

STRENGTHENING The Role of Parliament



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The strength and vitality of a democracy can be measured by the role parliament plays in a country's political institutions. The national budget is a key area where democratic parliaments can exercise balance and control over the executive. In Morocco, parliamentarians have historically had minimal involvement with the preparation and follow-up of the budget, lacking the resources to sufficiently understand, monitor and evaluate public policy and failing to help get the most out of scarce public resources.

An EU project strengthens the involvement of Morocco's parliamentarians in the state's budgetary process and serves to help them better understand technical issues behind it as well as strengthen their involvement in the Ministry of Finance's ongoing reform of Morocco's finance law.

Implemented in conjunction with the Abderrahim Bouabid Foundation (FAB) and the Centre for Study and Social Science Research (CERSS), the project targeted some 30 parliamentarians from different parties in the Moroccan parliament.

Analytical reports were produced for the parliamentarians on the state of budgetary reform in Morocco and international experience in this area, complemented by training sessions for the target group to strengthen their understanding of the technicalities of budget reform issues. 'Reflection workshops' were organised with the involvement of outside experts to help draw up concrete proposals to improve the reforms being proposed.

Empowered by their newly acquired knowledge and skills, parliamentarians were able to draw up a highly authoritative multi-party report which serves as the reference document on the issue, presenting Parliament's vision on its role in budget reform in general, and offering proposals regarding the new financial legislation.

These results represent an important milestone in the political enhancement of the Moroccan Parliament and have strengthened the balance of political institutions.