

Our Society Portfolio

“Youth and Citizenship”

South Med– European Youth Cooperation

Amman Jordan, 19-21 November 2013

The British Council

The British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We call this work **Cultural Relations**.

We are on the ground in six continents and over **100 countries** bringing international opportunity to life, every day. Each year we work with millions of people, connecting them with the United Kingdom, sharing our cultures and the UK's most attractive assets: English, the Arts, Education and our ways of living and organising society.

We have over **75 years** experience of doing this.

Our Work in Society

Helps citizens and institutions contribute to a more inclusive, open and prosperous world and connects local issues to global themes.

We run programmes in partnership with local and international organisations.

The content of what we do falls under one or more of four sectors , youth goes across:

1. Access to Justice, Security and Conflict Resolution
2. Governance and Civil Society
3. Empowering Girls and Women
4. Social Enterprise

Our Portfolio in MENA

We engage communities, women and young people and work with local partners. We have global products, country specific programmes and regional programmes:

- Active Citizens
- Women Participation in Public Life & Spring Board
- Springboard
- YAV: Young Arab Voices
- YAANI: Young Arab Analysts Network International

Active Citizens

Purpose?

To promote community cohesion and improvement through civic engagement or volunteering in around 30 countries

Model?

A Global programme , focuses on developing particular leadership skills and knowledge. Participants are offered training and guidance in designing and running Social Action Projects, and peer support via the global Active Citizens network. A national panel selects several SAPs to fund it.

Where?

Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Libya, Algeria & Syria.

Active Citizens

Achievements?

- Over 170 Social initiatives in the past 3 years.
- Engaged more than 150,000 young men and women.
- For the first time ever, Palestine is hosting an International study visit this week for participants of 30 countries
- In Syria we have implemented 37 Social Action Projects, only last year. Despite the very difficult situation, our partners are coming up with unique ideas to implement their initiatives <http://www.mobaderoon.org/>

Life-Cycle?

AC has been running for the past 3 years

Women Participation in Public Life

Purpose?

To build the capacity of women and broad-based support for their active involvement in public life including local and national political processes.

Model?

Same as Active Citizens: training, guidance, funding and networking but also lobbying.

Funded by UK's API

Main Audiences?

Young women and men aged 18-30 from marginal communities , activities, NGOs , media and politicians

Where?

Libya, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt

Women Participation in Public Life

Achievements?

Still starting. Now using Action Research for building capacity and provide evidence of issues:

Egypt: How do we influence and use legislation to empower women [to enter the national parliament?](#)

Morocco: How do we increase women's participation in political processes through [improving their self-confidence and economic independence?](#)

Tunisia: How do we increase women's participation in political processes through strengthening their [self-confidence and awareness of their rights?](#)

Libya: How do we increase women's participation in political processes through [changing negative attitudes towards women's participation](#) among men and women?



Springboard

Purpose?

To empower young women to be more confident and assertive; clear about their goals and prepare talented women to assume leadership position

Model?

Skills and training (Global course by Spring Board Consultants)

Target Audiences?

Young women aged 18 to 35 and mid-career professionals

Where?

Egypt, Libya, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, Qatar , Bahrain

Springboard

Achievements?

- More than 10000 women in the Arab World have attended Springboard programmes
- We have partnered with more than 50 key organisations in the region
- We have built a network of 100 influencers who are the licenced trainers delivering the programme to wider communities
- We have contributed to the establishment of at least one women network in each country

Life Cycle ?

Ongoing

Springboard

“ Since I undertook Springboard, I have become more confident about rejecting things that others ask me to do which I find unacceptable. I was not happy at my work and at the end of Springboard, I was more confident about taking new steps , I felt that the change came from within my soul. I dedicated enough time for myself, and felt peace inside. It directly reflected on my family, kids, and husband as well”.

Dalal Olaki – Saudi Arabia

Young Arab Voices

Purpose?

To increase opportunities and skills for youth debate in order to contribute to the building of democratic and pluralistic societies in the Arab region.

Model?

Cascade training, debate clubs, youth exchange, networks, and online. We work in partnership with universities , schools and civil society organisations. A joint initiative with the Anna Lindh Foundation, Main donor: API .

Main Audiences?

Young people 15-30

Where?

Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco & Algeria

Young Arab Voices

Achievements?

- More than 80 thousands young people engaged with debate directly and online better equipped for effective civic engagement through dialogue and debate.
- Young people engaged in debate and dialogue with decision-makers and hold them to account.
- Capacity strengthened of schools and universities and civil society organisations to enrich young people participation
- Better understanding between young people from participating countries in MENA with their peers from the UK/Europe through discussing and debating their respective concerns.

Life cycle?

2011- 2015 and beyond





Young Arab Analysts Network International

Purpose?

To encourage the active engagement of young people in shaping, designing and informing public policy debate and reforms.

Model?

Training on critically analyses and evaluation of policies, on job support, policy debates, a sustainable youth-led network of policy thinkers.

Where?

Used to be a regional project in 5 countries. Now in Morocco in partnership with Chatham House

Young Arab Analysts Network International

Achievements?

Participants produced Policy Notes (Short pieces), Policy Reports and blogs, and articles that was disseminated in websites, magazines and discussed in special events in the region and the UK with media, politicians and other stakeholders.

Thanks for your attention!