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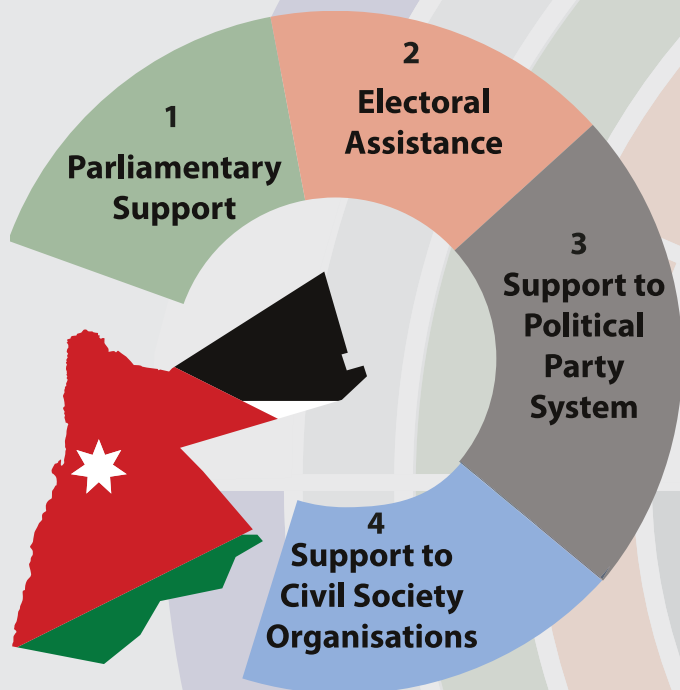
EU-JDID
EU Support to Jordanian Democratic
Institutions & Development

PROGRAMME RESUME



INTRODUCTION

The European Union (EU) funded Programme 'EU Support to Jordanian Democratic Institutions & Development- EU-JDID' aims at supporting Jordan's reform process towards consolidation of democracy and promoting inclusiveness of national policy and decision-making processes. The Programme also intends to enhance women and youth inclusion and foster a stronger democratic and tolerant political culture. EU-JDID encompasses four components:



The first three components are implemented by the consortium-led by the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) and composed of:

- European Partnership for Democracy (EPD);
- Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD);
- Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD);
- French Agency for Media Cooperation (CFI).

The fourth component is implemented by the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID).

The Programme has a budget of 17.6M EUR of which 14M EUR are funded by the EU, under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), 2M EUR are financed by Spain/AECID and 737,995 EUR (5, 79%) by the ECES-led consortium.

BACKGROUND

The support of the EU to democratic and electoral processes in Jordan, in place since 2007, was previously implemented through different modalities and interventions. While building on prior accomplishments, the formulation of this Programme also benefited from lessons learned from past EU supported projects, as well as from the recommendations formulated by key local stakeholders concerning content and delivery support mechanisms.



Photo taken during EU-JDID launching ceremony, 24 May 2017

Timeline of Events

2012

- Royal discussion papers
- Establishment of Independent Election Commission (IEC)

2013

- Establishment of Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs (MoPPA) from the merging of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministry of Political Development
- Parliamentary Elections
- Municipal Elections

2016

- Parliamentary Elections
- EU-Election Observation Mission recommendations

2019

- E-Voting and Conference system inauguration in the House of Representatives
- ISO certification of the IEC on Quality Management Systems
- 1st Arab Regional Conference of Electoral Management Bodies

2018

- Election Follow Up mission

2017

- Financing Agreement between the EU and Jordan
- Contract signature of EU-JDID
- 1st decentralisation and municipal elections (three elections on the same day)
- HoR adopted the E- Parliament strategy

OBJECTIVES

Component 1 Parliamentary Support

Strengthen the functioning of the House of Representatives (HoR) in exercising its core parliamentary functions in a professional, accountable, and transparent manner.

Component 2 Electoral Assistance

Enhance the functioning of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and other key stakeholders, contributing to elections conducted in a professional, transparent and credible manner.

Component 3 Support to Political Party System

Support the political party (PP) system in contributing to democratic governance and policy-making.

Component 4 Support to Civil Society Organisations

Strengthen the contribution of civil society to democratic governance and policy-making and foster the development of active civil society organisations in the promotion of political participation, advocacy, electoral observation and parliamentary monitoring with a focus on women and youth.

Component 1: Parliamentary Support

Through capacity building activities and ongoing advisory support, EU-JDID contributes to supporting the HoR to perform its key legislative and oversight functions, consolidating the role of the institution in the democratic reform process. In fulfilling this objective, EU-JDID supports the enhancement of:

- **HoR's legislative function:** the programme will boost the capacities of MPs and staff to draft legislation and introduce innovative methods of tracking and engaging in the legislative process.
- **HoR's oversight function:** the programme will support

the House of Representatives in strengthening its oversight capabilities, working with individual MPs, Committees and parliamentary staff. This will include exchanges of best practices and expertise on both ex-post and ex-ante financial oversight, mechanisms for oversight including parliamentary questions and post-legislative scrutiny (PLS).

- **HoR's Research:** the programme will work closely with the Parliament's Legislative Studies and Research Centre to ensure high quality research products are available to MPs in the fulfilment of their parliamentary duties.



9 Youth workshops

on 'How to enhance political and economic participation of young citizens in Jordan' conducted in 9 governorates. Over 450 youth aged 18-25 attended.



3 workshops

organized for female MPs



5 study visits

to Netherlands, Finland, Scotland, UK and Lebanon



1 parliamentary research conference

One regional parliamentary research conference organized



2 Handbooks Developed

Staff Handbook and Handbook on Legal Drafting developed



Ongoing coaching

Ongoing coaching of staffers on research, committee support, legislative strengthening and human resources policies



Support to E-Parliament

Transparency of public institutions and accountability to citizens is a key element of democratic systems.

The modernization and integration of the e-voting system in parliamentary matters helps in moving forward and improving legislative work. It contributes positively to the democratic process through time saving, vote accuracy and accountability of MPs.

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The increase use of electronic communication aims to help the Parliament in becoming

- more efficient and effective
- more environment friendly
- more cost efficient
- with an improved outreach
- more reachable, through increased communication of MPs with the public

EU-JDID support included:

- Delivery of 150 tablet devices to the HoR on which Mobile Device Management (MDM) software was installed
- Support to the design and implementation of an online Library
- E-Parliament expertise provided to establish a roadmap of ICT needs of the House
- ICT senior expertise provided to assess the HoR Archiving System.

Component 2: Electoral Assistance

By providing high-level expertise, advisory support and by implementing capacity building activities, EU-JDID works to enhance IEC's institutional and human resources capacities. It supports the Electoral Management Body (EMB) in increasing its transparency, efficiency, accountability, as well as the overall credibility of the electoral process. To this end, EU-JDID supported the IEC's ISO certification on quality management system (TS/54:2001 2019), making it the 1st Arab EMB to be ISO certified and the first outside of the Americas as of October 2019.

By organising trainings, supporting the production of electoral knowledge and providing technical advice and operational support, EU-JDID contributes to enhancing the IEC's legal, technical and operational capacities. To ensure the sustainability of these achievements, EU-JDID is also supporting the Jordanian Electoral Training Research Center (JETRC), which is meant to become a hub for electoral knowledge and practice, in Jordan and beyond.

2017 Decentralisation and Municipal Elections

EU-JDID provided extensive logistical and operational support to the IEC during the electoral process, which consisted in three elections that took place on the same day.



3 Elections
in **one** day



ISO Certification for the IEC

EU-JDID supported the IEC ISO certification on Quality Management Systems, which was obtained in October 2019. **The IEC became the first Arab Elections Management Body to be ISO certified.** The activity supported the production of 1 macro process, 16, 2nd level processes, 97 procedures, 30 executive instructions and over 150 forms

ISO technical specifications for quality management systems for electoral organisations (ISO/TS 54:2001 2019) are designed for electoral bodies to focus on the quality of services vis a vis of all electoral stakeholders.

ISO certification process is divided into eight phases:



This process, which complements the international obligations-based approach, allows EMBs to:

- Identify operational vulnerabilities;
- Highlight opportunities for improvement;
- Place a greater emphasis on leadership communication and management of change;
- Create a framework to evaluate services provided to citizens and all electoral stakeholders;



Enhanced IEC capability

In order to enhance the IEC's capacities to prepare for the elections, EU-JDID conducted an Evaluation of Trainers (EoT) who will, in turn, train the polling station staff for election day.

- 24 workshops in different governorates
- 217 trainers evaluated
- 30% of the evaluated trainers were women

ECES in cooperation with Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and UNITAR also facilitates the enrolment of IEC staff in the online Master in Electoral Policy and Administration. ECES supports the translation of all the modules and student handbooks into Arabic and assist IEC enrolled staff with the presence of a dedicated Tutor.

EU-JDID supported peer exchanges, knowledge and experience sharing and global democracy networking, as tools to enhance capacities and skills in a sustainable way.

8 study tours organised in 5 EU Countries and 3 non-EU Countries



The 1st Regional Electoral Knowledge Sharing Conference was organized on 8-11 December 2019, with the support of ECES.

The conference brought together representatives from 11 Elections Management Bodies (EMBs) of Arab speaking countries, as well as officials, academics and electoral experts. It served as a platform for the Arab network of EMBs and different stakeholders to share best practices and regional examples in assessing new technologies and tools in the electoral field and developing innovative strategies to improve electoral processes.



Citizens' trust in the electoral administration is closely related to institution's credibility.

EU-JDID supports the development and the implementation of a tailored IEC's communication and outreach strategy, including toward women and youth.

- Innovative and creative tools, applications and branding material (IEC branded) developed.
- EU-JDID social media team is fully integrated with the IEC team, thus ensuring effective and constant transfer of knowledge

A new IEC website is under construction with EU-JDID support to assist the IEC external communication strategy, enhance its transparency and share information with all stakeholders. The implementation of the website took 5 months and it totally renewed the online access to the IEC relevant documentation.



The installation of a customized KOHA open source library software was supported by EU-JDID in the IEC premises. Two trainings were also held for 2 IEC library staffers in July 2019 on how to manage the software and on library management in general. The system allows direct access to the IEC collection of publications and its online booking

EU-JDID supported the implementation of 6 Workshops on the involvement of youth in electoral processes. The events brought together IEC commissioners and youth representatives in a number of governorates to discuss the importance of the involvement of youth in electoral process.



Component 3: Support to Political Party System

Jordan's population is made up of over 67% of citizens under 30 years of age.

To safeguard the representativity of the political decisions, EU-JDID is contributing to **enhance the capacities of young political and civic actors** to engage in the political process. To achieve genuine gender equality, the problem of under-representation of women in political decision-making must be tackled.

EU-JDID aims to **strengthen the capacities of women politicians** and raise the awareness of political parties (PPs)

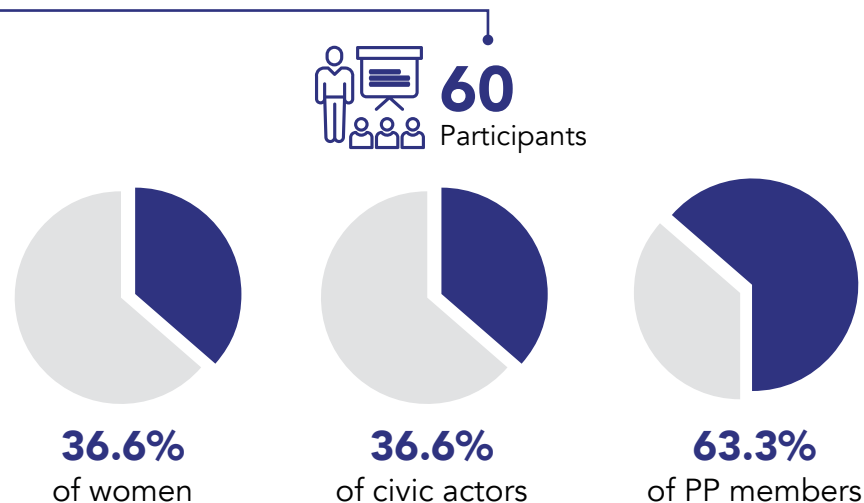
on the role they can play with regards to women's political advancement.

120 participants, including women representatives of political parties, women trainees of the young political and civic actors training programme, representatives of the Senate and Lower Houses, women leaders as well as MoPPA female staff, attended "The Reality of Women's Political Participation: Opportunities and Challenges" Conference organised by EU-JDID, in partnership with the Ministry.

Training for Young Political and Civic Actors

EU-JDID started a training programme for young political and civic actors, aged 18-30, to strengthen their capacities to engage in political processes and enhance their communication skills.

Six interactive training sessions out of a series of 10 sessions have taken place on monthly basis. The training programme will be repeated annually to engage other young political and civil actors targeting more youth from the governorates with 5 intensive interactive training sessions.



The low participation of PPs in the 2017 local elections confirmed the need **to support the development of the PPs system and strengthen PPs' capacities and coalition capabilities.**

With regards to this, EU-JDID works to strengthen PPs' capacities in manifesto development, strategic planning, campaigning and funding strategies as well as their own internal management and organisation.

A series of three workshops for all PPs was organised on financial by-law with the collaboration of MoPPA. The workshops provided an important platform for dialogue between PPs and the government, as well as among PPs.

Up to 39 PPs attended the workshops (80% of all Jordanian PPs). 9 local consultants were assigned to provide direct assistance for 4 potential PP and 5 coalitions to build their capacities in manifesto development, strategic planning, campaigning and funding strategies.



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EU-JDID pays great attention to ensure the sustainability of action. With regards to this, the Programme aims to strengthen the capacity of local partners to implement by their own political party support programmes.

A workshop has been organised for MoPPA staff and Civil Society partners to strengthen the capacity of PPs in coalition building.

EU-JDID aims to enhance the capacities of MoPPA, which is in charge of:

- ensuring liaison between government and parliament;
- maintaining dialogue and communication with political parties, civil society organisations and society at large;
- monitoring citizens' participation in political life.

EU-JDID provided technical expertise to support MoPPA in the development of its Multiannual Strategic Plan 2017-2020, aiming to enhance its capacity in strategic planning and formulating relevant and realistic organisational goals and objectives.

This was followed by a Training on Strategic Planning/ Key Performance Indicators.

Component 4: Support to Civil Society Organisations

Accountability is a key principle of democratic institutions and EU-JDID is supporting CSOs' role in monitoring the conduct of national institutions.

A recent assessment mission demonstrated that Jordanian CSOs face challenges in what concerns their sustainability, financial and organisational structure. In this context, EU-JDID contributes to **enhancing CSOs' capacities** to build coalitions, to conduct joint advocacy, to lobby, to contribute

to policymaking and to monitor the human rights situation. Increasing capacities of CSOs to have a bigger role in policy-making, as well as supporting CSOs initiatives contributing to democracy, are both the cornerstones of Component 4 "Qararuna". **Women and youth** are at the centre of the project.

- Up to 50 CSOs already trained on using political participation tools, watchdog activity, advocacy, campaigning, lobbying, elections observation, monitoring the Parliament, among others.
- 8 grants already awarded to CSOs to support actions on women and youth political participation, coalition building, elections observation and monitoring the activity of the Parliament.

- 200 CSOs to be trained by the end of the project on political participation tools.
- An e-learning platform at the University of Jordan to train young activists and youth on influencing decision making.
- 6 civil coalitions supported by Qararuna.
- Women candidates to receive support for 2020 elections.
- 40 CSOs monitoring the Parliament activity.
- Civil society to monitor 2020 elections through RASED coalition.



50

CSOs trained



8

Grants awarded

MEDIA SEGMENT

Media plays a crucial role in strengthening democracy and political participation of citizens, especially with regards to participatory patterns related to new technologies and social media empowered with tools to disseminate information.

Involving media, media house owners and journalists is an essential complementary step for a long term and people driven democracy, whereby **media is meant to contribute to the transparency of democratic institutions.**

EU-JDID media segment includes training of political journalists and political radio programmes aiming to strengthen the communication between members of the parliament and citizens, thus reinforcing the connection and the interactions between the institution and the electorate.

Considering the importance of fair, balanced and impartial media coverage of elections, EU-JDID will contribute to enhance the quality of reporting on elections and electoral matters.



The political “journalism trainings” aim to improve the quality of the political news coverage in Jordan, through strengthen journalists’ capacities to carry out accurate and professional reporting. During the life span of the programme, 24 training sessions of 5 days on political journalism will be organized.

The sessions have a theoretical and a practical part: professional ethics; the role of journalists in communicating important news; how to obtain and cover information; how to conduct interviews with politicians and how to communicate information to the public; debates exercises, role-playing technique; how to fact-check information, statements by politicians and unverified information spread on social media.



30

Journalists trained

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

The European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) - Consortium Leader

ECES is a non-profit private foundation, headquartered in Brussels, with a global remit. The organisation promotes sustainable democratic development through the provision of operational support and management of projects and large basket funds in favour of electoral processes.



ECES works with all electoral stakeholders, including EMBs, CSOs involved in civic and voter education and election observation, political parties and parliaments dealing with electoral reforms, media, security forces and legal institutions confronted with electoral dispute resolution. Since February 2012, ECES has signed more than 70 contracts in support of electoral processes and the strengthening of democratic institutions in more than 35 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. ECES is a member of the European Partnership for Democracy and is part of its Board of Directors.

ECES has crafted and copyrighted its strategy called “A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support - EURECS” which is an innovative and alternative delivery mechanism to implement electoral and democracy assistance activities that are consistent with European values and EU policies.

Consortium members organisations



European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) is composed of 14 members from 11 EU Member States, with a long track record and multiple specialisations in working with different actors in democracy support, including political parties, local authorities, elections, multi-stakeholder dialogue, political and civil rights, civil society capacity building and civic and political education, political leadership, elected representatives, and civil society.

The EPD Secretariat established a Monitoring and Knowledge-sharing Strategy that tracks all Project outputs and resources from the outset of the Programme. The M&E strategy is based on two key elements : - participation and inclusion of the main stakeholders involved in the Programme.



The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) is a democracy assistance organisation that supports political parties in developing democracies. NIMD is active in around 20 countries with core activities to support inter-party dialogue, to strengthen the organisational and programmatic capacities of political parties, and to provide democracy education for (aspiring) politicians.

NIM D's approach is characterised by the guiding principles of impartiality, inclusiveness, diversity, local ownership and long-term commitment.



Westminster Foundation for Democracy's (WFD) is the UK's leading democracy-strengthening organisation, bringing together parliamentary and political party expertise to assist in the development of inclusive democracies. WFD works with overseas parliaments, political parties and civil society to strengthen parliamentary capacity at national and sub-national level, through training, sharing expertise on a peer-to-peer basis and building institutional capacity.



French Media Cooperation Agency (CFI), mainly funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, is tasked to coordinate and implement France's aid policy for the development of media in partners' countries. It assists public and private stakeholders in the media sector with the aim of strengthening the modernisation and democratisation processes.

Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)



AECID is an attached body to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; it is the main management body for Spanish cooperation, which combats poverty and works towards sustainable human development. The agency was created to foster full development as a fundamental human right. To this end, the Agency follows the guidelines of the Spanish Cooperation's Master Plan, in accordance with the international agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) incorporating three main crosscutting axes: gender equality, environmental sustainability and respect for cultural diversity.

AECID works on preventing and addressing emergency situations, promoting democracy and supporting civil society organisations.

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EU-JDID

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