

Seminar on Empowerment of Youth Organisations and Youth-led Civil Society Initiatives in the South-Mediterranean Framework

Malta, 22-24 March 2012



Report

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



Seminar on Empowerment of Youth Organisations and Youth- led Civil Society Initiatives in the South-Mediterranean Framework

Malta, 22-24 March 2012

Report

The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

All correspondence concerning this document should be addressed to the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe, youth-partnership@partnership-eu.coe.int

This report has been compiled and edited with the help of the team of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, thanks to the work of the seminar facilitators:

Nadine Lyamouri-Bajja
Haythem Kamel
Khalil Raihani

and to the contributions of the speakers and working groups of the seminar.

Seminar report by Gisele Evrard

Pictures credit to Chouaa Dassouki and Gisèle Evrard.
Illustrations of the inputs credit to presenters.

© Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. SEMINAR PROFILE	P. 7
II.EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	P. 11
III. SESSIONS	P. 22
1. Official opening	P. 23
- Hon. Clyde Puli	p. 23
- Ms Souad Gueblaoui	p. 25
- Mr Khaled Louhichi	p. 26
- Ms Karin Lopatta-Loibl	p. 29
- Mr Rui Gomes	p. 30
- Ms Miriam Teuma and Mr Robert Debono	p. 33
2. Youth Policy cooperation at a glance	P. 35
- A brief history	p. 35
- Focus on youth policy cooperation	p. 36
- Why this seminar?	p. 37
- Timeline - what comes next?	p. 38
3. Realities of Youth Participation during and after the Arab Spring in Arab and European countries	P. 40
- Introductory remarks by Mr Ahmad Alhindawi	p. 40
- Tunisia - presentation Mr Abdel Aziz Labib	p. 41
- Tunisia - presentation Ms Fedia Gasmi	p. 42
- Egypt - presentation Ms Yara Shahin	p. 44
- Egypt - presentation Mr Shahir George	p. 46
- Europe - presentation Mr Manfred Zentner	p. 49

4. Implications of the Arab Spring on Civil Society and Youth NGOs	P. 52
- Morocco - presentation Ms Karima Rhanem	p. 52
- LAS - presentation Ms Chouaa Doussaki	p. 56
- Jordan - presentation Mr Sami Hourani	p. 58
- UNFPA/ASRO - presentation Dr Aleksandar Bodiroza	p. 60
- Integra Foundation - presentation Ms Maria Pisani	p. 63
5. Panel discussion: Youth NGOs, Youth Movements and Civil Society	P. 66
- Ultras	p. 66
- Palestine - Ms Manar Idriss	p. 67
- Egypt - Mr Kazem Hemida	p. 68
- The European Youth Forum - Ms Vania Freitas	p. 70
- The Advisory Council on Youth - Ms Sonia Mejri	p. 71
- Reactions and comments	p. 72
6. Working groups	P. 77
7. Closing words	P. 80
IV. APPENDICES	P. 81
- Programme	p. 82
- Reports of the working groups	p. 86
- List of participants	p. 98

I. SEMINAR PROFILE

Facts and figures

Type	Seminar
Topics	youth participation, youth empowerment, youth-led and civil society organisations, Euro-Arab cooperation
Venue	Malta
Dates	22-24 March 2012
People	About 65 participants
Outcomes	Focus on the causes and consequences of the Arab Spring, recommendations for institutions and partners to reconsider the possible necessary changes of priorities and/or of cooperation mechanisms
Main Organiser	The partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States, the Agenzija Zghazagh Malta and the Euromed Youth Platform.

Purpose of the seminar

The seminar focused on the role and status of youth organisations/ youth movements and the young people they work with as crucial actors in the development and consolidation of inclusive, participatory and pluralistic democracies based on human rights and the rule of law. Alongside a joint analysis on the impact of youth (organisations) on the Arab revolutions and vice versa, their role within the resulting transition process was in the focus of this seminar. To come up with well grounded recommendations, young people supported by experts have been given an opportunity for exchange of experiences and needs assessment in the framework of working groups.


Objectives

- ➡ To exchange on the current effects of Arab spring on civil society and develop a shared understanding of the current situation of young people in the South-Med region as well as in European countries and their role in ongoing processes of change;
- ➡ To understand the implications of this transition to democracy for the reality of youth, the youth agendas and for the landscape of youth led civil society organisations;
- ➡ To strengthen and support the role of civil society and non governmental youth led organisations and networks by enabling young people to reflect on their needs in terms of capacity building and propose joint projects to be implemented on a long term basis in a wider partnership.

 For more information: <http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/euromed/Malta.html>

Programme

- 2 welcome addresses
- 4 official opening addresses
- A youth seminar for 60 youth leaders, workers, researchers and young people
- 9 keynote contributions
- 1 panel with 6 contributions
- 3 working groups on the recommendations
- 1 excursion and dinner out to the Medina
- Summary and conclusions
- 6 closing addresses

 A detailed programme is available on page 82.

Participants

The majority of the participants were young leaders from Southern Mediterranean countries -mainly Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco - as well as multipliers of European youth organisations, representatives of the organisers and other stakeholders. In numbers and with sometimes double hats, this means:

- 60 youth leaders, workers and researchers
- 3 facilitators
- 10 speakers
- 11 institutional representatives
- 1 representative of the Maltese Ministry of Education and Employment
- 1 general rapporteur
- 1 coordinator
- 4 staff members
- 2 interpreters

 A complete list at http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/euomed/Euomed_Youth_policy.html and on page 98.

Outcomes and follow-up

Alongside an overview of the reasons beneath and the impact of youth [organisations] on the Arab revolutions (and vice versa) as well as their role within the current transition context and process, one of the expected outcomes of the seminar consisted in a list of proposals and recommendations which could serve as a basis to prepare not only the Symposium in Tunis (27-30 August 2012) but also for institutions and partners to reconsider the necessary changes of priorities and/or of cooperation mechanisms.

II EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and context of the seminar

The process of changes brought about by the 'Arab spring' in various countries provided the context and drives the need for re-visiting this cooperation. The *seminar on empowerment of youth organisations and youth led civil society in the South-Mediterranean framework* was the first step in this direction, providing youth non-governmental organisations and stakeholders with the opportunity to reflect upon recent developments and their implications for the future youth policy cooperation to safeguard ownership of the process among stakeholders and to ensure a sustainable long-term perspective.

Indeed, the events in a number of countries in the Arab region since the beginning of 2011 have imposed a new perception of young people's capacities and aspirations. As crucial actors in the processes of political changes, young people have stood up for more freedom, equality and justice. They also stand up for better future perspectives in education and work, economic and social development and participation in the decision making process. Thus and linked to the above, the role and organisation of youth policy needs to be reviewed and international youth policy cooperation has an important role to play. Despite the obvious differences between the Arab and European regions, clearly both are affected by consequences of globalisation processes.

The institutional framework

The South-Mediterranean youth policy cooperation of the partnership between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, the League of Arab States and other actors started in 2005, with the aim to develop a common understanding and exchange of issues of specific concern for youth policy in Europe and South-Med region. The cooperation aims at developing a common understanding and exchange of issues of specific concern for youth policy in Europe and South-Med region. Since 2006, other

national and international stakeholders of youth policy in European and South-Med countries have become involved and extended the framework of this informal cooperation.

The activities carried out brought together youth researchers, governmental institutions responsible for youth policy and nongovernmental youth organisations in European and South-Med countries. Those initiatives led to - amongst other results, new possibilities for direct exchanges between South-Med and European youth leaders, as well as opportunities for capacity-building of civil society youth organisations through training courses on human rights education, intercultural dialogue and youth participation.

In reaction to the political changes in their Southern neighbouring countries, both, the European Union and the Council of Europe are strengthening their efforts to support these developments towards democracy. Young people in Egypt, Tunisia and other parts of the South-Mediterranean hold the key to the sustainable and peaceful development of their societies based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Understanding and taking into account their expectations and needs is crucial for all the institutional stakeholders, such as the League of Arab States, national youth policy authorities and youth organisations. The experience of young people from the Diasporas in Europe and their role in and perception of recent developments can also positively contribute to this process.

Purpose of the seminar

The seminar gathered about 85 participants - youth leaders, youth workers, youth researchers, policy-makers and institutional representatives - from 19 countries. It focused on the role and status of youth organisations/youth movements and the young people they work with as crucial actors in the development and consolidation of inclusive, participatory and pluralistic democracies based on human rights and the rule of law. Alongside a joint analysis

on the impact of youth (organisations) on the Arab revolutions (and vice versa) as well as their role within the resulting transition process have also been part of the agenda. To come up with well-grounded recommendations, young people supported by experts have been given the opportunity to exchange experiences and needs through three main working groups. Proposals for concrete projects to be realised by/in cooperation with youth (organisations) also formed part of the above-mentioned recommendations.

The results of the seminar will be used for the preparation of the forthcoming Tunis symposium on youth participation and contribute to a meaningful dialogue between policy, practice and research at that event.

Before, during and after the Arab spring: participants' realities

The seminar shed light on 'before and after' the Arab spring. Through interventions and exchanges, participants and speakers have been able to highlight some of the key factors which led to the revolutions as well as the remaining challenges, more than one year after the burst of the Jasmin revolution.

Interchangeably called the 'Arab Uprising', 'Arab Spring', 'Arab Spring and Winter', 'Arab Revolutions' or 'Arab protest', the **roots of the events** early 2011 which brought wind of changes in the Arab region are now well known, thanks to the media, the social networks and the number of activities and initiatives developed since. Though numerous specific factors could be listed for each country, the commonalities that resulted from the exchanges during the seminar could be summarised as follow: a general rejection and a strong will to subvert the power (dictatorship) in place; the concentration of wealth in the hands of autocrats and an ever growing intolerance of cases of corruption; constant violation of human rights; an increase of poverty and of unemployment; lack of transparency and

democratic participation and a strong feeling of injustice, to name a few.

Parallel to that, Europe has witnessed the birth of movements such as the 'Indignados' as results of somewhat similar factors, such as corruption; lack of job opportunities; the economic decline; and lack of participatory democracy and space for active citizenship.

The seminar allowed a **better understanding of the role social media and social networks played in the revolutions**. Although it would be untrue to credit the latter for the outcomes of the events, they undoubtedly played a key role in easing the dissemination of information in real time, allowing massive reactions and coordinated actions. The 'cyber revolution' mostly started at home, transforming the private space into a public forum, a space for expression where no one was told what was right or wrong, a space for citizenship and a way to achieve transformations as never before. In countries seen as 'enemies of the Internet', the social networks became a powerful tool to counter the power in place and overcome bans beyond imagination. However, the different interventions during the seminar also highlighted the other side of the medal. Indeed and even though social media and social networks are mostly user-generated contents and do develop as people use and shape them, it appeared important to recall who was behind the social media. Moreover, the regulations that social networks such as Facebook impose did not always ease disseminating the information though ensuring a minimum 'safety', as for instance when it came to the use of real names (using false names had as consequence a ban on the Facebook page).

The **Arab spring brought down autocrats and dictators** (in Tunisia and Egypt), led to the definition of new constitutions (e.g in Morocco) and to transition periods as to support the overall process of changes towards democratic elections, for instance. It witnessed a process where **[young] people fought power** while being in a system of power-relation. It highlighted the duality between individualism and communitarianism and situations where the two

met as to achieve common objectives: justice, freedom and democracy. However and although most of the media kept on 'painting the situations in pink' so to say, young people from the Arab region started to **feel something close to disappointment**, aware of their own weaknesses as well as of the enormous obstacles still in place. Indeed, the revolutions and protests did not bring – yet, the expected changes. There are still high levels of resistance to change amongst not only reestablished institutions or the transitional structures but also amongst the population.

Youth organisation, youth movements and civil society organisations realised that to move on and prove that they deserve the place they claimed and fought for, **they need a much higher level of coordination, organisation and strategy**. Before the remaining challenges such as the extremely weak financial resources, the lack of education and training opportunities, the lack of trust, and the unemployment situation, young people are left with the immense task to better organise themselves; to radically break with old models of governance and innovate; to reach the unreached and develop a more inclusive approach to their work; and be ready to face new challenges, empowered and equipped with the necessary skills and competences to act as citizens and along equality principles.

The implications of the Arab spring on NGOs and civil society organisations

As explained in the previous point, the implications of the Arab spring resulted in a number of consciousness-raising processes. In spite of the continuous lack of trust, transparency and willingness to 'radically change', all participants agreed that **it is time to rethink youth-led movements**. Indeed, the revolutions shed light on the general weakness of youth/youth-led movements and civil society organisations. Not weakness in terms of motivation but rather in structural and organisation terms.

Paradoxically though similarly to those they condemn, youth-led organisations acknowledged that they **lack the resources and possibilities to envision their work and their future** from a different perspective. They realise the need for change, for different forms of governance, for considering 'youth participation', democratic processes and citizenship differently, but do feel somehow steered down in a common post-revolution form of apathy. The tasks is huge, and will require to **first be able to get out of power-relations** (who has power over whom?) **as to exercise their roles in a different way** and develop strategies based on the needs of the people they work with.

To be able to influence the new power in place and become **fully actors of the transition while shaping the future**, youth-led and civil society organisations will need to become accountable and credible. Concretely, this also means to go through training on organisational management, capacity building, advocacy and leadership, among others. It will require a very cohesive and inclusive approach to youth work as to avoid letting anyone behind.

Such processes will also imply **enhancing dialogue and cooperation with other and new networks**. Though everyone is now calling for visibility and for its place in the process of change, cooperation remains a key word as to work in an organised and systemic manner, still guaranteeing organisational specificities and identity.

The Arab spring also **shed a light on the external obstacles to youth participation** which still exist at the moment of the seminar: security harassment and control of civil society movements; the lack of access to rights (e.g. to participate, to education); the need to reform and transform education and training; the need to recognise the value and contribution of youth work; and to improve the visibility and recognition of non formal education.

Today: the role and participation of and in youth organisations / youth-led organisations

As stated by Karima Rhanem during her intervention, “today youth voice their opinions to influence policy making. They want their voices to be heard and considered; they want to be part of the decision making process; they want to be actors of change.”

The questions/issues raised during the seminar and partially tackled in the proposals and recommendations were as varied as the number of challenges youth-led organisations face.

- Why to participate? For social change, for transformation, for citizenship, for the access to rights, for equity, for well-being... But what does it mean for youth-led organisations today?;
- There is a need for youth-led and civil society organisations to be ready to be challenged and to have a critical look to their work. Many are not ready yet and need support in this process;
- Youth-led and civil society organisations may rethink their very basic structure. Do they still have to be membership-based, for instance? Do they still need to function as they used to or according to the ‘European standards of youth organisations’? Perhaps this is the time and the chance to be innovative in the way of working, cooperating and networking;
- Youth-led and civil society organisations need to avoid falling into the trap of the exclusive priority on employment. Youth participation goes far beyond it;
- The question of identity will remain important: dialogue, values, and attitudes will have to be comprehensively considered when developing future initiatives and

strategies. Hence, intercultural dialogue will have a transversal and major role to play in the forthcoming cooperation not only within the region but also with European youth organisations and amongst institutions;

- The youth field in general won't be able to ignore the political emerging forces (e.g. political Islamic coalitions). What impact may that have on the work of civil society and youth-led organisations?;
- Youth-led and civil society organisations should aim at getting fully involved in the development and managements of legislations, regulations and structures that affect them. Accountability and credibility are necessary and need to be accompanied by training mechanisms as well as safe and secured spaces for participation.

Recommendations and proposals

One of the expected outcomes of the seminar consisted in a list of proposals and recommendations which could serve as a basis to prepare not only the forthcoming event in Tunis (August 2012) but also for institutions and partners to reconsider the possible necessary changes of priorities and/or of cooperation mechanisms.

To develop those recommendations, participants were divided into three working groups focusing on education and training, youth participation and citizenship, and access to rights. Although each group had its own specific topics and theme-related proposals, several common conclusions or reflexion outcomes can be drawn:

- The **concept of 'youth' and young people'** varies a lot from region to region. Future partnerships may require to agree on a common definition of youth, which may also lead to – at a later stage though, the elaboration of an international declaration on youth and youth rights.

- The need to create a **common [Euro-Arab] youth platform** as to favour sharing good practices and experiences, have online consultations with specialists and experts, and increase the possibility to gather information about partners and funding opportunities.
- **Knowledge, research and documentation** should ensure the [online] publication of youth oriented material and research should enhance the knowledge about youth [policy] issues. This area of work ought to include **mapping/baselines for measuring the situation of young people** in the different countries as well as ensure tackling the issue of **youth rights**. The creation of a **think-tank** with young people from both Europe and the Arab region as to carry research-related work could also be considered. Communication should of course consider the **use of new technologies and in particular of social media and social networks** and – in the case of education and training, the development of more **e-learning** platforms.
- **Capacity building through specific training** should form part of institutional and youth organisations strategies as they guarantee empowering young people to take an active role in matters that concern them. Specific attention should be dedicated to **human rights education and to targeted and thematic campaigns and advocacy**. Amongst other issues mentioned are training in organisational management and democratic leadership.
- **Cooperation between formal and non formal education** needs to be reinforced as to maximise the learning outcomes and the competence development of young people. **Youth work ought to be recognised** and seen as an added value to other education mechanisms. Schools should also consider creating spaces for participation within the existing structures such as, for instance, [school] youth councils.

- **Legislations** should aim at enhancing affirmative actions or introduce quotas of young people representatives in governmental bodies and structures. Thus, '**co-management**' of structures dealing with youth, sport and education issues (for instance) should be considered based on the models already applied within the Council of Europe or following the path of the EU's structural dialogue. Evaluation and monitoring systems involving young people should also be created.
- There is an urgent need to **review existing funding mechanisms for youth organisations** and to make sure that representatives of the latter are involved in developing/ elaborating the former (e.g. through co-management and/ or consultation mechanisms). Funding should also guarantee **inclusion of all young people**.

Complementary to the above, the group on access to rights has developed a full proposal aiming at the creation and running of a **Euro-Arab rights network or platform for human rights**.

III. SESSIONS

1. Official opening

After a general introduction and a getting to know each other session the previous evening, the seminar opened on the 22nd of March with a series of welcoming addresses by the hosts, the different organisers, and partners.

Hon. Clyde Puli, Parliamentary Secretary of Youth and Sport, Maltese Ministry of Education and Employment

Hon. Clyde Puli welcomed everyone in what he considered an important step towards greater understanding and mutual support.

The tumultuous events of recent times in North African and Middle Eastern countries bordering the Mediterranean have taken the world by surprise and have presented many challenges as well as opportunities, which extended to and include youth policy and Euro-Med youth cooperation. The scale of the challenge has many aspects and the demographic situation in the region sheds a revealing light on the way the events have been made possible.



The challenges people face in the region are daunting, particularly young people who have been to the fore in initiating and indeed fighting for change and on whom the future

depends. In seeking to support the young people of the region, the international community must now take account of the broad cultural, ethnic and civic landscape of emerging democracies and not just focus on the upper tiers of governmental and public administration. This is particularly true in the context of developing youth policy and strengthening Euro-Med youth cooperation.

For Hon. Clyde Puli, more open societies will facilitate the emergence of economies that will generate the jobs and opportunities which young people need to remain at home. Better education and training systems can provide young people with the skills and competencies needed for their communities and countries to prosper in the world economy. The youth bulge in the region can be a driver of economic growth and social stability. However, without proper education and employment opportunities the youth bulge can be a drag on economic growth as well as a challenge to social cohesion.

For the development of youth policy in the region the challenges are clear. How can youth policy support young people in building a tolerant and progressive society in their own country? How can youth policy address conflicting values? Can youth policy bring about a shared future for youth?

Hon. Clyde Puli reiterated the initiatives already underway which provide responses to these questions, such as the European Union's increasing focus on neighbouring regions. Moreover and under the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field, 'Youth in the World' is one of the priority areas for action by Member States. Through partnership and joint programmes, such as the 'South Programme', the European Union and the Council of Europe are working together to support the transition to democracy in the Southern Mediterranean by focusing on strengthening civil society through the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, by means of targeted cooperation and intercultural dialogue.

As one of the stakeholders involved in the above-mentioned processes, Hon. Clyde Puli feels that Malta needs to take an active role, not only as one of the 'nearest neighbour' but also because the future of the region impacts on the future of Malta. Such seminar represents an opportunity to focus on how we can, together, empower youth organisations and civil society in the emerging democracies through youth-led civil society initiatives and the role that youth policy can play in supporting young people to build democratic societies; a youth policy based on a shared partnership with young people in the region.

Ms Souad Gueblaoui, Ambassador of Tunisia to Malta

As her predecessor, Ms Gueblaoui wished to highlight the importance of such seminar and the need to focus on the role of youth in the South-Mediterranean region in decision-making processes. She warmly welcomed all participants, convinced that youth, regardless of their nationality, are enamoured of peace and freedom and are animated by a desire to participate in the construction of a world where justice and equality between people of various cultures would reign.

Tunisia, as other countries which experienced revolutions, is currently undergoing a difficult transition period, given the complexity and the numerous tasks that its leaders are called to perform. The government does not ignore the claims of Tunisian youth for employment, training and for funding entrepreneurship initiatives. Daily demonstrations take place in Tunisia but the civil society needs to move on step by step. The issue of unemployment of more than 600.000 young people, including graduates, is regarded as a pillar of the revolution and the Tunisian government is trying to involve the private sector and universities to adjust education to the needs of the labour market and create more job opportunities for young people.

On a political and social level and in addition to the enlargement of the prerogatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the present Tunisian government strives to involve young people in decision-making, counting on their opinions and suggestions to draft a fair and equal society. It became of upmost importance to respond to the ambitions of the marginalised youth and to consider their needs. Moreover, the Tunisian civil society was invited to develop the associative work of young people, to foster regional assistance and promote national solidarity.

At the international level and including the relations with the European Union as one of the main economic partner of Tunisia, it seems important to Ms Gueblaoui to multiply seminars of this kind to foster dialogue and meetings between young people of Southern and Northern Mediterranean and where the European and Arab youth can now commonly speak about universal values such as freedom and democracy. She wished wholeheartedly that young people on all sides can build a new world not only 'tolerating the other' but 'recognising the other' despite the differences and to create a cultural exchange between people.

Ms Gueblaoui particularly called for European partners and civil society to support their neighbours in the South-Mediterranean region to catch up on the technological and scientific developments, a *sine qua non* condition for economic growth and social development in North Africa as well as peace and stability in the region.

Mr Khaled Louhichi, Director of Population Policies and Migration Department, League of Arab States

More than an opening speech, Mr Louhichi wished to address the audience with a short review of what happened, what has been achieved through the Arab Spring and what are the present

opportunities and challenges.

One of Mr Louhichi's remarks concerned the revolutions and uprisings in the Arab region as being the first of this kind in the history of Arab societies, because of four major reasons: the fact that most of their claims and slogans are mainly for freedoms and democracy as well as dignity and social justice; the important role of information and communication technologies in reinforcing the events' dynamics and protecting the rebellions; the very fast leave of the former regimes; and the fastest outspreading on the Arab level with - once again - common claims.

Mr Louhichi's second remark focused on the youthful leadership characteristics of these revolutions and uprisings: it was enflamed, it was spontaneous, meaning generally not directed or framed by any political party; peaceful in most of the countries that witnessed such revolutions; and witnessed a significant participation of women.

For Mr Louhichi, the main reasons for the uprisings and the effective role of youth lie in a rather late momentum to practice freedom -

even in its basic forms - in most of the Arab countries, which take the region to the lowest indicators related to freedoms in the global reports, including UN ones. Moreover, youth uprisings are especially due to the heated paradox between the



potentials and the earnings of basic rights on one side, and the available opportunities and choices on another side. Last but not

least, one of the reasons is also the weakness of participation of young people and NGOs, the patriarchy and the elder's monopoly for all power, including the youth leadership organisations.

When it comes to the current scene in general and the youth context in particular, opportunities and challenges could be listed as follows:

- Opportunities for freedoms and democracy are increasing and youth is a reinforced and pressuring power. This leads to ending the complex fear before any oppressive or repressive authority, and explains the continuity of protests and actions for change;
- Wide and reinforced interest in the public and the political affairs especially by youth, reflected by several indicators and results of surveys;
- The reinforcement of organised youth work: hundreds of organisations and coalitions have been established and there is a trend for networking, unifying and merging among them;
- Important achievements on the level of regulations and laws in terms of democratic path through numerous resolutions, regulations, and rules supporting the individual and the public freedoms;
- The youth movements' success in bringing all categories of people to act for a change;
- Trends for freedoms and changes are enhanced in most of the Arab countries, including those avoiding revolutions and uprisings.

Of course, there are also strong and complex challenges to face, such as the aggravation of the social and security crisis, the weakness of the NGOs parties and other organisations, besides the continued rejection from a wide range of youth to integrate existing ones and to participate in the elections, the emergence of a gap between the intellectuals and the elite, the emergence of religious conservatism powers, and the lack of awareness about the nature of the phases of democratic transition, which does require time and cannot respond to youths' demand for quick changes.

All this raises important questions about the required and necessary changes and revisions, which would enable a better understanding of the needs, attitudes and choices of the Arab Spring's youth and to be able to identify the appropriate concepts and methods

Ms Karin Lopatta-Loibl, Policy Officer, European Commission

After thanking the hosts and audience for their presence, Ms Lopatta-Loibl reiterated the importance of such seminar for it intended to provide useful and practical answers to unprecedented youth-led movements in the Arab region. While celebrating the first anniversary of the Arab Spring and while international players have already taken action, it is time for the European Union and the Council of Europe - through their partnership in the field of youth - to contribute to the process of change together, and to offer young people the support they need and ask for.

This first year of democratic movements in the South-Mediterranean region has witnessed dramatic changes. While in Europe - in a context of largely spread political lack of interest and disengagement of many young people - we preach active participation, young Arabs are practising it. They engage actively, they participate, they loudly claim and fight for the change they want to see in society. They want more freedom, better and more equal chances in education and in the labour market. Better and more chances in life: this is where young people from the South-Mediterranean region meet young Europeans.

While the historic, societal and general living situation is different for young people from both regions, they nevertheless face joint challenges: the search for better opportunities in life. What would make more sense than offering them the chance to join forces, to learn from each other, to network and to develop projects together? This is what the European Union wishes to support: young people's global exchange and cooperation. Bringing young people together

allowing them to get to know other people, other cultures, and other ways to deal with pressing issues that concern them. This is what 'Youth in the World' is about, one of the eight fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy. Participation is one of the other fields of action, based on 'nothing about us without us.'

The EU has a ten-year history of youth policy cooperation and from the very beginning, young people have been closely involved as an integral part of policy making; their role has been developing further throughout the years to reach a structural dialogue, an established process run by young people in cooperation with EU policy makers. Milestones of such structured dialogue are the youth conferences of each EU Presidency and the European Youth Week. These practices are part of what European young people could share with young people from the South-Mediterranean. Reciprocally, what could be shared with European young people is - among other things - the effective use of new technology and social media. These are only examples that could inspire this two-day seminar.

Ms Lopatta-Loibl recalled that *the Youth in Action programme which financially supports young people's projects and mobility, including exchanges and cooperation with the South-Mediterranean region, partly through the Euromed Youth Programme, which as reaction to the Arab Spring stepped up its financial frame.*

As her partners before, Ms Lopatta-Loibl also expressed the European Commission's readiness to support all participants, who they represent and what will come out of the working groups.

Mr Rui Gomes, Head of Division Education and Training, Council of Europe

The Council of Europe has been a pioneer in Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-Arab cooperation in the youth field. Its first formal cooperation activities started nearly 20 years ago with political youth cooperation. More recently, the EU-CoE youth partnership has

provided us the optimal framework to introduce capacity-building activities for youth work, human rights education and intercultural dialogue for active youth leaders. Mosaic - the T-Kit for Euro-Mediterranean youth work - is perhaps the best legacy and instrument that resulted from it.

Six years ago, the Council of Europe has also initiated a cooperation with the Youth Department of the League of Arab States which has steadily evolved to embrace Euro-Arab youth cooperation and, more recently, a long-term training course for youth leaders and youth workers.

For Mr Gomes, this seminar is therefore the natural result of this work and the purpose and meaning of our presence and work here is well reflected in its background. It tells of the burning anxiety and desire to be present and to be part of history. The revolutions of the Arab spring in Egypt and Tunisia – in which youth played a major role – called for action and solidarity by those in the countries



concerned and in Europe, who never stopped believing that young people crave for democratic forms of participation and that democracy can only be built with young people's active involvement.

But how to be part of it when we are not really part of it? How to be part of the future while being also part of the present and of the past?, asked Mr Gomes. No matter how much we can learn from history, what the past year and the history of this seminar has taught us is that it is important to take time. Take time to see, time to judge, time to act, and time to understand. This seminar is a privileged moment where we can understand or, at least, try to understand what has

happened with young people during the Arab Spring movements. Understand what has happened with young people in Europe and especially, understand what is happening with young people today in the Southern Mediterranean and in Europe as their futures are perhaps more interdependent than ever. Democracy - full of hopes and disillusion - is a new cement that will keep us together.

Democracy needs to be learned and taken ownership by each generation. We are not born democratic, we learn democracy. A lot of our action for youth policy development is in fact learning and teaching democracy through youth participation. We do this by supporting civic engagement and by supporting youth organisations. Youth participation is not an end in itself. We have to provide young people with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to *develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society*. Without that, youth participation becomes an appendix in young people's life stories.

Young people in Europe have been also taking to the streets. Many because they have education, but no jobs. Those without education and jobs are worse off, and they are too many. Social conditions in parts of the big European cities are another telling story about unequal distribution of wealth and opportunities. What has driven young people to the streets in Madrid may be different from what drove young people to Tahrir square, but the underlying purpose is similar: to build a more cohesive and inclusive society, to build a society with a future for young people.

Thus, if this seminar is an opportunity to learn, it is also the occasion to start building a different type of cooperation and exchange, to give intercultural dialogue and youth cooperation a different and more genuine meaning.

Ms Miriam Teuma, CEO Agencija Zghazagh &
Mr Robert Debono, National Coordinator,
Euromed Youth Platform

Both were glad to host participants, institutional representatives and partners in Malta, for a seminar which will give everyone an opportunity to get to know and learn from each other, to share experiences and knowledge, and to begin a process of mutual support and friendship in helping young people and youth organisations in the region play their role in society.

Agencija Zghazagh, the Maltese National Youth Agency, has now been operating for a year and one of its priorities is to empower young people in Malta through a new youth empowerment programme. Together with the Euromed Youth Platform, the National Agency has been anxious to strengthen dialogue and networking in the South Mediterranean region, considering the momentous events of the past year.

We are now experiencing a change in the region, said Ms Teuma. Fluidity is replacing rigidity in society, politics and culture. Uncertainty reigns and events are moving quicker than our capacity to deal with them. The hollowness of the old order has been made apparent for all to see. Economic crisis and political and social turmoil are and will continue to trigger an exodus of young people from the region in search of not only a better economic future, but also a better quality of life.

Among the many problems which the region has to face are the mismatches between education and training systems and the skills/competencies required by the global market economy; the lack of problem solving skills and competency in new and emerging technologies among young people; and a potential brain drain in emerging democracies.

Parallel to the work of the National Agency, the Euromed Youth Platform has been involving young people in decision-making processes through evaluations and other projects implemented and run through the Platform. The main objective is to involve those who are affected by decision makers as well as to reduce prejudices against youngsters through contact-making and networking. The initiatives of the Platform address three main fields of work: support to young people and youth NGOs, provide youth with equal information as to enhance capacity building, and support policy makers and researchers.

This seminar is a practical example of how we can work together to empower young people to take control, network and come up with ideas on how to react to emerging problems. Ms Teuma and Mr Debono hoped that it would be the first of many encounters and opportunities for mutual learning and support.



2. Youth policy cooperation at a glance

After the official opening addresses, Philipp Boetzelen - Research and Youth Policy Officer at the EU-CoE youth partnership, recalled the background and the context of the seminar, its main objectives and the timeline of the overall cooperation such seminar is part of.

A brief history

It is often stated that the history of Europe has been shaped by exchanges and interaction between peoples and cultures across the Mediterranean.

The European Commission's Euro-Mediterranean Youth in Action Programme was started in 1999, based on shared concern to combat prejudices and stereotypes that prevail across the Mediterranean and still determine mutual perceptions. The Commission's resolve to increase dialogue and co-operation across the Mediterranean finds its roots in the Barcelona Process, which currently involves all 27 EU Member States and 10 Mediterranean partner countries.

For the Council of Europe, the promotion of human rights and the development of democratic forms of participation are crucial objectives to its efforts to continue consolidating pan-European co-operation. The promotion of peace, co-operation and human rights within Europe, however, cannot be disconnected from the situation in neighbouring countries, particularly those in the Mediterranean area.

It is within this framework that the Council of Europe and the European Commission agreed to develop a joint Euro-Med project encompassing human rights and Intercultural Dialogue.

The role of the EU-CoE youth partnership is to explore new areas of co-operation, beyond those covered by existing programmes. One of those areas tackles youth policy and since September 2005, the partnership has been playing a pioneering role in the field of youth policy cooperation.

In addition to this, one of the main objectives of the Euro-Med Partnership has been to ensure quality development and support Euro-Med/Arab youth work with a view to increasing the quality and quantity of intercultural youth projects and developing youth workers' and leaders' skills and ability to deal with issues of common concern.

Focus on youth policy cooperation

In 2005, the EU-CoE youth partnership, together with several national and regional partners, initiated a process of youth policy cooperation in the broader Euro-Mediterranean region, with a view to fostering greater cooperation between youth policy stakeholders.

The process started in Alexandria in 2005, with a seminar on 'Youth Policy - Here and Now!'. It was taken further in Cairo in 2006, with an international round table on 'Youth policy and research development in the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation framework'.

The process of youth policy cooperation has inter alia significantly contributed to the recognition that co-operation among institutions responsible for youth policy (public and private) is essential to intercultural dialogue and to the projects in which young people take part.

Youth policy activities have also, undoubtedly, resulted in an expansion of partnerships and co-operation with a variety of institutions concerned by Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-Arab co-operation, including the League of Arab States.

Why this seminar?

As explained before, the events in the Arab region since the beginning of 2011 have imposed a new perception of young people's capacities and aspirations. As crucial actors in the processes of political changes, young people have stood up for more freedom, equality and justice. They also stand up for better future perspectives in education and work, economic and social development and participation in the decision making process. Thus and linked to the above, the role and organisation of youth policy needs to be reviewed and international youth policy cooperation has an important role to play.

Despite the obvious differences between the Arab and European regions, clearly both are affected by consequences of globalisation processes.

In this context, the main aim of the seminar was to provide youth non-governmental organisations and stakeholders with the opportunity to reflect upon recent developments and their implications as regards to the empowerment and participation of young people.



At the same time, the seminar was a first step of a renewed youth policy cooperation taking into account the window of opportunity resulting from political changes in the aftermath of Arab spring in a number of countries.

Timeline - what comes next?

The ***seminar on empowerment of youth organisations and youth led civil society in the South-Mediterranean framework*** was a first step of a renewed youth policy cooperation taking into account the window of opportunity resulting from political changes in the aftermath of Arab spring in a number of countries.

Parallel to this, ***a mapping exercise*** has also started as to provide all actors with a comprehensive overview of activities and initiatives taking place in Europe and in the Arab region with a focus on youth. A first draft of the mapping - focusing on the period January 2011 - March 2012, has been presented during the seminar.

Today, partnerships have been reinforced and new ones developed; new actors and organisations have emerged and there is now a window of opportunities to work on what we haven't done yet.

In relation to this, three essential elements are taken into consideration during the seminar and for the overall process:

- Assessment: what has been done and where do we stand? What has been the role of young people in the recent events and what impact the latter had on them?
- Needs analysis: what are the needs of young people and youth-led organisations with regard to participation?
- Recommendations: what can be proposed to support empowering young people?

Following the seminar and the undergoing mapping, a meeting of Stakeholders have taken place on the 24th as to review the two-day seminar and to discuss the ***Symposium 'Arab spring: Youth participation for the promotion of peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms'*** which will take place on 27-30 August 2012 in Tunisia.

The Symposium will bring together about 120 policy makers, youth leaders and representatives, researchers, youth workers and other experts in youth policy from Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region and from the networks and projects of the co-organisers.

 For more information: <http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/euromed/Tunisia.html>

3. Realities of youth participation during and after the Arab Spring in Arab and European countries

Note: what follows consists of the rapporteur's summaries of interventions or extracts from and personal adjustments of longer presentations. Most of the versions are accessible on <http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/euomed/Malta.html>

Introductory remarks by Mr Ahmad Alhindawi, youth expert

"While entering into a phase of presentations, testimonies, situations which can provide us with a better understanding of the realities before and after the Arab Spring, in Europe and in the Arab region, we may also wonder what do we need?"



We need to think in a more strategic way. We need to set new rules, to set values of democracy. Civil Society Organisations need to be radical. We can discuss democracy but we can't discuss rights, the right to organise ourselves, young people. We have a huge role to play, we can influence the process and be actors of change.

Let's seize the opportunity".

The Tunisian Revolution (1), by Mr Abdel Aziz Labib, youth expert

We sometimes use common terms to design people even though concepts and notions taken from practice and events, such as those in Tunisia, may challenge some terminology. However, what we talk about is not necessarily dwelled in sociology. Instead, and from a rather philosophical perspective, any 'open experience' needs a kind of organised conceptualisation; it needs intellectual guidance.

Hence, how to use the kind of empowerment almost imposed on young people?

Citizenship and participation

Youth becomes the only alternative to turn around economical challenge and power. Charismatic people owning media and having the technological power became political leaders and youth wants to radically change this image, to restore politics in their initial form. Multiple mobilisations are now a trend and have been quite peaceful in Arab countries. Sometimes too peaceful...

The role of social media

The 'cyber revolution' mostly started at home, transforming the private space into a public forum, a space for expression where no one was told what was right or wrong, a space for citizenship and a way to achieve transformations as never before. In countries seen as 'enemies of the Internet', the social networks became a powerful tool to counter the power in place and overcome bans beyond imagination, like a marriage between people and cyber power. In Tunisia like in other countries, despotism was ceased by the cyber power. Despotism against immobilisation, against transformation, flexibility, fluidity, and mobility. This is what young people changed, bringing harmony between intentions and acts.

Citizenship

Social networks also played a very important role in the negation, the denial of the power in place. All movements in Arab countries are organised; they brought new kinds of socialism even though young people discovered themselves as individuals. Terrorism, terror, oppression, control: all this was destroyed thanks to the revolution. Capitalism did not find the way to block terrorism; young people peacefully did it. This results in having all around young people carrying banners and slogans asking for freedom and dignity; and no weapons.

The Tunisian Revolution (2), by Ms Fedia Gasmi, youth activist, president of Club Unesco Bardo and director of Radio Ana Tounsi

'By involving youth in decision-making, governments meet the challenge of participatory democracy and lay the foundation for a just and equitable society, in which young people, without distinction of sex or age, can draw upon their creative potential and dynamics.'

(Ms. Karima Bounemra, Director of the North Africa Office of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, North Africa Office)

The nationwide protest movement that led to the overthrow of the regime of President Ben Ali on January 14, 2011 was a first of its kind in the Arab world. Using social networks, predominantly Facebook, young people across the country organised without the guidance of formal structures such as civil society organisations and political parties. Reacting to years of perceived indignity, economic hardship, unemployment and denial of basic freedoms, Tunisian youth representing diverse social, economic and political backgrounds were truly the engine behind the change that swept across the country.

Participation?

Based on several research studies conducted in 2011, it seems that the reality of Tunisian youth participation does not generally fit the event named 'Youth Revolution', which raises more than a question concerning the readiness of this active group that was in the level of its political participation or the level of involvement in the coming electoral course.

Youth participation in parties did not exceed more than 22.3% and most of the young people participating had a medium educational level (preparatory or secondary = 26.8%) after the election. October 2011 statistics have shown that from the 35% of potential electors, only 13 % registered. Youth participation in NGO did not exceed 0.6% before the revolution.

Barriers to youth participation in Tunisia

Tunisian youth are eager to participate in their country's democratic transition, but are sceptical about available channels. However, young people are cautious about the political process and the role of the current elite. They express concern about individuals, political parties and civil society organisations attempting to profit from the revolution for personal gains.

Political parties, which were co-opted and marginalised under the former regime, have poor standing among youth. While civil society organisations fare slightly better, young people remain suspicious about lending formal support to any organised institution. The democratic transition is seen as a closed, elite-led process.

Youth work and youth NGOs are weak, especially in terms of capacity building, advocacy, framework and strategic planning. However, many initiatives are taking place thanks to new NGOs such as I watch, Sawty, UGET, etc. Nonetheless, most of the NGOs working with/on youth as well as the activities they organise remain concentrated in the capital.

Action needed now to increase Tunisian youth participation

A number of actions and initiatives are now needed as to favour participation of Tunisian young people. Some of the most relevant are as follows:

- Develop an innovative strategy for promoting the status of youth through a national and comparative lens;
- Conduct practical oriented research and documentation on topical issues, such as youth participation.
- Expand youth opportunities for Tunisian youth and provide them skills to participate fully in the economy and public life;
- Enact and enforce laws (e.g. the new platform of NGO working with/on youth, advocating on including youth rights in the new constitution);
- Pursue multi-sectorial approaches to combine the efforts of various government's departments to enhance youth skills and opportunities;
- Recognise youth work and design new youth policies responding to the expectations of young people;
- Encourage the process of creation of a Tunisian National Youth Council.

The Egyptian Revolution (1), by Ms Yara Shahin, youth expert

A parallel world

It seems important to clarify that when we talk about youth organisations, we talk about non-governmental organisations. When looking to what happened in Egypt, it is much wider than what one may think and was youth-led. Youth created a parallel world in different spheres and space others than those of the regime. This parallel world actually existed everywhere and developed through activities and new models of simulations:

- For ten years, these models created parallel spaces for young people to engage;
- Underground music and individual cinema and theatre were a new way to escape the control of the media. Individual directors gave voices to other people; individual theatre troops emerged, performing in the streets;
- Wide blogger movements escaped censorship and opened the doors to sharing information on what was happening.

Youth organisations and young people were part of all this. They rebelled and took initiatives, led new actions and were part of the revolution.

What do we (young people) want?

Change takes time, it is a challenge and the task is huge. We need to look for changes after toppling all the meanings of despotism, set new rules and norms for the society, and change the political system.

Do we have to be radical? Yes! We used to play according to the rules and that did not work. There are different areas that youth-led and civil society organisations can influence. To do so, we need more networks, more cooperation. While some movements were on Tahrir Square, youth NGOs preferred to be there as individuals. That is not what we need. We need to take back Egypt to youth-led organisations and we need to do it together.

The Egyptian Revolution (2), by Mr Shahir George, youth activist, member of 'Masr Alhureyya' party, co-editor of the Egypt Human Development report 2010

Socio-political inclusion of youth

A year passed after the Egyptian revolution but yet many of youth aspirations for an inclusive political system are far from achieved. The political will and an enabling environment that nurtures citizenship and allows for its exercise must exist if youth are to have an equal voice in social and political affairs or to have a sense of community, a national identity and are seen as equals by community members.

The pretext of citizenship: school education

An enabling environment for youth to integrate in social and political life in Egypt starts in schools. There appears to be no awareness of the importance of this process and no serious intent in instilling principles of rights and responsibilities among students. The budget allocations for student unions are persistently allocated to other activities, with no say from students. An aspiration for 2020 is enforcement and honesty in applying the ministerial decree (1990) stating that student unions must be set up in each school.

A further improvement would be to incorporate students' voices in school decisions. By 2020, credible student unions would have created good citizens with the right to argue and defend opinions, willing to engage with reality and be critical of it.

Fragmentation dissolved

Although youth in Egypt nowadays feel empowered and engaged in public affairs, the outlets that would enable them to come together

are minimal. The sanctioned contribution to youth activities has been the creation of youth clubs across Egypt, the focus of which has been on sports alone, even though a national council decision states that these centres should train youth in leadership and life skills, vocational and IT skills. Needless to say, these centres didn't play such role prior to the revolution.

The refocus of youth centres on social and cultural activities would reorient and emphasise feelings of citizenship. It would give room for girls - at present largely excluded, to engage in enriching pursuits outside of the home. These centres also offer vast opportunities that should be consciously seized to attract all Egyptian youth - Muslims and Christians - to make them self-aware of the elements of a common identity to better work on its development and progress.

Young people by 2020 should be more vigorous in centres' general assemblies, where they could elect board members and help decide on important issues such as budget allocations. Presently, these are rights guaranteed by law but not reflected in the norm.

Practicing citizenship restored

For a vision where youth are educated on citizenship and enjoy the social space to formulate opinions and be politically socialised, there is first the need to establish the right to practice politics. Two domains are still important where this is applicable: University campuses and the public space:

In university campuses, political activity and the right to engage with social realities should be respected for all students and independence has to be maintained. On top of the creation of student unions, the right of students to express their political views should be liberated from university administrative domination and political committees in student unions should be restored. Allocation of time for student activities should be freed up, and there should be no obstruction to students choosing the activities

they prefer. By 2020 it is hoped that the university administration would have revoked or at least amended the clause that bars membership to unions councils of students whose freedoms were previously restricted.

The practice doesn't stop on university campuses but should extend to the street (i.e. public space) that is free from an emergency law or military trials that restrict civil society' ability to organise and campaign freely. Although one of the key successes of the revolution is instating the freedom of parties' establishment, yet a free environment is not reached. In 2020, political parties have to learn how to identify potential new constituencies among Egyptian youth and bring them into the organisation. They also have to respect democratic procedures in their inner workings and allow youth leadership unlike now.

Elections

The vision stands complete when an enabling environment for youth to vote and elect themselves is guaranteed. This enabling environment should ensure equitable elections laws that encourage youth to run as candidates. Transformation to decentralisation should also take place for youth to actively engage at the local level especially in marginalised communities.

Realising the gender gap in youth political empowerment is a must. Sexual harassment and a lack of a safe space for girls should not be undermined in any strategy that needs to engage youth in political life.

Youth responsibility

Youth in 2020 should base their opinions on facts rather than oral culture or parents opinions. Illiteracy eradication for youth is needed as it reached up to over 20%. Youth has to think of opportunities and assets to integrate socially and politically rather than be stifled by focusing only on needs and what's missing. Youth in 2020 have to

realise that youth integration is not a linear path in any country but always a power struggle especially with adults who never wish to let go of their authority whether in opinion, knowledge or power.

The European experience, by Mr Manfred Zentner, Pool of European Youth Researchers

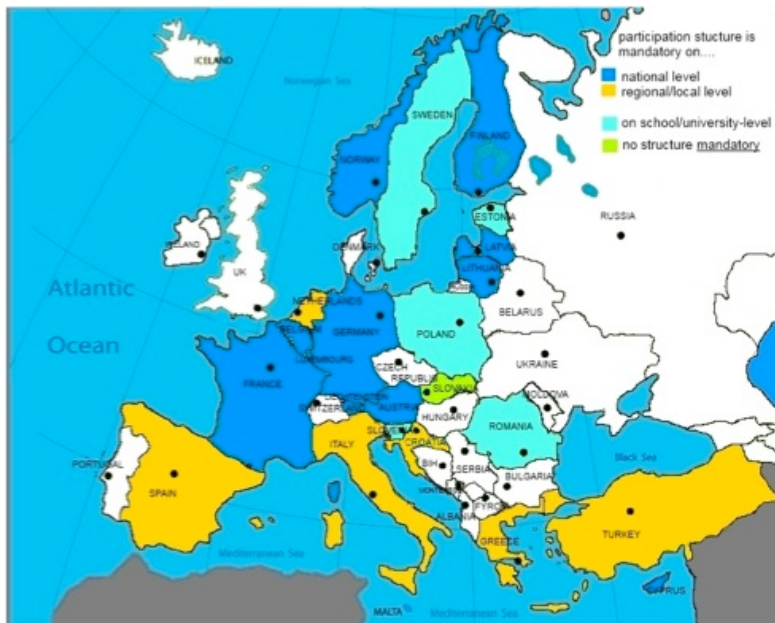
Changes in society

What is all this about? Many changes have occurred that shaped a new framework for participation. Through the decline of meta-stories, communism, capitalism, religions have lost their influence and power of interpretation of life. Thus, the rule of truth doesn't apply any longer, we do not know what is right or wrong anymore. Moreover, we face 'multi-optional development'. Not everything which looks technically possible can be done and there is a certain difficulty to decide which direction to go. The individualisation gives us the freedom to choose, but somehow forces us to do so. Globalisation and intercultural exchange: perception of trans-cultural differences in people's everyday life have taken over monoculturalism, partly because of the filtered information one gets through Internet. Networking does allow contacts beyond traditional structures but the economic crisis makes it more complicated to respond to current changes.

Participation in Europe

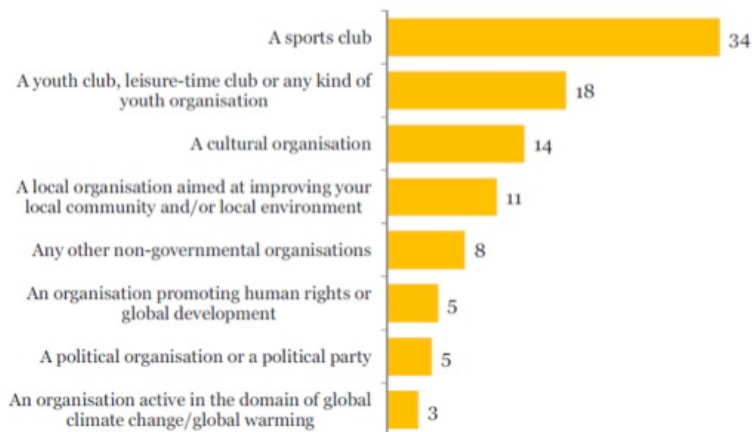
'Please play to the rules'.

Participation is usually well perceived and favoured. Young people are involved or represented in decision-making processes but the establishment decides how things work and what should be given, e.g. National Youth Councils. The map on the next page provides us with an idea of the right to participate for youths.



Impact on participation

Participation is welcomed by the governments – as long as it respects the rules (of the governments). The role of youth is important in future developments which implies that we have to know what young people want and therefore need to ensure that they get their voices heard. Youth councils, youth NGOs, structured dialogue (on- and off- line), research – all to get the young people involved in decision making, but...



Q1. Have you in the past year participated in any activities of the following organisations?
 Base: all respondents, % of 'Yes' answers shown, EU27

(Source: European youth survey)

i-participation: engagement if it is important for me

Traditional forms of participation are not the only ways to get heard: new forms of expression became popular. We can talk about an individualised participation: I am active if something touches me or 'the closer the topic is to my heart the more I get involved'. I do vote even though I may not fully believe that I can change something. Traditional forms of protest such as boycott, wearing T-shirts, posting on social media pages, do not only continue but increase. Parallel to that, 'old schools' membership in parties or organisations decreases in Europe. Does that mean a decrease in solidarity? Or rather that we may consider reviewing mechanisms for youth participation? For instance, are membership-based organisation still needed?

4. Implications of the Arab Spring on Civil Society and Youth NGOs

Note: what follows consists of the rapporteur's summaries of interventions or extracts from and personal adjustments of longer presentations. Most versions are accessible on <http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/euromed/Malta.html>

The morning session allowed the participants to develop a certain understanding of the different realities before and after the Arab Spring and shed light on the challenges and necessary changes which are still ahead of us. The afternoon opened on a series of presentations dedicated to the impact of the Arab Spring on civil society and youth-led organisations. There is no chance to go back; we have started and the Arab Spring created a new face and phase. What are now the possible scenarios? What are the possibilities?

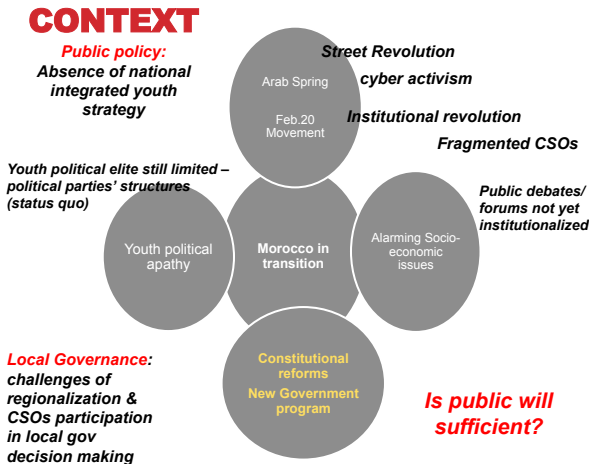
'Morocco turns Arab spring into a summer of Reform - Youth & civil society at the heart of Public Policies' by Karima Rhanem, youth journalist, blogger, project coordinator at the Mediterranean Forum For Youth & Childhood

Background - Civil society, a long history of advocacy

The impact of the Arab Spring on Moroccan civil society organisations is perhaps different from the impact on Tunisian or Egyptian ones. Some think that there wasn't any revolution in Morocco, while there was. But a revolution of ideas, of institutional

changes, not only of toppling the Head of State. We turned the Arab Spring in a summer reform.

According to a national survey conducted in 2007, Moroccan CSO's accounts in 2007 about 45.000, recruiting 352.000 volunteers, who participated with 96 million labor hours, which is equivalent to 56.524 full time jobs and worth 8,8 billion milliard dirhams. There isn't such thing as a definition of youth organisations but the later - about 5.000 - are still led by youth. The surveyed NGOs work in different fields such as: development, education, health, culture; sport, entertainment, human rights, housing. Their membership accounts for more than 15 million, of which 2/3 are women. With the amendment of the 1996 constitution making the political sphere more democratic, a multitude of civil society organisations and associations emerged on the national scene, advocating for and working to improve human rights, women's rights, economic development, education and health.



Arab Spring gave birth to youth movements

The Arab Spring protests resulted in regime-change in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, and destabilised regimes in Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, as well as Morocco. As part of the call for democratic reforms, the activists in the MENA region are seeking the establishment of laws, mechanisms and institutions that guarantees individuals' social, economic and political rights, based on dignity, freedom, equity and social justice.

In Morocco, the protests did not start with youth movements but reached its peak during the Arab Spring. Yet, the 2011 Moroccan youth movements, inspired by revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt, took another form and used social media and cyber activism to make their voice heard. Protesters have espoused a wide range of grievances, including a lack of balance of powers in Morocco's political system, corruption, socioeconomic inequality, abuse of authority and unequal share of powers and resources.

Impact of the Arab Spring and Youth movements

In the king's speech on March 9, a number of new political reforms were proposed. Those initiated in 2011 have included the passage of a new constitution, the creation of a new national human rights body, and the holding of early legislative elections. The moderate Islamist Justice and Development Party won a plurality of seats in the legislative elections, and is poised to lead the government for the first time. The monarchy has additionally pledged to strengthen economic regulations, improve transparency in the public procurement process, advance government decentralisation, reform the justice sector, and expand press freedom.

From youth apathy to youth activism

Historically, Moroccan youth have been apathetic and disillusioned with politics due to lack of representation. However, after the birth of the Feb. 20 Movement, a leaderless coalition that has

orchestrated a number of subsequent pacific protests, demanding parliamentary monarchy and advocating political change, several youth have become more interested than ever in shaping the policies of the country. From that movement also emerged a new culture of political activism in which the youth are not only a part of the political scene, but leading it.

Government programme menu for CSO's

The government pledges to open public debate with youth & civil society; make the Consultative Council of Youth & Community Work functional; develop a national integrated youth strategy, ensure coordination and synergy between sectors working on youth policies; create regional youth councils; upgrade public spaces reserved to youth; develop CSOs capacity building and amend laws regulating civil society allowing for more freedom and transparency in accessing public finances.

Recommendations

In spite of all the opportunities given to Moroccan CSOs post Arab Spring and considering the numerous challenges they still face in various areas of work and fields of action, several recommendations need to be made, such as:

1. Encourage partnerships between youth organisations and local governments on special projects to improve public parks, renovate equipment and infrastructure;
2. Encourage synergies and civil society donor coordination;
3. Strengthen civil society institutional and advocacy capacity & generate their knowledge on local governance;
4. Encourage the creation of networks & youth councils to provide a space for CSOs to use mobilisation and advocacy to improve services at the community level;
5. Encourage CSOs to take advantages of the openings in the constitution to participate in drafting legislations that concern youth;

6. Encourage youth movements to get organised in watchdogs for example; go beyond protests in the street; and start negotiations with the government.

Presentation of a survey's results by Ms Chouaa Dassouki, youth project coordinator at the League of Arab States

Ms Dassouki summarised and presented the main results of a survey conducted in 2011 by the League of Arab states. The survey was on electronic format and tackled approximately 500 active youth (65% Male, 35% Female) from twelve Arab countries. Hence, the survey is not introduced as representative of the Arab youth as a whole.

The themes of the study were:

- Capacity building and youth organizations support;
- Promoting citizenship and democracy among young people;
- The effective youth participation in political issues in post-event and during the phase of democratic transition.

The most prominent challenges in the field of participation

Young people believe that they lack funding resources as well as logistical and technical support and almost 19% of them cannot cope with difficult and complex legal procedures. Others added the lack of independence, skills and knowledge weakness and lack of opportunities for or weakness of voluntary work.

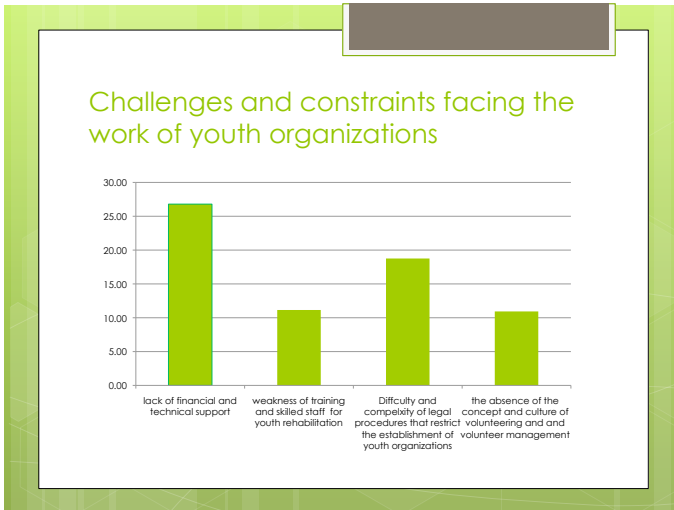
The most important needs, including those from LAS and international organisations

The biggest needs of the young people surveyed seem to lie in technical and financial support which led to several requests and proposals to establish a support mechanism for youth organisations projects. According to the contributors, priority areas where action

is urgently needed are employment, youth participation, networking and dialogue.

This goes totally in line with **the challenges and constraints faced by youth organisations and youth work**, which - on top of financial and technical support - show that there is a need for more opportunities of training staff for youth rehabilitation, the difficulty to deal with procedures that restrict the establishment of youth organisations and the absence of the concept and culture of volunteering and volunteer management.

The most prominent obstacle is the lack of independence 'for the regime makes it one of its tools to serve its interests and this reflects on youth' (comment from a young Tunisian).



The need to establish an Arabic Center for the training of youth leaders

Strong demands for training have been expressed, especially in the following areas:

- Themes related to youth and democratic transition;
- Leadership skills and organisations management;
- Dialogue skills;
- Development of legislations and laws (demand for the adoption of a youth rights declaration);
- Intensive opportunities for dialogue, exchanges and networking: forums, meetings, conferences, etc.

'The role of youth NGOs and donor community pre and post the Arab Spring' by Sami Hourani, Jordanian youth activist, director and founder of Leaders of Tomorrow Organisation

In the last decade young people in Arab societies grew up in economic hardships with authoritarian governments, often poorly governed with severe lack of representation and diversity. The population explosion of today's youth have put a heavy weight on the educational systems, health care services, and other resources that are generally deficient due to fragile infrastructure and poor management. Youth has been systematically underrepresented in public affairs, which socially and politically exclude them from decision-making processes, promotes frustration toward and alienation from their government and civil society. Of course, it is not all this bleak. Youth in many Arab states have been mobilised in 2011 to take the streets, demanding for an end of corruption and dictatorship. Millions of young Arab citizens have raised their voices and have therefore been great assets and actors of change to their countries. Social entrepreneurship and community-organised activism is sprouting across the region, but also non-violent

demonstrations and young people going to vote: all promising signs of healthy civic engagement.

The Arab Spring has been credited with the mobilisation of thousands of youth, which is a rather straightforward analysis as the Arab youth population make up as high as 75% of the total Arab population. Was the Arab Spring initiated with efforts of civil society and the international donor community in Arab countries? Let's try to examine what the role of civil society and the international donor community has been in mobilising youth during the Arab Spring, and in how far civil society is currently able to take up new roles and responsibilities to promote cohesive societies where young people feel connected to the state and its civil society.

The Good

During the last decades, the MENA¹ region has received foreign aid from the global community to promote social cohesion by reducing socioeconomic inequalities, where poverty is a prominent force effecting social exclusion. Useful mechanisms have been implemented through initiatives that successfully distribute resources across social groups, for example through improvement of access to health services, availability of credit and social protection, fair opportunities in basic and higher education and development of community infrastructures. Also, the promotion of democracy and good governance has been high on the agenda. Measurements have been taken to build national capacities, promote human rights and freedoms.

The Bad

However, comprising the majority of the population, today youth is still left behind in the Arab region. Young people have remained excluded, lacking civic participation. Even in booming economies

¹ Middle East and North Africa

such as Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, youth are disadvantaged on the job market, where many positions are monopolised by seniors who receive more benefits, exercise more power, and have higher wages. Due to the socioeconomic exclusion, a sense of belonging and solidarity to society is missing among Arab youth.

The social exclusion of youth remains even after the Arab Spring. The reasons could be summarised as follow: youth organisations are hard to find in the region, because a real investment in youth-led organisations is missing. While youth movements have been sprouting up in the Arab region, hardly any lasting contributions have been made by funding agencies in promising youth initiatives. Rather, the international donors decide to continue to fund the organisations they are familiar with and have a long-lasting relationship with. Unfortunately, this sustains the existing structures that exclude youth from public affairs. At the grassroots level, this leads to many youth initiatives that remain unstructured, lack capacity, with quick turnarounds, often not surviving one year of existence, quickly growing inactive with their members staying behind disillusioned in creating lasting change.

'After the Arab Spring: what's next for Arab youth?' by Dr. Aleksandar Bodiroza, technical advisor, youth, HIV/AIDS, UNFPA/ASRO

To introduce his presentation, Dr. Bodiroza shared the story of the 1st day of the elections, in Cairo, where it took him three hours to reach his destination instead of the usual fifteen minutes. Asking a man who was somehow blocking the way where he was going and why he was doing that, the answer was 'I am going to vote. Egypt is now an oppression-free country. We can do what we want'.

Challenges or opportunities?

Both! We finally have some hot topics back on the agenda, including human rights, but it is also more difficult than ever to talk about it. Therefore, **political participation vs. youth participation?** Civic engagement means political engagement; both are intrinsically linked. However, it is also more than this: our goal should never be to increase the number of young people in political parties. Instead, we need to get back to an extremely important issue, nowadays forgotten, because this is what all this is about: human rights. We have here two different visions of the same situation. There are things that we can do and look at as windows of opportunities. The political agenda decided to neglect talking about human rights, or gender equality, for the major discourse was about being elected.



If so, **was the spirit of youth-led Arab Spring hijacked?** For Dr. Bodiroza, the answer is 'yes, by all means!'. Liberal parties failed to include what young people thought and needed.

Having a look at data: there are about 84 million of adolescents in the MENA region, representing 20% of the total population. The Arab States have highest global youth unemployment rate at 25,7%, three times more than general unemployment rates and more than double the global average of youth unemployment. The early marriage ratio is about 1 - 4 in Sudan, 1 - 5 in Iraq and Yemen. There

are 4,3 million out-of-school adolescents, and 73% of those are girls. Nearly one fourth of children in West Bank were not enrolled in secondary school in 2009/2010, and 75% of those who enrolled were adolescent boys. Gender gaps in literacy rates in youth is much wider than in adults and there is a high youth inactivity rate (out of school, out of work).



So what changed? **Why the Arab Spring?** Because of the above? The Arab Spring witnessed the biggest cohorts of young people in their country.

Still, we are at the very same stage of development education as before, in the same demographic situation. Then what happened? Young people became...

- Frustrated with corruption, lack of transparency, violence, abuse of authority (home, school, state) and human rights violations;
- Increasingly educated and accessing varied sources of information;

- Offered alternative outlet for freedom of speech and mobilisation through new media;
- Aware of political developments and developing strong convictions about what constitutes a more just society;
- Fearless and with renewed confidence in their own capacity and potential for change;
- Ready to challenge the concept of power (the political elite has to learn to share decision making with civil society).

Our response must be an adjusted strategy and work for and with young people, to take advantage of this 'new wave of citizenship', to support efforts to create a real culture of citizenship, to assess and strengthen partnerships and work with existing and emerging youth civil society and networks (coalitions), and to capitalise on the momentum to promote a strong human rights agenda.

Presentation by Maria Pisani, director of Integra Foundation

Up to 2010 and when hearing or talking about North Africa, we had very specific images coming to our mind: deserts and Tuaregs, fighters or terrorists, or submissive women, to name a few.

Then suddenly, young people, women, all groups came together and changed those images into the one of people fighting for freedom. We started to talk about the power of Facebook, of Twitter, we tried to show solidarity; we felt helpless, but we also felt inspired.

What about today?

We are still seeing the very same images as before. We still see people suffering, fighting. And we still try to show solidarity. With academics, youth and community workers, educator, activist, learners standing for social justice, equity, freedom and democratic processes. Democratic processes because 'democracy' as such is not inclusive, and rather excludes by definition.



The Maltese experience

Malta has a long history of colonialism which helped to forge an identity. Valetta was a fortress and its way of being 'more Catholic than the Pope' undoubtedly influenced our way of seeing Islam. We then joined the EU, the last fortress of Christianity...

Then started to come the boat people. Back to the fortress, back to strengthening borders.

All this could somehow illustrate the contradictions of today's Maltese society, one where we can have Lady gaga and the Pope on acting and addressing the same stage.

Education... they said it all before us...

Politics is education, and education is political. Social change is a movement through the masses, culturally and politically and every individual is a 'philosopher' engaged in the historical process, in other words, an active agent and capable of action.

(Antonio Gramsci)

Education as a project of freedom, creating the conditions for self and collective reflection and direction, and the promise of critical agency. All individuals are subjects and 'knowers' of their world, their own experiences serve as the basis of an emancipatory process
(Paulo Freire).

We need to change our perceptions, we need to accept the unknown and be ready to challenge ourselves, or else we'll get back to the very first images.

No Westerner [...] knows very much about the Islamic world. Its out there, it's mainly desert, a lot of sheep, camels, people with knives between their teeth, terrorists, etc. The cultural heritage, the novels and other books that appear in English, are never paid attention to. There's nothing to prevent people here from saying what they wish [...] The myths about America and the West in the Arab world are equally cliched: all Americans are oversexed and they have large feet and they eat too much. The result is that where there should be exchange and dialogue and communication, there's a debased kind of non-exchange (Said, 2004:239).

All representation is misrepresentation of one sort or another (Said, 2004:237)



Our challenge is to move from mass consumerism to building critical mass. Today we are transcending borders. Through our work in Integra and the partners we cooperate with, we do invest in the seeds of civil society, in research, we engage with civil society actors in Libya, we explore potential avenues for collaboration with NGOs and youth groups in Malta.

5. Panel discussion: Youth NGOs, youth movements and civil society

Ultras

The second part of the afternoon opened on a video '**Ultras from the Stadium to Tahrir**'. The Latin word 'ultra' means 'the extra thing' and is associated with the category of sports teams fans that have extra loyalty for their team. They appeared in Egypt in 2007, sang their love for their club, considering it an alternative 'homeland' where freedom of expression and dreams took shape.

The Ultras lived their loyalty with songs and banners when - taking their passion one step further - they paved the way of the revolution on the 25th of January 2011, where Egyptian people witnessed their noble rules in revolution, especially when defending 'Tahrir Square' from thugs and security attacks. Ultras are not 'politicised', not members of political parties or belonging to a movement. The only dream of freedom for their country is what did hover them.

The last session of the 22nd of March before the working groups on the following day was dedicated to a panel discussion with youth activists and youth representatives to explore what would be the role of youth-led and civil society organisations, how they can contribute to empowering young people, and how to address the challenges ahead of us, in Europe and Arab countries.

Ms Manar Idriss, Palestinian youth activist, programme manager at the African Community Society and board member of the International Palestinian Youth League

Is there a real civil society? What happened shed light on youth-led and civil society organisations in Palestine and their implication in the Arab Spring. The CSOs in Palestine played their role not only



lately but in the last twenty years. Back then, the national goal was to build CSOs and act against Israeli and Zionist laws which affected Palestinian youth.

After the Oslo process, the Palestinian Authority prepared for a Palestinian State, which changed the work of NGOs who started to prepare offers based on donors' agendas, for instance on gender and human rights. NGOs became like 'boutiques' where to find the 'needed' projects.

Even though the Palestinian youth followed the Arab Spring and got involved, it was also deprived of this image. Most Palestinian youth think that the Palestinian cause is only an internal affair and that the outside world does not have a real interest or belief in it, even though there are some proves of empathy or rather sympathy.

Back to the first Intifada, there was a true feeling of faith in an Arab identity and especially in a Palestinian one. This got reinforced during the Arab Spring. You could see Palestinian flags in other Arab countries, slogans asking for freedom of the Palestinian people. As Palestinians, we have been living this for the past sixty-four years.

Throughout times, [youth] work priorities were changed alongside political ones. Decisions were imposed on youth by political parties, and this led to a loss of trust and faith. Palestinian people went to the streets, and the idea of a Palestinian identity came back.

Mr Kazem Hemida, Egyptian youth activist, project manager at National Union for Youth

In this intervention lie three main messages and two proposals with a focus on capacity building, the promotion of networking between NGOs and the promotion for youth policies since not much has been done yet.

1. Youth NGOs are heroes.

Young people below thirty-five years old represent about 50% of board members of organisations working mainly on, for and with youth; and they have been doing a lot under huge restrictions and pressure from governments and laws and formal and informal members of secret security services. Those young people contributed a lot to the Egyptian revolution, trying to change mentalities and think critically (including in schools) and work more towards Intercultural Dialogue.

2. A new era for youth NGOs

Youth NGOs experience a new era, a new period and a new status. They need to learn new things and to be efficient and effective in their actions, such as advocacy, in dealing with new entities, institutions, in representing their beneficiaries. There is a need for capacity building. Moreover, the financial sustainability of youth NGOs is crucial, very important and the attempts to follow donors'

agenda (not talking here about political ones) may not always be the way to go.

3. Laws

NGOs need to work more on their legal environment and contribute to creating NGO-related laws and regulations.

The solutions (among others)?

- The need to look for alternative funding. In other words, what developments to expect in term of governmental control over foreign funding? Can NGOs survive without foreign funding? If yes, the sustainable alternative is to create a national source of funding; for example a large trust fund that supports the programs run by youth NGOs and contribute to their sustainability. What are the possibilities that an umbrella organisation such as the Egyptian Youth Federation can be supported, and equipped with the tools that enable it to manage this large trust fund, with full transparency and accountability to all stakeholders;
- The need to better support informal groups: Amongst the positive changes brought by the revolution is that more youth are willing to volunteer and engage in building the new Egypt. A huge bomb of energy exploded right after Hosni Mubarak had stepped down. Some youth groups organised themselves online and met to clean up the streets, paint the curbs, or distribute flyers promoting citizen responsibility. Similarly, NGOs were able to recruit more volunteers than before. Mr Hemida states it this way: “after Mubarak stepped down, the number of volunteers coming to our NGO has increased. Many volunteers come to engage in political awareness activities, hoping for a better future.”

Ms Vania Freitas, institutional coordinator UN & global youth issues, European Youth Forum

After a few words on the mission and role of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), Ms Freitas went on developing on how the YFJ works on enhancing the role of young people in nowadays society.

For the organisation, strong and independent CSOs are fundamental for democracy and further development and the voice of young people is the organisation's main concern.

What is youth participation in decision-making, in youth policy? Mechanisms that ensure young people's involvement and representation in all areas that affect them, in a cross-sectorial manner. So far and in spite of mechanism such as the European Union's structured dialogue or the Council of Europe's co-management, there is only one initiative which has a unique global approach, not divided by regions or countries: the United Nations' *World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond*, adopted in 1995 with the aim to direct the international community's response to the challenges of youth for the next millennium, to address more effectively the problems of young people and to increase opportunities for their participation in society.

The contribution of CSOs and young people to society is obvious and on top of the skills and competences acquired through participation in NGOs, the most important to underline is that of good governance: youth organisations are transparent, democratic, accountable and inclusive, or should at least aim at being so. Nonetheless, they cannot undertake responsibilities if they are not given the proper support they need. In relation to this, the mechanisms and programmes of the European Union and the Council of Europe do play an important role, even though such

support should be an unconditional objective and not exist only because of what young people and youth organisations can deliver.

On the interregional cooperation, the YFJ has been engaged in Euro-Arab and Euro-Med cooperation for several years already. However and to be effective, actions promoting dialogue and cooperation with other regions can only address common challenges if developed together. Alone, we cannot do much; there is a strong and urgent need for a much larger cooperation.

Ms Sonia Mejri, Union des Jeunes Euro-Maghrébins, member of the board of the Advisory Council of Youth of the Council of Europe

In what we do, there is a lot about involvement, solidarity, respect, diversity, and gender balance. We heard a lot about this in the past presentations and interventions. But what does it say about us? Why and how do we know that our own participation in our organisations and life?

Empowering means to challenge ourselves and we need to think out of the box others placed us in. We are young people with many expectations, and with possibilities to achieve them. Empowerment also means to increase knowledge and skills for engagement and active citizenship.

The Advisory Council is made up of 30 representatives from youth NGOs and networks who provide opinions and input on all youth sector activities and also ensures that young people are involved in other activities of the Council of Europe. Because of its full engagement in the co-management structure of the institution, it is a good example of youth participation, as equal partner. It is also a good example of what young people can do to think out of that box.

Reactions and comments

After these four contributions, the floor was opened for comments and reactions, or for further contributions, introduced by Khalil Raihani, one of the facilitators of the seminar.

We have learned a lot about new roles. We heard about the example of the Palestinian youth, but the same question could be addressed to others: how do you adjust to change?

It seems crucial to support a continued youth militancy, to keep on working and supporting the younger generations. This implies a renewal of pedagogy, of mechanisms and approaches to better respond to the needs of young people; we need to learn new things, new ways, and undergo new paths. But while doing so, we also need to contribute to new political structures as to enhance capacity building and favour transparency and autonomy.

What do other people think?



Talking about the framework of the Euro-Med youth work, it is interesting to note that many - if not most members involved in our actions, have an Arab background. It seems as if the Arab Spring did generate a desire to rediscover their origins. The Arab Spring became a priority with no time to dedicate to the 'usual' voluntary work: revolution was the priority!

There is a need for more credibility and responsibility. Transparency and accountability play an important role. We need annual organisations' meetings where everything is said, shared, where there is a space to reflect upon what is going on.



In line with what Manar said, I must say that I do agree with the fact that many organisations are like 'boutiques' or businesses. We are living in a chaotic situation with no real strategy and work plan and are so far more service oriented. There is a need for an assessment of youth organisations, to plan how to go on, to directly address young people and the League for Arab States and fight against a rejection of youth by official institutions. Young people are ready to overcome the challenges they face. Hence, it is time to stop focusing on services and to engage in changing laws and regulations, to conduct scientific researches.

Youth policies are in principle designed to support the autonomy and independence of young people, but also to control them. It is like a pendulum. Are we afraid to loose control?

Freedom of association starts as a base for democracy. It has to be safeguarded and preserved, so must be the freedom of participation in matters that concern young people. For instance, participation in education – schools are complementary to what is offered by youth organisations. Associations of young people mean a school of democracy with their own values.

We have to bring this to a broader Mediterranean framework: the role and function of cooperation is fundamental for intercultural dialogue, for getting to understand each other.

Before, there was nothing called 'youth-led organisations'; this mainly started with the millennium. But there is a huge need for youth development and support. For instance in the Gulf countries, you can hardly see any CSOs the way we understand them, besides perhaps in Yemen and Bahrain. We would rather talk about 'charities'. After the Arab Spring and from the 80 organisations established over there, only 7 or 8 survived. Youth participation is indeed a governmental will but if the opportunity exists, then we have to take this right to participate. I feel like I am a sandwich between the younger generation that wants to take over and lead and the older one that cannot let it go...

There is a kind of transition which needs to be made and perhaps it would help to agree on any kind of model. But what's next for youth movements? Do we remain virtual? Do we try to organise ourselves? Do we become members of political parties? Youth movements need to define themselves and be open to new members. Youth work can be organised but not institutionalised. Everybody should encourage youth organisations to change their structures, to be open to new or different membership, to have clear internal structures and mechanisms... We need to coordinate ourselves and seriously tackle the issue of human resources management.

As said before, talking about transparency links us to mass openness, to credibility and to accountability. After the Arab Spring, youth CSOs are called to be open and forget about past disputes. We have to cooperate, to network. Satellite organisations - which were not governmental ones - have been taken into account and/or put forward. What about the others that have been put aside and ignored? The situation has changed, we need to promote awareness-raising, open minds and conscience, to make the distinction between political and civil actions.

Many questions were raised. For instance: we have to open up for membership. Why? In Europe, organisations try to find new forms to reach young people, without membership. We need a different approach...

The issue of autonomy for/of young people is the basis for all this to happen. Employment/access to jobs is one reason, but contrary to what the EU says through its new policies, this should not be the only one. Autonomy is different than access to the labour market. We have to be able to define and decide for ourselves, and this is also what youth organisations are created for. Now, do we really know what young people want? What if some of them do not want to influence policy-making? This is OK as well! Association should not be mandatory: we can also have the freedom to stay alone...

We miss two points in all this: we should search for new cooperation, for instance with the private sector and their social responsibility (e.g. in the field of employment and entrepreneurship). Then, we should explore how media do empower or can contribute to empowering young people. Our media do not reflect the streets or the civil society...

There is a quote that says 'youth is just a word'. But behind there is a mosaic of young people, which makes it more difficult and complex to deal with.

Civil society and youth in CSOs: we talk about different actors → donors, CSOs and beneficiaries... the famous triangle... Who defines the needs of young people? Different needs and different countries... but usually with a still top-down imposition process...

Randomly, here are still questions or comments in the air: are we really in front of an islamisation of CSOs as we see in political parties? Yes, we learn from history... or not. Structures always need to change because there is not such thing as a perfect one. The needs of youth depend on the culture, on the cultural background.

About all this and to go on, we need continuous evaluation of our work, to check whether we are still on the right track...

About that issue of media: it is true that media have the possibilities to give young people and youth a space and to legitimise some messages. But their role is perverse for the question of 'who sets the message?' remains.

As for employability: indeed, it is dangerous to see things through it.

The political emerging forces – let's name them: the Islamic movements – show a new culture created after the Arab Spring within those very same movements. Nonetheless, there is now a bigger and bigger gap between two generations within the Islamic movements: there is a need to get to a new agenda, but the still patriarchal approach will make this a slow process; it will take time.

About representation in governments: the Minister of youth must be young! Other kinds of organisations were created to serve civil society. Politics within youth organisations is needed, but not policies created by governments. The power must be in the hands of youth; it must be restored to people.

The issue of identity is important and also links to social media and the role it can play. Arab young people have a national identity; they have common issues to fight against and for. There is also an identity of militancy. Revolutions are not planned. Part of this is also knowledge, of course, so is experience and expertise.



6. Working groups

On the morning of the 23rd of March, after a presentation on the role of new social movements and a summary of the contribution of the previous day by the rapporteur, the participants were now ready to be divided into working groups.

The objectives of those working groups - important elements of the seminar - were to explore what was needed now and on the long-term, what already exists and what is lacking, and how do existing tools / mechanisms include all young people.

Based on such reflection, participants were then asked to develop a series of recommendations and/or proposals to support future policy developments, strategies and projects for Euro-Arab cooperation and empowerment of youth organisations and young people in the South Mediterranean.

Based on the day before, three main themes have been chosen:

- Education and training;
- Youth participation and citizenship;
- Access to rights.

Several key words were reminded as issues to keep in mind when developing the recommendations on the three main topics: intercultural dialogue and underlining values, knowledge, Euro-Arab cooperation, the momentum and opportunity it represents, the transition and the long-term perspective, and the inclusion of marginalised and non organised youth as well as youth NGOs.


The results of the working groups can be summarised as follows:

- The **concept of ‘youth’ and ‘young people’** varies a lot from region to region. Future partnerships may require to agree on a common definition of youth, which may also lead to – at a later stage though, the elaboration of an international declaration on youth and youth rights.
- The need to create a **common [Euro-Arab] youth platform** as to favour sharing good practices and experiences, have online consultations with specialists and experts, and increase the possibility to gather information about partners and funding opportunities.
- **Knowledge, research and documentation** should ensure the [online] publication of youth oriented material and research should enhance the knowledge about youth [policy] issues. This area of work ought to include **mapping/baselines for measuring the situation of young people** in the different countries as well as ensure tackling the issue of **youth rights**. The creation of a **think-tank** with young people from both Europe and the Arab region as to carry research-related work could also be considered. Communication should of course consider the **use of new technologies and in particular of social media and social networks** and – in the case of education and training, the development of more **e-learning** platforms.
- **Capacity building through specific training** should form part of institutional and youth organisations strategies as they guarantee empowering young people to take an active role in matters that concern them. Specific attention should be dedicated to **human rights education and to targeted and thematic campaigns and advocacy**. Amongst other issues mentioned are training in organisational management and democratic leadership.
- **Cooperation between formal and non formal education** needs to be reinforced as to maximise the learning

outcomes and the competence development of young people. **Youth work ought to be recognised** and seen as an added value to other education mechanisms. Schools should also consider creating spaces for participation within the very structure such as, for instance, [school] youth councils.

- **Legislations** should aim at enhancing affirmative actions or introduce quotas of young people representatives in governmental bodies and structures. Thus, **‘co-management’** of structures dealing with youth, sport and education issues (for instance) should be considered based on the models already applied within the Council of Europe or following the path of the EU’s structural dialogue. Evaluation and monitoring systems involving young people should also be created.
- There is an urgent need to **review existing funding mechanisms for youth organisations** and to make sure that representatives of the latter are involved in developing/ elaborating the former (e.g. through co-management and/ or consultation mechanisms). Funding should also guarantee **inclusion of all young people**.

Complementary to the above, the group on access to rights has developed a full proposal aiming at the creation and running of a **Euro-Arab rights network or platform for human rights**.

 Full reports of the working groups are available on page 86.

7. Closing words

All co-organisers and partners involved in these two-day process highlighted the intensity and richness of the presentations, contributions, debates and of the outcomes of the working groups.

Referring to the latter, they have been mostly seen as realistic, achievable and in accordance to young people's needs. This closing is no place for answering all the recommendations and proposals or the remaining questions, but participants are encouraged to stay active and support make these proposals come true. Linked to that, partners call upon the concept of multipliers: we work with young people who work with young people...

The next generation will learn from us; the next generation of youth leaders will not only learn from what we achieved, but will also act. Young people have the courage the elder do not have anymore.

Based on what has been said during the presentations and the panel, an appeal is made for the process of democratic citizenship and youth participation not to stop in youth organisations. Such processes take place everywhere, and we have to be examples for this to happen, in Europe and in the Arab region. Human rights education, intercultural dialogue, youth participation: we don't do enough; we live in societies that are more and more pressured. Thus, the forthcoming task is huge and important.

Once again, the partners do reiterate their will to take into account the results of this seminar and to bring it forward not only in their actions, projects and activities, but also in the forthcoming Symposium in Tunis in August 2012. A warm thank you therefore to everyone, participants, staff, interpreters, facilitators and the rapporteur for the work done.

IV. APPENDICES

Programme

Wednesday, 21st of March 2012

Arrival of participants

17:30 Getting to know each other

18:30 Reception

Thursday, 22nd of March 2012

09:00 Official opening session: addresses by representatives of the organising institutions

- Hon. Clyde Puli, Parliamentary Secretary Youth and Sport, Ministry of Education, Malta
- Ms Souad Gueblaoui, Ambassador of Tunisia to Malta
- Mr Khaled Louhichi, Director of Population Policies & Migration Department, League of Arab States (LAS)
- Ms Karin Lopatta-Loibl, Desk Officer, European Commission
- Mr Rui Gomes, Head of Division Education and Training, Council of Europe
- Ms Miriam Teuma, CEO Agenzija Zghazagh and Mr Robert Debono, National Coordinator, Euromed Youth Platform

10:15 Introduction to the colloquium:

- Mr Philipp Boetzelen, Research & Youth Policy Officer, Partnership between the European Commission & the Council of Europe in the field of youth

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Realities of youth participation during and after the Arab Spring in Arab and European countries

- The Tunisian Jasmine Revolution: Mr Abdel Aziz Labib (youth expert) and Ms Fedia Gasmi (youth activist, president of Club

Unesco Bardo, director of Radio Ana Tousni and the Focal point of ALF)

- The Egyptian Revolution: Ms Yara Shahin (youth expert) and Mr Shahir George (youth activist, member of 'Masr Alhureyya' party, co-editor of the Egypt Human Development Report 2010)
- The European Experience: Manfred Zentner (Pool of European youth researchers)

12:00 Participants' questions

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Implications of the Arab Spring on Civil Society & Youth NGOs

- Ms Karima Rhanem (youth journalist, blogger, project coordinator at the 'Mediterranean Forum for Youth and Chilhood', Morocco)
- Ms Chouaa Dassouki (youth project coordinator, League of Arab States)
- Dr Aleksandar Bodiroza (technical advisor, youth, HIV/AIDS, UNFPA/ASRO)
- Mr Sami Hourani (Jordanian youth activist, director and founder of Leaders of Tomorrow Organisation)

15:00 Participants' questions

15:30 Coffee Break and video clip 'Ultras - from the Stadium to Tahrir'

16:00 Panel Discussion: The Implications of the Arab Spring on Civil Society & Youth NGOs

- Ms Manar Idriss (Palestinian youth activist, program manager at the African Community Society and board member of the International Palestinian Youth League)
- Mr Chaker El Ouadi (Tunisian youth activist, deputy secretary general of 'The general Union of Tunisian Students')
- Ms Kazem Hemida (Egyptian youth activist project manager at National Union for Youth Federation)
- Ms Vania Freitas, (institutional coordinator UN & global youth issues, European Youth Forum)
- Ms Sonia Mejri (Union des Jeunes Euro-Maghrébins, member of the board of the Advisory Council of Youth of the Council of Europe)

18:00 Closing of the day

Friday, 23rd of March 2012

09:00 Data on Youth Values: The Tunisian Case, Mr Mouhamed Jouali
Summary and conclusions of Day 1

09:30 Working Groups based on the results of the 1st day with a focus on how can young people participating in youth organisation become further empowered to build democratic societies?

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Working Groups continued

12:00 Presentation and discussion of the results of the groups

12:30 Lunch

15:00 Working Groups continued

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 Presentation and discussion of the results of the groups

18:00 Presentation of follow up steps and closing of the colloquium

End of the seminar

Saturday, 24th of March 2012

Informal coordination meeting between stakeholders present: EU-COE youth-partnership, League of Arab States, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, Euro-med Youth Platform, UNFPA

- Discussion of project ideas for long term cooperation and of follow up events based on the results of this colloquium
- Development of the project Euro – Arab Symposium “Arab Spring: Youth Participation for the promotion of peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms”, to be held in Tunisia during October 2012

Reports of the working groups

Working group on youth participation and citizenship

The group on youth participation and citizenship started its work going through the **key issues** identified the day before, such as: knowledge, Euro-Arab relations, intercultural dialogue, inclusion and inclusiveness of marginalised youth (reaching the unreached), networking and the need for long-term perspective and strategies.

From this mapping, a number of **needs and unanswered issues linked to participation and citizenship** have been identified and clustered as follows:

- a) Media, communication and knowledge sharing tools;
- b) Research and surveys;
- c) Access to information;
- d) Curricula in school;
- e) Events, strategies and awards;
- f) Funding;
- g) Legislations;
- h) Capacity building;
- i) Advocacy;
- j) Experience sharing.

A list of recommendations and/or proposals for each point was then developed.

a) **Media, communication and knowledge sharing tools**

→ Develop a common youth platform online as to favour sharing good practices and experiences, have online consultations with specialists and experts, and increase the possibility to gather information about partners and funding opportunities.

→ Create a publication in Arabic and English (and/or other EU languages) that focuses on and promotes youth participation.

→ Use and maximize the potential of media as to better tackle both youth participation and citizenship online and reach more young people. Possibilities to explore are: editing videos on related issues; audio streams / podcasts of – for instance, workshops, conferences, etc.; run social media tools such as a specific YouTube channel; create a Facebook group (open and closed).

→ Support the development of youth-led local radio / media.

→ Involve young people in the leadership and management of youth information centres.

→ Create more e-learning possibilities (courses) on the issues of participation and citizenship.

b) Research and surveys

→ Carry on common survey and research on the situation of young people (topic-related) instead of fragmented one (e.g. per regions). On top of disseminating the results online through social media, ensure a printed and translated version for non-social media users in remote and rural areas.

→ If the above is too complex, develop surveys/research per country leading to a comparative publication.

→ Create a think-tank with young people from both regions to carry on research-related work.

c) Access to information

→ Make reports, publications, training materials, etc. about citizenship and youth participation available and visible for young people from both south and north of the Mediterranean (which may include translation work).

d) Curricula in schools

→ Topics such as youth participation and citizenship ought to be included in school curriculum and involve practical work.

e) Events, strategies and awards

→ Elaborate an international declaration on youth and youth rights.

→ Organise national youth weeks with a focus on youth participation and citizenship.

→ Elaborate and agree on a common definition of 'youth'.

→ Encourage – when non existing - developing national / regional youth strategies.

→ Create 'awards' for youth organisations as to motivate them to further work on those two topics.

f) Funding

→ Review funding mechanisms for youth organisations and make sure that representatives of the latter are involved in developing/elaborating the former (consultation mechanisms).

g) Legislations

→ Create affirmative actions or introduce quotas of young people representatives in governmental bodies and structures.

→ Labour conditions for/of young people should be made specific as to favour/encourage employing more youths.

→ Young people in the labour market should be informed on their rights and employment conditions.

→ Schools should encourage the creation of youth councils with a true level of representation.

h) Capacity building

i) For youth organisations

- Train and involve youth organisations members (especially the leadership) in youth strategies development.
- Encourage local authorities to create co-management mechanisms or at least ensure an active role for youth organisations in strategies and policy developments.

ii) For young people

- Develop training on capacity building with a focus on youth participation and citizenship.
- Involve young people (youth trainers) in the development of the above as to match the youth field needs and reality.
- Develop language training.
- Ensure guidance mechanisms to run youth projects.

iii) Criteria for capacity-building actions

- Inclusiveness of projects and processes.
- User-friendly approach (tools, language, etc.).
- Reach and involve new target groups (e.g. informal youth groups) who needs stronger support in organising themselves (especially in post-revolution era) as to better respond to new needs and challenges such as the constitution drafting.

i) Advocacy

- Develop a culture of consultation between governmental and non-governmental structures and conduct meetings on the issue of youth participation with MEPs and youth representatives.
- For youth organisations to develop advocacy campaigns to promote youth participation and citizenship (and train them to do so).

j) Experience sharing

- Develop exchange programmes applicable/open to all countries from both European and Arab countries
- Encourage experience-sharing activities (especially between colleagues and job-shadowing).

Working group on access to rights

As for the group on youth participation and citizenship, the one on 'access to rights' started by exchanging on the **reasons for the participants to choose that group**. Some of the arguments were summarised as follows:

- Rights are the foundation and the necessary basis to be able to experience education and training, participation and citizenship;
- Rights are universal – it only requires being a human being to be entitled to them and to express your solidarity for universal human rights;
- Nonetheless, rights cannot be taken for granted for they are the key to unlocking other experiences such as citizenship and participation, getting the relevant training and education;
- Inclusion starts with access to rights;
- Rights cannot be top down or elitist. In many cases, they have been co-opted by the political and intellectual elites and need to be renewed and reformulated;
- It is about putting rights into practice; not just the ideas or rhetoric of rights;
- The mechanisms for guaranteeing access to rights exist. But the question is more about knowing that they exist, knowing about them, how to access and use them;
- A rights-based approach to youth policies is crucial.

The group continued with the elaboration of a list of **key questions or issues to consider**, such as:

- What age youth are we talking about? 15-24 for the UN and Amnesty International, 15-35 for most of the MENA region and 18-30 in most of the European countries and European youth organisations);
- Keep in kind the multiple realities;
- Rights of Child;
- What sort of legal instruments exist? E.g. African charter on rights of young people or the Ibero-American Charter on youth rights;
- Terminology about rights in different countries and cultures;
- How to communicate on the issue of access to rights (e.g. through education).

Based on a series of needs identified by the members of the working groups and while trying to consider the diverse realities of youth work and young people in European and Arab countries, the group elaborated a general list of proposals called **'suggestions to address needs that could be incorporated into potential Strategies for Euro-Arab cooperation for the field of Youth'**:

- Mapping/Index/Barometer of rights
 - Barometer or index or mapping of access to rights, tracking and monitoring the implementation of rights – getting parliamentarians and cross-disciplinary groups signed up to this. Mapping the complex legislation – at global, regional, national local level – e.g. rights-wikis to help state observatories and ministries. A Euro-Arab database/wiki.
- Intercultural dialogue for access to rights;
- Building trust and humanising institutions;
- Look at the type of mechanisms needed and which can realistically be created;
- Access to information about rights;

- Monitoring and evaluation of the existing work done by the League of Arab States;
- Create a Euro-Arab training committee on access to rights in the region;
- Create a Euro-Arab consultative advisory body;
- Work on the capacity building of/with institutions and the role of institutions in advocacy;
- Use existing networks within Euro-Arab frameworks to influence their own governments on rights issues (e.g. activists being tried by military courts – using idea of personal power);
- Use networks to share cases of human rights abuse – like Amnesty International’s Individuals at Risk and urgent actions;
- Encourage MPs from certain countries to adopt a political prisoner;
- Translate rights language into youth language – youth to youth - connecting those already doing what is essentially peer to peer rights education but who would never call it by that name;
- Use social media and marketing strategies → youth can create media about rights;
- Develop youth generated reports or studies on the situation of human rights;
- Carry research project on baselines, surveys, mapping of young people’s access to rights in different countries;
- Develop or implement HRE programmes and tools like Compass – let’s talk about sex, UNFPA Y-Peer etc.
- Create a Euro-Arab pool of rights trainers/resources;
- Create consultative boards of young people or involve them in decision making process linked to Euro-Arab co-operation;
- Enhance access to rights expertise (including trainers): what they want to demand, follow up monitoring and development of the strategy;
- Connect thematic groups of youth – e.g. young professionals for work opportunities, young migrants groups, young

people working on ethnic minority issues, young SRR groups – for rights monitoring, rights frameworks and proposing solutions.

The group finalised its work by elaborating a **concrete proposal, which mainly consists in creating a Euro-Arab rights network or platform for human rights including four areas of work:**

- a) Research/monitoring/index/baseline projects on access to rights by young people;
- b) Communication platforms and strategies;
- c) Education, training and Capacity Building programme;
- d) Advocacy and campaigning network.

a) Research & documentation

→ ‘Research and documentation’ should include mapping/baselines for measuring youth rights, an index/barometer on access to rights for the platform (some NGOs are already working on this and could share their knowledge and/or facilitate such process);

→ The work should aim at going from local to regional and from regional to international implementation of human rights standards, treaties and legislation;

→ The work should include monitoring, watchdog and an ombudsperson role and tackle security situation of young rights activists and youth Human Rights Defenders.

b) Communications platforms and strategies

→ Such area of work includes ‘telling stories about human rights’, developing a youth rights language (youth to youth) and use arts, cultural expression, and youth culture;

→ It should include the creation of a digital platform with associated new and social media tools as to share good practices on access to rights by young people and to enable youth-created media: i-participation!

c) **HRE/Training and capacity building**

→ Should tackle skills of NGOs to advocate for human rights and develop strategic campaigning;

→ Develop mapping of existing HRE initiatives and stakeholders carrying out HRE at regional/local level with expertise and trainers;

→ Includes identifying what HRE/training, for whom and by whom in a very specific manner. The work should aim at empowering/enhancing local level HRE initiatives (in whatever form they take and that may not be called HRE) to address discrimination, schism, and change of attitude.

d) **Advocacy and campaigning**

→ That area of work includes tactical campaigns – e.g. sharing options for taking action on cases where human rights are being abused as promoted by different organisations;

→ It includes identifying opportunities for young people to influence their governments, IGOs (EU and LAS and others) to promote and respect rights and act when rights are being abused through activism, lobbying, advocacy, thus strengthening action for human rights.

A Core principle: intercultural dialogue

The four areas of work and actions should be shaped by, informed by and provide opportunities for **intercultural dialogue** - e.g. inclusiveness and diversity in trainings, sharing good practice and making unheard youth voices heard.

How would the Euro-Arab network/platform for human rights work?

A consultative board should be created as to decide on strategic priorities of the platform/network e.g. on which rights to address

(e.g. right to decent work) and with specific target groups (e.g. young professionals from different countries, diaspora, etc.) Such consultative board would need to include diverse youth voices including young people who are harder to reach, informal youth groups/un-organised youth, young artists and those who do not necessarily connect with social change activism.

What is needed/resources and specific asks to the Euro-Arab Cooperation partners:

- Human Resources to start the development process;
- Funding, e.g. seed funding to support human resources and carry out initial mapping activities and research, to connect relevant partners, and to organise a meeting of the youth consultative board committee;
- Identification and alignment of human rights priorities of Euro-Arab Cooperation with this network/platform;
- A process to map existing initiatives within the Euro-Arab cooperation that could support the development of a Euro-Arab rights network/platform, including mentoring, knowledge-sharing and collection of material, banking and sharing, connecting relevant organisations and individuals.

Working group on education and training

The third working groups started its work by identifying the **current problems** related to education and training:

- Inadequacy of educational system and policy;
- Inequality of chances of education and work opportunities (access to the labour market);
- The education curriculum does not respond to the requirements of the labour market;
- There is a tendency of reproducing foreign models without working on the necessary adjustments;

- Discrepancy between the necessities (e.g. of the labour market or of education in general) and what young people would like to do;
- In many cases, there isn't any type of communication or cooperation with policy makers and the leadership;
- Weakness of youth organisations/associations;
- Inability of mechanisms of cultural exchange;
- Lack of funding for training;
- Discouragement (de-motivation) to learn foreign languages;
- Decrease in youth participation in general.

It went on **exploring the challenges and looking for possible solutions:**

- Create or establish education centres for training leaders with firm and precise systems of monitoring and evaluation;
- Encourage exchange between cultural centres as to promote cultural exchange and understanding;
- Train local youth leaders 'on the spot' and in their environments as to ensure the continuity of local youth organisations (sustainability);
- Encourage youth participation through youth work and youth organisations;
- Map and document (compile) what has been done previously in the field as to better identified what is still needed and key issues to keep on developing;
- Ensure access to information;
- Encourage the participation and involvement of the civil society through tailored-made actions and initiatives.

As in the case of the previous groups listed above, the one on education and training finalised its work developing a **list of possible actions to consider in the field of education and training in a Euro-Arab context:**

- Ensure/develop training on specific topics and in different field (cross-sectorial) while considering the needs at local national level (country specific);
- Work more with media specialised in or which tackled youth issues (including those promoting non-formal education);
- Access young people and provide information through combining youth-friendly tools and medias (e.g. Facebook);
- Meeting young people where they are (pubs, centres, public spaces) to enhance communication and access to information. This may include developing agreements with the owners/managers of the places;
- Create a 'central organisation' with national and local branches in Europe and the South Mediterranean;
- In the case of volunteering projects, ensure a minimum pocket money for volunteers as to encourage them to participate in such projects (in some counties a young person cannot take part in any projects without a minimum financial support);
- Encourage public and private partnership in the field of education and training;
- Establish a dialogue culture through participating in international activities or activities taking places abroad.

List of participants

Country	Name	Organisation/institution
Austria	Manfred Zentner	Pool of European Youth Researchers Jugendkultur.at
Belgium	Giséle Evrard	General rapporteur
Cyprus	Nikolas Evangelides	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Egypt	Yara Shahin	Youth Expert
Egypt	Haythem Kamel	Youth for Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (YES)
Egypt	Dina Abouzeid	Media Vision
Egypt	Kazem Gaber Muhammad Hemeida	The Egyptian Youth Federation
Egypt	Karim Ahmed Kamal Mohamed Kasim	Young Social Innovation Programme YSIP/ Egypt
Egypt	Shahir George Ishak Girguis	Care/ Egypt
Egypt/France	Ahmad Alhindawi	Youth Expert
France	Sonia Mejri	Union des Jeunes Euro-Maghrebins
France	Nadine Lyamouri-Bajja	Youth Expert
France	Khalil Raihani	YM+ Platform - European platform of migrant youth organisations
France	Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi	Il Tamarindo
France	Saida Ounissi	FEMYSO
France	Mathilde Bauwin	ADICE (Association for the DEvelopment of Civic and European Initiatives)
Germany	Susanne Kasztantowicz	Jusos in der SPD
Greece	Matina Magkou	ESYN- Hellenic National Youth Council
Italy	Federica Cicala	Forum Nazionale Giovani - FNG

Country	Name	Organisation/institution
Italy	Giovanni Corbo	Forum Nazionale Giovani - FNG
Jordan	Sami Hourani	Leaders of Tomorrow
Lithuania	Kamile Klapatauskaite	Youth For Understanding
Malta	Ryan Mercieca	Gozo University Group
Malta	Kylie Cassar	MCAST Institute of Community Service
Malta	Graziella Vella	Valletta 2018
Malta	Michael Tabone	Gozo University Group
Malta	Mattia Rizzo	Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean
Morocco	Karima Rhanem	The Mediterranean Forum for Youth & Childhood
Morocco	Rachid Boukhenfer	IMAZIS organization
Morocco	M'Hamed En-nosse	L'association UNIE pour l'encadrement des enfants & des jeunes - AS.U.E.E.J
Morocco	Yassine Isbouia	The Mediterranean Forum for Youth & Childhood
Norway	Naomi Ichihara Roekkum	International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY)
Palestinian Authority	Rasha Saleem	Youth activist and general coordinator for the EuroArab youth forum 2012
Palestinian Authority	Manar Idriss	African Community Society (ACS), Board Member of the International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL)
Russian Federation	Evgeniya Goryushina	Youth Club 'Social Diplomacy'
Spain	Meghann Aurea Villanueva	Fundacia Catalunya Voluntaria
Tunisia	Dr. Labib AbdelAziz	Tunis University
Tunisia	Elhammi Emna	Nawat organisation
Tunisia	Chaker Aouadhi	General Union of Tunisian Students
Tunisia	Rim Grioui	Club UNESCO ALESCO
Tunisia	Imen Ben Daadouch	Center of Arab Woman for Training and Research - KAWTAR
Tunisia	Maatoug Belkis	Afek Tounes
Tunisia	Fedia Gasmî	Club UNESCO Bardo
United Kingdom	Sarah Atkinson	Amnesty International - International Secretariat

Institutional representatives, guest speakers	
Parliamentary Secretary Youth and Sport, Ministry of Education and Employment, Malta	Hon. Clyde Puli
Ambassador of Tunisia to Malta	HE Ms Souad Gueblaoui
Integra Foundation, Malta	Maria Pisani
European Youth Forum	Vânia Freitas
Tunisian National Youth Observatory	Mohamed Jouili
Anna Lindh Foundation Euro-Mediterranean for the Dialogue between Cultures	Sherine Morad
UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund	Aleksandar Bodiroza
League of Arab States	Khaled Louhichi
	Chouaa Dassouki
European Commission	Karin Lopatta-Loibl
Council of Europe	Rui Gomes
North-South Centre of the Council of Europe	Marcos Andrade
Secretariat of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth	Viktoria Karpatska
	Hanjo Schild
	Philipp Boetzelen
Aġenzija Żgħażaġh Malta	Miriam Teuma
	Marika Zammit
	Irene Attard
Euromed Youth Platform / European Union Programmes Agency, Malta	Robert Debono
	Marvic Debono
	Kevin Apap
Translators	
Bouraad Ghada	
Abiabboud Diana	

