

The Enhanced Political Dialogue offers widespread opportunities for dialogue between the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Jordanian authorities, ranging from high-level exchanges on topics on the bilateral agenda and political issues of common interest, to discussions on concrete co-operation activities relevant to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership, and to participation in CoE expert bodies. Implementation of this framework for dialogue ultimately depends on the political will of the Council of Europe and the Partner country.

Concretely, as regards the high-level dialogue, the Neighbourhood Partnership provides that “The Committee of Ministers may invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan, or other high-level representatives of the government, to attend its sessions; The Secretary General of the CoE and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan will hold consultations, at least once a year, on issues on the bilateral agenda and topics of common interest”; and “Ministers of Jordan may be invited to participate as observers in the Specialised Ministers’ Conferences relevant to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership, in accordance with the terms of Resolution CM/Res(2011)7.”

In addition, “the Ministers’ Deputies may invite representatives of Ministries and relevant Jordanian institutions for consultations on any subject relevant to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership”; and “The Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) of the Committee of Ministers will hold exchanges of views with representatives of Ministries and relevant Jordanian institutions when discussing items relevant to the co-operation with Jordan and following-up the implementation of the Partnership. The other Rapporteur Groups may also hold such exchanges of views.”

As regards consultations at a more technical level, the Neighbourhood Partnership provides that “Representatives of Jordan may also participate as observers in the parts of the meetings of relevant intergovernmental committees of experts when discussing issues of relevance to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.”

Finally, Jordan is invited to “designate a Neighbourhood Partnership Representative to the CoE as a contact point for the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership”.

The main objective of the co-operation between Jordan and the Council of Europe, in line with the CoE’s policy towards its immediate neighbourhood, is to assist Jordan in the process of democratic changes underway by helping the country to tackle challenges related to human rights, the rule of law and democracy. In particular the objectives identified in consultation with the Jordanian authorities under the “Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017” are to:

- consolidate the achievements of the “Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 2012-2014” and initiate new areas of co-operation in line with national reform priorities, based on the demand-driven approach;
- facilitate the creation of a common legal space between Europe and Jordan, encouraging the authorities to bring Jordanian legislation in line with European and international standards and ratify CoE conventions open to non-member States, with due regard to the procedures set out in the relevant conventions;
- support the development and the effective implementation of new legislation in accordance with European and other international standards;
- support the setting-up and the effective functioning of human rights institutions and new governance structures;
- consolidate Jordan’s presence in CoE instances (e.g. Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) and encourage participation in other relevant CoE structures.

## 2. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS (ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS)

### PART I – ENHANCED POLITICAL DIALOGUE

In accordance with point 4 of the Enhanced Political Dialogue, shortly after the adoption of the Neighbourhood Partnership, Jordan designated its Ambassador in Brussels as **Neighbourhood Partnership Representative** to the Council of Europe, the contact point for the implementation of this Partnership. The Neighbourhood Partnership Representative has played an important role in the implementation of the Enhanced Political Dialogue.

Jordan confirmed its general will to implement the Enhanced Political Dialogue. However, the regional situation in which Jordan is playing an important role understandably provides a difficult context for co-operation with the CoE. The Enhanced Political Dialogue with Jordan has nevertheless developed in Strasbourg and Brussels with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of specialised ministries. The granting of the PACE “**Partner for democracy status**” to the Jordanian Parliament in January 2016 also provided a useful framework for **political dialogue** with Mr Atef Tarawneh, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jordan. The visit of the Secretary General to New York in September 2016 on the occasion of the session of the UN General Assembly could offer another opportunity for high-level political dialogue. An exchange of views could also be foreseen with the Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) in the autumn to follow up on both political dialogue and co-operation further to the adoption of the present interim report.

At technical level, Jordan attended several meetings of relevant CoE **intergovernmental committees of experts and working groups**. A list of such expert bodies in areas at the core of the common legal space has been established by the CoE Secretariat and these bodies have adjusted their mandate where relevant in order to reflect the possibility of Jordan’s participation as observers, as provided by the Neighbourhood Partnership. Jordanian experts attended in particular meetings on Co-operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC), on terrorism (CODEXTER), on cybercrime (T-CY), on the Lanzarote Convention and CEPEJ meetings. Participation in these expert bodies is a probably less visible but important dimension of the dialogue since it contributes to the **institutional involvement** of the Partner country in the Organisation and to the further development of a **common legal space**.

Finally, it should be noted that Jordan expressed interest in following **developments** of the Council of Europe Neighbourhood Policy, especially vis-à-vis other Neighbourhood Partners (i.e. Morocco and Tunisia) and a possible closer relationship with the CoE beyond 2017.

### PART II – CO-OPERATION PRIORITIES

Limited progress has been achieved in the area of human rights due to limited resources.

- Awareness has been raised on CoE instruments and standards in the field of violence against women/domestic violence and violence against children. Jordanian authorities are keen to develop strengthened co-operation in particular in the field of children rights including children participation. Additional resources are needed for the CoE to be able to respond positively to these demands.
- In the field of trafficking in human beings, only preliminary contacts have been established with Jordanian authorities.

In the sector of rule of law, progress has been tangible during the period of reference, in particular:

- New areas of co-operation in the field of rule of law were initiated, like the fight against corruption, anti-money laundering and criminal asset recovery where in few months a reliable partnership has been built with the Jordanian anti-corruption Commission (JACC).

- In the field of reform of justice, the work of the CEPEJ was fundamental in raising awareness of European standards in the Jordanian judiciary, which greatly benefited from the exchange of views with European experts.

Further co-operation activities took place also in the field of constitutional justice and on awareness raising on key CoE standards, and in particular on the added value relating to accession to certain CoE conventions. Activities were also initiated by the Venice Commission in the field of electoral legislation. Regarding the development of a common legal space, a certain slowdown of co-operation is to be noted throughout the implementation of co-operation as Jordan showed less interest in particular in CoE human rights conventions like trafficking in human beings and torture.

Good progress has been achieved in the field of democracy, in particular:

- The Partner for Democracy status was granted to the Parliament of Jordan in January 2016, with the adoption of the PACE Resolution 2086 (2016).
- Capacities of governmental representatives involved in the democratic reform processes were strengthened through the launching of the Programme of Advanced Training in the field of Human rights, the rule of law and democracy for Southern Mediterranean (PATHS).
- Competences and empowerment of young people have been reinforced by North-South Centre activities via the network of Mediterranean Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship.
- The Council of Europe started to identify municipalities to be part of the Intercultural cities network, aiming at developing, implementing and evaluation local diversity and inclusion strategies at local level.

### **3. MODALITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND CO-ORDINATION**

Responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership lies with the Committee of Ministers, particularly its Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT). The Secretariat kept the latter up to date with the progress made. This document constitutes a mid-term progress report.

Implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership is consulted on regular basis with Jordanian authorities. Consultations are foreseen to take place in the autumn 2016 in Amman between the Secretariat and the authorities.

Following the current practice and in accordance with standard commitments under EU/CoE Joint Programmes, Steering Committees gathering the Jordanian authorities, the CoE and the EU regularly to support, accompany and evaluate the implementation of the projects backed by the EU. A regional launch event of the South Programme II was organised in Strasbourg in April 2015, and the first bilateral Steering Committee Meeting is planned to take place in Amman in the autumn 2016.

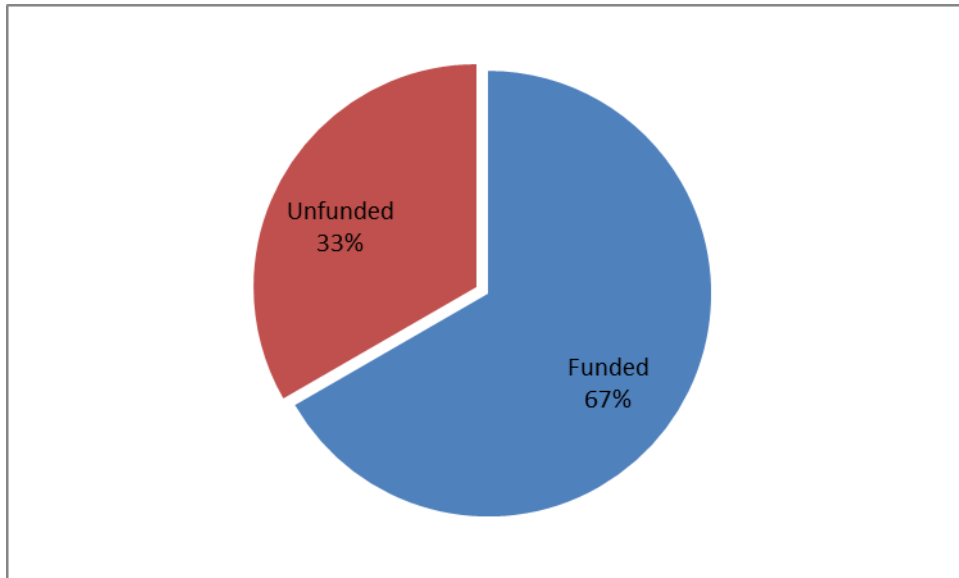
Special focus was put on cross-cutting issues, in particular gender mainstreaming, both in the planning and in the implementation of activities. The implementation of projects also facilitated the involvement of civil society when and where possible, and aimed at decentralising implementation of the activities to increase the visibility of the Council of Europe beyond the capital.

The CoE coordinates very closely on the ground with all the main international actors in the field – the EU Delegation in Amman, UN agencies, and others.

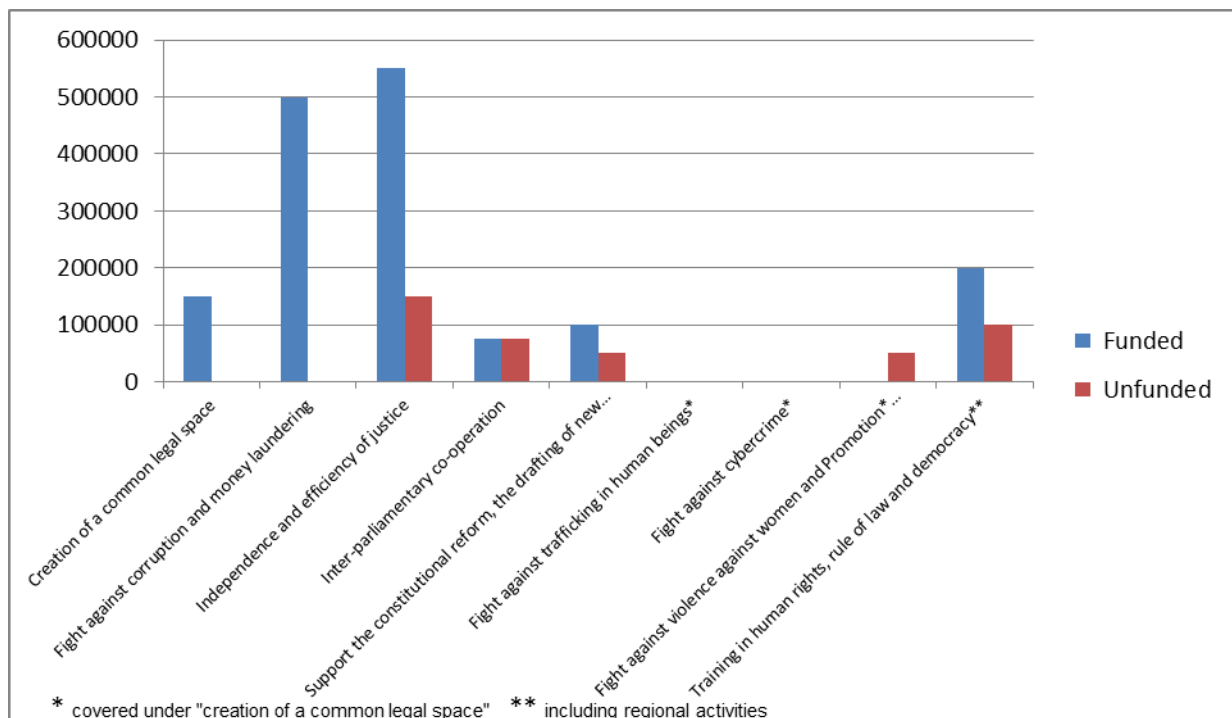
The Council of Europe has initiated discussions with Jordanian authorities with a view to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding, which would allow an opening of a CoE office in Amman.

#### 4. FUNDING AND PARTNERS

In line with the CoE resource mobilisation strategy, the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes (ODGP) has focussed its fundraising efforts on the entire Neighbourhood Partnership. The overall budget of the Neighbourhood Partnership is €2 000 000. Funding of more than €1 575 000 has been secured.



**Figure 1. Funding situation at Neighbourhood Partnership level, as of June 2016**



**Figure 2. Funding situation at sector level of the Neighbourhood Partnership, as of June 2016**

A very significant part of the co-operation priorities is implemented under the regional Programme "Towards strengthened democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme II)<sup>3</sup>. The EU/CoE Joint Project "Support to the Jordanian authorities in improving the quality and efficiency of the Jordanian justice system" was covering activities under the sector "Independence and efficiency of justice" until May 2015. Since June 2015 these activities are covered by the South Programme II.

<sup>3</sup> Funded mainly by the European Union (EU) (95 %) and co-funded (5 %) and implemented by the CoE.

The financial table covering the needs and secured funding is enclosed in Appendix.

## 5. LESSONS LEARNED

A summary of the main lessons learned during the Neighbourhood Partnership implementation follows.

- The **difficult regional context** in which Jordan is operating does not facilitate implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership. Jordan, nevertheless, sent experts to implement dialogue at technical level and remains committed to dialogue at all levels within the limits provided by the unfolding situation in and around the country.
- The institutional Jordanian **point of contact** in Brussels, as well as the CoE Brussels Liaison Office, played an important facilitating role. The designation of a contact point in Jordan is a precondition to further facilitate implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.
- The CoE confirmed its capacity to respond to the interest of specialised ministries and provide its expertise through its **intergovernmental expert bodies**. In that respect, the involvement of Jordanian experts in these bodies is an important feature of the dialogue and should be further encouraged. It contributes to the institutional integration of the Partner country in relevant networks and to the development of a common legal space.
- Jordan expressed its interest in following developments of the CoE Neighbourhood Policy, especially vis-à-vis other Neighbourhood Partners (i.e. Morocco and Tunisia) and a possible closer relationship with the CoE beyond 2017.
- As the CoE policy towards its neighbouring regions is based on demand, it is important to maintain a flexible framework of co-operation. In this respect, un-earmarked voluntary contributions are welcomed as they allow adjusting to the needs and dynamics of the reform processes.
- Flexibility in working methods and the timing of interventions to the current security situation is necessary to counter the delays in implementing some co-operation activities.
- Co-ordination with other international actors is crucial on daily basis and appears to be fundamental in achieving tangible results. The CoE human rights-based approach to technical assistance is an important complement to existing international programmes of assistance in Jordan.
- Sufficient capacities of national partners to absorb reforms have to be ensured.
- The CoE could act as a bridge between different state and non-state actors.
- The CoE presence would certainly contribute to an increased co-operation with Jordan and would facilitate implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

## 6. PROGRAMMING OUTLOOK

As Jordan is a principal destination country for refugees in the region, the CoE initiated co-operation on a local level through the Intercultural Cities (ICC) approach, which supports cities in developing, implementing and evaluating local diversity and inclusion strategies. Within the first months of action, the CoE has approached potentially interested cities, with the help of local co-ordinators. This has resulted in the commitment by twelve cities in Jordan to participate to the programme, and the selection of four pilot municipalities (Amman, Zarqa, Wasitiyyah and Sahab), identified as already equipped with some intercultural projects, ready and willing to co-operate. On-site visits have allowed the baseline assessment of city policies as well as given the possibility to meet with a wide range of stakeholders to assess their understanding of the intercultural approach and readiness to engage in the development of a local intercultural strategy. High level endorsement was obtained from the Minister for Municipal Affairs as well as the Great Amman Municipality in Jordan, which have officially named a programme co-ordinator within their staff.



A growing demand for CoE action in the field of children's rights and in particular of children's participation has been noted based on the new CoE Child Participation Assessment Tool and children integrated protection. These actions requested by the Jordanian authorities would need additional funds to be addressed, since they cannot be covered under the South Programme II (focusing only on the promotion of the Lanzarote Convention).

Moreover, a regional project on cybercrime is in discussion with the EU, Jordan would be one of its beneficiaries.

## **7. SECTOR REVIEW**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

Co-operation with Jordan in the field of human rights has aimed at bringing the Jordanian legal framework closer to European standards, which facilitates the creation of a common legal area through Jordanian's accession to relevant CoE conventions. Most of co-operation activities on human rights were implemented within a regional framework; country-specific activities will take place in the second half of 2016 and 2017.

#### **1.1 Fight against violence against women**

Representatives of Jordan participated to the Gender Equality Commission. This has allowed them to reinforce their knowledge on the European standards to combat and prevent violence against women and domestic violence, with a special focus on the Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and its standards (Istanbul Convention). Through these meetings, North/South but also South/South exchanges of information, experience and networking, as well as participation in the ongoing discussions and reflections at international level were fostered. In May 2015, a needs assessment session and discussion on CoE's future actions on several human rights sectors took place. In the field of women's rights, discussions with the Jordanian National commission for Women are currently taking place in order to identify specific priority areas to be implemented in the second half of 2016 and 2017.

#### **1.2 Promotion of children rights and fight against violence against children**

The Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) was extensively presented to a large range of actors including national authorities, civil society, public and private national and international organisations. Co-operation priorities identified are the support in preparing the Child Right Law, Child participation, awareness-raising on preventive measures of the Lanzarote Convention for child rights professionals, and the participation of Jordanian representatives to the CoE activities and meetings in this field. Child Right Laws preparation was the focus of a workshop organised in partnership with the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) in Amman in May 2016. Participation and involvement of NCFA representatives is now regular to CoE related activities such as meetings of the Lanzarote Committee, the High-Cross-Regional Meeting on the Protection of Children from Sexual Violence, or the High Level Conference "*Reaching the heights for the rights of the child*" (Bulgaria, April 2016). These activities contributed to exchange experiences and best practices with international partners, raise awareness and enhance knowledge on European standards in this field, with a view to adapt the legislative framework to further strengthen children rights and their protection against all forms of violence. Based on a mutual exchange of expertise, it was also an opportunity to identify two issues: Child budgeting and Child friendly justice - on which Jordan has developed noticeable practice and experience which are of specific interest in the South Mediterranean region in the framework of our cooperation activities and beyond within the recently adopted Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021).

### **1.3 Fight against trafficking in human beings**

In Jordan, preliminary contacts were made with the Ministry of Justice and the Jordanian Anti-trafficking in human beings National Committee to assess the situation, identify needs and priorities and define a work programme.

#### **RULE OF LAW**

Rule of law is the most important component of the co-operation with Jordan both in terms of results and funding. It has been continuously consolidated, particularly in the fields of support to the independence and efficiency of justice, support to the constitutional reform, drafting of new legislation and setting-up and effective functioning of new governance instances and the creation of a common legal space. In addition to these sectors, the fight against corruption and money laundering and the electoral legislation are new areas of co-operation, started in 2015 and already well established.

#### **2.1 Independence and efficiency of justice**

In Jordan, the CEPEJ continued to consolidate achievements in the area of judicial management modernisation. Priority was given, throughout the reporting period, to supporting the Ministry of Justice's department in charge of setting up automated judicial scoreboards and reporting systems through the participation of Ministry's representatives in different activities (a study visit to Switzerland in June 2015, the meetings of the SATURN Centre for judicial time management and of the network of CEPEJ pilot courts in September 2015) – with the result, notably, that two major CEPEJ indicators (the clearance rate and disposition time) have been integrated in the Jordanian judicial scoreboards.

Early 2016, a new “CEPEJ focal point/person” was appointed at the Jordanian Ministry of Justice and it has therefore been necessary to familiarize this person with the CEPEJ tools and methodologies (invitation to the meetings of the CEPEJ working group on the quality of justice in March 2016 and of the steering group of the SATURN Centre in April 2016), before redefining priorities of the CEPEJ intervention in Jordan and resuming activities (including with pilot courts). Jordan participates in regional activities organised by the CoE e.g. participation of representatives from the Jordanian Ministry of Justice and the three Jordanian pilot courts in a CEPEJ regional seminar “*Improving everyday justice*” (Tunisia, June 2015).

#### **2.2 Support the constitutional reform, the drafting of new legislation and the setting-up and effective functioning of new governance instances**

The Venice Commission continued to support the implementation of the new Constitution, such as the establishment of the Constitutional Court and building its capacities. The Venice Commission representatives were invited by the Constitutional Court of Jordan to the conference “*Arab Constitutional Courts and Councils: possible Reforms and Challenges in Light of Regional Changes*”, held in February 2016.

In 2015, co-operation has been extended to the electoral legislation area. In October 2015, the Venice Commission and the Organisation of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) signed a Memorandum of Understanding setting out the terms and conditions for their co-operation. Jordan played a key role in establishing the Organisation of Arab EMBs and the Venice Commission provided assistance to Jordan in this respect. A Jordanian delegation was present in April 2016 to the 13<sup>th</sup> European Electoral Management Bodies Conference “*New Technologies in Elections: Public Trust and Challenges for Electoral Management Bodies*” co-organised by the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania and the Venice Commission. Participants shared experiences of regional networking and discussed different issues of common interest for national electoral administrations. Venice Commission representatives were invited to participate in the regional workshop “*The Role of Electoral Management Bodies in Enhancing Women's Participation in Elections*” organised by Arab Electoral Management Bodies and Regional Programme for the Arab States (Jordan, April 2016).

Representatives of Jordan regularly take part in regional activities organised by the Venice Commission in the Southern Mediterranean.

### **2.3 Creation of a common legal space**

Co-operation in the field of conventions and creation of a common legal space is one of the main priorities within the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017. Following requests by Jordanian authorities, the Council of Europe has organised several seminars on key CoE conventions in the field of rule of law and human rights, and in particular on the Lanzarote Convention (see 1.2 Promotion of children rights and fight against violence against children) and the Budapest Convention (see 2.5. Fight against cybercrime). Jordan also participated at the High-Level International Conference on the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Organs and opening to signature of the new CoE Convention (Santiago de Compostela, March 2015).

Jordanian representatives took part in various networks through conventional committees (Lanzarote committee, Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY), Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC), Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER), Conference of Directors of Prison and Probation Services). The network of the fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking was particularly active. Jordan representatives were present at the first and second modules of the Pompidou Group's executive training on global drug policies and instruments; at the Euro-Mediterranean seminar on Opiate Substitution Treatment and Harm reduction organised by MedNet and the Algeria's National Office against Drugs and Drug Addiction (Alger, April 2015); at the Pompidou Group's 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the co-operation group on drug control services at European airports; at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Precursors Network and at the first European Conference on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies. These meetings have increased intergovernmental co-operation of the two shores of the Mediterranean, and they allow Southern Mediterranean representatives to fully participate in intergovernmental dialogue and work with their European counterparts.

### **2.4 Fight against corruption and money laundering**

Fight against corruption, anti-money laundering and asset recovery are new areas, in which the co-operation started in 2015, covering priority sectors mainly related to the growing competencies and functions of the Jordanian Anti-Corruption Commission (JACC).

Most of the activities undertaken aimed at bringing institutional capacities and legislation framework reforms increasingly in line with European standards. This included a review of the whistleblower protection regime based on CoE standards, which served as the basis for two subsequent training activities for Jordanian authorities covering the topics of protection mechanisms, and managing the psychological expectations of the whistleblower. Also, an on-site needs assessment of the IT infrastructure of the JACC and their capacities to undertake high-tech forensics operations was carried out, with a view to propose hardware and/or software procurement. A review of the asset recovery system was carried out with the purpose of building efficient procedures and interagency ties in this area. CoE experts undertook consultations with the full range of government institutions involved in the asset recovery chain in order to determine areas of improvement, as well as develop proposals to streamline interagency co-operation. International good practices and case studies on asset recovery were disseminated among relevant counterparts in Jordan. The capacities of JACC staff to conduct anti-corruption training were also enhanced through a workshop on training techniques, highlighting the use of interactive training tools tailored to different target audiences.

The CoE focused on the reinforcement of the capacities for a better international and regional co-operation through the organisation of a regional training of trainers on inquiries on corruption cases or/and other administrative violations for the law enforcement agents or and other relevant agencies from Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. This activity contributed to strengthening the capacities among national counterparts, to understand and apply new concepts and good practices in the area of administrative inquiries; to undertake risk-based inspections planning and preparation; and to use interagency information exchange capacities in inspections processes.

The networking capacities of the JACC and the Ministry of Justice to share best practices on international information exchange on anti-corruption and anti-money laundering cases were strengthened through a study visit in the Netherlands, EUROPOL and the Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network (CARIN).

## **2.5 Fight against cybercrime**

With regards to cybercrime, Jordan has expressed an interest in joining the Budapest Convention, and hence it has been included as a target country within the EU/CoE JP "Glacy +". Jordanian representatives participate on a regular basis in the Cybercrime Convention Committees (T-CY). In addition, a regional project devoted to the Southern Mediterranean on cybercrime is in discussion with the EU; Jordan would be one of its beneficiaries.

## **DEMOCRACY**

Work with Jordan on democracy in the last 18 months was marked by the granting of the PACE Partner for Democracy status to the Jordanian Parliament, fostering the inter-parliamentary co-operation. Capacities of governmental and civil society representatives involved in the democratic reform processes were also strengthened through activities of the North-South Centre and the launching of the Programme of Advanced Training in the field of Human rights, the rule of law and democracy for Southern Mediterranean (PATHS).

### **3.1 Inter-parliamentary co-operation**

The Partner for Democracy Status was granted in January 2016, with the adoption of the PACE Resolution 2086 (2016). After the Moroccan Parliament and the Palestinian National Council, the Parliament of Jordan is the third one in the Southern Mediterranean to obtain this status. Under this partnership, a six-member delegation appointed from among the democratically-elected members of the Jordanian Parliament can take part in the work of the Assembly and its committees. The Resolution points out to several areas where further progress is needed, in particular: continuing the constitutional reform; strengthening the role of the parliament and consolidating the separation of powers; implementing justice reform with a view to ensuring the independence and impartiality of the judiciary; applying the moratorium on executions that was established in 2006 and abolishing the death penalty; constitutionally guaranteeing equality between men and women; and adopting the Elections Act.

Jordanian members of parliaments (MPs) and representatives of the secretariat regularly take part in regional inter-parliamentary activities, and mostly awareness raising/consultative regional conferences, such as the Conference on North-South Migration Dialogue (Lagos, March 2015), the Information Seminar on the CoE (Strasbourg, November 2015), the Conference on Migration Crisis in Europe (Paris, December 2015) and the PACE seminar on parliamentary democracy (Amman, 30 May 2016). These events enhanced their capacity to pursue the constitutional reform and opened a window towards the ratification of certain key Council of Europe Conventions. Similarly, the parliamentarians and their staff increased their capacities to bring to a greater conformity the national legislation on migration, human rights, rule of law and democracy with European and international standards. The organisation of joint regional conferences also improved the inter-institutional communication. MPs participated at the PACE Part-Sessions and other thematic meetings organised during these Sessions, thus, keeping them on the track of migration, human rights, trafficking of human beings and other issues raised and discussed by the 47 PACE Delegations.

### **3.2 Training in human rights, rule of law and democracy**

The comprehensive Programme of Advanced Training in the field of Human rights, the rule of law and democracy for Southern Mediterranean (PATHS) was launched in 2015. This regional project provides a structured, comprehensive framework for training, based on demand and tailored to the needs of Southern Mediterranean partner countries. A delegation from Jordan attended the first training, which focused on 'Constitutional justice, transitional justice and the legislative process'. Jordanian representatives were also invited to the second module of the PATHS programme on "Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights and other international systems for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

Jordanian representatives participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni), organised by the North-South Centre to create synergies and promote the development of competences and empowerment of young people from both Europe and the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. The Network of the Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship identified “Youth.org: actors for change!” as the joint theme for 2015 and “Connecting Identities” in 2016.

**Appendix: Financial table**

<b>Neighbourhood Partnership with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 2015-2017</b>	<b>Estimated needs</b>	<b>EU funding</b>	<b>Voluntary contributions</b>	<b>To be funded</b>
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b>				
Fight against violence against women and Promotion of children rights and fight against violence against children	50 000	*		50 000
Fight against trafficking in human beings	*	*		*
<b>Subtotal Human Rights</b>	<b>50 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50 000</b>
<b>RULE OF LAW</b>				
Independence and efficiency of justice	700 000	550 000		150 000
Support the constitutional reform, the drafting of new legislation and the setting-up and effective functioning of new governance instances	150 000	100 000		50 000
Creation of a common legal space	150 000	150 000		0
Fight against corruption and money laundering	500 000	500 000		0
Fight against cybercrime	*	*		*
<b>Subtotal Rule of Law</b>	<b>1 500 000</b>	<b>1 300 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200 000</b>
<b>DEMOCRACY</b>				
Inter-parliamentary co-operation	150 000**	75 000		75 000
Training in human rights, rule of law and democracy	300 000**	200 000		100 000
<b>Subtotal Democracy</b>	<b>450 000</b>	<b>275 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>175 000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>	<b>1 575 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>425 000</b>

\* under "creation of a common legal space"

\*\* including regional activities