

SUPPORT TO MEDIA IN JORDAN



Newsletter June 2018

Over the last several months, the Project has been implementing the next phase of activities, including developing media and information literacy strategies with the Ministry of Education, managing the installation of new radio and TV equipment, organizing events to inaugurate the new equipment and rolling out the next phase of equipment procurement to new beneficiaries around the country. For more details on recent activities and upcoming events, please read

IN FOCUS: EU, UNESCO inaugurate new equipment at Yarmouk University and Middle East University



In two separate events held under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Mohammad al Momani, former Minister of State for Media Affairs, the official inauguration of equipment attracted high level attendance including, H.E. Mr. Andrea Fontana, EU Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Ibrahim Laafia, Head of Cooperation at the European Delegation, Dr. Zidan Qafafe, President of Yarmouk University and Ms. Costanza Farina, UNESCO representative to Jordan.

The EU provided the new equipment as part of an overall 1.5 million euro contribution, designed to improve the ability of beneficiaries to provide high quality media content and train the next generation of media leaders. The equipment was provided in conjunction with an extensive capacity development program for each institution, which aims at strengthening both university education in journalism and the quality of radio production and diversity. At Yarmouk, the equipment includes new workstations for three multimedia labs, a new mixer, a professional tuner, a professional CD/MP3 player, headphones, microphones for Yarmouk FM, new studio cameras, a prompter and much more for the radio and TV studios. Middle East University was provided with new, high quality radio and TV studio equipment and a media lab, including a full PC lab.

"The European Union values support to media as a key development and advocacy actor. We support media in Jordan in different spheres and we recognize the role media plays in promoting democratic debate, strengthening inclusive development and diversity and enhancing community engagement".

- H.E. Mr. Andrea Matteo Fontana, EU Ambassador to Jordan

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What else happened?

EU and UNESCO collaborate to strengthen media sector through support to Yarmouk FM



With the generous EU-funding for high-tech equipment, Yarmouk FM has been transformed and moved to a brand new location at the University. The investment will work to improve the ability of beneficiaries to provide high quality media content and train the next generation of media leaders. Recently, with technical support provided under the project, the team at Yarmouk FM has been working to bolster their connection with listeners and the local community. The “listener’s club” is composed of members interested in providing real feedback to Yarmouk FM; participants listen to the programming as it airs and then contribute constructive evaluation of the themes and material, with the overall aim of supporting the delivery

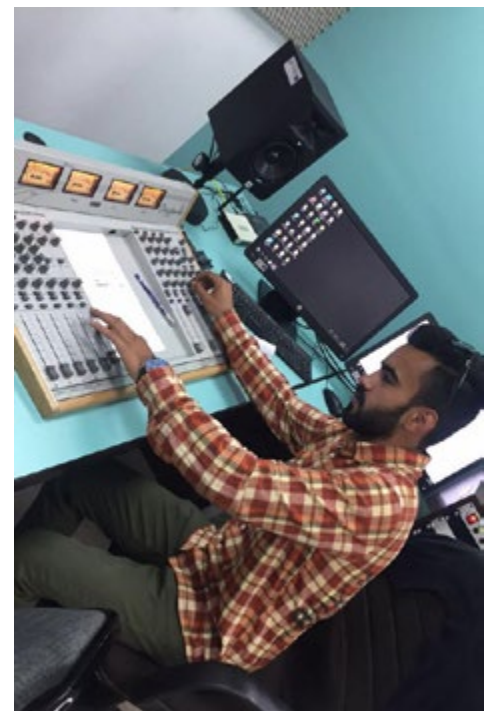
of quality, connected programming. The club also works to provide an element of ‘citizen journalism’, with members contacting the station with ideas or to report when something newsworthy is taking place within the community.

“Before we received the new media equipment, it was a choice of life or death for Yarmouk FM. The old equipment was obsolete. I see the equipment donation as the most important aspect of the EU support”.

- Azzam Al Azzam, Radio Program Manager at Yarmouk FM

EU and UNESCO radio training concludes at Al al Bayt University

The training sessions on radio news and program production at Al al Bayt University in Mafraq are now complete. Several radio experts and consultants have been working with the university’s faculty, staff and students focused on the basics of setting up a radio station, institutional issues such as how to form an advisory board, ensure editorial independence, and manage the station, as well as technical skills such as radio production and editing. The training also helped students to develop ideas for new programs. Trainees expressed their gratitude for the training and the opportunity to sharpen their skills and thanked the European Union and UNESCO for supporting the development of their radio station. The university has an FM license (103.5 FM in Mafraq) in place and has now commenced broadcasting, with programs and segments produced by both students and faculty, offering quality programming to students and the surrounding community.



“As a radio presenter, the new headsets and mics have really made my work easier and we are thrilled with all the equipment. The donation is good for students and the university as a whole”.

- Mohammad Zayoud, Al al Bayt trainee

SPOTLIGHT: UNESCO Amman Office celebrates World Press Freedom Day



To celebrate the annual World Press Freedom Day (WPDF), the UNESCO Amman office hosted a roundtable discussion, bringing together esteemed members of the judiciary, media and legal professionals and government representatives. Under the global theme of “Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and the Rule of Law”, the event provided a forum for diverse actors to discuss the interplay between media, the judiciary and the rule of law, within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The event marked an important year, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the celebration.

From the discussion, the panel developed several recommendations. To explore these and read the article in full, click here: <https://en.unesco.org/news/world-press-freedom-day-2018-celebrated-amman>

Message from Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day:
<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldpressfreedomday/dg-message>

Upcoming events:

June 25, 2018: Inauguration of new equipment at Farah al Nas Radio Station

The EU and UNESCO will host an event inaugurating the exceptional donation of new radio and studio equipment. With the aim of improving the ability of beneficiaries to produce high quality media content and train the next generation of media leaders, the equipment has been provided to several universities and radio stations around Jordan. At Farah al Nas, the new equipment includes brand new microphones, a digital mixer, a transmitter, and much more. For media queries, please contact e.bruser@unesco.org.

August 2018: Photo Competition

A photo competition will be organized with a vision of a beautiful and powerful exhibition as the final product to be exposed during the closing ceremony of the project tentatively planned for October 2018. In particular, the exhibition will target youth and a short book will be prepared compiling all the winning photographs.