



Delivering on the Arab Spring

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEMESTER | JULY-DECEMBER 2011



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EIDHR – European Instrument
for Democracy and Human Rights

Foreword

The year 2011 was a busy year for democracy and human rights in our neighbourhood with the Arab Spring. One can only commend the courageous uprising of the Arab youth and be shocked by the current crackdowns on Syrian democrats.



In response to the changes initiated by Tunisian citizens, the EU immediately reviewed all financial assistance provided to its partners, and delivered a concrete package of EU responses to each Arab country. In parallel, the European Commission had already begun a fundamental review of the European Neighbourhood Policy, which was subsequently presented in May 2011. An important feature of the renewed approach to the European Neighbourhood Policy has been the increased support for civil society, either through direct financial support or greater policy dialogue. Civil society organisations are important agents of change and can play a crucial role in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental values while holding governments to account.

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) has been an important part of this EU response. It has delivered its added value and a specialised component to our crisis management toolbox. It has helped support democratic transition and mitigation of the worst human rights violations.

Defending human rights is a difficult task. The tragic fate of Ales Bialiastki, President of the Human Rights Centre Viasna, and Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, President of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights, respectively sentenced in Belarus and Bahrain, reminds us of the outstanding courage and motivation of our partners from civil society.

I am very proud of the results achieved in the Neighbourhood area. Some of the EIDHR activities have created leverage to support long-term change; some have supported specific cases or individuals. These two dimensions are both important and interlinked.

Finally, at a difficult financial time, it is more important than ever that every single euro of public funds is put to good use. I am also proud that this has been done with the limited but essential resources of the EIDHR. We have been able to flexibly reorient our funding towards the areas of greatest need while maintaining a high rate of commitments and payments. We have also worked increasingly in liaison with other EU instruments, improving the coherence of the EU response.

In 2012, we will continue the consolidation of our EIDHR activities, and continue to use it to further trigger democratic change and support defenders of human rights.

Stefan Füle

Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Neighbourhood Policy

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Introduction

This report highlights operations deployed by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) as part of the EU support and response to the Arab Spring. It underlines key projects and activities implemented before, during, and immediately after the Arab Spring. It should not be seen as exhaustive¹.

Despite the unexpected magnitude of the Arab Spring uprisings, the EU has been quick to recognise the challenges of the political and economic transition faced by the region as a whole. It immediately reviewed its policy and adopted a new approach in its relationships with its Southern neighbours.

The EU's strategic response to the Arab Spring came as early as 8 March 2011, with the joint communication of the EU High Representative and the European Commission proposing 'A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean'. This communication stresses the need for the EU to support wholeheartedly the demand for political participation, dignity, freedom and employment opportunities, and sets out an approach based on the respect of universal values and shared interests. It also proposes the 'more for more' principle, under which increased support is to be made available, on the basis of mutual accountability, to those partner countries most advanced in the consolidation of reforms. This approach was further elaborated in another joint communication on 25 May 2011 which initiated the launch of 'A new response to a changing Neighbourhood'.

The new approach of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) aims to:

'provide greater support to partners engaged in building deep democracy – the kind that lasts because the right to vote is accompanied by rights to exercise free speech, form competing political parties, receive impartial justice from independent judges, security from accountable police and army forces, access to a competent and non-corrupt civil service – and other civil and human rights that many Europeans take for granted, such as the freedom of thought, conscience and religion.'

Planned actions to achieve this aim include:

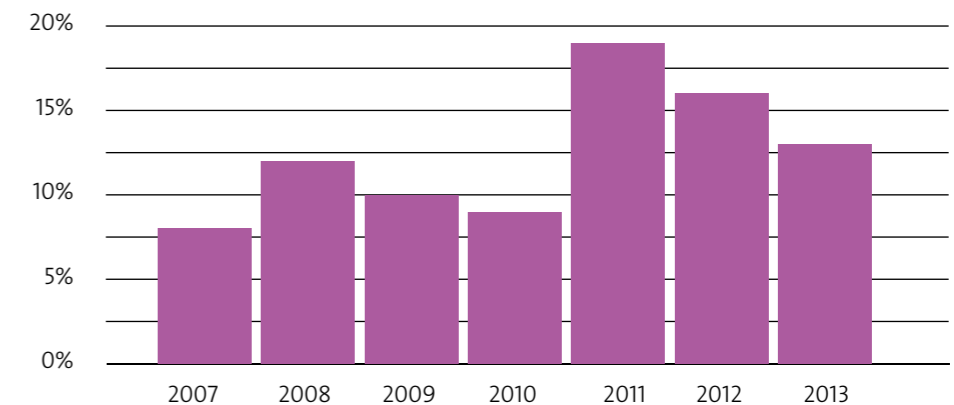
- adapting levels of EU support to partners according to progress on political reforms and building deep democracy;
- establishing partnerships in each neighbouring country and make EU support more accessible to civil society organisations (CSOs) through a dedicated Civil Society Facility;
- supporting the establishment of a European Endowment for Democracy to help political parties, non-registered non governmental organisations (NGOs) and trade unions and other social partners;
- promoting media freedom by supporting CSOs' unhindered access to the Internet and the use of electronic communications technologies;
- reinforcing human rights dialogues.

¹ Complete and detailed information is available on the various compendia of activities, which can be found online at www.eidhr.eu.

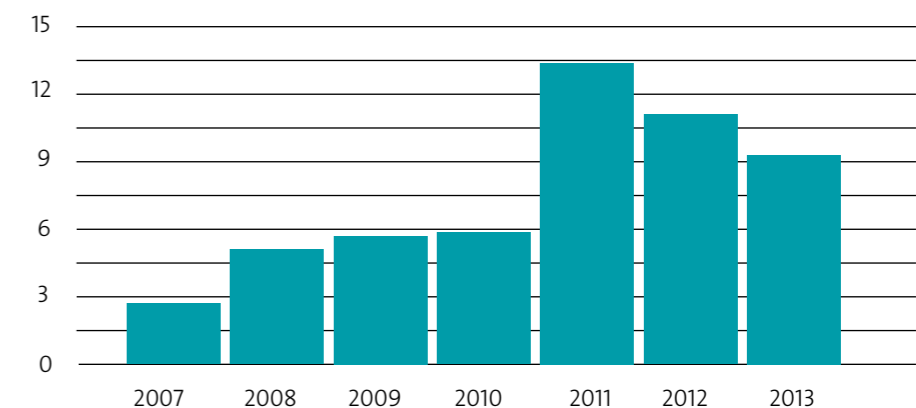
EIDHR PROJECTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Year	N° of projects in the region	Total number of projects	Value of grants (EUR) in the region	Total value of grants (EUR)
2007-2010	116	1 247	24 569 419	331 046 843
2011	54	356	11 415 571	83 401 242

Country-Based Support Scheme (CBSS) allocations 2007-2013 to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, OPT, Yemen, Jordan, Syria % of total CBSS allocations



CBSS allocations 2007-2013 to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, OPT, Yemen, Jordan, Syria in EUR billion



BREAKDOWN OF EIDHR PROJECTS BY THEME IN THE ARAB SPRING REGION

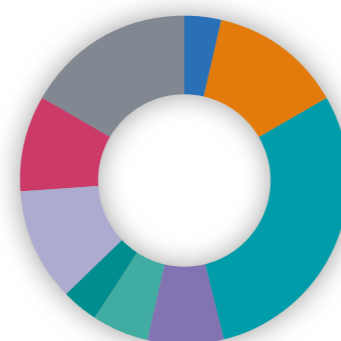
DISTRIBUTION OF EIDHR PROJECTS BY THEME 2007-2010

- Abolition of death penalty & torture 8 %
- Children's rights 11 %
- Democracy & rule of law 17 %
- Discrimination & racism 17 %
- Economic & social rights 8 %
- Fighting impunity from prosecution 7 %
- Gender & women's rights 14 %
- Human rights education & institutions 9 %
- Fundamental rights protection 9 %



DISTRIBUTION OF EIDHR PROJECTS BY THEME 2011

- Abolition of death penalty & torture 4 %
- Children's rights 13 %
- Democracy & rule of law 30 %
- Discrimination & racism 7 %
- Economic & social rights 5 %
- Fighting impunity from prosecution 4 %
- Gender & women's rights 11 %
- Human rights education & institutions 9 %
- Fundamental rights protection 17 %



The EIDHR is a key instrument to help reach these goals. It is indeed designed to help civil society become an effective force for political reform and the defence of human rights. Building on its key strength, which lies in its complementarity and its ability to operate without host government consent, the EIDHR was already able prior to the Arab Spring to cooperate directly with local CSOs needing to preserve their independence from public authorities in order to foster change. The EIDHR also offers flexibility and an increased capacity to respond to changing circumstances, a great added value for delivering on the Arab Spring.

The EIDHR has been present in the countries of the Arab Spring since its creation in 2007. This occurred with official country allocations in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in Yemen. Furthermore, this also occurred with 15 non-public projects of a restricted nature. These were implemented in the region, either in specific countries (in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in Yemen) or through regional or global projects, implemented mainly by various local, regional or European NGOs.

Even before spring 2011, the EIDHR was supporting numerous actors and playing an essential role in the transformation of the region. The EU invested through this instrument over EUR 24 million before the 2011 changes. This represented a substantial share of the EIDHR budget (7.4 %). Since the Arab Spring, the EIDHR **has doubled its investment** (13.7% of the budget) reaching a total amount of EUR 36 million over the period (2007-2011). The leverage created through EIDHR funding will continue to evolve in the coming years with the new Civil Society Facility and other instruments launched specifically by the European Commission as a response to the Arab Spring.

The Arab Spring represents a mosaic of contexts. The activities of the EIDHR had to be tailor-made to meet each Arab Spring country's individual needs and urgencies. The instrument had to adapt on the one hand to violent repression, uprising or rapid change, and on the other, support deep rooted long-term change. It also had to face various approaches to transition in different countries. Overall, the EIDHR was reactive in adapting its priorities. It put a much stronger emphasis on projects supporting transition to democracy and the rule of law. Since 2011, 30 % of projects in the region have been dedicated to this objective.

The EU's support of democracy in the context of the Arab Spring uprisings led to results such as, among others, enabling human rights defenders, peaceful demonstrators, protestors and journalists to be freed from jail and arbitrary arrest in Egypt, supporting free and fair elections in Tunisia, sustaining further democratic transition in Morocco, and combating torture and promoting reconciliation in Libya.

This report highlights the added value of EIDHR activities as part of the EU response to the Arab Spring which lies in its capacity to act without host country consent, in its reactivity and in its complementarity (Part 1). It sets out various examples of the most difficult projects, on human rights defenders and Internet freedoms (Part 2). It reports on current actions undertaken in Arab countries to support democratic transition, empower civil society as an actor of change and mitigate human rights violations (Part 3).



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The EIDHR's added value in the Arab Spring

The EU Official Development Assistance is constituted by a variety of instruments with different architectures, fulfilling different purposes. They are all used complementarily to promote human rights and democracy at best. The added value of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) lies in its independence from governments, its reactivity and its complementarity.

1.1. Capacity to act without host country consent

The EIDHR's most important added value lies in its capacity to act **without host country consent**. Thanks to its independence from governments, the EIDHR is able to focus on sensitive political issues and innovative approaches. It cooperates directly with local CSOs, which need to preserve their independence from public authorities. This unique characteristic was particularly important for promoting human rights and democracy in the Arab Spring countries before the uprisings.

In order to protect the physical safety of activists and others whose lives may be seriously endangered, **the details of some projects cannot be made public**. The European Commission reports on these projects only to authorised persons in the Council of the EU, the European Parliament and the European External Action Service on a 'need to know' basis. The Commission may only commend the courage of human rights defenders (HRDs) and their dedication, and regret the unfortunate and yet sadly regular loss of life.

The EIDHR is currently supporting 11 **confidential country projects** and four regional and global projects, all **operating in the Arab Spring region in a restricted manner**. They mainly focus on enhancing freedom of expression, supporting HRDs and trying to mitigate the worst violations while planting the seeds of change. For the above-mentioned reasons, information cannot be disclosed at this stage on these projects.

As an example, thanks to the 'Jasmine Revolution', the EIDHR may now reveal its involvement in projects in **Tunisia** in 2010, where, prior to transition, it supported among others the **Tunisian League of Human Rights (LTDH)**, the **Tunisian Association of Democrat Women (ATFD)**, the **Trade Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT)**, and **judges' and lawyers' associations** for activities not authorised in the country at the time. Lack of publicity for EIDHR involvement at the time could have been interpreted as abandonment or lack of responsiveness; EIDHR was in fact very active and ultimately successful.

As another example, in **Syria**, the instrument funded a project in 2008 that helped heavily endangered HRDs and journalists to **support, encourage and monitor human rights**. This vital project implemented by the Arab Commission for Human Rights, allowed these HRDs to continue their work. These HRDs become trainers themselves, so that their influence continues to spread beyond the action of the programme.

In this context, the EIDHR acted as a **breath of fresh air** with most projects focused on helping the survival of weakened or shattered civil society and media, opening the door to dialogue and change. It also helps maintain the minimum democratic education of a younger generation and vulnerable groups, often based abroad, helping the advocacy of civil society and diaspora abroad.

1.2 Reactivity

Reactivity is also an added value of the EIDHR, which enabled it to operate in the Arab Spring. The instrument provides great flexibility with increased capacity to respond to changing circumstances.

The EIDHR **reacts fast**. In **Egypt**, the EIDHR Small Grant Facility² that helps human rights defenders (HRDs) at risk, provided an immediate support for the legal defence of 35 HRDs. Thanks to this support, this group of peaceful demonstrators, protesters and journalists arbitrarily arrested in January 2011 in Tahir Square were released from jail.

The EIDHR **creates immediate leverage**. In **Tunisia**, the EIDHR was very reactive, deploying an inter-service mission in the field immediately following the uprisings. In a few days, EIDHR funds were deployed to launch the roadmap, work and the network of new independent CSOs, essential actors and watchdogs of the transition.

In **Libya**, an EIDHR project implemented by **Reporters Sans Frontières** allowed the free press centre of Benghazi to remain active during the fighting. Following the Paris Conference that established media as a key area of action under the Libyan Coordinated Needs Assessment (LCNA) process to be led by the EU, a network of independent journalists was created to document the transition. The EIDHR selected a project implemented by **Reporters Sans Frontières** to support the network and contribute to the elaboration of media related laws.

| CAIRO
| EGYPT



| TRIPOLI
| LIBYA

² See more information on the EIDHR Small Grant Facility in section 2.2.

1.3 Complementarity

While geographical programmes support mainly reforms and democratic institution-building, the EIDHR offers a comprehensive package of local action to encourage political pluralism, empower disenfranchised groups, defend victims and promote dialogue, foster mediation, transparency, accountability and consultation at a grassroots level.

The EIDHR **complements** other pro-democracy activities and tools which are used to implement EU policies for democracy and human rights. It is even more important as the Commission has put forward ‘umbrella’ financial programmes ((Support for partnership, reforms and inclusive growth – SPRING, for the South, and Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation programme – EaPIC, for the East) in order to further support democratic transformation and institution building in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) region. Furthermore, a Civil Society Facility covering the entire neighbourhood was launched in September 2011 with an initial budget of EUR 26 million for 2011 and similar amounts planned for 2012.

In **Libya**, while the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) could provide humanitarian aid and shelter to the children of Misrata, the EIDHR could ensure the prelaunch of basic democratic services including schools. Later on, the Instrument for Stability can support NGOs to move from humanitarian delivery to a role as political actors, and the geographical instruments provide funding for educational programmes. Therefore, the EIDHR plays a major role in the link between rehabilitation, relief and development.



MISRATA |
LIBYA |



| BUDAIYA
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Working on difficult cases in the region

Difficult cases, including working in countries where human rights are most at risk³, represent currently 20 % of EIDHR activities. Since 2007, the EIDHR has supported more than 100 such projects to a total of EUR 60 million. In the Arab Spring region, the EIDHR mobilised funds on numerous difficult cases.

2.1. Defending human rights defenders

Since January 2011, the new and flexible EIDHR **Small Grant Facility**⁴ has covered numerous individual cases of victims of anti-democratic repression. This Facility proved particularly useful in the context of the Arab Spring, and **25 % of the small grants** allocated since the beginning of 2011 directly benefited human rights defenders (HRDs) in North Africa and the Middle East. More than 70 HRDs from countries involved in the Arab Spring were individually helped by the Facility since the beginning of the uprisings in 2011. In addition, many more defenders were protected via the capacity to re-grant funds allocated to NGOs in the region.

Support to HRDs is also provided through EU global projects that were activated in the region during the Arab Spring. EU projects, run by the **International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)** and **Protection International**, provided advocacy on human rights situations, mitigated risks encountered by HRDs, and reinforced the capacity of defenders to work in the region.

A dedicated EU project implemented by the **Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF)** provides financial support to hundreds of HRDs in emergency situations caused by their activities in the Southern Mediterranean region.

In addition, the EU supports the **Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**. Encompassing more than 80 organisations from 30 countries of the region, the network actively highlights the human rights situation and supports the development of democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the equality of women and men throughout the Middle East.

Moreover, the EIDHR supports **Front Line Defenders** which provides rapid and practical support to pro-democracy defenders at risk in the Middle East and the Gulf region. Mr Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, Front Line Protection Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, former President of the **Bahrain Center for Human Rights**, and award winner of the 2005 Arab Programme for Human Rights Defenders, is still under arbitrary detention following pro-democracy protests during the Bahraini uprising. Fears for his life have been expressed following allegations of torture.

³ See section 1.1.

⁴ This Facility (up to EUR 10 000 per case) permits rapid action and covers activities such as physical protection, legal fees, rehabilitation, and out-of-country relocation or support to families of victims.

The EIDHR also supports the protection of HRDs locally, for example in the **Occupied Palestinian Territories** through a project implemented by **the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, Association B'Tselem**. The Centre develops and implements new and complementary mechanisms to protect non-violent protests, activism and HRDs in the Territories.

2.2 Implementing the No Disconnect Strategy: a special look at Internet freedoms

The Arab Spring demonstrated the importance of Internet access in a startling manner. Calls to gather for peaceful protests and against human rights abuses were both relayed with extreme rapidity thanks to social networking during the revolutions of 2011. That is why the **No Disconnect Strategy (NDS)** was launched in March 2011⁵ to further support such movements.

THE NO DISCONNECT STRATEGY (NDS) AIMS AT:

- (1) providing citizens living in non-democratic regimes with the **technological tools** they need to shield themselves from **indiscriminate surveillance** or **bypass disproportionate restrictions** on their freedom to communicate;
- (2) **educating** citizens about the **risks and opportunities** of the Internet and ICTs, in particular when operating in high-risk conditions and when their security and privacy could be compromised;
- (3) obtaining **high-quality, real-time information** on what is happening on the ground, be it censorship and disconnection of Internet communications, or the approval of laws and policies that could put citizens in danger when exercising their basic human rights and;
- (4) fostering **cooperation** among different stakeholders and various public authorities that are working to achieve these important, common goals.

⁵ Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy 'Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean', COM(2011) 200 of 8 March 2011.

The EIDHR has invested in Internet access long before the Arab Spring. Indeed, it was part of the thematic points that the instrument chose to focus on in its 2011-2013 Strategy Paper adopted on 21 April 2010. The on-going 2012 global call for proposals focuses on projects to fight cyber-censorship and protect confidentiality of activists.



AMMAN |
JORDAN |

EIDHR 2011-2013 Strategy Paper:

39. Within the framework of the enhancement of the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries where they are most at risk (objective 1), activities to be supported will focus in particular on:

-
- ii) **the right to freedom of opinion and expression including artistic and cultural expression, the right to information and to communicate, including freedom of the media, fight against censorship, and access to the Internet;**

In **Syria**, a project protects the Internet freedom of independent bloggers, writers and journalists. These activists are trained to **circumvent Internet censorship** and to protect themselves at the digital level. Because of the risk that such activities involve, the project also physically protects activists, both in normal conditions and in cases of emergency. This action contributes to maintain the flow of information from independent sources in Syria.

The EIDHR also supports freedom of expression in **Yemen**. A project targets legislation regarding the media and the Internet. It tries to put media and **Internet freedom** at the top of the political agenda as well as actively working towards the formulation of new laws to strengthen the position of human rights activists in the country. It also improves access to information and freedom of speech for every citizen.

An EIDHR programme implemented by **Reporters Sans Frontières** protects journalists and bloggers, especially the young and inexperienced ones. It provides them with administrative, material or financial support when needed or in the most extreme cases moves them to a safe location and helps them continue working. The programme also provides judicial support for **journalists and bloggers** that are detained or facing a trial. Finally, advocacy is undertaken at all levels of power to improve the respect for security and working conditions of journalists, thus safeguarding freedom of speech and opinion.



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| GIZA
| EGYPT

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Operating in the countries of the Arab Spring

In 2011 alone, 54 new EIDHR projects were set up in the Arab Spring region. Below are examples of projects that helped support democratic transition, empowering civil society as an actor of change and mitigating human rights violations.

3.1 Supporting democratic transition

The EIDHR is supporting democratic transition via different means. It focuses on support to progressive structural reforms in countries where the situation is stable and on support to democracy building, elections and reconciliation in cases of regime change or more rapid transition.

SUPPORTING PROGRESSIVE REFORMS

The EIDHR project implemented by **Association de soutien au Collectif Démocratie et Modernité** reinforces the rule of law and democracy in **Morocco** through a dialogue between elected representatives and civil society, establishing confidence in parliamentary institutions. It builds, *inter alia*, the capacity of both members of the Moroccan parliament and civil society. It proposes reforms to increase the independence of parliament and promotes its good practices.

In **Yemen** the project 'Watch and help the parliament' implemented by the **Yemen Polling Center** strengthens the accountability of the Yemen's House of Representatives. The project monitors the performance of public reporting by parliamentarians. It supports opinion polls on public perception and aids public access to information.

An EIDHR project implemented by the **Jordanian Center for Civic Education** is increasing the amount of voters among young people in five districts in **Jordan**. Using the Internet and traditional media, the project 'Hear my voice: I can vote now!' educates youth about electoral freedom, rights and obligations as well as international standards. Teachers are also trained, enabling them to more widely disseminate up-to-date information.

A project implemented by the **Adala Justice Association** supports the reforms of the various codes that regulate the work of judges, lawyers and other justice officials in **Morocco**. The project helps improve the impartiality and independence of the judicial system. It also works towards the formulation and adoption of best practice to improve transparency, fairness and accountability. It encourages the judiciary to become a conflict-resolution actor rather than always a conflict referee.

An EIDHR project advocates for and develops the **capacity of Libyan prison institutions to ensure the respect of human rights** and build a transparent administrative process in accordance with international standards in the field. Implemented by the **Intercultural Institute from Timisoara**, this project is developed in partnership with the National Administration of Penitentiaries from Romania (NAP). This ‘peer-to-peer’ project shares benefits from the Romanian experience of transition and includes capacity building activities and the setting up of a registration system of detainees.

SUPPORTING ELECTIONS AND RECONCILIATION

An EU project implemented by a consortium comprising the **Club de Madrid (CdM)**, the **Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)**, the **European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)**, **International IDEA** and the **European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES)** provides support for the organisation of local elections in **Libya** in a comprehensive reconciliation process. The project has allowed the first elections ever held in cities such as Benghazi, or Derna to take place. It is also supporting Libyan processes such as the Council of the Wise that promotes dialogue among all political and tribal leaders, key factors towards achieving reconciliation and democracy.

In **Egypt**, while the EU was not invited to observe the elections, an EIDHR project supported the monitoring by domestic observers of the 2010 Parliamentary and 2011 Presidential Elections. Implemented by the **Andalus Institute for Tolerance and anti-Violence Studies**, this project helped Egyptian civil society itself to own the observation process. It allowed for the training and deployment of hundreds of election and media observers, as well as a press campaign on the election results.

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EIDHR'S SUPPORT TO DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS: THE EXAMPLE OF TUNISIA

The EIDHR deployed a comprehensive response package to the **2011 election for the first free Tunisian Constituent Assembly**.

A technical team of experts was immediately deployed to **assist the Tunisian national election committee** in its organisation of the elections.

An election has no chance of being democratic and inclusive if its main actors, political parties, do not understand how the process works. An EIDHR project implemented by the *Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung* **helps political parties to improve their campaigning skills** and trains them about inter-parties dialogues. This project resulted in the elaboration and subscription by parties of a code of good conduct during the elections and beyond.

An election, even if carried out in a fair way, cannot be considered fair if the population is not properly informed about the choice it makes. An EU project implemented by the *Deutsche Welle* Academy fostered the best coverage possible for both the campaign and the election. This project **trained over 50 journalists** from television, radio, written press and new media to portray information in a professional and impartial way. This project also trains teachers of journalism in the **Institute of Press and Information Sciences** so that new generations of journalists may continue to learn democratic practice and values.

Following the official invitation of the government, the EIDHR deployed an **EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM)** to observe and assess all aspects of the electoral process. Based on the observation of 19 % of polling stations the mission's report provided recommendations for improvement.

Finally, conscious that democracy is a process that does not come from the outside but must be owned by the population, an EIDHR project **fostered domestic observation** of the election. Implemented by the *Association Tunisienne Pour L'Eveil Démocratique*, the project trained and dispatched over 2500 domestic observers in all 24 Governorates of Tunisia.





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3.2 Empowering civil society as an actor of change

Working with, for and through CSOs is a major characteristic of the EIDHR. The instrument has been widely used in the region of the Arab Spring to empower civil society as an actor of change.

EMPOWERING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AS ACTORS OF CHANGE

The **Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights** (LADDH) implements an EIDHR project that strengthens the capacity of civil society to advocate for human rights and democracy in the *wilayas* (districts) of Tizi-Ouzou and Bajaïa in **Algeria**. It uses modern media to improve civil society's access to information about human rights. It organises training that increases civil society's capacity to be an active and influent actor in the democratisation process and coordinates its mobilisation and advocacy regarding human rights issues.

In the **Occupied Palestinian Territories**, the EIDHR is enhancing the effectiveness of an independent judiciary and empowering civil society's monitoring of the judiciary. Implemented by the **Coalition for Accountability and Integrity – Aman**, this project helps improve the role of the judicial authorities in the protection of HRDs. It builds the capacity of the judiciary for integrity, accountability, and independence and fighting corruption. Target groups include the High Judicial Council, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the Ministry of Justice.

EMPOWERING LOCAL JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA AS ACTORS OF CHANGE

In **Morocco** an EU-funded project supports community media for citizens' information. The project is empowering CSOs in their role of proposition, advocacy and monitoring reform of the communications sector. Implemented by the **Forum des Alternatives Maroc** (FMAS), this project supports on-going reforms to guarantee freedom of expression, pluralism, modernity, respect of rights and the opening of the media to include community radio stations.

An EIDHR project implemented by the **Ma'an Television Network Association** improves the media's capacity to perform its duty with the end goal of promoting freedom of the press and access to information in the **Occupied Palestinian Territories**. The project trained over 60 journalists from the written press, television networks, radio stations and online news agencies to better investigate and report news, especially on human rights, governance and accountability issues. This project also improves the capacity of journalists to respond to violations, thanks to the creation of a professional support network.

EMPOWERING YOUTH AS AN ACTOR OF CHANGE

In **Yemen**, the EIDHR contributes to the development of the youth movement. A project implemented by **The Ranin Al-Yemen Foundation** (Resonate!) builds the capacity and peer-to-peer coaching of youth groups within Yemen's protest movement, ensuring an active and inclusive participation of young people in Yemen's democratic and political processes.

In the **Occupied Palestinian Territories**, the **El Wedad Society for Community Rehabilitation** is implementing an EIDHR project on youth and human rights. This project enhances human rights awareness in the Gaza Strip by providing new graduates with the necessary skills and capability of spreading and promoting human rights culture, and monitoring human rights issues and fundamental freedoms. Activities include awareness-raising sessions, training of trainers for human rights coupled with leadership skills, human rights sessions for university students, and technical training about the media.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AS ACTORS OF CHANGE

In **Libya**, an EIDHR project supports women in effectively participating in the construction of a free and democratic Libya. The project also fights against any form of discrimination harming the full exercise of citizenship rights, especially for women. Implemented by the **National Consortium of Libyan Women**, the project allowed the establishment of an efficient women's organisations network, a comprehensive training and capacity programme and an efficient lobby for the active involvement of women in public life. This project has contributed to the election of several female candidates in local elections and monitors political processes for any policy which could exclude or harm vulnerable people.

The EIDHR supports a project in **Egypt** with the objective of strengthening women's involvement in public life. This project, run by the **One World Foundation**, increased the amount of women winning parliamentary elections. It trains women to campaign, fundraise, network and assess a community's needs. Training, information sessions and women-friendly material are also provided to campaign managers, community leaders and media professionals.

EMPOWERING SOCIAL PARTNERS AS ACTORS OF CHANGE

In a project implemented by its Italian counterpart, the **Italian General Confederation of Labour** (CGIL), the EIDHR has been supporting the major **Trade Union of Tunisian Workers** (UGTT). The project advocated and developed concrete action to defend and promote freedom of association and various civil and labour rights. Trade unions played a key role in the uprising, by temporarily ensuring public functions of the failed state (such as community security against looting). UGTT is now a key political player and deeply involved with the reforms.

In Morocco, a project carried out by the **Organisation Démocratique du Travail** improves workers' conditions and the respect of their human rights. This is done through the training of over a hundred union representatives both at the national and local level on the subjects of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and governance. Through these trained union representatives, the project works towards a better education for all workers with regard to the protection of their judicial, social, economic and cultural rights.



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| TUNISIA

3.3. Mitigating human rights violations

Last but not least, activity to mitigate human rights violations represents a big proportion of EIDHR activities in the countries of the Arab Spring, from the abolition of the death penalty and torture, to the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, through the fight against discrimination and the protection of fundamental rights.

FIGHTING AGAINST TORTURE

In **Libya**, an EIDHR project **supports torture victims and victims of enforced disappearance**. Implemented by the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and the *Organisation mondiale contre la torture* (OMCT), this project treats and helps rehabilitate victims of organised rape by Gaddafi troops. It also advocates effective prevention of torture and relative changes and reform.



An EU project run by the Transparency Center for Studies and Research improves the prevention of torture in **Yemen**. Through the education of over 500 officers among the police, general prosecutors and jail officials as well as religious and political leaders, this project fosters an **anti-torture culture** in the institutions. Information is provided to detainees regarding their rights under national law and international agreements. The project also provides legal support for torture victims, helping them in their rehabilitation, and fights against impunity for perpetrators of torture.

TRANSPARENCY CENTER /
KARAMA PROJECT |
YEMEN |

ENHANCING ACCESS TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

The EIDHR also supports the **access to economic and social rights** for migrant workers. A project implemented by the International Labour Organization helps Palestinian refugees in **Lebanon** have suitable employment conditions and social protection. The project gathers all possible information available on Palestinian workers in the country in order to produce internationally comparable data. This is used to propose policy changes that result in an improvement of conditions for Palestinian workers. The project also uses this data to help improve the existing monitoring and advocacy capacity of civil society with the goal of reducing discrimination of Palestinian refugees in the Lebanese labour market as much as possible.

In **Egypt**, a project helps remove legislative and judicial obstacles to economic and social rights. Implemented by **the Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession**, the project defines the legislative amendments required to activate the economic, social and cultural rights laid down in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It also raises awareness of justice officials on the issue and its legal importance in the justice system in Egypt. It also provides legal assistance to citizens in cases involving violations of economic and social rights.

COMBATING DISCRIMINATION

In **Algeria**, an EIDHR project helps reinforce the capacity of civil society to promote the rights of people with disabilities. The project implemented by the association **El Amel des handicapés moteurs d'El Ménéa** is mobilising CSOs to follow up on the formulation and implementation of anti-discrimination, social inclusion and equality policies, towards the goal of equal opportunities for people with disabilities in the south of Algeria.

EIDHR promotes gender equality and fights against gender-based violence in **Egypt**. A project implemented by **Sawa Association for Development** is developing mechanisms for the legal protection of oppressed women. The project helps combat violence against women through raising legal awareness about women's rights. A group of lawyers in the target area are given legal training enabling them to conduct cases of violence against women before national courts. In addition, a hotline is set up to receive complaints from oppressed women as well as to provide them with legal advice and direct legal aid.



PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL

In **Lebanon**, an EIDHR project promotes a better protection mechanism against arbitrary arrest, lengthy pre-trial detention and long delays in trial. The project, implemented by the **Association Libanaise pour l'Education et la Formation**, creates civil and communal awareness to reduce arbitrary arrest and increase respect of the rights of detainees during pre-trial proceedings.

An EU project run by the **Agence de Coopération Juridique Internationale**, defends lawyers who defend HRDs in **Algeria** and several other countries. In addition to providing them with support in cases of threat, unjust trials or imprisonment, the project also improves the lawyers' capacity to defend human rights cases. As well as training lawyers, some are helped to become trainers themselves.

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