

## 2nd Regional Workshop for the Empowerment of Women

### “Application of Laws on Women’s Rights: sharing of good practices”

Alger, Algérie, 13 December 2018

Organised in partnership with:



**Ministère des Affaires Etrangères**  
**ALGERIE**

With the support of:



**Concept Note**

## CONTEXT

In line with the [Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023](#), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, namely goal 5 “gender equality” and 16 “peace and justice”, and in the framework of its mission, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe promotes gender equality and women's rights. Since 2011 the project "North-South process for the empowerment of women", supporting the role of women's civil society organisations, promotes regional cooperation and coordinated action in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean.

The [conclusions](#) of the first Workshop “Strengthening Capacities of Women Organisations” organised in Amman on the 25 October 2017, at the origin of the project, stressed the essential role played by women organisations in the protection and promotion of women's rights. The project promotes a participatory approach and empowers women organisations through the creation and coordination of a pool of experts on gender equality in the Southern Mediterranean. In the articulation of regional cooperation and multi-sectoral partnerships, the participation of civil society organisations is decisive. The project thus intends to mobilize key actors from the *quadrilogue* (representatives of governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society) of the Euro-Mediterranean region as well as international organisations, during annual regional Workshops around the core issues for the achievement of women's rights.

In the last three years, significant progress in favour of women's rights has been made in several countries in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean, demonstrating a general strengthened determination to promote equality and end violence against women. Whether it is amendment of laws, penal reform, national strategy or a new global law, women's organisations, through advocacy, have made a significant contribution to this progress.

This positive development at the legislative level raises the question of the practical and efficient implementation of these reforms. In this regard, and as recommended at the Workshop in Amman, women organisations, by their expertise, experience and networks, are indispensable partners of the governmental and local authorities in the implementation of the laws and reforms on the ground. Thus, through the organisation of the Workshop in Algiers around the theme of the application of laws on women's rights, the North-South Centre intends to offer a space for peer-exchange, discussion and cooperation in order to, on one hand, address the objectives to be achieved, the challenges to be met and on the other hand, identify the obstacles that can hinder the full implementation of laws.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

In line with its mission of reinforcing the role of civil society, and in particular women, in the Southern Mediterranean, the North-South Centre is organising its second Workshop for the Empowerment of women in Algiers (Algeria) on the 13 December 2018 in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, under the theme “Application of Laws on Women’s Rights: sharing of good practices”.

The Workshops of the North-South Centre, which bring together key regional actors in gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region, aim to encourage cooperation and dialogue, while contributing to strengthening the capacities of institutions and organisations through peer exchanges and networking.

During the day, representatives of the *quadrilogue* from the Southern Mediterranean, Sub-Saharan Africa and Council of Europe member States, as well as representatives of international organisations, will share their good practices and promising initiatives for gender equality and combating violence against women. These will be included to the Workshop’s operational

conclusions as compendium of good practices for consolidating regional cooperation and encouraging multi-sectoral partnerships.

### Targeted outputs

- The workshop offers a privileged meeting space for the development of partnerships between key actors in gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- Good practices on the application of laws and the implementation of strategies and/or projects related to women's rights in the region are presented;
- Stakeholder roles are defined and concrete action lines are proposed within operational conclusions;
- The recommendations of civil society, in particular women and youth organisations, are promoted, taken into account and incorporated into the final operational conclusions.

### Targeted outcomes

- The consultative role of women civil society organisations is strengthened in the region;
- The structured dialogue between the various members of the *quadrilogue* is standardised and integrated into the democratic consolidation processes;
- Development of partnerships between institutional actors and field actors, with the aim of greater synergy and effective action;
- Reinforcement of regional peer cooperation, in particular within the networks of civil society organisations for greater complementarity;
- References to Council of Europe standards and tools are considered useful and relevant.

### Target group

- Experts and representatives of the women and youth-led organisations;
- The *quadrilogue* representatives of Council of Europe member States and the countries of the Southern Mediterranean;
- Representatives of regional and international organisations and institutions.