

SUPPORT TO MEDIA IN JORDAN



Amman Office
مكتب عمان

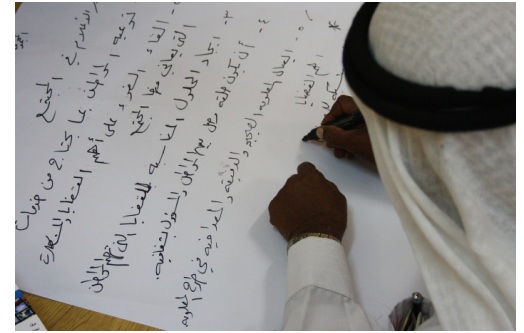


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Newsletter

June 2015

IN FOCUS: National Consultations



Between April and June, national consultations on the status of media in Jordan took place around the kingdom.

The project team and the lead researcher of the Jordanian MDI study, Mr. Yahia Sukheir, travelled to the northern, southern and central provinces to discuss with citizens from diverse backgrounds, including representatives from the government, the municipalities, state and non-state media, students, academia, CSO's and citizen journalists.

The Support to Media in Jordan Project

WHAT

The three year project aims to help Jordan's efforts in advancing the media to further increase its freedom, independence and professionalism and to strengthen democracy and the possibility for men, women and youth to express themselves and access credible information.

WHO

The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the UNESCO Amman Office in close cooperation with the Ministry of State for Media Affairs and the media community in Jordan.

HOW

The project will be implemented in close collaboration with the media and has two phases, with the first one focusing on research and analysis of the contemporary media landscape. This will shape the structure and implementation of activities in the second phase.

Media freedom is everyone's freedom

Media independence is everyone's independence

Professional journalism makes a difference

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A cry for local media

EDITORIAL

Johan Romare, Project Manager

Local news and local voices. This is what people outside Amman want from the media. At least this is what they told UNESCO when we visited great places such as Ghor Al-Safi, Madaba, Zarqa, Tafileh and Ma'an recently.

It comes as no surprise of course. People all over the world prefer to read about themselves, their neighbours, the local soccer team and how the local schools are doing, when they have a choice.

Naturally people are also interested in national politics, developments in their region and international news. But most of us rather dig in to stories from our own community than reading about what 'important' people said, did and plan to do in the capital. Unless we are 'important' people in the capital of course. Then we like to read about our neighbours, our community and ourselves.

It is not only the Jordanian media itself that is Amman-centred. So is the discussion around media development in the country. This is why UNESCO decided to facilitate eight public consultations on the media in the South, North and Middle regions. This to be able to understand what we could do to increase media freedom, independence and professionalism in Jordan; and how to support freedom of expression and access to information for every woman, man, child and youth in the country.

And the message was loud and clear: People mistrust the Amman-centred media and find most of the news reporting irrelevant for their day-to-day life. In cities where there is local media, radio or print, people turn to them. In cities where there is no local media people ask for it.

So the conclusion is obvious. To develop local media is a priority in Jordan. At least for UNESCO.



During consultations in Karak in May 2015.

RELATED LINKS

"The first step towards local democracy is reliable local media" (UNESCO Amman): <http://bit.ly/1BQgGA9>

"Crisis of print media or Jordanian media?" by Yahia Shukeir (in Arabic): <http://alarabalyawm.net/?p=430725>



THEMATIC RETREATS

“Students don’t have the fire of journalism in them. This is the tragedy of Jordan. The core group of good journalists is so limited and the spirit and desire to explore and find out is not there. It is just another job” says a participant of the thematic group on Journalism education and journalism training.

The thematic working group was one out of five that took place between April and June as part of the drafting process of the Media Strategy Action Plan.

The Action Plan will be presented to the project’s Steering Committee and the Government for their consideration at the end of Phase I of the project (July). Other thematic working groups tackled the issues of “Public Service Media”; “Self-regulation of the media and independent complaints mechanism for the media”; “Regional broadcasters: private, public and community owned”; and “Media literacy”.

Above: during the thematic group on Public Service Media;
below: thematic group on Journalism education,



WHAT ELSE HAPPENED?

MDI workshop and Advisory Board meeting in April

In April, the international and national researchers of the Jordanian MDI study met for the second time in Amman. During the 3-day workshop, the team discussed the status and way forward for the Jordanian MDI process. A first edited final draft will be submitted to UNESCO, the advisory board of the study and several peer reviewers end of June before entering the final publication process.

RELATED LINK

“The Jordanian Media Development Indicators in the making” (UNESCO Amman): <http://bit.ly/1IG06A8>



During the Europe Day celebrations in Amman, 8 May 2015



“Express yourself!”

The Support to Media in Jordan Project celebrates Europe Day in Amman and Zarqa

During May, the project team took part in the Europe day celebrations in Amman and Zarqa. The annual “Europe Day” is celebrated around the world on 9th May. In Jordan, the European Delegation celebrated Europe Day in four different cities throughout May with public events for families and children. At the Support to Media in Jordan booth, children and families were asked to “Express yourself!”.

Can Journalism thrive in Jordan? UNESCO celebrates World Press Freedom Day 2015

The UNESCO Amman Office commemorated this year’s World Press Freedom Day with a panel discussion on status of media freedom in Jordan at the Royal Film Commission in Amman. “Can Journalism thrive in Jordan?”, this question was discussed lively by H.E. Dr. Mohammed H. Al-Momani, Minister of State for Media Affairs, Mr. Jamil Nimiri, MP, H.E. Ms. Joanna Wronecka, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to Jordan, and Ms. Lina Ejeilat, Co-founder and Editor in Chief of 7iber.com.

We are online!

The Support to Media in Jordan project has gone online!
Check out our new Web Portal and Facebook page:

 www.stmjo.com  [stmjo](https://www.facebook.com/stmjo)

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