
Council of Europe Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco (2015-2017)

Final report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Committee of Ministers adopted the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017 with Morocco in its 1218th meeting on 4 February 2015. Developed jointly with the Moroccan authorities, the Neighbourhood Partnership aims at assisting Morocco with the process of democratic reforms underway and tackling challenges related to human rights, the rule of law and democracy. The co-operation established with the Moroccan authorities since 2012 has been continuously consolidated and expanded with a particular focus put since 2015 on human rights issues.

The Enhanced Political Dialogue offers extensive opportunities for dialogue between the Council of Europe and the Moroccan 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 participation in Council of Europe expert committees.

In practice, the Enhanced Political Dialogue with Morocco has developed successfully, in particular at technical level with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of specialised ministries. The “partner for democracy” status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), granted to the Moroccan Parliament in 2011, has also provided a useful framework for regular political dialogue. Likewise the participation of Moroccan experts in the work of relevant Council of Europe intergovernmental committees and working groups has become routine. This is a part of the dialogue that is probably less high-profile, but it is no less important for all that, since it increases the interaction of Morocco’s institutions with the Council of Europe and contributes to the development of a common legal area.

The 2015-2017 Neighbourhood Partnership was largely funded by the Joint European Union / Council of Europe Regional Programme "Towards Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean". Norway's financial support at the Neighbourhood Partnership level has proved very useful as it has made it possible to respond more flexibly to Morocco's co-operation needs. This funding was supplemented by financial support from several member States: Estonia, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco and Portugal. The needs for the 2015-2017 period were estimated at 6 250 000 EUR of which 5 966 000 EUR are currently secured.

Co-operation with Morocco in this partnership can be considered positive. It has been particularly fruitful for the establishment of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) against torture; significantly expanded with regard to the efficiency of justice and strengthened in the fight against corruption. The campaign against hate speech was highly appreciated by Morocco as well as the capacity building on human rights. With regard to the creation of a common legal space, in 2016 the Parliament adopted the law ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public

¹ This document has been classified restricted until examination by the Committee of Ministers.

health (Medicrime Convention). In addition, the deposit of a whole series of instruments of accession of several Council of Europe conventions - including the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108) and several conventions for the protection of children's rights - should soon complete the accession procedures underway. The Council of Europe continued to support the Moroccan parliament on issues related to constitutional reform and strengthening its capacity to bring national legislation closer to European and international standards. The Council of Europe has also organised training activities on freedom of expression and the media for journalists.

During the reference period, co-operation was somewhat slowed by delays in the establishment of the new government following the legislative elections of October 2016, as well as by tensions in relations between Morocco and the European Union (EU), which had inevitably some, although minor, consequences for the joint programmes between the Council of Europe and the EU.

In the light of these advances and the commitment of Morocco, a reinforcement of the co-operation from 2018 seems justified, continuing the work in progress and approaching new issues in the fields of expertise of the Council of Europe, and of interest to Morocco, such as the fight against discrimination.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AMPCC	Association of Presidents of Communal Councils
AOM	Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen
AOMF	Association of Ombudsmen and Mediators of Francophonie
APT	Association for the Prevention of Torture
ARM	Association of Moroccan Regions
PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
APALD	Authority for gender equality and the fight against discrimination
CAHDATA	<i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee on Data Protection
CAHENF	<i>Ad hoc</i> Committee for the Rights of the Child
CCJE	Consultative Council of European Judges
CCPE	Consultative Council of European Prosecutors
CDDH-DC	Human Rights in Culturally Diverse Societies
CDMSI	Steering Committee on Media and Information Society
CDPC	European Committee on Crime Problems
CEPEJ	European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice
CESE	Economic, Social and Environmental Council
CM	Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
CNDH	National Council for Human Rights
CNDP	National Commission for the Control and the Protection of Personal Data
CRDH	Regional commissions for Human Rights
Venice Commission	European Commission for Democracy through Law
CSPJ	Superior Council of the Judiciary
DGAPR	General Delegation to the Prison Administration
ECEP	Citizenship School of Political Studies
GEC	Gender Equality Committee
GT-EVAL	Working Group on the evaluation of judicial systems
GR-EXT	Rapporteur Group on External Relations
GRECO	Group of States against Corruption
<i>GT-QUAL</i>	Working Group on quality of justice
GT-MED	Working Group on mediation
HACA	High Authority for Audiovisual Communication
ICC	Intercultural cities programme
ICPC	Central Authority for the Prevention of Corruption
INPT	National Authority for the Prevention of Torture
ISM	Higher Judicial Institute
Istanbul Convention	Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence
Lanzarote Convention	Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
MedNET	Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions
MedSPAD	Committee of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs
MedUni	Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship
Medicrime Convention	Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health
MFSEDS	Ministry for Family Affairs, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development
Neighbourhood Partnership	Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2015-2017
ODGP	Office of the Directorate General of Programmes
ONFIM	National Observatory of Women's Image in the Media
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture
NGO	Non-Governmental organisation

NPM	National Prevention Mechanism of torture
OIM	International organisation for Migration
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-CP	Council for Penological Co-operation
PC-OC	Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters
PPIPE	Integrated public policy for the protection of children
QCP	Preliminary ruling of constitutionality
RECI	Spanish network of smart cities
EU	European Union
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UTRF	Financial Intelligence Processing Unit
T-PD	Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Committee of Ministers (CM) adopted the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017 with Morocco in its 1218th meeting on 4 February 2015. This Neighbourhood Partnership is a joint initiative between the Council of Europe and the Moroccan authorities and builds on the document Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities with Morocco 2012-2014.

This report presents the achievements of the implementation of the activities between February 2015 and September 2017. It reflects on progress made in each sector and is completed by additional information provided in appendixes. This report describes activities at a strategic level and therefore does not provide detailed information regarding individual projects implemented as part of the Neighbourhood Partnership. It neither aims at providing reflection on the general political, social or economic situation in the country nor detailed information on individual projects.

The Neighbourhood Partnership is a strategic programming instrument in line with the Council of Europe policy towards the neighbouring regions. This policy aims, through enhanced political dialogue and co-operation, to accompany democratic reforms in Morocco within the areas of expertise of the Council of Europe.

Political Dialogue

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

In practice, with regard to the high-level dialogue, the Neighbourhood Partnership provides that “The Committee of Ministers may invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, or other high-level representatives of the government, to attend its sessions; The Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Morocco will hold consultations, at least once a year, on issues on the bilateral agenda and topics of common interest”; and “Ministers of Morocco 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 Moroccan 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 Moroccan institutions when discussing items relevant to the co-operation with Morocco and following-up the implementation of the Partnership. The other Rapporteur Groups may also hold such exchanges of views.”

As regards consultations at more technical level, the Neighbourhood Partnership provides that “Representatives of Morocco 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, Morocco was invited to “designate a Neighbourhood Partnership Representative to the Council of Europe as a contact point for the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.”

Co-operation

The co-operation between Morocco and the Council of Europe, in line with the Council of Europe policy towards its neighbouring regions, aims to assist Morocco in the process of democratic reforms underway by helping the country tackle challenges related to human rights, the rule of law and democracy. In particular, the objectives identified in consultation with the Moroccan authorities under the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017 are to:

- consolidate the achievements of the Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities with Morocco 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 area between Europe and Morocco, encouraging the authorities to bring Moroccan legislation in line with European and international standards and ratify Council of Europe 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 Morocco's presence in the Council of Europe instances of which it is already a member or observer (the Venice Commission, the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, the Pompidou Group's MedNET network, the North-South Centre, etc.) and encourage its participation in other relevant Council of Europe structures.

1.2 OVERALL ASSESSMENT AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Council of Europe technical assistance programmes form an integral part of the unique strategic triangle of standard-setting, monitoring and co-operation: the development of legally binding standards is linked with their monitoring by independent mechanisms and supplemented by technical co-operation to facilitate their implementation. Council of Europe actions are developed and implemented in areas where the Council of Europe has strong expertise and added value.

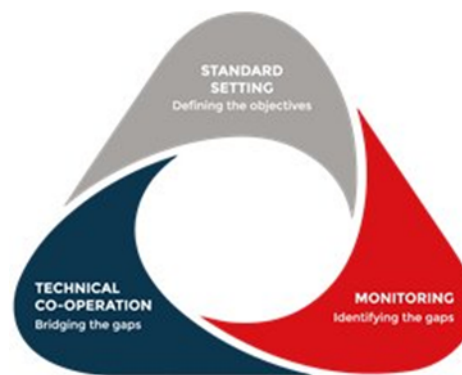


Figure 1: Council of Europe strategic triangle

In the case of Morocco, as a non-member State of the Council of Europe, monitoring mechanisms will not apply until this country becomes a contracting party of relevant conventions or Partial Agreements relying on such mechanisms.

However, the methodology of a number of monitoring mechanisms has been used within the framework of co-operation work with Morocco, notably with a view to assessing the country's situation against European standards and defining roadmaps for accompanying reforms.

This report was prepared using project reports and evaluation reports, where available.

Fairly significant progress, as detailed in Part 2 of the present document (analysis by pillar/sector), was made overall in implementing the Neighbourhood Partnership in light of its objectives and those of the Council of Europe policy towards neighbouring regions. In this respect, the progress made in the following fields should be particularly emphasized: the creation of a common legal space, reflected in Morocco's ongoing process of accession to several Conventions of the Council of Europe, and the legislative harmonisation in certain key areas covered by the Neighbourhood Partnership which was made in accordance with the provisions of the Conventions of the Council of Europe. Furthermore the Council of Europe institutional support for the implementation of the 2011 constitutional reform, including the creation or strengthening of independent governance bodies, the improvement of the efficiency of justice and the fight against organised crime constitute a prime area where significant progress was noticed through the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

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

The Enhanced Political Dialogue with Morocco has developed in particular at technical level in Strasbourg, Rabat and Brussels, with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of specialised ministries. Morocco attended the Council of Europe High-Level Conference of Ministers of Justice and representatives of the Judiciary, organised by the then Bulgarian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers in Sofia on 21-22 April 2016. On 1 February 2017 the Consul General of Morocco met the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General. On 9 June 2017 the Moroccan Ambassador to France also met the Deputy Secretary General. On 30 June 2017 the Deputy Secretary General held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice of Morocco, who was in Strasbourg for the 29th plenary meeting of the CEPEJ. On 19 January 2017 GR-EXT held an exchange of views with Ambassador António Gamito, Executive Director of the North-South Centre, the Consul General of Morocco and the Consul of Tunisia. The Consul General of Morocco again stressed the importance his country attached to the North-South Centre.

The "partner for democracy" status with PACE granted to the Moroccan Parliament in 2011 has also provided a useful framework for regular political dialogue.

At technical level, Morocco attended several meetings of relevant Council of Europe intergovernmental committees of experts and working groups. A list of these expert bodies in core areas of the common legal area was drawn up by the Council of Europe Secretariat in consultation with the Moroccan authorities, and these bodies adjusted their terms of reference as appropriate in order to reflect the eventuality of participation by Moroccan representatives as observers, as provided for by the Neighbourhood Partnership. The Moroccan specialised ministries reacted quickly and favourably to these opportunities. Moroccan experts attended meetings on Human Rights in Culturally Diverse Societies (CDDH-DC), meetings on Gender Equality (GEC), on the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (T-PD), on the quality of justice and on the Lanzarote Convention. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs showed equal interest in this co-operation and, in March 2016, Morocco appointed experts to attend the forthcoming meetings of the CEPEJ, meetings on penological co-operation (PC-CP), meetings of the Consultative Councils of European Judges and European Prosecutors (CCJE and CCPE), the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) and the Committee on Co-operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC). Participation in these expert bodies is probably a less high-profile part of the dialogue, but it is no less important for all that, since it increases the interaction of Morocco's institutions with the Council of Europe and contributes to the development of a common legal area.

Morocco has regularly expressed its commitment to the Enhanced Political Dialogue at all levels and reiterated its interest in longer-term institutional relations with the Council of Europe beyond 2017.

2. REVIEW BY PILLAR/SECTOR

2.1. HUMAN RIGHTS

Since 2015 Morocco has made considerable progress on human rights under the Neighbourhood Partnership with the Council of Europe, on the basis of requests made by the authorities. Particular mention should be made of the implementation of a broader programme of awareness-raising and training with a view to the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) on torture; also the passing of the law establishing the *Authority for gender equality and the fight against all forms of discrimination* (APALD), and of legislation on combating human trafficking and strengthening children's rights and the protection of children against violence. Closer co-operation in these various areas has sought to bring the Moroccan legal framework closer to European and international standards, facilitating the creation of a common legal area through Morocco's accession to the relevant Council of Europe conventions.

2.1.1 GENDER EQUALITY

Progress has been made towards achieving the Neighbourhood Partnership's objectives in this area, through the establishment of institutions to uphold gender equality and raise awareness in the media. On 2 August 2017 the Moroccan Parliament passed Law No. 79.14 establishing the Authority for gender equality and the fight against all forms of discrimination (APALD), brought into being by the 2011 Constitution. On the basis of a Venice Commission opinion of October 2013, the Council of Europe has since 2015 been helping the authorities with the preparatory phase of this legislation, by targeted awareness-raising activities and by inviting Moroccan representatives to attend meetings and thematic events (workshops, seminars on women's access to justice, gender stereotypes, etc.) of the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Committee (GEC).

The authorities and other key partners have also sought support from the Council of Europe on combating gender stereotyping in the media, through the establishment of a National Observatory for the Image of Women in the Media, set up as part of the Ministry for Family Affairs, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development (MFSEDS), and the organisation of specific awareness-raising activities. As such, technical support and methodological support were provided to the National Observatory of Women's Image in the Media (ONFIM) and exchanges with similar bodies in Europe. At the same time, a series of capacity-building workshops on the media and women were delivered to journalists (the first in July 2017) following the recommendations of the workshop on the media representation of women, organised in Casablanca in April 2017.

The drafting of the implementing legislation for the APALD Law will now be extremely important in defining the remit of this body. The Council of Europe should continue to support this process, to ensure that these texts are consistent with European standards and to strengthen actions to combat gender stereotypes

2.1.2 COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Council of Europe contributed technical expertise and comparative analysis to the preparation of a draft law on combating violence against women, tabled before the Moroccan Parliament during the summer of 2016. Draft Law No. 103-13 proposes changes to the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, imposing more stringent fines and custodial sentences for certain offences in this area.

As provided for in the Neighbourhood Partnership, the Council of Europe has also, since 2015, been supporting the National Observatory on Violence against Women (inaugurated in February 2015) by organising study visits to similar European bodies and onsite workshops. These visits were helpful when it came to determining the structure of the Observatory, its powers, functioning and relationships with other public-sector and private-sector bodies.

In parallel, specific work has been initiated with civil society organisations to reinforce their know-how in accordance with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

On several occasions during the period 2015-2017 the authorities indicated their interest in acceding to the Istanbul Convention and took part, alongside representatives of civil society, in a range of awareness-raising activities centred on the standards of the Convention. This was particularly the case during the round table on such topic organised on 16 October 2017 in Brussels within the framework of the Regional Steering Committee of the Joint European Union-Council of Europe Programme "Towards strengthened democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean 2015-2017".

2.1.3 PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND PROTECTING CHILDREN AGAINST VIOLENCE

The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) has, since 2015, been the basis for a number of technical assistance activities, and Moroccan representatives regularly take part in the work of the Committee of the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention and the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF).

Work carried out jointly with the Moroccan authorities has yielded the following concrete results:

- Clear progress towards Morocco's accession to the Lanzarote Convention, the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights, and the Convention on Contact concerning Children, which are at the final stage of accession;
- Capacity-building for relevant stakeholders, in the form of training for 100 lawyers in matters relating to the exploitation and sexual abuse of children (April 2016), and the compilation and dissemination of a compendium of key Council of Europe conventions, including the Lanzarote Convention, in Arabic and French;
- Launch in 2016 of the Integrated Public Policy for Child Protection (PPIPE) drawn up with help from the Council of Europe. In late 2016 the authorities asked the Council of Europe for assistance in framing a National Implementation Programme for this policy. In this context, the Council of Europe advised in 2017 on the drafting of an Action Plan on children and new technologies, in line with the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-2021. The Council of Europe's input consisted of the preparation of a draft programme centred on a number of focal themes (capacity-building of national actors, support of civil society initiatives, production / adaptation of information tools, education-information, awareness raising campaigns, etc.) and suggestions for specific measures. Council of Europe assistance also prompted the creation of a co-ordination task-force comprising the relevant Moroccan partners (ministries, National Observatory for the Rights of the Child, Directorate-General of the national police force and the Moroccan Centre for Polytechnic Research. This programme was officially launched at the national level in October 2017.

Under the Neighbourhood Partnership 2018-2021 there should be further progress towards completing the processes of accession to the relevant Council of Europe conventions, applying the terms of those conventions and providing support for implementation of the PPIPE in line with the requirements expressed by the Moroccan partners, notably on the axes relating to children and the Internet; participation of children; capacity building of non-governmental organisations and the territorial arrangements, should continue.

2.1.4 PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

Significant progress can be seen on the Neighbourhood Partnership objectives as regards the relevant Moroccan partners' familiarity with European and international standards on action against torture, the gradual building of a legislative framework compliant with those standards, and the introduction of the future National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).

In 2016 Morocco asked the Council of Europe for increased assistance in establishing a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) against torture. This was done in 2016 and 2017 in partnership with the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) and its regional commissions (CRDH). The draft law on the CRDH, tabled before Parliament in July 2017, placed the future mechanism under the aegis of the CNDH. Implementation of this NPM is consistent with the country's international obligations as a signatory of the UN's Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). On this basis the Council of Europe devised, and co-ordinated

with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), a comprehensive training programme for members and staff of the future NPM, following a needs assessment conducted in February 2016.

The results were as follows:

- Skills enhancement for members of the future NPM, with focus on a detailed knowledge of the international standards governing detention as well as the methods of rigorous control. An important component of the training provided consists in the Council of Europe trainers' observation of the Moroccan teams while controlling the premises of deprivation of liberty, thanks to the remarkable authorisation given by the Moroccan Prison Service (DGAPR);
- Development of a regional NPM network through the cross-participation of INPT members in the training of their Moroccan colleagues and vice versa;
- Opening to Morocco of the network of member States' NPMs through its participation, as an observer, in the launching of the Forum of European NPMs (Strasbourg, April 2017) where the mandate, methodology and the work plan of the network were discussed and created. Morocco also took part (Strasbourg, May-June 2017) in consultations on the proposed European Immigration Detention Rules. By taking part in the discussion of recommendations made by European NPMs to the authors of this draft text, Morocco was able to share in the experience of well-established European mechanisms;
- Development of a comparative view of national practices in the preventive control of places of deprivation of liberty through a two-week immersion, with personal interpretation, of two members of the future Moroccan NPM in the daily work of the Armenian NPM, including during its control visits.

The Council of Europe should continue its co-operation with Morocco under the new Neighbourhood Partnership 2018-2021 through a sustained support of the Moroccan NPM following the imminent adoption of the legislation on its official creation. In particular, it is planned to extend the know-how of its members to places other than those of deprivation of liberty such as prisons (police stations, minors' centers, psychiatric hospitals, etc.).

2.1.5 COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

From 2015 the Council of Europe was closely involved in the drafting phase of the Law against human trafficking. The Council of Europe has also continued its coordination activities by organising in Rabat in September 2016 a second meeting of international actors ((in particular the EU and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)) involved in action against human trafficking in Morocco, to explore further initiatives which these players might pursue in order to help with implementation of the law.

On the matter of skills enhancement for the relevant stakeholders in Morocco, the Council of Europe provided training on the fundamentals of anti-trafficking concepts and legislation for the judicial sector (Paris, October 2016), in partnership with the HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) Programme, and for university academics (Casablanca, December 2016 and May 2017). It also contributed to a training workshop run by the IOM on victim identification and protection (Rabat, November 2016). In the area of awareness-raising, Morocco took part in a dinner debate on human trafficking held in Nicosia in December 2016 by the Cypriot chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Specific results achieved in this area are:

- Harmonisation of Moroccan legislation with European standards, after Morocco passed Law No. 27-14 against human trafficking in May 2016. The provisions of this Law – on prevention, protection of victims and the prosecution of offenders – are inspired by the Council of Europe convention on the fight against trafficking in human beings;
- The adoption of this new legislation paved the way for other activities of co-operation with national and international partners, focusing on full implementation of the law, establishing the body responsible for defining and implementing the national anti-trafficking strategy and the capacity-building of the actors concerned.

In the context of the next Neighborhood Partnership, the Moroccan authorities could consider asking for an invitation to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and support in the setting up of structures and mechanisms for the fight against trafficking in human beings.

2.1.6 MIGRANTS' RIGHTS AND INTEGRATION

Morocco, as a transit country towards Europe which has also become a destination country for many migrants, now faces a range of social and legal issues that are typical of countries of immigration and has consequently sought to develop its co-operation with the Council of Europe in this field. In 2015, Moroccan parliamentary representatives participated in two PACE regional conferences on migration: "North-South Migration Dialogue" (in co-operation with the North-South Centre and the Portuguese Parliament) and "Comprehensive humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis in Europe", as well as in the launch conference in September 2017 of the parliamentary Network on diaspora policies, the main aim of which is to promote policy reforms and legislation concerning the role of the diaspora in the countries of origin and the host societies.

The Council of Europe has also begun co-operation with Morocco on a local level through the Intercultural Cities programme (ICC), to help Moroccan cities to deal with public perceptions of migrants and diversity generally and to build the appropriate policy know-how. The specific achievement here is the creation of a Moroccan network of 14 Intercultural Cities. This was launched in July 2016 in Tangier, the city co-ordinating the new network, and the other member cities are Agadir, Meknes, Casablanca, Rabat, Kenitra, Larache, Chefchaouen, Tetouan, Martil, Nador, Oujda, Beni Mellal and Marrakesh. This new network has benefited from pooled experience because it is linked to other existing networks under the ICC programme (the Moroccan network's co-ordinators took part in the Intercultural Cities seminar on "Tackling prejudice and engaging with religious minorities", held in San Sebastian, Spain, in October 2016; participation of the Coordinator in the annual meeting of the Spanish network (RECI)).

Network representatives will also participate in the ICC event (Lisbon, 28-29 November 2017) while taking part in the elaboration and adoption of the new narrative text of the programme which will guide the work of cities during the next decade.

In June 2017 in Strasbourg, Morocco took part alongside Algeria, Israel, Jordan and Tunisia in the Council of Europe Conference on Smuggling of Migrants, the main purpose of which was to produce recommendations and frame co-operation strategies for preventing and effectively combating this phenomenon.

Also in June 2017, Moroccan representatives at government, parliamentary, local and regional and civil society level came together to attend the North-South Centre's Lisbon Forum, which included a working session on the management of migration as part of enhanced North-South co-operation.

Under the Neighbourhood Partnership 2018-2021 the Council of Europe should remain available to the Moroccan authorities, supporting them in the implementation of their new migration policy which is respectful of human rights, and strengthening exchanges of experience on issues involved in the integration of migrants.

2.1.7 DATA PROTECTION

In January 2013, the CM invited Morocco to accede to the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108).

In 2015 the Council of Europe was asked by the Moroccan national data protection authority (CNDP) to prepare a legal expertise analysing the proposed changes to Moroccan data protection legislation and their conformity with the Convention 108.

The co-operation with the CNDP has continued, in particular during its participation in the International Conference on the Globalisation of Convention 108 (Strasbourg, 17 June 2016) and meetings of the Ad hoc Committee on Data Protection (CAHDATA), responsible for finalising proposals for modernising the Convention (15-16 June 2016) and in meetings of the Advisory Committee of the Convention 108 (1-3 July 2015, 29 June-1 July 2016, 19-21 June 2017) and its Bureau.

The depth of the partnership between the CNDP and the Council of Europe over the work to harmonise Morocco's legal framework with European standards has enabled tangible progress to be made towards Morocco's accession to Convention 108, currently at the final stage.

Under the new Neighbourhood Partnership 2018-2021 the Council of Europe will stress the importance of the deposit of the instrument of accession of Convention 108 and remains ready to continue to provide the authorities with support for the revision of the legal framework for the protection of personal data and the effectiveness of its implementation.

2.1.8 DRUG ABUSE AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

Morocco is a member of the Pompidou Group's Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction in the Mediterranean Region (MedNET) since its creation in 2006. Morocco joined the Pompidou Group in 2011. It is the first non-member State of the Council of Europe to become a member State of the Pompidou Group.

Morocco is the first Arab country in the world to have introduced treatment of drug users through opiate substitutes, thanks to the specific training of medical professionals organised since 2008 by the Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions of the Pompidou Group (MedNET). Training on addiction, covering the treatment of drug users in general and the care of heroin users by training courses continued in 2015 and 2016 and, between January and June 2017, it was given to more than 60 doctors in the medical faculties of Rabat and Casablanca.

Specific results achieved in this area are:

- The increased number of practitioners trained in this way is gradually enabling extended work on the prevention and treatment of drug addiction to be carried out widely throughout the country, by establishing health centers and thereby improving skills and capacities for action under Morocco's national health promotion plan;
- Morocco is also the first country in North Africa to have set up a Moroccan national observatory on drugs and drug addiction, with financial support and expertise acquired through the MedNET network;
- The first annual report on the drug situation in Morocco was published in 2015, the second report in 2017 covering a larger number of indicators is subject to validation by the Ministry of Health.

Morocco took an active part in regional activities of the Pompidou Group, attending biannual meetings of the MedNET network's MedSPAD Committee (February and September 2016), and providing input into regional reports and surveys on the situation in the Mediterranean region regarding the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and drug use in adolescents. These regional activities enhance the sharing of experience amongst representatives from these fields on both shores of the Mediterranean. In 2017, as part of MedSPAD, Morocco has prepared a national survey on the use of alcohol and other drugs among young students.

By implementing the new Neighbourhood Partnership 2018- 2021, the Council of Europe could continue to build capacity to promote the implementation of a coherent policy on addictive behavior based on scientifically validated knowledge in Morocco by strengthening research, prevention and treatment, and by extending the issue of addictions to all addictive behaviors, thus following the trend that is developing in Europe.

2.1.9 COMBATING THE COUNTERFEITING OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS

In June 2016 the Council of Government approved draft law No. 16-16 ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (Medicrime Convention). This law was subsequently adopted by Parliament during the summer of 2016 and is currently in the final stage of ratification. The Council of Europe, anticipating Morocco's future accession to the Convention, invited it to attend a Medicrime regional workshop (Tbilisi, June 2016), the purpose of which was to strengthen the structure of single points of contact required by the Medicrime Convention and to bring the working methodology of judicial and law-enforcement authorities into line with the Convention. Morocco also took part in the 4th Regional Conference on the Medicrime Convention (Larnaca, November 2016), which raised participants' awareness of the issues involved and provided an opportunity to look closely at the benefits of ratifying the Convention and the difficulties entailed.

The Neighbourhood Partnership 2018-2012 should, once Morocco has ratified the Medicrime Convention, enable full account to be taken of its provisions in the revision of domestic law and in the practice of the relevant professionals (justice, health, customs and police), with technical assistance from the Council of Europe.

2.2. RULE OF LAW

Co-operation with Morocco since 2015 on the rule of law has been enhanced chiefly in the following areas: support for the efficacy of judicial reform, implementation of the 2011 Constitution, preparation of certain key laws resulting from reform of the Constitution, and the combating of corruption. Efforts have also been made to promote freedom of expression and media freedom in Morocco by raising awareness of the principles that govern those rights. The Neighbourhood Partnership developed, in the field of justice, with the launch in 2016 of a new EU-Council of Europe joint programme "Programme to support the justice sector reform - improving the functioning of justice in Morocco using the tools of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)". Intensification of the Neighbourhood Partnership in these various areas was designed to bring the Moroccan legal framework closer to European standards and thereby facilitate the creation of a common legal area with the continent of Europe, through Morocco's accession to the relevant Council of Europe conventions that are open to non-member States.

2.2.1 INDEPENDENCE AND EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE

Co-operation has been ongoing since 2013 between the CEPEJ and a number of pilot courts, to implement projects chosen and agreed on jointly with the courts, in an attempt to improve the day-to-day workings of justice and using tools developed by the CEPEJ for the 47 member States of the Council of Europe.

The CM granted Morocco observer status with the CEPEJ in 2013 and since then Morocco has participated fully in the work of that body. During the reporting period, Moroccan delegations have regularly attended plenary and working group meetings of CEPEJ (GT-QUAL, GT-EVAL, SATURN), with the aim of gaining greater awareness and a better understanding of the CEPEJ tools, but also so that Moroccan legal professionals can contribute to the development of these tools. Morocco has also taken part in the work of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) and the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE).

During the period 2015-2017, direct CEPEJ support has been significantly strengthened and extended to increase the number of Moroccan pilot courts, trialling CEPEJ tools aimed at improving the efficiency and quality of judicial services provided to users of the court system. As part of the new EU-Council of Europe joint programme launched in 2016 in the justice field, court coaching missions also took place in 2016 in the new pilot courts. CEPEJ experts have thus trained many legal professionals in modern court management techniques, notably by going to the courts of the country to compare their working methods with those existing in Morocco. In addition, a training course was set up on the management of the courts, aimed at all the officials of the courts of Morocco (about 300 people).

The Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco for 2015-2017 also sought to strengthen the powers of judges and the operational capacity of the new Supreme Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ) brought into being by the 2011 Constitution. The CEPEJ and Venice Commission had, in 2013, provided the authorities with an expert opinion on the two institutional acts on these matters which were adopted in March 2016. A preliminary benchmarking exercise on the various topics covered by these two laws (organisation, functioning and budget of the CSPJ, management of the career of judges, disciplinary procedures) was conducted by the CEPEJ in September 2016. This initiated an essential dialogue between the Ministry of Justice, the members of the CSPJ and associations of the judiciary. The CSPJ was put in place in the spring of 2017 and co-operation with this body then began to identify priorities for action and a timetable for their completion.

Specific achievements in respect of support for the independence and efficiency of justice include in particular:

- Between 2015 and 2017 the number of pilot courts increased from three to fourteen, including the Court of Cassation (in 2017). Trainer training provided by the presidents and staff of the first pilot courts, in partnership with the Higher Judicial Institute (ISM), has led to even more widespread use of the CEPEJ tools and a guarantee that its methodology can be used sustainably in Morocco;
- The Ministry of Justice has developed its own know-how and taken ownership of the CEPEJ tools, integrating them into its system of dashboards and tools to evaluate the work and performance of the Moroccan courts;
- The authorities of Morocco, an observer State in the CEPEJ since 2013, have decided to take part in the next CEPEJ general evaluation exercise, conducted on judicial systems. To that end, work to ensure that Morocco is optimally prepared for this exercise took place in Rabat in May 2017.

Co-operation priorities under the new Neighbourhood Partnership 2018-2021 could include Council of Europe support for implementation of the laws passed on the statute for judges and the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, and the wider use of the CEPEJ tools in Morocco's courts.

2.2.2 SUPPORTING CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, THE DRAFTING OF NEW LEGISLATION, THE ESTABLISHMENT AND EFFICIENT FUNCTIONING OF NEW GOVERNANCE BODIES

Morocco is a member of the Venice Commission. Since the beginning of the constitutional reform process in Morocco this body has played a primary role supporting the authorities in the preparation of institutional acts derived from the Constitution and thereby helped to implement the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco by supporting work to reform the Constitution. Having previously lent its expertise to the draft institutional acts on the statute for judges and the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, the Venice Commission offered its help with their implementation. Accordingly, it provided its input at a technical benchmarking meeting on the various topics covered by these institutional acts, held in September 2016 (see 2.1.).

The Venice Commission also continued talks with the Ministry of Justice and Freedoms and the Constitutional Council as part of the work of drafting the organic law on the preliminary ruling of constitutionality (the QPC), which is due to be passed in 2017. This new legislation will recognise that any person who is a party to legal proceedings has the right to assert that a provision of law infringes rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. A conference organised with the Ministry of Justice and Freedoms in November 2015 presented and discussed the exercise of this right as experienced by constitutional courts in Europe and the Arab world. Representatives of the Moroccan judiciary also looked at the independence of constitutional justice as an essential precondition of a functioning democracy during their attendance at the 5th Intercultural Workshop on Democracy, held by the Venice Commission in Cyprus in April 2017.

Regarding the establishment and efficient functioning of new governance bodies, the Venice Commission has continued with its institutional capacity-building activities, particularly those of the Ombudsman of the Kingdom, as provided for in the Neighbourhood Partnership. Training sessions, each attended by 20 to 25 participants, have been provided both for the central office of the Ombudsman and the regional offices. These sessions entailed an exchange of good practice on communication strategies (May 2016), protection of the rights of child migrants (November 2016) and the drafting of a guide to methodological principles for ombudsmen and their staff (May 2017). Some of these training sessions also took place in the context of regional co-operation, involving the *Association of Ombudsmen and Mediators of the French-Speaking World* (AOMF) and the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM).

Morocco has also taken part in Venice Commission activities held at regional level in co-operation with the Ministry for the Civil Service and Modernisation of the Administration of the Kingdom of Morocco. These sought to build capacity in the areas of good governance, the rule of law, and fundamental rights for high-level civil servants in the MENA region (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine* and Tunisia), using the UniDem Med Campus (University for Democracy). Inspired by the successes recorded in member States of the Council of Europe since the 1990s, seminars were held in co-operation with the Ministry for the Civil Service and Modernisation of the Administration of the Kingdom of Morocco on topics such as open government and reform of the civil service statute. Morocco was able to take part in other regional initiatives supported by the Venice Commission, including meetings of the Organisation of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (ArabEMBs). The general assembly of the ArabEMBs, held in Tunis (February 2017), provided participants (ministries, electoral authorities and human rights organisations) with a forum for sharing their experiences and views on international and regional standards and best practice which guarantee the impartiality of electoral bodies and the transparency of electoral processes. This very fruitful co-operation resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Venice Commission and the Ministry of Public Service and Modernisation of the Administration of Morocco in October 2017.

Experts from the Venice Commission also assisted the PACE delegation which observed the Moroccan parliamentary elections of October 2016 (see 3.1).

Under the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco for 2018-2021, the Venice Commission should continue to support implementation of the institutional and ordinary laws derived from the Constitution, especially on matters concerning the independence and efficiency of justice, including constitutional justice. The new Constitutional Court should receive targeted assistance to ensure that it functions efficiently. The good co-operation with other institutions, such as the institution of the Kingdom Ombudsman, should also be extended beyond the year 2017.

2.2.3 CREATION OF A COMMON LEGAL AREA

Gradual creation of a common legal area is a high priority of the Council of Europe's policy towards its neighbouring regions. Practical action to that end began with Morocco in 2012. In addition to specific measures to increase awareness and understanding of the Council of Europe conventions, tangible achievements from 2012 onwards saw Morocco acceding to several of these conventions.³ Council of Europe standards have been included in new laws, with a view to aligning the country's legislation with Council of Europe texts (see 1.5.), and these Council of Europe standards have been disseminated more broadly through training activities.

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

³ European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches, Anti-Doping Convention, European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, European Convention on Information on Foreign Law.

During the reporting period there has been concrete progress towards Morocco's accession to a number of Council of Europe conventions: in June 2016 the Council of Government approved draft law No. 16-16 ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (Medicrime Convention signed by Morocco in December 2012). This law was subsequently passed by Parliament during the summer of 2016 and is currently in the final stage of ratification. The procedure for Morocco's accession to various other Council of Europe instruments is similarly ongoing and is expected to be completed in 2017. Deposit of the instruments of accession which will complete Morocco's accession to these instruments is pending in respect of the following conventions: Convention on Cybercrime; Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism; Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data and its Additional Protocol; Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention); Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights and Convention on Contact concerning Children.

This co-operation has been strengthened by regular Moroccan participation in various Council of Europe convention committees (Committee of the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention). This participation in the work of convention committees, as part of the Enhanced Political Dialogue, comes in addition to Morocco's participation in other intergovernmental structures of the Council of Europe such as the Consultative Committee of the Data Protection Convention (T-PD), the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) or the Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC). This framework has also allowed Morocco to be closely involved in discussions on new Council of Europe conventions, for example the Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property, which was discussed by the European Committee on Crime Problems and was opened for signature in May 2017.

A compendium of key conventions on human rights, in Arabic and French, was published and officially presented at a seminar in Rabat (November 2015) attended by representatives of relevant public-sector and private-sector bodies and the international community. This compendium is the direct result of close co-operation between the Council of Europe and Morocco's Inter-ministerial Delegation for Human Rights (DIDH) and has become a very useful tool for improving understanding and awareness of European human rights standards in Morocco and in the Southern Mediterranean region generally.

Morocco has shown interest in other Council of Europe conventions too, especially in the areas of action against corruption, torture, violence against women, and terrorism.

Morocco has also taken part in regional events related to new Council of Europe instruments: along with representatives of Tunisia, Jordan, Algeria and Israel, it attended the High-Level International Conference on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Organs, organised by the Council of Europe in parallel with the opening for signature of the new Council of Europe Convention (Santiago de Compostela, March 2015).

The new Neighbourhood Partnership planned for 2018-2021 would provide support to the Moroccan authorities as they finalise the ongoing processes of ratifying Council of Europe conventions. Moroccan accession to other key Council of Europe conventions could be considered and work could continue to upgrade Morocco's legislative and regulatory system on the basis of the relevant Council of Europe standards.

2.2.4 INFORMATION SOCIETY AND INTERNET GOVERNANCE, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, INDEPENDENCE OF THE MEDIA

As a result of co-operation in this area, which began in 2012, Morocco became a member of the European Audiovisual Observatory in May 2014. Under the current Neighbourhood Partnership, the Council of Europe has continued to work for freedom of expression and media freedom in Morocco. The sharing of information during awareness raising and training workshop on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and Council of Europe recommendations and guidelines have made it possible to raise awareness among

institutional actors and journalists of the principles governing the exercise of the right to freedom of expression on-line and off-line, as well as the rights and responsibilities journalists. This process identified precise capacity-building requirements for journalists and media professionals at a time when Morocco was enacting a raft of new legislation on the press (including a new Code of the press and institution of a National Press Council).

Practical results have been achieved in this area, in particular:

- Capacity-building for media professionals and journalism students (particularly in partnership of the National Union of the Moroccan Press, or the House of Press of Tangier) through awareness raising and training seminars on press freedom and focusing on aspects of media ethics and professionalism. These activities enabled participants to improve their knowledge on issues essential to the exercise of their profession such as libel and slander, respect for private life, hate speech gender equality, and the media and the role they have in stimulating a pluralist public debate;
- Provision of technical assistance to institutional stakeholders in Morocco to help them perform their remit of ensuring freedom of expression and media freedom: in 2017 the Council of Europe widened its work of awareness-raising and training to include two major Moroccan partners – the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA), and the Ministry for Communications. In the course of the first semester three workshops held to share experience with HACA staff, dealt with structural pluralism in the media and the question of how to reconcile freedom of expression with other rights and interests, cultural and linguistic diversity and media literacy. These two workshops provided participants with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and put into perspective the Moroccan experience, in particular on the basis of European standards the experience of certain European audiovisual regulators. The Ministry for Communications also requested, and received, a series of three specific training for its staff on guarantees of freedom of expression in printed press, audiovisual media and the internet, in Rabat, in May and October 2017.

Representatives of the Moroccan authorities were also regularly present as observers at meetings of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) and its subordinate bodies. They also took part in an Internet Freedom Conference organised by the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, September 2016).

On-going discussions to decide the future shape of the Neighbourhood Partnership include Council of Europe support in establishing the National Press Council, bringing Moroccan legislation on freedom of expression and media freedom into line with the relevant Council of Europe standards, and targeted capacity-building for the relevant institutional stakeholders and media professionals.

2.2.5 COMBATING CORRUPTION, MONEY-LAUNDERING AND TERRORISM

Co-operation with Morocco in this area has focused primarily on implementing the recommendations of the diagnostic report on the anti-corruption framework for Morocco compiled using the methodology of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO). This report, published in 2014, covers topics regarded as priorities by the authorities, for example justice, political life, public procurement and law enforcement.

Practical results have been achieved in this area, in particular:

- In-depth assistance with implementing the constitutional status of the Central Body for the Prevention of Corruption (ICPC) and strengthening its internal structures, capacities and role as co-ordinator with other stakeholders in the combating of corruption. In particular the Council of Europe helped to prepare a detailed procedural manual for administrative anti-corruption inquiries, and the ICPC's networking capability was strengthened through study visits by ICPC staff to equivalent structures in Latvia and Slovenia (March and December 2016);

- Broadening of Council of Europe technical assistance to include other institutional stakeholders, particularly Moroccan corruption inspectors. This took the form of specific training events: basic anti-corruption concepts (October 2015), and identifying risks of corruption in administrative inquiries (Strasbourg, May 2016). Initiatives specific to the private sector were also developed in 2016 and 2017 with Council of Europe help, in particular a guide to anti-corruption measures and indicators of corruption risks in transactions involving the financial sector and the Financial Intelligence Unit (UTRF);
- Efforts to improve the laws on combating corruption: the Council of Europe carried out a legislative review of Moroccan whistle-blower legislation, based on Council of Europe standards and guidelines, which will be used to draw up an action plan for the Moroccan authorities for reform of this legislation.

In April 2017 a Rabat *workshop* for Moroccan financial institutions on preventing and identifying money-laundering *transactions* related to corruption enabled representatives of the ICPC, the Financial UTRF and the Central Bank of Morocco (Bank Al-Maghrib) to explore international standards on money-laundering and exchange best practice on surveillance and the management of suspicious financial transactions.

Comprehensive implementation of the recommendations contained in the diagnostic report on the anti-corruption framework for Morocco, on the basis of the corresponding European and international standards, should be a priority for the new Neighbourhood Partnership, entailing especially the drafting of additional anti-corruption legislation and strengthening of the authority of the ICPC.

2.2.6 COMBATING CYBERCRIME

The Council of Europe has provided assistance to Morocco under the EU/ Council of Europe joint programmes GLACY⁴, GLACY+⁵, and subsequently under the CyberSouth project (2017-2020)⁶ for the Southern Neighbourhood Region, launched in July 2017. The objective of these projects is to help beneficiaries strengthen legislation and institutional capacities on cybercrime and electronic evidence in the region of the Southern Neighbourhood in line with human rights and rule of law requirements.

Practical achievements during the reporting period include in particular:

- Guidance by the Council of Europe through the process of bringing Moroccan law into line with its Convention on Cybercrime, which is currently in the final stage of accession. As part of this, the Council of Europe supported an advisory mission, held in Rabat (September 2017), on streamlining procedures for mutual legal assistance related to cybercrime and electronic evidence;
- Capacity-building for the chief stakeholders working to combat cybercrime in Morocco. Following the delivery of initial judicial training for legal advisors in the General Secretariat of the Government (Rabat, April 2015), judicial training modules on cybercrime were provided in partnership with the Higher Judicial Institute (ISM), for Moroccan judges and prosecutors (Rabat, April 2015 and May 2017). Other co-operation activities sought to strengthen the capabilities of the police, gendarmerie and other law enforcement agencies through specific training events in Rabat in April 2016.

The next Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco for 2018-2021 should see completion of the country's accession to the Convention on Cybercrime and, on that basis, an intensification of work to bring Morocco's legislative and regulatory system into line with the provisions of Council of Europe conventions.

⁴ [EU/ Council of Europe joint programme "Global Action on Cybercrime" \(GLACY\), 36 months \(November 2013 – October 2016\), €3.35 million](#)

⁵ [EU/ Council of Europe joint programme "Global Action on Cybercrime extended" \(GLACY +\), 48 months \(1 March 2016 – 28 February 2020\), €10 million.](#)

⁶ [EU/ Council of Europe joint programme "Co-operation on cybercrime in the Southern Neighbourhood" \(CyberSouth\), 36 months \(1 July 2017 – 30 June 2020\), €3.35 million.](#)

2.3. DEMOCRACY

Since 2015 the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco on democracy has focused mainly on capacity-building for members of the government and civil society who are involved in the processes of democratic reform, through activities of the Citizen School of Political Studies (ECEP), the North-South Centre and the Programme of Advanced Training in the field of human rights, the rule of law and democracy for the Southern Mediterranean (PATHS Programme). Inter-parliamentary co-operation, the result of the partner for democracy status with PACE which Morocco has enjoyed since 2011, has progressed in some specific areas, especially during preparations for the parliamentary elections of October 2016, but there is room for it to be strengthened further. Priorities for action on local and regional governance were identified during implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership and work on them has begun in 2017.

2.3.1 INTERPARLIAMENTARY CO-OPERATION

During the period preceding the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017, PACE advised and guided the Moroccan Parliament in the exercise of its new constitutional powers, organising targeted activities for members of both houses on the provisions of the 2011 Constitution regarding the scrutiny of government activity, the role of the opposition and procedures for managing the right of citizens' initiative. The capabilities of Moroccan parliamentary officials in Council of Europe areas of activity were also strengthened by information workshops on the role of the various European institutions.

PACE has continued its work of strengthening the powers of Parliament through new initiatives. In 2015, three regional conferences were held by PACE for members and staff of the parliaments of Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Algeria and the Palestinian National Council. These conferences addressed the constitutional reforms under way in the countries concerned, raising the prospect of their future accession to certain Council of Europe conventions relevant to the issues covered by these reforms. Members of parliament were also familiarised with European standards on human rights, the rule of law and democracy, and migration too, with an eye to revision of their legislation and its alignment with those standards.

As of 2011 the Moroccan Parliament has had partner for democracy status with PACE. A delegation from the Moroccan Parliament routinely attended the Assembly's sessions between 2015 and 2017. During the reporting period PACE has continued to monitor this status, checking the progress of political reform in the country and the political undertakings given by the Moroccan Parliament under the Neighbourhood Partnership. In its report "Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco", adopted in June 2015, PACE "makes a positive assessment of its results. It welcomes the fact that the Partnership continues to enjoy broad support at both government and parliament level, as well as among political circles and civil society. It has been instrumental in launching and developing crucial reforms in a number of key areas, and in triggering multifaceted co-operation between the Council of Europe and Moroccan institutions".

In 2016 the National Human Rights Council invited PACE to observe the October elections to the House of Representatives. The observation mission's report, adopted by PACE in November 2016, gives a positive assessment of the conduct of the elections, saying that the ballot was organised honestly and transparently, though turn-out had been regrettably low. Dialogue between PACE and the Moroccan authorities on the results of the electoral mission continued in March 2017 in Rabat, when PACE took part in a seminar on the organisation of neutral and impartial elections, at which follow-up action on the recommendations of electoral observation missions was discussed.

The new Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco for 2018-2021 should offer a wealth of opportunities for better and further-reaching implementation of Resolution 1818 (2011) on partner for democracy status.

2.3.2 DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

Contacts with the Moroccan authorities in this field began in the second half of 2016 and priorities for action were identified during a fact-finding mission by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in November 2016. These priorities include the support in the implementation by Morocco of the new law on advanced regionalisation, the strengthening of local and regional authority associations and the development of mechanisms to promote citizens' participation at local and regional level, with an emphasis on the participation of women, young people and civil society.

The needs assessment of 2016 and the study visit by Moroccan partners during the Congress plenary in March 2017 secured the commitment of key figures, in particular the presidents of the Association of Moroccan Regions (ARM), and the Association of Presidents of Municipal Councils (AMPCC), the Rabat city mayor, the Director General for Local Authorities (head of the DGCL), representatives of Parliament and the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE). On that occasion the Moroccan delegation again expressed interest in becoming a partner for democracy with the Congress. Whilst this appears as an "expected result" of the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017 it has not yet happened.

Activities carried out or currently on progress include the identification of existing training resources for local and regional elected representatives and their administrations, the drafting of a proposal to set up a national commission on regionalisation as an advisory body for all stakeholders in this process, through the production of two studies on these topics. They also include the organisation of specific activities: making members of parliament more aware of the principles and standards of local self-government, through the organisation of a conference on integrating migrants, combating radicalisation and securing the involvement of citizens at local level. Measures to strengthen the two local and regional authority associations are being drawn up in 2017.

A number of key documents on European principles and standards in local democracy have been produced in Arabic, including the European Charter of Local Self-Government, the revised European Charter on Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life, and the European *code of conduct* for the political *integrity of local and regional* elected representatives, which are also used by other Council of Europe entities in their work.

Another result achieved in this area of co-operation during the reporting period is the creation of a national network of eleven Intercultural Cities in Morocco, launched in Tangier in July 2016 and supported by the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities programme (see 1.6).

In addition to implementation of the aforementioned priorities, the future Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco could include a Moroccan application for partner for local democracy status with the Congress and expansion of the Moroccan Intercultural Cities network to include some of the country's other municipalities.

2.3.3 STRENGTHENING OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY STAKEHOLDERS

Work to strengthen civil society proceeded as described in the chapters that follow, though not as part of the measures originally planned for this specific area.

2.3.4 TRAINING IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

During the period of the Neighbourhood Partnership, Moroccan representatives routinely took part in activities organised by the Council of Europe's North-South Centre, to foster female participation in political life, promote the empowerment of women and to help youth organisations play a full part in governance in the Southern Mediterranean region. To this end Moroccan representatives took part in May 2016 and July

2017 in the 4th and 5th sessions of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni) in Hammamet (Tunisia). Following the 2016 MedUni, various proposed co-operation projects were suggested by the participants, covering in particular the development of student unions, youth advisory services, youth employment and online campaigns to promote gender equality. The North-South Centre itself provided a course of training on the participation of young women in democratic processes, and 198 women took part in online courses in global education.

Morocco has also taken part in the various sessions of the Lisbon Forum, which the North-South Centre has organised since 1994 as a platform bringing together high-level participants from Europe, neighbouring regions and other continents, to share experience, best practice and expertise on human rights, democracy and the rule of law. At the June 2017 Forum, which addressed the issues of managing migration, avoiding populism, building inclusive societies and reinforcing North-South dialogue, Morocco was represented by the Minister in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs.

Between 2015 and 2017 the Council of Europe helped with two key projects to strength democratic governance and human rights education in Morocco, providing enhanced support for Morocco's Citizen School of Political Studies (ECEP) and running training events on human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

Support for the ECEP, formed in 2013 with assistance from the Council of Europe, produced the following results between 2015 and 2017:

- Strengthening of capacity and practical leadership skills for nearly 100 young persons from different regions in Morocco and representing civil society, politics, the economy and culture, through the annual ECEP training programme of five national seminars. These seminars addressed core topics concerning the principles and practice of democracy, all of them high on Morocco's reform agenda: citizens' participation in decision-making processes, public policy-making, devolution and territorial governance in Morocco, and the role of elections in democratic governance;
- ECEP networking, through peer-exchange events with other schools of political studies (SPS), in particular the summer academies run by the Bulgarian school of political studies, the annual international alumni conference and the World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg, which enable Moroccans from ECEP to share experience and best practice. Regional co-operation by the ECEP has further been strengthened by regional seminars involving also the Tunisian School of Politics and other representatives of the Southern Mediterranean region – senior political figures from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and two West African countries – who drafted recommendations for strengthening regional co-operation, security and democratic stability in the Maghreb region against a background of increased terrorism and political instability in the Southern Mediterranean and Europe.

The Programme of Advanced Training in the field of human rights, the rule of law and democracy for the Southern Mediterranean (PATHS) has had 23 participants from Morocco out of a total of 61 (from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine* and Tunisia). The programme has delivered modules in Strasbourg and Venice on “Constitutional justice, transitional justice and the legislative process”, “Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights and other international systems for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms” and “Human rights in practice”. An independent assessment reported that participants found the training extremely relevant to their jobs and gave it a very high satisfaction rating (3.9 out of 5); the assessment also made recommendations for the continuation of the training programme.

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

Morocco has officially joined the Council of Europe's youth campaign "Movement against hate speech". The campaign was officially launched on 3 June 2016 in the House of Councillors in Rabat. Led by a national campaign committee with the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Morocco, it follows the guidelines established by the Council of Europe. The Moroccan campaign was associated with the days of action, notably on the discourse of sexist hatred, anti-Semitic and towards the Muslims. This campaign has been present in several events, such as "Rabat Arab capital of youth" and has also been very visible in the Moroccan media and social networks. In total, more than 25 activities were organized.

The 6th Euro-Arab Youth Forum - fighting together against hate speech and extremism - which took place in Fes in April 2017, helped to reinforce the dynamics of the Moroccan campaign with the contribution of European activists and other countries of the Arab League. The understanding of the phenomenon has been reinforced, and the role of counter narratives and alternative narratives has been emphasized in practical workshops of action and creation. The Arabic version of the Handbook on Human Rights Education with Young People was also promoted.

Co-operation with the Ministry of Youth and Sport could continue beyond the campaign, in particular with the view of encouraging the participation of young people and the development of quality standards for youth centers following the model of the Council of Europe.

Priority areas for action under the Neighbourhood Partnership 2018-2021 might include the development of the ECEP's regional dimension and networking between ECEP activities and those of other schools and the alumni network, since its former students are true flag-bearers for the values of the Council of Europe. Advanced training for Moroccan beneficiaries in human rights, the rule of law and democracy will be further reinforced, primarily targeting legal professionals and focusing on the alignment of Morocco's legislative and regulatory system with the standards of Council of Europe.

3. IMPLEMENTATION AND CO-ORDINATION

The CM assesses overall Neighbourhood Partnership implementation through its GR-EXT.

The overall co-ordination of technical co-operation implemented by the Council of Europe falls within the remit of the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes (ODGP), which steers the programming of and fund-raising for co-operation actions, and ensures the efficiency of Council of Europe Offices in the field. The Council of Europe field office in Morocco, currently employing 7 persons, plays a key role in co-ordinating and supporting project implementation.

Expertise, the basis of co-operation projects' added value, comes from relevant services in the entire Organisation. Projects under the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco are implemented by the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, the Directorate General of Democracy, the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) and the Congress. The implementation of Neighbourhood Partnership projects involves, as necessary, needs assessments, legislative expertise, capacity-building, awareness-raising and peer-to-peer reviews. The methodology applied, in line with the Council of Europe Project Management Methodology, aims to reinforce the ownership of national stakeholders and to ensure the sustainability of the outcomes.

In addition, the co-operation designed by the Council of Europe follows a "multi-institutional approach", which allows different Council of Europe's institutions and bodies to target governmental stakeholders, parliaments, independent governance institutions and civil society, in order to create a unique leverage for comprehensive, inclusive, successful and sustainable reforms.

The Council of Europe co-ordinates closely with relevant international partners, notably the European Union (EU) and in particular the Delegation of the EU to Morocco. Co-ordination is also ensured with the UN and the IOM. Regular exchanges also take place with the embassies of the member States and observer States of the Council of Europe. To ensure efficiency and avoid the overlapping of activities, the Council of Europe also plays a co-ordination role in organising or attending various coordination panels, including in particular:

- Co-ordination meetings with the EU on different subjects including justice;
- Co-ordination with the EU, the IOM, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the modalities of the implementation of the law on human trafficking;
- Co-ordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) of actions in the field of freedom of expression and media.

3.1 TRANSVERSAL ISSUES

Gender equality is mainstreamed throughout every Council of Europe projects in accordance with the Guidelines on gender mainstreaming.⁷ The basis for mainstreaming gender is described at the level of the different projects.

Since its inception co-operation with Morocco has paid particular attention to gender equality. In the context of this Neighbourhood Partnership, this is illustrated by the following actions, previously mentioned in the text:

- the law establishing the Authority for gender equality and the fight against discrimination (APALD) was prepared with the support of the Venice Commission;
- participation of representatives of Morocco in several targeted awareness-raising activities, meetings and thematic events (workshops, seminars on women's access to justice, gender stereotypes .) of the Commission for Gender Equality (GEC) of the Council of Europe;
- Support for the establishment of an Observatory on the image of women in the media, created within the MFSEDS and organisation of specific awareness activities for the attention of key partners on the issue of the fight against stereotypes in the media. Also, support provided to the National Observatory of the Image of Women in the Media (ONFIM) and capacity-building workshops for journalists on the media and women (started in July 2017) following the recommendations of the debate workshop on the portrayal of women in the media organised in Casablanca in April 2017;
- A workshop-debate on media representation of women in Morocco bringing together in Casablanca in April 2017 representatives of the media, civil society and the academic sector has produced recommendations to implement in this area, particularly with regard to the training of journalists;
- Actions to combat violence against women, against children and actions to reinforce the capacities to combat trafficking in human beings;
- At the end of the 2016 MedUni edition of the North-South Center, co-operation projects were proposed by the participants, covering, among other things, the promotion of gender equality. The North-South Center also provided training on the participation of young women in democratic processes and 198 women participated in online courses on global citizenship education.

Similarly, the Organisation promotes the active participation of civil society in co-operation activities in accordance with the Guidelines on civil society organisations participation in Council of Europe's co-operation activities⁸ and the recommendations issued by the conference entitled "Partnership for good governance: Promote co-operation with civil society".

⁷ <https://rm.Council of Europe.int/Council of EuropeRMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680656cf0>

⁸ <https://rm.Council of Europe.int/Council of EuropeRMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680656cef>.

The following results can be highlighted with regards to the work with civil society:

- The creation of Morocco's Citizen School of Political Studies, which is now a fully integral part of the SPS network; as described above, the ECEP has enabled a broader spectrum of Moroccan civil society to exchange views on issues related to democratic change;
- Participation by representatives of Moroccan civil society in activities organised under the present Neighbourhood Partnership, sometimes on an equal footing with representatives of the government; this has performed a bridging and networking function (Lisbon Forum, participation and consultation of civil society in a varied range of activities);
- Establishing co-operation with the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA), press and media associations, with the aim of promoting freedom of expression and media freedom in line with European standards and values.

3.2 RISK MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Due to the nature of its mandate, the Council of Europe sometimes operates in complex and unstable environments that expose it to risks. The risk analysis of the Neighbourhood Partnership and possible mitigation strategies are made on the basis of the Council of Europe risk management guidelines and the Risk Management Policy of the Organisation adopted in June 2016. All the programmes implemented within the Neighbourhood Policy have their own risk assessment and mitigation modalities.

Whilst there is co-ordination in some areas of action, the number of international organisations operating in Morocco is considerable, significantly increasing the risk of duplication. This is the case in areas such as judicial reform.

Security in Morocco appears relatively favourable. Risk management measures have been developed in co-ordination with other international organisations operating in Morocco and, in particular, a security plan for the Rabat Office has been put in place to ensure that the work scheduled can proceed in normal and stable conditions and that Council of Europe staff and experts remain safe.

Implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco also depends on political stability within the country and consensus amongst politicians to see the reforms carried through. In some cases there has been a lack of political commitment, for example on sensitive human rights issues such as the promotion of women's rights, as shown by the difficulties over the passing of the law establishing the Authority for gender equality and the fight against all forms of discrimination (APALD).

The political situation in Morocco was also marked, during the reporting period, by preparations for the parliamentary elections of October 2016 and the subsequent difficulty in forming the government. A further problem was strained relations between Morocco and the European Union, arising from a decision in December 2015 by the Court of Justice of the European Union which ruled that bilateral EU-Morocco trade agreements could not apply to the territory of Western Sahara. Constructive discussions between the two sides have since resumed in 2017, however.

These risks have been eased thanks to ongoing political dialogue with the authorities at all levels and to enhanced co-operation with other international organisations, especially the European Union, designed to ensure that implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership can adjust to political developments.

3.3 LESSONS LEARNED

The lessons learned from implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership during the reporting period are as follows:

- The Neighbourhood Partnership has provided a forum for the discussion of human rights issues on which Morocco was more reticent during the preceding period (combating of human trafficking, prevention of torture, for example). This change augurs well for the future of human rights in Morocco and a relationship of trust between the Council of Europe and the Moroccan authorities based on the results already achieved through co-operation and political dialogue;
- However, progress on implementing the Neighbourhood Partnership remains conditional on the pace of reform in a number of areas. This applies to support for reforms in the justice field, and also to completion of the ongoing processes of accession to Council of Europe conventions;
- Because Council of Europe policy towards its neighbouring regions is based on a demand-driven approach, it is important that the framework for co-operation should remain flexible. Non-earmarked voluntary contributions are welcome here, because they allow for adjustment to the needs and dynamics of reform processes. Flexible working methods and adjustments to the pace of interventions are necessary to cushion the effect of a slow-down in certain co-operation activities;
- Day-to-day co-ordination with other international stakeholders is crucial and is fundamental in achieving tangible results. However, it should be noted that this sometimes leads to delays in implementation;
- The excellent quality of political dialogue at technical level has gone hand-in-hand with regular political dialogue under the “partner for democracy status” with PACE. Regular high-level dialogue at intergovernmental level should be added, and efforts to this end are under way;
- Results achieved so far have been facilitated by having a Neighbourhood Partnership Representative in Strasbourg and a Council of Europe Office in Rabat, something that is helpful to co-operation and the Enhanced Political Dialogue;
- The Council of Europe has proved that it can respond to the interests of specialised ministries and provide expertise through its intergovernmental committees. The involvement of Moroccan experts in these bodies is an important feature of the dialogue and should be encouraged. It helps integrate Morocco’s institutions into the relevant networks and fosters the development of a common legal area;
- On the basis of its commitment to full implementation of the Partnership, Morocco has already indicated its interest in longer-term institutional relations with the Council of Europe beyond 2017.

As well as in the case of other co-operation frameworks:

- The Council of Europe human rights approach of the technical assistance is an important supplement to the existing international aid programmes for Morocco;
- The Council of Europe standards and principles as both means and objectives of technical assistance can as such significantly contribute to the fulfilment of those rights;
- Long-term technical assistance towards comprehensive reforms requires prospects of sustainable funding and effective co-ordination mechanisms among national and international partners;
- Neighbourhood Partnership funding allows also a certain flexibility for allocating funds where they are the most needed.

4. FUNDING AND PARTNERS

Continued financial support of this Neighbourhood Partnership allows the Council of Europe to build on and create activities that support European standards. The Council of Europe increasingly seeks to produce expected results on agreed priorities rather than on individual projects and activities.

For 2015-2017, the initial estimated needs of the Neighbourhood Partnership amounted to €6 250 000. Funding of more than €5 966 000 has been secured (See Figure 2).

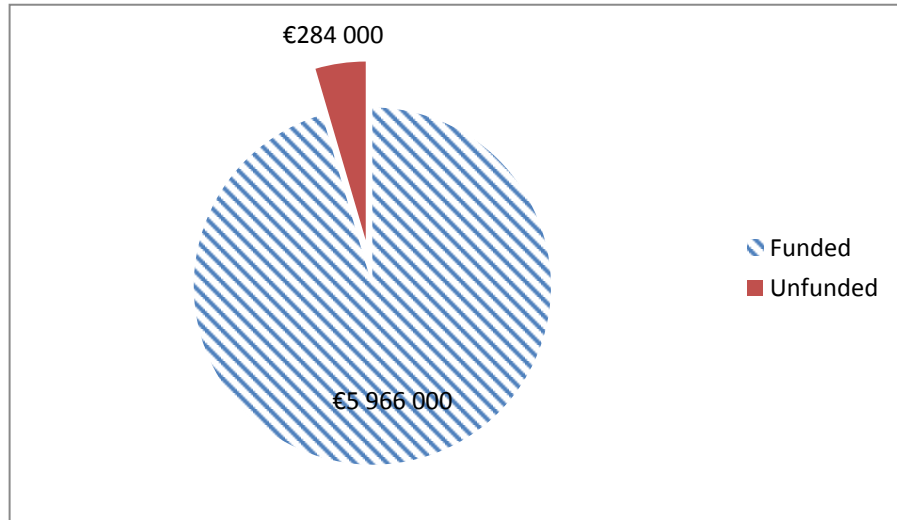


Figure 2: Funding situation of the Neighbourhood Partnership in € as of September 2017

A significant part of the co-operation priorities is implemented under the regional EU/ Council of Europe South Programme II⁹ (see Figure 3). Several voluntary contributions have funded the Neighbourhood Partnerships' implementation. Norway's financial support at the Neighbourhood Partnership level has proved very useful as it has made it possible to respond more flexibly to Morocco's co-operation needs. This funding was supplemented by financial support from several member States: Estonia, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco and Portugal.

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

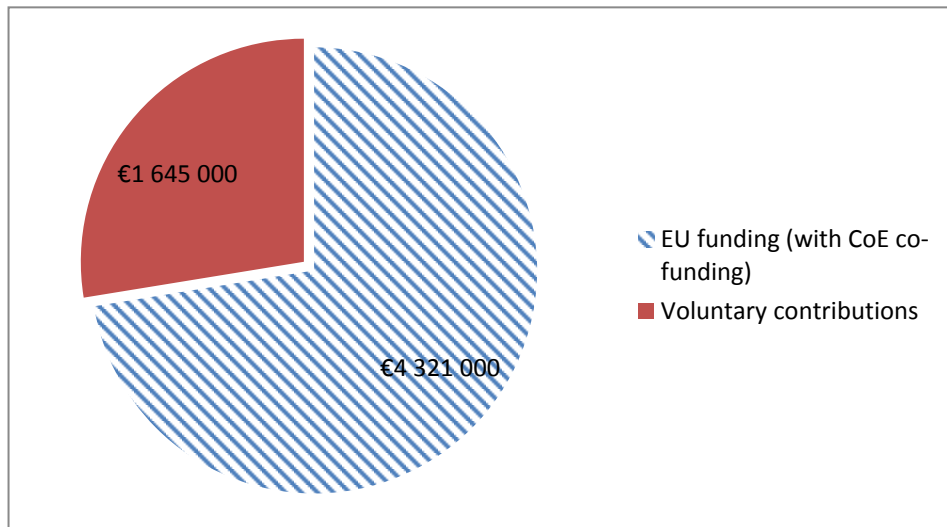


Figure 3: Funding sources for the Neighbourhood Partnership in € as of September 2017

⁹ Co-funded by the EU (95 %) and the Council of Europe (5 %) and implemented by the Council of Europe

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: FINANCIAL TABLE

Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2015-2017	Estimated needs (in 2015)	EU funding (with Council of Europe co-funding)	VC funding	Total funds secured	Unfunded
HUMAN RIGHTS					
Gender equality	100 000	**	25 000	25 000	75 000
Combating violence against women and Promoting children's rights and protecting children against violence	325 000	**	255 000	255 000	70 000
Prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	200 000	200 000	0	200 000	0
Fight against human trafficking	100 000	100 000	0	100 000	0
Migrants' rights and integration	60 000	60 000	0	60 000	0
Data protection	**	**	0	**	**
Drug abuse and drug trafficking	250 000***	150 000	55 000	205 000	45 000
Fight against the counterfeiting of medical products	**	**	0	**	**
Subtotal Human Rights	1 035 000	510 000	335 000	845 000	190 000
RULE OF LAW					
Independence and efficiency of justice	1 700 000	1 700 000	0	1 700 000	0
Supporting constitutional reform, the drafting of new legislation, the establishment and efficient functioning of new governance bodies	600 000	400 000	200 000	600 000	0
Creation of a common legal area	320 000	250 000	70 000	320 000	0
Information society and Internet governance; freedom of expression, independence of the media	150 000	0	150 000	150 000	0
Combating corruption, money-laundering and terrorism	500 000	500 000	0	500 000	0
Combating cybercrime	375 000	361 000 ***	0	361 000***	14 000
Subtotal Rule of Law	3 645 000	3 211 000	420 000	3 631 000	14 000
DEMOCRACY					
Interparliamentary co-operation	200 000 ***	200 000	0	200 000	0
Democratic governance at local and regional level	200 000	0	200 000	200 000	0
Strengthening of participatory democracy and civil society stakeholders (incl. North-South Center)	300 000	150 000	70 000	220 000	80 000
Training in democratic governance and human rights education (including Schools of Political Studies and Programme on Advanced Training on Human Rights -PATHS)	870 000 ***	250 000	620 000	870 000	0
Subtotal Democracy	1 570 000	600 000	890 000	1 490 000	80 000
TOTAL	6 250 000	4 321 000	1 645 000	5 966 000	284 000

* Donors : Norway, Estonia, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, Portugal

** under "creation of a common legal area"

*** including regional activities

APPENDIX II: TABLES ABOUT CONVENTIONS AND PARTIAL AGREEMENTS OF MOROCCO**1. Participation in Conventions**

Accession		
STE 062	European Convention on Information on Foreign Law	<i>19/06/2013</i>
STE 066	European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage	<i>19/06/2013</i>
STE 097	Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Foreign Law	<i>19/06/2013</i>
STE 104	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)	<i>25/04/2001</i>
STE 120	European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches	<i>17/01/2013</i>
STE 135	Anti-Doping Convention	<i>16/06/2013</i>
Signature not followed by ratification		
STE 127	Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters as amended by the 2010 Protocol (CETS No 208)	<i>21/05/2013</i>
STE 211	Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health	<i>13/12/2012</i>

Invitations to accede		
STE 027	European Agreement concerning Programme Exchanges by means of Television Films	September 1989 - 428 th meeting CM
STE 029	European Convention on Compulsory Insurance against Civil Liability in respect of Motor Vehicles	1188 th meeting 15/01/2014
STE 034	European Agreement on the Protection of Television Broadcasts + Protocols ETS 54, 81, 133	November-December 1988 - 422 nd meeting CM
STE 053	European Agreement for the Prevention of Broadcasts transmitted from Stations outside National Territories	November-December 1988 - 422 nd meeting CM
STE 108	Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data	1160 th meeting 30/01/2013
STE 160	European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights	1156 th meeting 28/11/2012
STE 181	Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, regarding supervisory authorities and transborder data flows	1160 th meeting 30/01/2013
STE 185	Convention on Cybercrime	1162 nd meeting 13-14 February 2013
STE 189	Additional Protocol to the Convention on cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems	1162 nd meeting 13-14 February 2013
STE 192	Convention on Contact concerning Children	1156 th meeting 28/11/2012
STE 198	Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism	1156 th meeting 28/11/2012

STE 201	Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse	1156 th meeting 28/11/2012
Right to sign		
STE 215	Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions	Participation in the elaboration of the Convention
STE 218	Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events	State Party to the Convention ETS No 120 prior to 3 July 2016
Right to accede		
STE 188	Additional Protocol to the Anti-Doping Convention	State Party to the Convention ETS No 135

2. Participation in Enlarged Agreements, Enlarged Partial Agreements, Partial Agreements

Name	Status
European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)	<i>Member</i> 1/6/2007
European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)	<i>Member</i> 1/7/2009
Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group)	<i>Member</i> 1/7/2011
Co-operation Group for the Prevention of, Protection Against, and Organisation of Relief in Major Natural and Technological Disasters (EUR-OPA)	<i>Member</i> 01/03/1995
European Audiovisual Observatory	<i>Member</i> 13/5/2014
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)	<i>Member</i> 20/4/2010
Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card	<i>Invited to accede</i> 1101 st meeting 8 December 2010
Convention on the elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia	<i>Observer</i> 06/06/1997

APPENDIX III: Participation of Morocco in conventional committees, intergovernmental committees of experts and working groups of the Council of Europe from 2015 to 2017✓ Conventional committees

- Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee) (T-ES)
- Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No.108)
- Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY)

✓ Intergovernmental committees of experts

- Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), including the Drafting Group on Human Rights in Culturally Diverse Societies (CDDH-DC)
- Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF)
- Gender Equality Commission (GEC)
- European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC)
- Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP)
- Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC)
- Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER)
- Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)
- Committee of experts on Internet Intermediaries (MSI-NET)
- Committee of experts on Media Pluralism and Transparency of Media Ownership (MSI-MED)

✓ Working groups of the Council of Europe

- Working Group on quality of justice (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL)
- Steering group of the SATURN Centre for judicial time management (SATURN Centre)