

## Council of Europe Neighbourhood Partnership with Tunisia (2015-2017)

Final Report

Document prepared by the Office of the Directorate General for Programmes

*Item to be considered by the GR-EXT at its meeting on 14 November 2017*

---

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Committee of Ministers adopted the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017 with Tunisia in its 1218<sup>th</sup> meeting on 4 February 2015. Developed jointly with the Tunisian authorities, the Neighbourhood Partnership aims at assisting Tunisia with the process of democratic changes underway and tackling challenges related to human rights, the rule of law and democracy. Co-operation established with the Tunisian authorities since 2012 in key areas for the democratic transition has been continuously consolidated and expanded.

The Enhanced Political Dialogue offers extensive opportunities for dialogue between the Council of Europe and the Tunisian authorities, ranging from high-level exchanges on topics included in the bilateral agenda and political issues of common interest and discussions on concrete co-operation activities relevant to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership, to participation in Council of Europe committees of experts. In practice, the Enhanced Political Dialogue with Tunisia has developed successfully at both political and expert level, thus confirming Tunisia's commitment to its full implementation. Participation of Tunisian experts in relevant Council of Europe intergovernmental committees and working groups is a probably less visible but very important dimension of the dialogue, since it contributes to the institutional involvement of the partner country in the Organisation and to the further development of a common legal space.

Co-operation with Tunisia through this Neighbourhood Partnership can be considered very successful. Progress towards creating a common legal space has exceeded initial expectations. Tunisia has become a Contracting Party to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108) and its Additional Protocol and member of the North-South Centre. It has been invited by the CM to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) and to the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)<sup>2</sup>. Finally, in early October, Tunisia asked to be invited to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), the Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (Medicrime Convention), Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group). In addition, as a member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), Tunisia has continued to request for opinion and guidance, showing that the Commission has become a key player in the ongoing reforms in the country. Finally, the adoption of the comprehensive law to combat violence against women, which is largely in line with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), has been an important step in legislative harmonisation with European standards. Furthermore, a positive assessment is made of the support for justice reform through the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) and the

---

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

<sup>2</sup> Subject to agreement of the USA and Belarus.

support provided to facilitate the establishment of the new constitutional instance for the fight against corruption (IBOGOLUCC) as well as generally in other areas of co-operation.

However, significant challenges persist, including some resistance to the establishment of independent and constitutional bodies foreseen by the institutional landscape that was drawn by the 2014 Constitution. Moreover, co-operation with Tunisia has been somewhat hampered by security issues in the country.

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 Tunisia's co-operation needs. This funding was supplemented by financial support from several member States: Estonia, France, Italy, Malta, Monaco and Portugal. The estimated needs of the Neighbourhood Partnership amounted to € 5,443,000; the financing secured has reached €5 104 000.

The significant progress of the Neighbourhood Partnership justifies the strengthening of co-operation with Tunisia from 2018. During the next stage, the focus should be on the support to independent and constitutional bodies, the effective implementation of the new legislative frameworks, and support for the fight against corruption, as the cross-cutting priority of the government.

**TABLE OF CONTENT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	4
1 INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW	6
1.2 Overall assessment and main achievements	7
2 REVIEW BY PILLAR/SECTOR	9
2.1 HUMAN RIGHTS	9
2.1.1 GENDER EQUALITY AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	9
2.1.2 PROMOTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST VIOLENCE	10
2.1.3 PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT	10
2.1.4 COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS	11
2.1.5 DATA PROTECTION	12
2.1.6 DRUG ABUSE AND DRUG TRAFFICKING	12
2.1.7 PROMOTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COUNTERFEITING OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS	13
2.2 RULE OF LAW	13
2.2.1 INDEPENDENCE AND EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE	14
2.2.2 SUPPORTING CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, THE DRAFTING OF NEW LEGISLATION, THE ESTABLISHMENT AND EFFICIENT FUNCTIONING OF NEW GOVERNANCE BODIES	14
2.2.3 CREATION OF A COMMON LEGAL AREA	16
2.2.4 INFORMATION SOCIETY AND INTERNET GOVERNANCE, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE MEDIA	17
2.2.5 COMBATING CORRUPTION, MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORISM	17
2.2.6 COMBATING CYBERCRIME	18
2.3 DEMOCRACY	18
2.3.1 INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CO-OPERATION	19
2.3.2 DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL	19
2.3.3 STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY STAKEHOLDERS	19
2.3.4 TRAINING IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION	20
3 IMPLEMENTATION AND CO-ORDINATION	21
3.1 TRANSVERSAL ISSUES	21
3.2 RISK MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY	22
3.3 LESSONS LEARNED	23
4 FUNDING AND PARTNERS	23
APPENDICES	25
APPENDIX I: FINANCIAL TABLE	25
APPENDIX II: TABLES ABOUT CONVENTIONS AND PARTIAL AGREEMENTS OF TUNISIA	26
APPENDIX III: PARTICIPATION OF TUNISIA IN CONVENTIONAL COMMITTEES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEES OF EXPERTS AND WORKING GROUPS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE FROM 2015 TO 2017	28

**LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

APT	Association for the Prevention of Torture
ARP	Assembly of People's Representatives
CAHDATA	<i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee on Data Protection
CCJE	Consultative Council of European Judges
CCPE	Consultative Council of European Prosecutors
CD-PC	European Committee on Crime Problems
CDMSI	Steering Committee on the Media and the Information Society
Center SATURN	Steering Group for judicial time management
CEPEJ	European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice
CFAD	Center for Training and Support to Decentralisation
CM	Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
CODEXTER	Committee of Experts on Terrorism
Venice Commission	European Commission for Democracy through Law
Convention Medicrime	Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health
CSM	Superior Council of the Magistracy
DCAF	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
FNVT	National Federation of Tunisian Towns
GEC	Gender Equality Commission
GRECO	Group of States against Corruption
GRETA	Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
GR-EXT	Rapporteur Group on External Relations
HAICA	Tunisian Broadcasting authority
HELP Programme	Programme Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
IBOGOLUCC	Independent constitutional body for good governance and the fight against corruption
ICA	Audiovisual constitutional body
IDH	Human Rights Authority
INLUCC	Tunisian anti-corruption authority
INPDP	National body for the protection of personal data
INPT	National Authority for the Prevention of Torture
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPSJJ	Committee for the Supervision of Court Justice
ISIE	Independent High Authority for Elections
Istanbul Convention	Convention on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
IVD	Truth and Dignity Commission
Lanzarote Convention	Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual exploitation and Sexual Abuse
MAFFE	Ministry of Women, Family and Children Affairs
MedNET	Co-operation network on drugs and drug abuse in the Mediterranean region
MedUni	Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship
Neighbourhood Partnership	Neighbourhood Partnership with Tunisia 2015-2017
ODGP	Office of the Directorate General of Programmes
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture
OMCT	World Organisation Against Torture
NPM	National preventive mechanism against torture
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OIM	International Organisation for Migration
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
Pompidou Group	Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MedNet	Mediterranean network for co-operation on drugs and addictions
Medspad	Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and other drugs in Schools
SNJT	National Union of Tunisian Journalists

STADD	Tunisian Society of Addictology
T-PD	Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data
TSoP	Tunisian School of Political Studies
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN Women	United Nations for Women
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW**

The Committee of Ministers (CM) adopted the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017 with Tunisia in its 1218<sup>th</sup> meeting on 4 February 2015. This Neighbourhood Partnership is a joint initiative between the Council of Europe and the Tunisian authorities and builds on the document Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities with Tunisia 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 Tunisia within the areas of expertise of the Council of Europe.

#### **Political dialogue**

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

Specifically, as regards the high-level dialogue, the Neighbourhood Partnership provides that “The Committee of Ministers may invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, 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 Tunisia will hold consultations, at least once a year, on issues on the bilateral agenda and topics of common interest”; and “Ministers of Tunisia 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 Tunisian 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 Tunisian institutions when discussing items relevant to the co-operation with Tunisia 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, Tunisia is invited to “designate a Neighbourhood Partnership Representative to the Council of Europe as a contact point for the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership”.

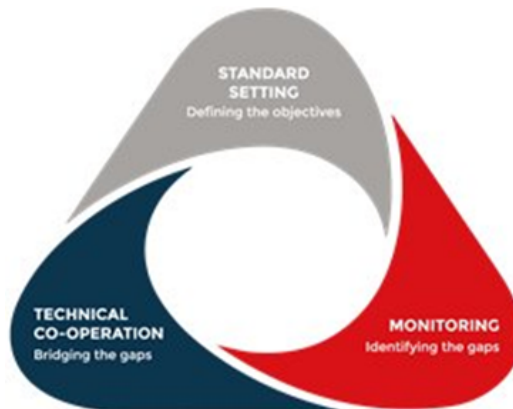
#### **Co-operation**

The co-operation between Tunisia and the Council of Europe, in line with the Council of Europe policy towards its neighbouring regions, aims to assist Tunisia in the process of democratic changes 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 Tunisian authorities under the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017 are to:

- consolidate the achievements of the Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities with Tunisia 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 Tunisia, encouraging the authorities to bring Tunisian 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 Tunisia's presence in the Council of Europe instances of which it is already a member or observer (the Venice Commission, the Pompidou Group's Mednet network, CEPEJ, the North-South Centre, etc.) and encourage, as needed, 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 Tunisia, 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. This could soon be the case with regards to the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

However, as in the case of GRECO, the methodology of a number of monitoring mechanisms has been used within the framework of co-operation work with Tunisia, 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 as well as evaluation reports, where available.

Fairly significant progress, as detailed in Part 2 of the present document (Review 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 Tunisia's accession and request for 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. The prospects of accession to Partial Agreements are also positive. Furthermore the Council of Europe institutional support for the new

and future 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 Neighbourhood Partnership was adopted, Tunisia designated its Consul in Strasbourg as Neighbourhood Partnership Representative to the Council of Europe, to act as a contact point for the implementation of the partnership. The Neighbourhood Partnership Representative has played an important role in the implementation of the Enhanced Political Dialogue.

The Enhanced Political Dialogue with Tunisia has developed successfully at both political and expert level. A regular, high-level dialogue has been established between Tunisia and, on the Council of Europe side, the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General.

- On 4 March 2015, the Ministers' Deputies held an exchange of views with Mr Mohamed Ezzine Chelaifa, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In September 2015, the Secretary General had a meeting with Ms Samira Merai Friaa, Minister for Women, Family and Child Affairs, and a telephone conversation with President Essebsi. In addition, the then Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr Igor Crnadak, visited Tunis on 21 and 22 September 2015.

- On 1 July 2016, the Secretary General met the Consul of Tunisia in Strasbourg followed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Mr Khemaies Jhinaoui, in New York on 22 September 2016. The latter welcomed the close co-operation and reiterated his country's determination to continue the co-operation beyond 2017.

- On 19 January 2017, the GR-EXT held an exchange of views with Ambassador António Gamito, Executive Director of the North-South Centre, and also with the Consul of Tunisia and the Consul General of Morocco. The Consul of Tunisia reiterated his country's attachment to the North-South Centre, to which his country had acceded on 16 December 2016. It is worth noting here that on 31 May 2017, the 2016 North-South Prize was awarded to Ms Mbarka Brahmi, member of the Tunisian Parliament (and also to the mayor of the town of Lampedusa) for her role in Tunisia's democratisation process. On 22 June 2017, the Deputy Secretary General received a high-level Tunisian delegation, which had come to Strasbourg to attend the plenary meeting of GRECO in connection with Tunisia's application to join the Group. Also, a delegation from the GR-EXT, led by Ambassador Markus BÖRLIN, the then Chair of the GR-EXT and Permanent Representative of Switzerland, visited Tunis on 1 and 2 June 2017 to discuss firstly the implementation and impact of co-operation with the Council of Europe and, secondly, future co-operation (see DD(2017)582). In the exchange of views held by the GR-EXT on 22 June 2017 following this visit, members of the delegation emphasised the high quality of the discussions that had taken place. They also noted that the Tunisian authorities had not mentioned any application for status with the Council of Europe but had called for closer institutional ties.

The political dialogue has also developed at a more technical level in Strasbourg, Tunis and Brussels with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The focus has been mainly on the situation in Tunisia in the areas covered by the Neighbourhood Partnership and on the situation in the region and its influence on Tunisia.

At a technical level, a list of Council of Europe intergovernmental committees and working groups competent in the areas at the core of the common legal space has been drawn up by the Council of Europe Secretariat in consultation with the Tunisian authorities. These Council of Europe bodies have adapted their terms of reference, where necessary, to allow for the possibility of Tunisia's participation as an observer, as envisaged under the Neighbourhood Partnership. The specialised Tunisian ministries have responded quickly and favourably to these opportunities. In particular, Tunisian experts have taken part in meetings on terrorism (CODEXTER), gender equality (GEC), penological co-operation (PC-CP), the protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data (T-PD), the Lanzarote Convention and the meetings of the CEPEJ. They also attended the 4th regional conference on the MEDICRIME Convention. Participation in these expert committees is a probably less visible but very important dimension of the dialogue, since it contributes to the institutional involvement of the partner country in the Organisation and to the further development of a common legal space.



Tunisia has thus confirmed its commitment to the Enhanced Political Dialogue at all levels. This dialogue reflects the quality of the co-operation between Tunisia and the Council of Europe.

## **2 REVIEW BY PILLAR/SECTOR**

### **2.1 HUMAN RIGHTS**

Significant progress has been made by Tunisia since 2011 in the field of human rights. The Constitution of 2014 and a whole series of laws enacted since then have created institutions whose task is to ensure that human rights are observed, and to promote them in specific areas. Major improvements have been made in the human rights field since co-operation between the Council of Europe and Tunisia got under way, and more especially since 2015. Indeed, the Neighbourhood Partnership under review included wider and more intensive co-operation on human rights issues, at the request of the Tunisian authorities. The primary aim of this co-operation is to bring Tunisia's legal framework into line with European standards while at the same time facilitating the creation of a common legal space through Tunisia's accession to the relevant Council of Europe conventions. The co-operation is also aimed at ensuring that the national institutions tasked with upholding and promoting human rights function efficiently.

The Neighbourhood Partnership between Tunisia and the Council of Europe has thus provided an opportunity to explore in depth most of the human rights themes that had been identified in the document as high priority, such as combating violence against women, children's rights and the prevention of torture. Tunisia's request to accede to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) is tangible proof of this and, taken in conjunction with other requests to accede to conventions, shows Tunisia's determination to engage closely with the Council of Europe by joining convention mechanisms.

In terms of legislation, however, much still remains to be done: Tunisia is currently engaged in an extensive process of reform which should eventually help to harmonise its legislation with the Constitution and European and international standards. Likewise, implementing the new laws is going to present a major challenge over the next few years.

#### **2.1.1 GENDER EQUALITY AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

In light of the Government's reform priorities, the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Women, Family and Children Affairs (MAFFE) have initiated, since 2015, an important work of awareness raising and exchanges around Council of Europe standards concerning notably gender equality and combating violence against women.

As per the expected results of the Neighbourhood Partnership, the Tunisian authorities at several levels are further familiarised with Council of Europe standards, in particular the Istanbul Convention. In May 2016, a seminar on the institutional legal framework for combating violence against women and Council of Europe standards was organised in Tunis, in the presence of representatives of national authorities, parliamentarians and civil society. It was complemented by two conferences in 2017 on preventing and combating violence against women; and women and local government, gathering more than 250 people each.

These standards were also clarified and discussed in a more targeted way with parliamentarians, representatives of civil society at central and local level, the media and senior officials, for example, during the round table organised on this topic on 16 October 2017 in Brussels within the framework of the Regional Steering Committee of the Joint Programme "Towards strengthened democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean 2015-2017".

In addition, government officials have benefitted from the expertise of Council of Europe member states and from the sharing of good practice through their participation in meetings of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) and in other events and activities organised by the Council of Europe.

The Assembly of People's Representatives's adoption in July 2017 of the comprehensive law on combating violence against women, by unanimous decision of the members present, a law which had been prepared with the technical support of the Council of Europe, is a remarkable outcome of these awareness-raising efforts. The new law incorporates the provisions of the Istanbul Convention, in particular with regards to the definition of violence. In addition, as proposed by the Council of Europe in the expert opinions on the draft law, the new legislation has repealed Article 227 bis of the Criminal Code, so rapists will no longer be able to avoid punishment if they marry their minor victims; likewise for the decree prohibiting Tunisian women from marrying non-Muslims.

The support in the implementation of the provisions of the law in line with European standards has also begun, by strengthening particularly the capacity of shelters for women victims of violence at local level, by establishing a network of focal points in the eastern part of the country and by sensitising the media to the issue of violence against women.

As part of the upcoming Neighborhood Partnership, these changes could be sustained through capacity-building and networking by authorities and professionals. The Tunisian authorities could consider seeking an invitation to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on the fight against violence against women.

### **2.1.2 PROMOTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST VIOLENCE**

Tunisia officially asked to be invited to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) in December 2016. This request came about as a result of the joint work initiated in 2015 (conference) on the Convention by Council of Europe experts, the Ministry of Women, Family and Child Affairs, and the Ministry of Justice, and representatives of Tunisian civil society. After an official invitation was extended by the Committee of Ministers in May 2017, the draft law on Tunisia's accession to the Lanzarote Convention was approved by Tunisia's Council of Ministers in late July 2017, to be forwarded to the ARP, which would make Tunisia the first non-member State to accede to this Convention. Tunisia has also embarked on a review of its national legal framework and has begun preparing a draft law on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

As well as harmonising legislation, the Council of Europe has supported, as planned, capacity building of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in child protection by helping to create a platform for NGOs active in the field, but also by supporting specific and targeted actions for academic inspectors, parents and the media. Lastly, the premises for replicating a pilot house for child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation have been established.

Tunisia has also been involved in the preparatory meetings and the launch conference (Sofia, April 2016) of the new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) and is represented without discontinuity since 2015, in the meetings of the Committee of the Parties of the Lanzarote Convention.

The harmonisation of standards, procedures and structures with the provisions of the Convention should continue during the period 2018-2021.

### **2.1.3 PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT**

The Council of Europe has played a central role in the setting-up of the National Authority for the Prevention of Torture (INPT), the national preventive mechanism against torture (NPM), to enable Tunisia to comply with its international obligations as a signatory of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OPCAT). The setting-up of the INPT was not without controversy. Close co-operation between the Council of Europe and the Electoral Commission of the ARP's from June 2015 onwards helped to clear the way for the election of members of the INPT, a process that was finally completed in March 2016. The Council of Europe also provided assistance so that the INPT could submit its draft budget to the government.

To facilitate the process of support for the NPM, the Council of Europe has taken the lead in introducing an international co-ordination mechanism involving the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the Danish Institute against Torture (Dignity). This

international partnership, aimed at co-ordinating support for the Authority in interpreting its terms of reference, drawing up its budget and building the capacity of its members, has optimised the impact of the combined efforts and facilitated the work of the Tunisian authorities by providing integrated assistance rather than scattered advice and recommendations.

As regards building the capacity of the INPT, members of the body have undergone intensive, specific training, including an introductory course on how prisons in Tunisia function and on the standards to be upheld and the methods to be employed when inspecting psychiatric hospitals. The capacity building and networking have also been boosted by the participation of INPT members in the training courses run for members of the future Moroccan NPM in Rabat, including joint prison inspections. At the same time, Morocco and Tunisia attended, as observers, the launch of the Forum of European NPMs on 4 and 5 April 2017 in Strasbourg. Together with their European counterparts, members of the INPT and the CNDH discussed the Network's terms of reference, methodology and work programme. With basic responsibilities such as reporting and publishing recommendations for the competent authorities, the Moroccan and Tunisian representatives have also developed their capacity to get involved in the network, in order to glean knowledge and make contacts. Finally, a two-week immersion visit to the Armenian NPM allowed two members of the INPT to provide their institution with a comparative view of approaches and practices in the prevention of torture.

Like other independent bodies in Tunisia, the effective functioning of the INPT is currently subject to numerous challenges arising from both external factors and issues specifically related to this new institution. The difficulties involved in providing the institution with the resources it needs to operate in a fully independent manner have not gone away. Developments over the period 2018-2021 will be crucial, therefore, in determining the ability of the INPT to comply with European and international standards and to perform its role effectively.

#### **2.1.4 COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

The achievements of the Neighbourhood Partnership have been highly rated, with the most visible result of the co-operation being the draft law on the prevention of, and action against, trafficking in human beings (No. 29/2015) enacted by the ARP on 21 July 2016. This text, prepared with the help of the Council of Europe, is based on the provisions of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The definition of trafficking in human beings and the provisions of this new law on prevention, the protection of victims and the prosecution of perpetrators are inspired by this Convention, for example. Tunisia asked to be invited to accede to the Convention at the beginning of October 2017. Subject to an invitation from the CM, and completion of the accession procedures, Tunisia would become the first state in the region to participate in the work of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA).

To support the preparation of the draft law, the Council of Europe has focused its efforts on raising awareness of national actors on this phenomenon, building on Council of Europe standards, and working closely with experts from the relevant ministries, parliamentarians, and representatives of law enforcement, justice, civil society organisations and the media through workshops, conferences and study visits.

At the same time, the Council of Europe has supported the setting-up of the various bodies prescribed by law for combating this scourge at national level. While close co-operation had already been established with the interim commission on action against trafficking in human beings, an important milestone was reached with the launch of the national authority against trafficking in human beings, announced by the Minister of Justice in February 2017 and the official appointment of its 16 members (10 women and 6 men). The inaugural conference, organised jointly by the Ministry of Justice and the Council of Europe, brought together 120 participants and was broadcast live on national television.

As soon as the instance was established, a capacity-building plan was discussed and implemented with the Council of Europe, based on European good practices and aimed at strengthening the organisational and operational capacities of its members. Several training sessions have already been organised on victims and different types of trafficking, drafting of monitoring reports and fundamentals of the conceptual and legal frameworks for anti-trafficking in partnership with the HELP Programme (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals). At the same time, the Council of Europe is supporting the preparation of the national referral mechanism (NRM).

The capacities of the national stakeholders involved in implementing the law have also been boosted, not least by a second international conference staged by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Tunisia also took part in the dinner debate on trafficking in human beings which was held in Larnaca in December 2016, during the Cypriot Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers.

Over the period 2018-2021, co-operation in this area will be primarily directed at pursuing capacity-building activities for members of the authority and making it easier for them to link up with their counterparts in Council of Europe member States while supporting the implementation of NRM. Activities will also be carried out to meet the specific needs of the main actors involved in combating trafficking in human beings (in particular the security forces, judges and civil society).

#### **2.1.5 DATA PROTECTION**

In December 2015, the CM invited Tunisia to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108) and its Additional Protocol. These instruments entered into force with regard to Tunisia on 1 November 2017.

Against this background, an expert legal opinion on a new draft law on data protection was recently prepared by Council of Europe experts at the request of the National Authority for the Protection of Personal Data (INPDP). The draft law is designed to complete the harmonisation of the legislative framework with European and international standards. This new national law should incorporate, in addition to the standards established by Convention 108, some of the proposals relating to the modernisation of the Convention as well as the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation which will be fully applicable with effect from 25 May 2018.

Co-operation with INPDP has been steadily increasing during the life of the project, in particular during INPDP's participation in the International Conference on the Globalization of Convention 108 (Strasbourg, 17 June 2016), the Ad Hoc Committee on Data Protection (CAHDATA) in charge of finalising proposals for the modernisation of 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).

During the period 2018-2021, co-operation priorities in this area should focus on supporting national actors, particularly the INPDP. As proposed in the draft law appraised by the Council of Europe, the strengthening of the INPDP's powers and resources appears to be the necessary step towards improving the protection of the persons concerned (raising awareness and acquiring a genuine "data protection culture" at all levels of society and by all actors) and the effectiveness of the implementation of national legislation.

#### **2.1.6 DRUG ABUSE AND DRUG TRAFFICKING**

Tunisia has officially been a member of the Pompidou Group's co-operation network on drugs and drug abuse in the Mediterranean region (MedNET) since 2009. Tunisia's request for accession to the Pompidou Group was sent to the Secretary General in October 2017.

At legislative level, a draft law on drugs (reference 79-2015) was proposed to the ARP on 31 December 2015. Upon request of the Ministry of Justice, the Pompidou Group provided two legal opinions: one deriving from the French Ministry of Justice and the other from a Swiss academic expert from the Pompidou Group, which were transmitted in April 2016. The draft law was examined by a parliamentary committee in February 2017. It is finally another draft law which was presented by the Ministry of Justice. Law 42-2017, which modifies two amendments and allows the judge to impose, under certain conditions, alternative sentences to prison to a primary drug consumer, came into force in June 2017. This represents an advance on the right of drug users to access care.

As regards building the capacities of professionals in this area, the Faculty of Medicine of Tunis has benefited from the financial support and expertise of the Pompidou Group to continue the training in addictology, launched in 2013. The number of trained people increases from year in year, reaching 60 people for the 2017 programme. This training is complemented by ad hoc seminars throughout the year, also supported by the Pompidou Group. The overall capacity building has an impact on the creation of an

addiction care network. Doctors holding the addictology diploma have set up consultation services in various regions and institutions, including the out-patient and emergency department at Razi hospital. Training in Tunis is complemented by study visits abroad, in order to exchange on opiate substitution treatment, which is not yet introduced in Tunisia.

The Pompidou Group continues to support Tunisia in these actions for the implementation of a coherent policy on drugs, respecting human rights and based on validated knowledge.

The late Minister of Health stressed his determination to support the efforts of health actors in the prevention and management of addictions as a public health problem, during the seminar "Political Choice and Addictions", organised by the Tunisian Society of Addictology (STADD) on 23 September 2017. This seminar made it possible to share the political strategies on drugs of France, Portugal and Lebanon.

All these initiatives have received extensive media coverage, helping to raise collective awareness of the complexity of the drug abuse and addictions in the Tunisian society, a formerly taboo subject and to consider the drug user as a person suffering from a health problem and no longer as a criminal. Co-operation with Tunisia continues to contribute to the legislative reform on access to care for drug users as well as to young students' acceptance of drug use surveys (MedSPAD). It is worth noting that as an active member of the MedSPAD Committee, Tunisia holds regular exchanges with the Committee on the use of drug surveys for prevention purposes.

In 2017, Tunisia renewed the MedSPAD survey conducted in 2013, the results of which will be used to implement a strategy on drugs, developed by successive governments in partnership with civil society, and in particular STADD, being the only expert association in Tunisia.

The period 2018-2021 should be used to carry on the the actions undertaken with civil society and the government in the framework of the MedNET network to meet the needs of this country. In 2018, subject to the decision of the Committee of Ministers, Tunisia will join the Pompidou Group.

### **2.1.7 PROMOTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COUNTERFEITING OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS**

Progress on this front has not been sufficient to achieve the ambitious objectives which the Neighbourhood Partnership set itself, namely Tunisia's accession to the Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (MEDICRIME Convention) and the upgrading of its legislation in this area. In September 2017, however, Tunisia signed the application for accession to the MEDICRIME Convention.

Tunisia took part, along with Morocco, Algeria and Israel, in the fourth Regional Conference on the Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health held in November 2016 in Larnaca, Cyprus. The event afforded an opportunity to examine the benefits and challenges involved in ratifying the convention, and in view of the interest expressed by Tunisia in this subject, was followed by specialised round tables on combating the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes and on trafficking in human organs in November 2016 in Tunis.

## **2.2 RULE OF LAW**

Under the Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities with Tunisia 2012-2014 (NCP 2012-2014), the co-operation established with the Tunisian authorities was mainly focused on rule of law issues which were – and remain – key for the democratic transition. One of the main outcomes of this co-operation is the support provided by the Council of Europe's Venice Commission in drafting the new Constitution, adopted in December 2014. The NCP 2012-2014 had also provided an opportunity to initiate co-operation between the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) and pilot courts, as well as within the framework of action against corruption, and to begin raising awareness about various Council of Europe conventions. Under the Neighbourhood Partnership for Tunisia 2015-2017, co-operation aimed at strengthening the rule of law has been stepped up, to great effect.

### **2.2.1 INDEPENDENCE AND EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE**

The Committee of Ministers granted Tunisia observer status with the CEPEJ in April 2015. This decision is the result of the very fruitful co-operation established since 2013 between the CEPEJ and the pilot courts to improve the functioning of justice on a day-to-day basis, on the basis of the instruments developed by the CEPEJ for the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. Under the Neighbourhood Partnership 2015-2017, this co-operation was intensified, and extended to include more courts in close co-operation with the Higher Institute for the Judiciary and the Ministry of Justice.

Accordingly, thanks to the tools and methodology developed by the CEPEJ, the Council of Europe has continued to work with pilot courts involved since 2013 to integrate in their system scoreboards and tools evaluating the activity and performance of Tunisian jurisdictions. CEPEJ experts have trained many legal professionals in modern court management techniques, notably by visiting the courts of the country to compare their working methods to those existing in Tunisia. In this context, many registrars or clerks, including a large number of women (about 50% of the people met), were given the opportunity to speak and give their opinion just as the judicial officers.

Numerous magistrates, clerks, lawyers and representatives of the Inspectorate General, the Statistics Directorate of the Ministry of Justice and the Higher Institute for the Judiciary received training in handling judicial scoreboards, managing civil hearings as well as on alternatives to dispute resolution (such as mediation) and alternatives to criminal prosecution through training sessions held in Tunis (in 2015 and 2017), in Monastir (in 2016 and 2017) and in Gabes (in 2017). Throughout the reference period, Tunisia participated actively in the plenary sessions of the CEPEJ as well as in its working groups, such as the steering group of the SATURN Center for judicial time management or the Working Group of the CEPEJ on the quality of justice (GT-QUAL), thus offering Tunisian legal professionals the opportunity to contribute to the development of the tools of the CEPEJ.

CEPEJ work on the efficiency of justice in Tunisia has been developed since 2013 in close co-operation with the European Union, within the framework of the South Programme I and II. This will serve as a reference for the preparation of a draft programme which is under Council of Europe - European Union negotiation, in the framework of the European Union Programme on Support for the Reform of Justice (JRSP III)<sup>3</sup>. At the same time, as envisaged under the Neighbourhood Partnership, the task of bringing Tunisian legislation on the judiciary into line with European standards has continued. In this context, the CEPEJ and other Council of Europe bodies, notably the Venice Commission, the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) and the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE), have been working with the Tunisian authorities to facilitate the setting-up of key bodies, including by drafting relevant legislation such as a law on the Supreme Judicial Council.

The efforts to support the Ministry of Justice in its efforts to steer the structural reforms of the judiciary, including as regards the Action Plan for judicial reform, are expected to continue in 2018 in co-operation with other Council of Europe bodies and international partners. The priorities being discussed for the period 2018-2021 are aimed at consolidating and intensifying the action taken over the past five years and at improving the day-to-day functioning and quality of the public justice service delivered by the courts to users. Thanks to the lessons learned from the pilot courts over the period 2012-2017, the CEPEJ tools and methodology will be able to be deployed in Tunisia on a larger scale.

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

Tunisia is member of the Venice Commission and the various requests for opinions and advice from this Council of Europe body show that it has become a key actor in the reforms under way in the country. It is worth remembering here that in 2013-2014, in response to a request from the Tunisian authorities, the Venice Commission helped prepare the new Constitution which came into being in January 2014. The Venice Commission has also been closely involved in supporting the implementation of the said constitution, as reflected in the assistance provided in preparing the draft organic law on the Constitutional

---

<sup>3</sup> Third phase of the European Union's Justice Reform Support Programme in Tunisia.

Court, the opinions which paved the way for the creation of the Supreme Judicial Council (provided for in Chapter V of the Constitution) or in its contribution to the comprehensive discussion on independent constitutional bodies (Chapter IV of the Constitution). It should be noted that the process of setting up the Supreme Judicial Council has been somewhat delayed, which has, nevertheless, resulted in some judicial reforms, including the establishment of the Constitutional Court.

The adoption of organic law No. 2016-34 on 28 April 2016 paved the way for the election of the members of the Supreme Judicial Council, set up in 2017. Also, at the request of the Ministry of Justice, in October 2015 the Venice Commission adopted an opinion on the draft law on the Constitutional Court. Organic Law No. 2015-50 on the Constitutional Court was adopted by the ARP and enacted on 3 December 2015. The process of appointing its twelve members is currently under way.

The Council of Europe and the Venice Commission have developed constructive co-operation with the independent authorities, some of which have acquired constitutional status, or are destined to do so, and which should eventually help to shape Tunisia's democratic institutional landscape as envisaged in the Constitution. Notable examples of the Venice Commission's activities designed to support these authorities include the sharing of experience which took place in Tunis in May 2016 and brought together representatives of various institutions set up following the adoption of the new Constitution (Independent High Authority for Elections (ISIE), the Tunisian Broadcasting Authority (HAICA), INLUCC, the Truth and Dignity Commission (IVD) and the Committee for the Supervision of Court Justice (IPSJJ)) to discuss matters related to guarantees of independence, ways and means of performing their tasks and the requirements for financial autonomy.

Article 128 of the 2014 Constitution provides for the establishment of a Human Rights Authority (IDH), which will take over from the existing body responsible for human rights and fundamental freedoms. As early as June 2013, the Venice Commission contributed to the discussion on the plans for the new constitutional body with an opinion on the 2008 law relating to the Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and to the amendments required to ensure that it operated in a manner compatible with the Paris Principles.<sup>4</sup>

The Venice Commission has developed a very good co-operation with the High Independent Authority for Elections (ISIE) by organising, at its request, several activities and exchanges on electoral disputes and the financing of electoral campaigns and political parties. In February 2017, the Venice Commission organised, in co-operation with ISIE and UNDP, the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the Organisation of Arab Electoral Management Bodies, followed by a workshop on the independence of electoral bodies.

The Venice Commission also reviewed the legislation on the Administrative Mediator (organisational structure of the institution, management of internal procedures) in the light of the Paris Principles and European standards and provided the body with training which is in future expected to be delivered as part of a comprehensive strategic programme, at the request of the institution. At the same time, Tunisia has taken part in Venice Commission activities organised at regional level to build capacity in the fields of good governance, the rule of law and the fundamental rights of senior public servants in the MENA region (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\* and Tunisia) through the UniDem Med campus (University for Democracy). Drawing on the successful experience of Council of Europe member states since the 1990s, the seminars looked at issues such as "open government" and "reform of the statute governing civil servants". The 4th UniDem Med Seminar "Performance, Merit and Equality in the Public Service" was organised in Tunis on 27 and 30 March 2017.

In July 2015 the Truth and Dignity Commission of the Republic of Tunisia requested an opinion of the Venice Commission on the draft organic law on special procedures concerning reconciliation in the economic and financial fields. At its plenary session in October 2015, the Commission adopted the opinion on the draft law.

---

<sup>4</sup> Paris Principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, approved by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/48/134 of 20 December 1993).

\* 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.

Over the period 2018-2021, the Constitutional Court, once formed, will be able to benefit from the Venice Commission's expertise in order to enhance the capacity of its members to perform their tasks, through thematic conferences and seminars, according to their priorities. In terms of the independent instances,<sup>5</sup> the period 2018-2021 will be used by the Venice Commission to intensify the efforts already under way since 2015 to safeguard the independence of these bodies (the five constitutional authorities but also the INPT, the body responsible for access to information and the National Authority for Personal Data Protection (INPDP) among others).

### 2.2.3 CREATION OF A COMMON LEGAL AREA

The gradual creation of a common legal area is one of the key priorities of the Council of Europe policy towards neighbouring regions. Specific co-operation projects to this effect began with Tunisia later than with Morocco, as the early years of co-operation with the Council of Europe (2012-2014) coincided with the period when the National Constituent Assembly was drawing up the Constitution and dealing with the process leading to the election of the ARP.

Despite this gradual start, significant progress was made towards creating a common legal area from 2015 onwards. The task of harmonising national legislation with European standards has continued with extensive support from the Tunisian authorities, as reflected in the enactment of national legislation on trafficking in human beings and the comprehensive law on combating violence against women. Tunisia has been invited to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and the Convention on the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data and its Additional Protocol entered into force in November 2017.

At the beginning of October 2017, furthermore, Tunisia presented the Secretary General of the Council of Europe with a request to be invited to accede to the Budapest and MEDICRIME Conventions as well as to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Tunisia has also expressed an interest in various other conventions, in particular those on combating violence against women, the prevention of torture and terrorism, including the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism opened for signature in 2015.

To facilitate the process of legislative harmonisation, in the context of the Enhanced Political Dialogue, Tunisia has been invited to participate in several of the Council of Europe's convention-based committees: Committee of the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention, Gender Equality Committee (GEC), Consultative Committee of the Convention on Data Protection (T-PD), European Committee on Crime Problems (PC-CP) and the Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation on Crime Problems (CD-PC). These meetings have afforded Tunisia an opportunity to converse with its European counterparts on an equal footing and, in so doing, to improve understanding of Council of Europe standards in key areas of relevance to the country.

Progress has also been made under the Neighbourhood Partnership as regards Tunisia's participation in the Council of Europe's Partial Agreements. As well as acceding to the North-South Centre, a process completed in December 2016, in September 2017 Tunisia was invited by the CM to join the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).<sup>6</sup> A request to be invited to join the Pompidou Group was also received in early October 2017.

At the instigation of the Council of Europe, a working group on the conventions has been set up under the Neighbourhood Partnership with the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organise the process of acceding to Council of Europe conventions. The working group, which meets under the auspices of the Ministry once a year alongside the South Programme Steering Committee, brings together representatives of the latter, officials from the relevant ministries and Council of Europe experts as part of its task of managing requests and steering the co-operation put in place with a view to facilitating accession to the conventions. It thus provides a forum for dialogue and an informal mechanism for ensuring a structured process facilitating the creation of a common legal area.

---

<sup>5</sup> The Code on constitutional independent instances was adopted by the APR in July 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Subject to the agreement of USA and Belarus.



Co-operation in this sector should be actively pursued under the next Neighbourhood Partnership, in the light of the interest expressed by Tunisia in other Council of Europe conventions (in particular the Convention on the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and conventions related to the fight against terrorism, including the additional protocol) with the focus on bringing Tunisian legislation into line with Council of Europe standards and Tunisia's eventual accession to other Council of Europe conventions.

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

Since 2012, the Council of Europe has been supporting Tunisia in the process of consolidating freedom of expression and media independence and plurality, in close co-ordination with other international partners, particularly by providing support and expertise to the Independent Audiovisual Communication Authority (HAICA). During the period under review, the Council of Europe was also successful in raising awareness among the key Tunisian stakeholders about the principles emerging from European standards, including through exchanges of best practice from Council of Europe member states, and delivered an expert opinion on the statutory safeguards for freedom of expression, the independence of the regulatory body and the creation of a pluralist media landscape. Efforts were also directed at preparing the legal and institutional framework which will pave the way for the creation of the Audiovisual Constitutional Commission (ICA), which is foreseen by the Constitution and will replace the HAICA.

As part of the awareness-raising, various activities aimed at Tunisian MPs focused on their role in promoting freedom of expression and media freedom on the guarantees of the independence of the future ICA and the conditions necessary for the effective accomplishment of its mandate. For the first time, representatives of the authorities attended the meeting of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI), as observers. Furthermore, training workshops for journalists were organised in partnership with the National Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT), the HAICA and government ministries or civil society organisations, depending on the topics addressed, provided an opportunity to explore human rights issues in greater depth: media reporting of terrorism, violence against women and the sexual abuse of children. These activities have attracted a high level of interest from journalists and help to raise public awareness about subjects which are central to the Council of Europe's work in Tunisia.

Co-operation with the HAICA and later with its replacement, the ICA, should continue in 2018-2021. Activities aiming to reinforce the competencies of institutional actors and media professionals should also be pursued.

#### **2.2.5 COMBATING CORRUPTION, MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORISM**

Progress in combating corruption has been extensive and should lead to Tunisia joining GRECO in the near future, thus exceeding the objectives of the Neighbourhood Partnership. As envisaged in this strategy paper, the assessment report on the Tunisian anti-corruption framework, prepared through a broad consultation process involving all the relevant stakeholders over a period of almost two years, was presented at a high-level conference in Tunis in February 2017. The report, which is based on the GRECO methodology, contains 69 recommendations which together form a roadmap for reform in the fight against corruption. The process included an exchange of views in June 2017 between GRECO and a Tunisian delegation led by the head of the Tunisia's anti-corruption authority (INLUCC) during which several members of GRECO emphasised the quality of the report and attention was drawn to Tunisia's determination to follow the recommendations as part of its anti-corruption strategy, which is a national priority. The recommendations set out in the assessment report form a roadmap for the reforms discussed and accepted by all the stakeholders for improving the legal and institutional framework for tackling corruption in Tunisia. Further work aimed at prioritising the implementation of these recommendations was carried out in the framework of a Workshop with Tunisian stakeholders in July 2017.

The Council of Europe has also been making efforts to facilitate the legislative transition from the INLUCC to the new body which will have constitutional status and a wider remit. The first version of a draft law on the IBOGOLUCC, the new constitutional body responsible for good governance and anti-corruption, was presented in November 2015. The draft law was prepared over the course of several working sessions in which both Tunisian experts and Council of Europe experts took part. While the final version of the Law

adopted by the Assembly in July 2017 is an important advancement in anti-corruption policy, it has limited the scope of powers for the anti-corruption body, compared to initial proposals.

At the same time, specialised Council of Europe structures have been running numerous specialised training courses for members of the INLUCC, and in particular for its team of investigators since 2016. The capacity of Tunisian inspectors and state auditors to conduct administrative investigations into corruption was enhanced by a regional training course involving their Moroccan and Jordanian counterparts in May 2016. This course was supplemented by a specific session on anti-corruption inquiries for investigators from the INLUCC. The consultations held in early October 2016 with the INLUCC produced recommendations for an optimised management approach which were presented at a workshop in Tunis in January 2017. In addition, staff from the INLUCC had an opportunity to learn about the basics of accounting fraud at a specialised workshop led by Council of Europe experts, also oriented towards the “Pôle Judiciaire Financier”.

A seminar on terrorism was organised to promote Council of Europe standards relating to prevention and counterterrorism. It gave rise to a discussion on the parameters for Tunisian counterterrorism legislation, in particular the draft anti-terrorism law which was in preparation at the time. Several exchanges have been subsequently carried out with the Counterterrorism Pôle regarding Council of Europe counterterrorism practices and instruments. The new law on combating terrorism and money laundering enacted on 7 August 2015, however, has proven very controversial and been strongly criticised by civil society on the ground that it endangers basic freedoms. Adopted in the context of a growing threat following terrorist attacks, the new legislation reintroduces the death penalty, which was not mentioned in the 2003 text, for certain terrorist crimes. It also allows suspects to be held in police custody for up to 15 days without access to a lawyer and makes it easier to intercept telephone calls.

While developments in this area have not materialised as hoped under the Neighbourhood Partnership, the efforts to raise awareness of Council of Europe instruments for combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism have actively continued and following specialised workshops, Tunisia expressed an interest in possibly signing up to the instruments in question. Combating radicalisation is a high priority for Tunisia which is eager to benefit from the Council of Europe’s expertise in order to tackle this scourge afflicting the country, including in prisons.

## **2.2.6 COMBATING CYBERCRIME**

The request to be invited to accede to the Budapest Convention was submitted to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in early October 2017, thus marking a major step forward towards achieving the objectives of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

As far as enhancing the capacities of the relevant stakeholders is concerned, significant progress is now expected following the signing of a joint programme<sup>7</sup> between the Council of Europe and the European Union to combat cybercrime in the southern Mediterranean, which also covers Tunisia. The purpose of this project is to put in place appropriate legislative and institutional frameworks, as well as practices, for combating and preventing cybercrime, to enhance the capacities of law enforcement agencies, in particular the police and the prosecution service, and to improve inter-agency co-operation.

## **2.3 DEMOCRACY**

Among the results achieved through co-operation since 2012, mention should be made of the setting-up of the Tunisian School of Political Studies (TSoP), the first school in the Network of Schools of Political Studies to be established outside Europe. The Lisbon Forums have continued to provide an opportunity for representatives of governments, parliaments, civil society and local and regional authorities in the southern Mediterranean to meet with their counterparts in Council of Europe member states to discuss issues of relevance to countries on both sides of the Mediterranean, including electoral processes in periods of transition, terrorism and migration. The PATHS programme, established in 2015 under the Neighbourhood Partnerships with Tunisia and Morocco, provided training for public administration professionals in areas

---

<sup>7</sup> 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.

where the Council of Europe excels. Lastly, initiatives designed to support local democracy building were launched under the co-operation arrangement, as a key component of democracy in Tunisia.

### **2.3.1 INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CO-OPERATION**

The ARP regularly attends sessions of the PACE, in accordance with Resolution 1598 (2008) “Strengthening co-operation with the Maghreb countries”. The report on political transition in Tunisia, adopted by the PACE in May 2017 welcomed the progress made in Tunisia, including through the Neighbourhood Partnership. At the same time, the Tunisian parliament has sent representatives to regional events organised by the PACE in order to sensitise parliaments in the region to human rights-related and cross-border issues.

Tunisia’s ARP has no plans, however, to seek Partner for Democracy status as part of its co-operation with the Council of Europe.

### **2.3.2 DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL**

Chapter VII of the Tunisian Constitution states that local authorities are to be run by councils elected directly at local and regional levels, and indirectly at district level (Article 133). The repeated postponement of the first municipal elections to be held since the revolution, and which are necessary in order to entrench the democratic process at local level, has reduced the potential for Council of Europe activities in this area, with the result that most of the objectives set under the Neighbourhood Partnership have not been met.

The Council of Europe has supported the Tunisian authorities in identifying the tools needed to conduct municipal elections, in several ways. As a follow-up to the operational decisions taken at the Lisbon Forum in 2014, in 2015 the North-South Centre held a workshop to give representatives of the relevant authorities an opportunity to converse with experts from Europe and the southern Mediterranean region about the draft law on municipal elections. The Congress has also shared its expertise for the adoption of this law with the production of a note on the military voting rights with a comparative perspective in Europe. The electoral law, as amended on 14 February 2017, sets very ambitious criteria for the constitution of lists of candidates, in particular the principle of equality between women and men and the inclusion of young people.

The Congress has maintained contacts with relevant Tunisian authorities and the electoral issues were discussed in particular were central to the themes addressed at the “Women and Local Government” conference held in September 2017.

More structured working relations with the Tunisian authorities in this field of support for decentralisation were established by identifying priorities for targeted Council of Europe support during an evaluation mission conducted in November 2016 by the Congress as well as during the visit of a Tunisian delegation in the course of the March Session. Following this, the Congress has worked closely over the course of 2017 with the Ministry of Local Affairs and the Environment as well as the Assembly of People’s Representatives on the topic of the development of the Code of local authorities and its implementing decrees, with a view to its adoption before the municipal elections.

The Congress also assisted the National Federation of Tunisian Towns (FNVT) in revising its Charter and providing training for its staff and members. It also continues its collaboration with the Center for Training and Support to Decentralisation (CFAD) by training its trainers. Co-operation with the Independent High Authority for Elections (ISIE) covers the organisation of the electoral process, with the views of the local elections scheduled to take place in the first half of 2018 and which the Congress has been invited to observe.

The future partnership with Tunisia will aim both at the implementation of the identified priorities mentioned above and at strengthening relations with Tunisia, in particular through the country’s possible request of the status of partner for local democracy to the Congress, following the municipal elections.

### **2.3.3 STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY STAKEHOLDERS**

The work to support the strengthening of civil society proceeded as described in the following sections, but outside the scope of the activities which were envisaged under this specific heading.

### 2.3.4 TRAINING IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

The Council of Europe has been instrumental in strengthening participatory democracy and civil society stakeholders through the School of Political Studies in Tunisia (TSoP). The capacities of young Tunisian leaders have been enhanced thanks to a series of workshops offering leadership training and also to various peer-to-peer exchange activities organised by the Network of Schools of Political Studies. Since 2013, more than 150 participants in the Tunisian school have had an opportunity to talk openly about topical issues such as the transition to democracy in Tunisia, including recently the devolution process. Several people from the schools secured seats in the ARP in the 2014 parliamentary elections. The Tunisian school has also been at the heart of a regional approach to civil society issues, having brought together 30 young democratic leaders from different fields and countries – Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt and Libya. These seminars have allowed to explore ways to strengthen participatory democracy and the administrative and financial autonomy of local authorities ("The democratic local governance: what perspectives?", Hammamet, November 2015). Also, they have enabled to analyse the challenges of migration movements strategies and to review the Mediterranean migration strategies ("Problems of migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region", Hammamet, October 2017). The TSoP sent representatives to the Summer Academy for Strengthening Democracy in the Euro-Med Region hosted by the Bulgarian School of Political Studies to allow former students to share their experience. The participants and managerial staff from the TSoP have played a major part in developing the sharing of best practice between Europe and representatives of non-state actors from the southern Mediterranean region at the annual meetings of the World Forum for Democracy.

In December 2016, Tunisia acceded to the North-South Centre and now sits on the Executive Committee on an equal footing with the other members. Tunisia has also been represented at a senior level at the Lisbon Forums, which every year bring together representatives of governments, parliaments, civil society and local and regional authorities from across the region in the context of the quadrilogue. At the same time, the regional activities organised by the North-South Centre have helped to improve the knowledge and capacities of Tunisian representatives in promoting the participation of women in political life and encouraging youth organisations and activists to play a full and active role in governance in the southern Mediterranean. The Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni) is one example of this: the 4th such event staged in co-operation with the National Youth Observatory of Tunisia in Hammamet from 1 to 8 May 2016 was attended by around 130 young people (70 women and 63 men) from European and southern Mediterranean youth organisations who took part in seven activities organised by the Anna Lindh Foundation, the League of Arab States and the National Youth Observatory of Tunisia.

Under the Programme of Advanced Training in the field of Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Democracy for Southern Mediterranean (PATHS), 16 participants from Tunisia, out of a total of 61 representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\* and Tunisia, attended modules focusing on "The European Convention on Human Rights and other international systems for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms" and "Human rights in practice" held in Strasbourg and Venice. An independent review found that participants felt the training was very relevant to their work and rated it highly in terms of user satisfaction (3.9 out of 5). The review also contained recommendations for future training courses under the PATHS programme.

The interest of Tunisia's youth organisations on Council of Europe tools remains significant. In addition to the support of the Youth Department to MedUni, Tunisian facilitators take regularly part in training activities at the European Youth Center on youth participation and human rights. Requests for co-operation in setting up a national anti-hate speech campaign, within the framework of the Council of Europe campaign, have been received but have not been given a follow up due to lack of financial resources.

Co-operation aiming to promote democratic governance and human rights education remains of interest for Tunisia and should continue with clear objectives and in a coordinated manner as part of the next Neighbourhood Partnership.

### 3 IMPLEMENTATION AND CO-ORDINATION

The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers (CM) assesses overall Neighbourhood Partnership implementation through its Group of Rapporteurs on External Relations (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 Tunis field office, 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 Tunisia are implemented by the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, the Directorate General of Democracy, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (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 works in close co-ordination with relevant international partners, notably the European Union and in particular the EU Delegation in Tunisia. There is also co-ordination with the United Nations, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Regular exchanges have also taken place with embassies in Council of Europe member states and observer states. In order to ensure efficiency and avoid unnecessary duplication, the Council of Europe has either played a co-ordinating role or take part in various co-ordinating groups in the country, in particular:

- co-ordination meetings with the EU on various topics including the justice system;
- co-ordinating the drafting of the law on trafficking in human beings, under the auspices of the IOM and the Council of Europe;
- co-ordinating the INPT support group, under the auspices of the Council of Europe;
- co-ordinating the work in the field of freedom of expression and media, under the auspices of first Switzerland and then the OHCHR;
- co-ordination on electoral issues with the EU, UNDP and several international NGOs specialising in electoral issues (The International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Carter Center, National Democratic Institute, International Republican Institute, Democracy Reporting International).

#### 3.1 TRANSVERSAL ISSUES

Gender equality is mainstreamed throughout every Council of Europe project in accordance with the Guidelines on Gender mainstreaming<sup>8</sup>. The basis for mainstreaming gender is described at the level of the different projects.

Co-operation with Tunisia has been implemented while paying particular attention to the improvement of gender equality. This has been the case at different levels since the beginning of the co-operation, as illustrated by the following examples:

<sup>8</sup> <https://rm.CouncilofEurope.int/CouncilofEuropeRMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680656cf0>

- as part of the process to draft the Constitution, the Venice Commission promoted the discussion regarding gender equality, thus contributing to the society debate;
- through specific projects such as the ones relating to combating violence against women and violence against children or combating trafficking in human beings;
- several bodies have actively promoted the participation of women in their activities, as mentioned above: CEPEJ regarding the training of clerks and staff to modern court management techniques; the NSC by promoting the participation of young women in actions of education for democratic citizenship;
- awareness raising actions regarding the image of women in media was carried out with relevant instances including the HAICA;
- the Congress supported the reinforcement of the equality principle in the electoral Code regarding the upcoming municipal elections.

In its report “The political transition in Tunisia” adopted in May 2017, the PACE reiterates its support to Tunisia’s willingness to promote gender equality; it also encouraged the Tunisian authorities to intensify the fight against discrimination of an economic nature towards women and to make sure that the legislative progress made regarding equality is implemented regardless of the geographical or social origin of women.

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 activities<sup>9</sup> and the recommendations issued by the Conference entitled “Partnership for good governance: Promote co-operation with civil society”.

As regards the work carried out with Tunisian society, special mention should be made of the following:

- the establishment of the School of Political Studies of Tunisia, which was the first of its kind in the Arab world and is now fully integrated into the Network of Schools; as explained above, the school has afforded individuals and organisations across the spectrum of Tunisian civil society an opportunity to share their views on issues related to the Tunisia’s transition to democracy;
- the participation of representatives of Tunisian civil society in activities organised under the Neighbourhood Partnership as a partner on the same footing, in some cases, as governmental actors, helping to create bridges and encourage networking (Lisbon Forum, participation of and consultations with civil society in a variety of activities);
- close involvement of media representatives in Council of Europe events, aimed at raising awareness about what the Organisation does and how, as actors responsible for relaying information to the public and as “news makers”.

### **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.

Despite co-ordination in certain areas, the number of international operators in Tunisia is very large, significantly increasing the risk of overlap. This is true in areas such as combating corruption.

Furthermore, security problems due to terrorism, for example, have forced the Council of Europe to restrict its operations in certain areas (e.g. choice of pilot courts) and could also, in future, undermine its capacity to provide assistance. Security measures for the Tunis Bureau have been developed in co-ordination with other international organisations operating in Tunisia to provide normal, stable conditions for implementing the planned activities and to ensure the safety of Council of Europe staff and experts.

<sup>9</sup> <https://rm.CouncilofEurope.int/CouncilofEuropeRMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680656cef>

### 3.3 LESSONS LEARNED

The lessons learned from the implementation of this Action Plan during the reference period are as follows:

- the present Neighbourhood Partnership has provided an opportunity to address human rights issues which Tunisia was not open to discussing during the previous period (combating trafficking in human beings, combating torture). This change is a reflection of human rights-friendly developments in Tunisia and the fact that a relationship of trust has been established between the Council of Europe and the Tunisian authorities, based on the results already achieved through co-operation and political dialogue;
- progress in some areas is being hampered by internal disputes which have slowed the pace of reform. This is especially true as regards support for local democracy reforms. At the same time, the institutional landscape created by the 2014 Constitution is facing strong resistance, significantly restricting the potential for Council of Europe action;
- unlike other countries in the region, Tunisia does not hold partner for democracy status with the PACE, making for less structured inter-agency action in the co-operation programmes in Tunisia;
- security issues, particularly in 2015 and 2016, have prevented the Council of Europe from extending its activities to a large number of regions, with the result that efforts have been concentrated on the capital and a handful of other areas;
- the following factors have contributed to the success of the Enhanced Political Dialogue: a willingness to embrace the process, at political and technical level, both in the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in specialised ministries together with the presence of the Neighbourhood Partnership Representative in Strasbourg and the presence of a Council of Europe Office in Tunis, beneficial for both the co-operation and the Enhanced Political Dialogue;
- the Council of Europe confirmed its capacity to respond to the interest expressed by specialised ministries and to provide expertise through its intergovernmental committees of experts. In that respect, the involvement of Tunisian experts in these bodies is an important feature of the dialogue and should be encouraged. It contributes to the institutional integration of the partner country in relevant networks and to the development of a common legal space;
- resolved to fully implement the Neighbourhood Partnership, Tunisia reiterated its interest in developing longer-term institutional relations with the Council of Europe, beyond 2017.
- the political dialogue with the authorities contributes to ongoing co-operation at a time of political instability.<sup>10</sup>

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

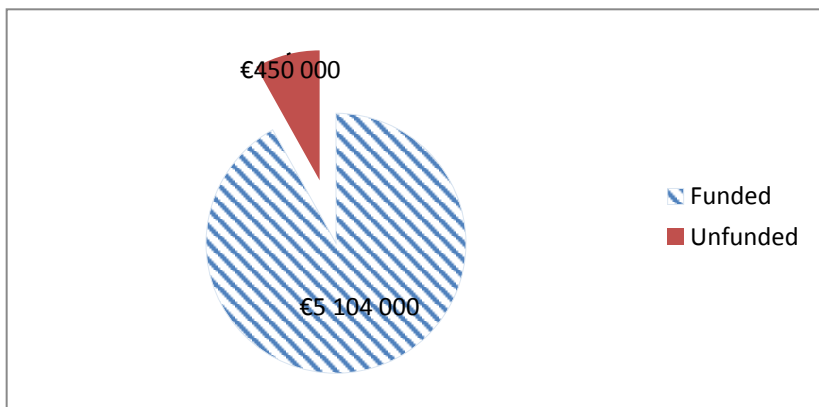
- The Council of Europe standards and principles as both means and objectives of technical assistance can as such significantly contribute to the fulfilment of those rights;
- Long-term technical assistance towards comprehensive reforms requires prospects of sustainable funding and effective co-ordination 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 deliver on agreed priorities rather than on individual projects and activities.

For 2015-2017, the initial estimated needs of the Neighbourhood Partnership amounted to €5 443 000. Additional needs related to cybercrime were included in 2017. Funding of more than €5 104 000 has been secured (See Figure 2).

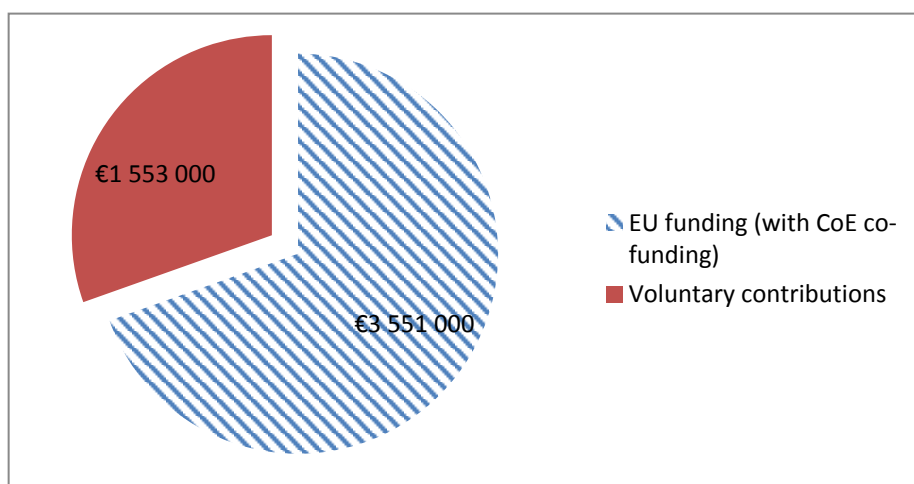
<sup>10</sup> Three Ministers of Justice were appointed in 2015.



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

A very significant part of the co-operation priorities is implemented under the regional EU/ Council of Europe South Programme II<sup>11</sup> (see Figure 3). Several voluntary contributions have funded 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 Tunisia's co-operation needs. This funding was supplemented by financial support from several member States: Estonia, France, Italy, 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**

<sup>11</sup> 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 Tunisia 2015-2017	Estimated needs (in 2015)	EU funding (with Council of Europe co-funding)	VC funding	Total funds secured	Unfunded
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b>					
Gender equality	100 000	**	**	**	100 000
Combating violence against women and Promotion of 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	150 000	150 000	0	150 000	0
Data protection	**	**	0	**	**
Drug abuse and drug trafficking	200 000***	140 000	60 000	200 000	0
Promotion of public health and fight against the counterfeiting of medical products	**	**	0	**	**
<b>Subtotal Human Rights</b>	<b>975 000</b>	<b>490 000</b>	<b>315 000</b>	<b>805 000</b>	<b>170 000</b>
<b>RULE OF LAW</b>					
Independence and efficiency of justice	1 000 000	800 000	0	800 000	200 000
Supporting constitutional reform, the drafting of new legislation, the establishment and efficient functioning of new governance bodies	900 000	700 000	200 000	900 000	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	338 000	0	338 000	338 000	0
Combating corruption, money-laundering and terrorism	500 000	500 000	0	500 000	0
Combating cybercrime****	**	111 000**	0	111 000**	**
<b>Subtotal Rule of Law</b>	<b>3 058 000</b>	<b>2 361 000</b>	<b>608 000</b>	<b>2 969 000</b>	<b>200 000</b>
<b>DEMOCRACY</b>					
Interparliamentary co-operation	200 000***	200 000	0	200 000	0
Democratic governance at local and regional level	100 000	0	100 000	100 000	0
Strengthening of participatory democracy and of civil society stakeholders (incl North-South Center)	250 000***	100 000	70 000	170 000	80 000
Training in democratic governance and human rights education (incl. Schools of Political Studies and Programme on Advanced Training on Human Rights -PATHS)	860 000***	400 000	460 000	860 000	0
<b>Subtotal Democracy</b>	<b>1 410 000</b>	<b>700 000</b>	<b>630 000</b>	<b>1 330 000</b>	<b>80 000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5 443 000</b>	<b>3 551 000</b>	<b>1 553 000</b>	<b>5 104 000</b>	<b>450 000</b>

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

\*\* under "creation of a common legal area"

\*\*\* including regional activities

\*\*\*\* Additional needs related to cybercrime were included in 2017 with the EU/ Council of Europe joint programme "CyberSouth"

**APPENDIX II: TABLES ABOUT CONVENTIONS AND PARTIAL AGREEMENTS OF TUNISIA****1. Conventions**

<b>Accession</b>		
STE 027	European Agreement concerning Programme Exchanges by means of Television Films	<i>23/01/1969</i>
STE 104	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	<i>12/01/1996</i>
STE 108	Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data	<i>18/07/2017</i>
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	<i>18/07/2017</i>
STE 127	Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters as amended by the 2010 Protocol	<i>31/10/2013</i>
STE 135	Anti-Doping Convention	<i>26/02/2004</i>
STE 188	Additional Protocol to the Anti-Doping Convention	<i>26/02/2004</i>
<b>Invitations to accede</b>		
STCE 201	Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse	<i>1286th CM meeting 11/05/2017</i>

## 2. Requests to accede

Name	Status
Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	October 2017
Council of Europe Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health (Medicrime Convention)	October 2017
Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention)	October 2017
Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group)	October 2017

## 3. Enlarged Agreements, Enlarged Partial Agreements, Partial Agreements

Name	Status
European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)	<i>Member</i> 1/4/2010
European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)	<i>Member</i> 16/12/2016
Convention on the elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia	<i>Observer</i> 7/11/1997

## 4. Invitations to participate

Name	Status
Group of States against corruption (GRECO)	<i>Invitation to accede subject to USA and Belarus agreement</i>

**APPENDIX III: PARTICIPATION OF TUNISIA 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

- Gender Equality Commission (GEC)
- Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)
- 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)
- Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)

✓ 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)