

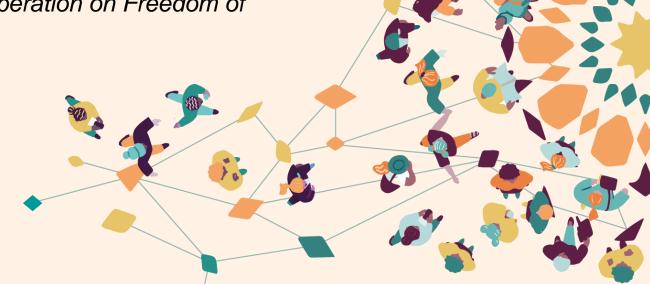


Co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe

# Freedom of expression and pluralistic media, C11

**Roberta Battista**, *Project Manager, Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression, Information Society Department DGI* 





## **Countries of intervention and thematic priorities**

## **Countries of intervention : Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Lebanon**

### Four main thematic priorities:

I) To encourage the transformation of the traditional, legacy media sector to respond to the digital challenge

II) To foster measures aiming at reinforcing <u>quality journalism</u> such as capacity building and awareness raising on media reporting on elections, hate speech and disinformation as well as on safety of journalists

III) To support the <u>further alignment of existing or building legal framework on freedom of expression in line with CoE standards</u>

IV) To sustain the expressed interests of two countries of the region to initiate the process aiming at examining the possibility of <u>ratification</u> of the Convention on Access to Official Documents (CETS No205) (*Tromsø Convention*).

**Libya:** a three-axes-cooperation has been initiated:

1) To support Capacity building of the Central Committee of Local Elections (CCLE).

2) To clarify the legal framework of the operating environment of the General Authority for Media Monitoring Content (GAMMC).

3) To reinforce professional standards and ethic codes for Libyan journalists.

# Inception operational actions and start up activities

#### I) OPERATIONAL ACTIONS AND START UP ACTIVITIES

- 1. Reinforcement / extension of Project-related professional contacts
- 2. Establishment of the Project Team
- 3. Establishment of the Project's Pool of Experts / Profiles
- 4. Development of the Project's Workplan

#### **II) MAIN ACTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE INCEPTION PHASE**

- 1. Advise and research on Preliminary Steps to initiate request and process for adherence Tunisia to the <u>The Council of Europe Convention</u> on Access to Official Documents, CETS 205 (*Tromsø Convention*).
- 2. Review of the Tunisian legal framework on Access to Information (internal document) and its compatibility with the Tromsø Convention.
- Participatory elaboration of Country Profiles/Baselines by Project's main institutional beneficiaries concerning Tunisia, Morocco, Libya and Lebanon
- 5. Provision of translation of documentation related institutional and legal documents to address and support the legal framework of the regulatory authority of Libya (GAMMC).
- Training preparation for journalists in coordination with the Central Committee of Local Elections, the Libyan Center for Freedom of Prein Libya to identify potential journalists to enhance understanding and training on ethical and professional standards for elections cover and reporting.
- 7. Coordination and negotiation with International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

#### Activities 2023

#### Outcomes

#### Immediate Outputs (expected results)

2.1.1.1 REGIONAL ACTION: Capacity building of of duty bearers (law enforcement and legal professionals) on protection of journalists in accordance with European Standards.

2.1.2.1 REGIONAL ACTION: Regional media exchange on country profiling on digital transformation needs and challenges: Tunisia Sub-action; Morocco Sub-action; Lebanon Sub-action

2.1.2.1.5 REGIONAL / Country Sub-Action – Policy Advice on support measures/ necessary actions on digital transformation (legislation, technical support

**2.2.2.1 LIBYA ACTION** - Support the institutional building and the legal framework of the GAMMC.

**2.2.1.2 LIBYA ACTION** - Support through capacity building of the Central Committee of Local Elections (CCLE) in performing their mandate

**2.2.2.1 LIBYA ACTION** -Provision of 10 Training sessions for 200 Libyan journalists on reporting on elections online or in Tunisia

3.1.1 .1 TUNISIA ACTION - Policy Advise and Capacity Building on adherence to Treaty Law: Access to information Legal framework compliance with CETS 205 (Tromsø Convention) **1.1.1** Council of Europe standards on freedom of expression, media freedom and access to information are promoted (through awareness and adherence processes)

2.1.1 National mechanisms on protection of journalists and advocacy initiatives ensure further compliance with European standards are promoted

2.1.2 Enabled media sector to implement digital
 Transformation of the traditional legacy media sector

**2.2.1** Strengthened capacities (through regional exchanges) of Audio-visual Regulatory bodies and Press Self-Regulatory bodies when exercising their own mandates

2.2.2 Enhanced application and understanding/ awareness raised of the codes of conduct/ethic codes and ethical
journalism through regional exchanges and custom-made trainings, including media coverage of electoral campaigns

**2.2.3** Built capacities of the media sector for proper personal data management policies and practices

**2.2.4** Improved educational curricula on journalism

**3.1.1** Enhanced standard understanding through regional and professional network on Access to Information via peer-to-peer exchanges within MENA region and with Europe.

 1.1 Beneficiaries of the region engage in promoting the compliance with Council of Europe conventions and Partial Agreements, including in monitoring mechanisms as relevant, especially concerning Access to the Information

2.1. Tools, mechanisms and strategies regarding global challenges to human rights, democracy and Rule of Law are developed to ensure a consistent understanding and approach to these phenomena.

2.2. Strengthen and develop capacities among representatives of relevant bodies, civil society and professional organisations understanding and applying common tools deriving from European standards

**3.1**. Existing networks of the Council of Europe are consolidated and expanded, including development of new professional ones.

| Outputs  |         | Activities   | Inputs/Actions  | Beneficiary Institutions   | Target Groups   | Jan Feb Mar Apr May | Jun Jul Au | g Sep Oct   | Nov Dec |
|--|---------|--|---|--|---|---------------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| <b>Output 2.1.1</b> National mechanisms on protection of journalists and advocacy initiatives to ensure further compliance with European standards are promoted  |         | <b>REGIONAL ACTION</b> - Capacity building c<br>duty bearers (law enforcement and lega<br>professionals) on protection of journalists i<br>accordance with European Standards. | I- Workshop and training  | International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)<br>National Syndicate of journalists (SNJT),<br>Lebanese Press Order,<br>National press Council,<br>Ministry of Interior of Morocco, Tunisia,<br>Lebanon Libya<br>Ministry of Justice Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon<br>Libya | Law enforcement, Ministry<br>representatives Interior and<br>Justice per country  |                     |            |             | Tunisia |
| Output 2.1.2 Enabled media sector to<br>implement digital transformation of the<br>traditional legacy media sector   | 2.1.2.1 | <b>REGIONAL ACTION</b> - Regional media<br>exchange on country profiling on digital<br>transformation needs and challenges   | Conference - Country Profiles<br>and Policy Orientations  | State Authorities, Trade Unions, Regulatory bodies, technological experts, business model experts  | State Authorities, Trade Unions,<br>Regulatory bodies, technological<br>experts, editors, donors, media,<br>journalists |                     | Morocco    |             |         |
|  | 2.1.2.2 | TUNISIA Sub-ACTION - Regional media<br>exchange on country profiling on digital<br>transformation needs and challenges   | Conference - Country Profiles<br>and Policy Orientations  | State Authorities, Trade Unions, Regulatory bodies, technological experts, business model experts  | 'State Authorities, Trade Unions,<br>Regulatory body, technological<br>experts, business model experts                  |                     | Morocco    |             |         |
|  | 2.1.2.3 | <b>MOROCCO - Sub ACTION -</b> Regional media<br>exchange on country profiling on digital<br>transformation needs and challenges  | Conference - Country Profiles<br>and Policy Orientations  | 'State Authorities, Trade Unions, Regulatory<br>bodies, technological experts, business model<br>experts   | 'State Authorities, Trade Unions,<br>Regulatory body, technological<br>experts, buinsness model<br>experts              |                     | Morocco    |             |         |
|  | 2.1.2.4 | LEBANON Sub-ACTION - Regional media<br>exchange on country profiling on digital<br>transformation needs and challenges   | Conference - Country Profiles<br>and Policy Orientations  | "State Authorities, Trade Unions, Regulatory<br>bodies, technological experts, business model<br>experts   | 'State Authorities, Trade Unions,<br>Regulatory body, technological<br>experts, buinsness model<br>experts              |                     | Morocco    |             |         |
|  | 2.1.2.5 | <b>REGIONAL / Country Sub-Action</b> – Policy<br>Advice on support measures/ necessary<br>actions on digital transformation<br>(legislation, technical support                 | Technical papers with<br>recommendations - Consultative<br>meetings   | State Authorities, Trade Unions, Regulatory bodies, technological experts, business model experts  | State Authorities, Trade Unions,<br>Regulatory bodies, technological<br>experts, editors, donors, media,<br>journalists |                     |            |             | Lisbon  |
| <b>Output 2.2.1</b> Strengthened capacities<br>(through regional exchanges) of Audio-visual<br>Regulatory bodies and Press Self-Regulatory<br>bodies when exercising their own mandates  |         | LIBYA ACTION - Support the institutional<br>building and the legal framework of the<br>General Authority for Media Monitoring<br>(GAMMC).                                      | Technical paper/advises<br>recommendations/<br>workshops/translation  | General Authority for Media Monitoring<br>Content (GAMMC)  | GAMMC, experts, media organizations, journalists  | Ttunisia            |            |             |         |
|  |         | LIBYA ACTION - Support through capacity<br>building of the Central Committee of Local<br>Elections ( CCLE) in performing their<br>mandate                                      | technical papers/workshops/<br>recommendations  | Central Commission for Local Elections ( CCLE)   |   |                     | Ttunisia   |             |         |
| <b>Output 2.2.2</b> Enhanced application and<br>understanding/ awareness raised of the<br>codes of conduct/ethic codes and ethical<br>journalism through regional exchanges and<br>custom-made trainings, including media<br>coverage of electoral campaigns | 2.2.2.1 | LIBYA ACTION - Provision of 10 Training<br>sessions for 200 Libyan journalists on<br>reporting on elections online or in Tunisia   | Training module/ Training<br>materials/ Guidelines document/<br>(to be potentially co-financed by<br>IDEA) (Number of participants:<br>20 participants each for each<br>session.) | General Authority for Media Monitoring<br>'Content (GAMMC) /<br>Central Commission for Local Elections ( CCLE)   | Staff of competent authorities, journalists,  |                     | Ttunisia   | Ttunisia    |         |
| <b>Output 3.1.1</b> Enhanced standard<br>understanding through regional and<br>professional network on Access to<br>Information via peer-to-peer exchanges<br>within MENA region and with Europe.  | 3.1.1.1 | TUNISIA ACTION - Policy Advise and<br>Capacity Building on adherence to Treaty<br>Law: Access to information Legal framewor<br>compliance with CETS 205 (Tromso<br>Convention) |   | The Tunisian Access to Information Authority<br>(INAI), Parliament   | Representatives of competent<br>authority, experts, Parliament,<br>Government   |                     |            | Tunisia/Sxb |         |







Co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe

This presentation was produced in the framework of the joint programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe entitled "Protecting human rights, rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme V) co-financed by the two organisations and implemented by the Council of Europe.

#### If applicable, add this :

The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of either party

