

SUPPORT TO MEDIA IN JORDAN



Newsletter June 2017

As we near the end of Ramadan and the beginning of Eid al-Fitr, we wish everyone a peaceful and happy Eid!

IN FOCUS: Results of a fruitful EU-UNESCO partnership to support media in Jordan presented in Brussels

In May, UNESCO Amman Office together with the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels organized a technical meeting to present the concrete achievements of the Project in Brussels, Belgium. Representatives from the Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG-NEAR), of the EU External Action Services as well as representatives of media development institutions attended the event. Ms. Hanadi Gharaibeh and Ms. Lidija Sabados, Associate Project Officers at UNESCO Amman Office, gave an overview of the media landscape in Jordan and presented the project's key achievements in the areas of journalism training, support to community and local radios, access to information for public servants, and media self-regulation. They were joined by the Project's partners from Jordan Media Institute, Ms. Bayan Tal and Ms. Nihad Jariri, who are respectively managing the media and information literacy (MIL) and the capacity building for local radios project components. In addition, Dr. Khalaf Tahat from Yarmouk University in the north of Jordan, presented the review and improvement in his university's journalism curricula as a result of the project's engagement and recommendations. Overall feedback was very positive and the Project was commended for its inclusive approach.



Read the story on the EU Neighbors South page.

See more about the visit on the Yarmouk University website [AR].

"The added value of UNESCO in these kinds of projects is the comprehensive approach taken, and we commend you for that." - Ms. Fabienne Bessonne, Head of Sector Jordan/Lebanon/Syria at DG NEAR in Brussels.

In Brussels, we began sharing the Project's results and achievements. Over the next month, we'll be sharing more on our Facebook page, see [here](#) for ongoing updates.

What else happened?

UNESCO & JMI conclude training program on media and information literacy for students



The school year has come to an end, and so have the pilot Media and Information Literacy (MIL) extracurricular clubs, organized by Jordan Media Institute as part of the Project. Male and female supervisors of the MIL clubs said that the opportunity given to students to join the clubs since the beginning of the 2016/2017 school year had contributed to building their critical thinking skills, and capacities in analyzing news, facts, and opinions. Her Royal Highness Princess Rym Ali, met on the sidelines of the last training course with the supervisors and students. Her Highness listened to students' experiences and the role the clubs played in protecting the students from misleading news and the discourse of extremism and hate on social media. During the

meeting, Her Highness stressed that it is important for students to use critical thinking and raise questions when watching news, and she expressed her hope that the Project continues to work with students around Jordan on media and information literacy skills.

“You are very lucky, but every student in Jordan should have the same opportunity to learn these important concepts as well.” - HE Dr. Omar Razzaz, Minister of Education, speaking to grade 9-7 students at the Bent Adi Comprehensive School for Girls during a visit to the MIL club in March 2017.

UNESCO, National Library, and CLD host networking event for Jordanian information officers

Information officers from government ministries and public bodies in Jordan met at the National Library in May in a networking event to foster debate around creating a “community of practice” for these officers. Under the patronage of HE Dr. Mohammed Al Momani, Minister of State for Media Affairs and government spokesperson, the networking event was a follow-up to the successful trainings on the implementation of the Access to Information (ATI) Law organised by UNESCO Amman Office, Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD) and Department of the National Library as part of the Project. Mr. Mohammed Abadi, Information Commissioner and Director General of the Department of the National Library, reiterated that the Department was very happy to cooperate with UNESCO Amman Office and CLD in increasing awareness around the Access to Information Law, and to facilitate the event.



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Read this Op Ed on the benefits of creating a network for information officers, published in the Jordan Times.

“Access to information is central to the 2030 Agenda and the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals. The right to access information is intrinsically linked to democracy, the rule of law and good governance and therefore development, peace, and stability. This is the reason why UNESCO is committed to supporting initiatives, like [the] networking event, that empower public bodies to implement the Access to Information Law properly and in full.” - Ms. Costanza Farina, Representative of UNESCO in Jordan, at the opening of the networking event in May 2017.

SPOTLIGHT: World Press Freedom Day 2017

Critical minds for critical times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just, inclusive societies

To mark the global celebration of World Press Freedom Day (WPF), UNESCO Amman Office was joined this year by the UNESCO Doha and Ramallah Offices for a sub-regional commemoration focusing on the topic, "Critical minds for critical times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just, inclusive societies." Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Rym Ali, the event was hosted by the Royal Film Commission in Amman, and brought together media professionals, human rights advocates, law and policy makers, civil society organizations, UN agencies, and academics. During the event, UNESCO facilitated two panel discussions on the central role of freedom of expression and the right to information in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, discussions on hate speech and the media's role in peace building produced lively discussions during the event.



Message from the Director-General of UNESCO.

See all the photos from the celebration.

Read this Op Ed by UNESCO DG Irina Bokova in the Jordan Times: 'Fake news' is not journalism...

UPCOMING:

28 Sept 2017: International Day for the Universal Access to Information

25 Oct-1 Nov 2017: Global Media and Information Literacy Week



WATCH AND SHARE OUR VIDEOS:

Media and Information Literacy
Jordan News Network
Access to Information Training for Public Servants
Building Capacity of Local Radios

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