

SUPPORT TO MEDIA IN JORDAN



Newsletter

March 2017

Our first newsletter of 2017 summarizes the activities of the project since December 2016. The project has been in full implementation mode, with three components concluding and the rest of the activities in high gear. Community Media Network (CMN) wrapped up their radio broadcasts on Jordan News Network, we co-hosted the final roundtable on media self-regulation, and the training for information officers was completed on the implementation of the Access to Information Law.

In addition to a period of intense project implementation, two new members joined the STMJO team this year. We are happy to welcome Mr. Cedric Neri, Project Coordinator, and Mr. Johan Romare, Senior Advisor, to the team!

IN FOCUS: High-level visit to Media and Information Literacy Club

On 6 March several high-level representatives visited a public school in Amman to learn about the extra curriculum program of "Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Clubs" organised by UNESCO Amman Office, Jordan Media Institute (JMI) and Jordan Education Initiative (JEI). HE Dr Omar Razzaz, Minister of Education, and Mr Andrea M Fontana, EU Ambassador to Jordan were joined by UNESCO, JMI and JEI staff, the Principal of the Bent Adi comprehensive girls high school, Ms Abeer Nueimi, as well as teachers and students for an overview of the MIL Clubs, the students' achievements, and the importance of this topic in the Jordanian context.



The students presented their personal experiences on skills learned through the MIL Club and engaged in an interactive question and answer session with the guests. The school principal stated that there is an increasing demand to join the clubs, even from family members of the students. MIL is a key component of the STMJO project, with a specific outcome dedicated to the expanded understanding and application of the MIL approach in Jordan. In partnership with UNESCO, JMI has engaged in three main areas, mainly providing policy advice to key educational policy makers to further develop MIL initiatives in Jordan; supporting teacher

training colleges to include MIL in their curriculum; and supporting the Ministry of Education to introduce MIL for grades 7-9 through the creation of pilot MIL clubs. [Watch our video on this project component.](#)

What else happened?

UNESCO and Fojo Media Institute host roundtable discussion on media self-regulation

On 27 February, a roundtable discussion on media self-regulation was organised for senior members of the Jordanian media, government and civil society. The roundtable was part of the project component on self-regulation, implemented by Fojo Media Institute; it represents a further action after the media self-regulation study tour that took place in December 2016, when a Jordanian delegation visited Sweden, Denmark, and the UK and met with self-regulatory bodies, leading media organisations, public service broadcasters, journalists' unions and government officials and media experts. The main goal of the roundtable was to discuss the role of the readers' editor, as this particular subject attracted the most interest during the study tour. To this end, Mr. Bjarne Schilling, reader's editor at Politiken, Denmark's leading daily newspaper, shared his experience with the group.

Trainings for media managers and journalists take place around Jordan

Following the successful start of the training program for mid-career journalists, a new program for media managers and leaders began at the SAE institute in Amman. Canal France International is coordinating four Masterclasses in February, March and April which will train approximately 35 media leaders on how to organize a 360 degree newsroom, how to measure multimedia audiences, how to support effective change management in the newsroom, and implement innovative and sustainable business models. In addition, over 100 journalists around the Kingdom are being exposed to advanced techniques and approaches on data journalism, cross media information, collection and verification of information, cyber security and protection.



“Changes in journalism are inevitable. This training is important because it strengthens the skills of journalists so they can adapt to changes. It's important for journalists to have the tools that distinguish them in a competitive media market, and when they succeed, their papers and media outlets will also be more successful.” - Mohammed Hajjat, Managing Editor of Yarmouk University Student Newspaper, at the data journalism training in Irbid in March 2017.



UNESCO, National Library and CLD train all information officers on the ATI Law

From January to March, five 3-day training sessions took place on the implementation of the Access to Information (ATI) Law at the National Library in Amman. The sessions were organized jointly by UNESCO Amman Office, Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD) and Department of the National Library. The trainings targeted all 60 information officials serving in every government Ministry and other public bodies, as well as several journalists and local trainers from non-governmental organizations and other bodies who will be able to carry on future training.

The participants learned more about the Jordanian ATI Law vis-à-vis other countries, international standards, the process of requests, appeals, and classification of information, as well as how to promote a culture of openness at their respective ministries.

[Watch our video on this project component.](#)

What else happened?

JMI organizes extensive capacity building for seven radios around Jordan

Since the beginning of 2017, JMI has been focusing on providing thorough support to local radios, as part of our Project component, "Building Capacities of Local Radios." The workshops include sessions for local radio staff on how to professionally prepare and present newscasts, field radio reports, morning shows, news, documentaries, variety shows, and others. The targeted radios represent several governorates, namely Sawt Al Aqaba, Sawt Al Janub, Sawt Al Karak, Tafila Technical Radio, University of Jordan, Liqa FM, and Yarmouk FM. In addition, this project component is assisting the radios in establishing an association of local radios in Jordan, the first network of its kind in the country. [Watch our video on this project component.](#)

Read more news on our website:

JMI holds MIL training workshop at Al Hussein Bin Talal University

SPOTLIGHT: World Radio Day 2017

UNESCO Amman Office celebrates World Radio Day 2017

On 13 February UNESCO Amman Office co-organized a roundtable, along with partners Jordan Media Institute (JMI) and Community Media Network (CMN), to mark the 2017 World Radio Day. Under the framework of the STMJO project, the debate held at JMI brought together community radio stations from across Jordan, including Yarmouk FM from Irbid, Sawt al Karak from Karak, Sawt Al Januub from Maan, Liqaa FM from Zarqa, Radio Al Balad as well as new community radio initiatives currently being supported through the project, the Media Commission and local NGOs. The topics discussed included gender representation in senior radio management, dealing with financial challenges, as well as morning show formats and quality of radio broadcasts in Jordan.



Read our Op Ed in the Jordan Times: World Radio Day highlights enduring importance of radio in the digital age
Read the UNESCO DG message

WATCH AND SHARE OUR VIDEOS:

[Media and Information Literacy](#)
[Jordan News Network](#)
[Access to Information Training for Public Servants](#)
[Building Capacity of Local Radios](#)

UPCOMING EVENT: World Press Freedom Day

WPFD falls every year on 3 May, and UNESCO Amman Office will once again be marking this important occasion. This year's theme is Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Contact: Ms. Lidija Sabados (Project Officer): l.sabados@unesco.org