



MEDREGION UPDATE

Regional Office Tunis

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MEPI Medregion Update Newsletter is produced by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Regional Office at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia.

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

MEPI continues to support the Tunisian people during their transition to democracy. The Ana Tounsi 2.0 (I am Tunisian 2.0) project is empowering young Tunisian citizens to share their ideas with national and international audiences and to discuss political and social issues and governmental actions through a youth-run web-radio station. With MEPI support, Club UNESCO - Bardo launched the first Tunisian community radio run by youth to help young Tunisians create a space for discussing a wide range of issues related to their future and to Tunisia's democratic transition.

Ana Tounsi radio seeks to instill in youth the values of democracy and the rule of law through trainings and civic engagement activities relating to youth rights and election management.

More than 100 eager young Tunisian volunteers aged 18-35 received intensive training on media professionalism, ethics in journalism, communication skills, new media tools, advocacy and lobbying. The training included a

I am Tunisian Web Radio



Serge Kollwelter, human rights activist from Luxembourg and observer from the European delegation, being interviewed by Ana Tounsi web radio

technical module on uploading content, website management and podcasting. Of the volunteers, 37 are now running their own shows on the radio.

Prior to the October 23 elections, Ana Tounsi launched a campaign called the "Ana Tounsi Election Watchdog."

Through this campaign, around 60 volunteers were trained in radio news reporting standards and election observation and monitoring. The election campaign and polling day were extensively covered by the Ana Tounsi team.

Trained journalists contributed reports and articles on cases of electoral law violations during the political campaign, and the

reports were posted on the radio's website and Facebook page.

Ana Tounsi organized debate circles on youth participation in democratic elections for 50 participants in Zaghouan and Kairouan. Each debate circle targeted 25 participants. The debate circles were recorded and broadcast on the web radio.

"Ana Tounsi Radio's role is to channel young citizens' demands for change and raise up their voices, to create vibrant partnerships with citizens, government officials, and new and traditional Media, to foster the development



إتكلم

"Speak!"

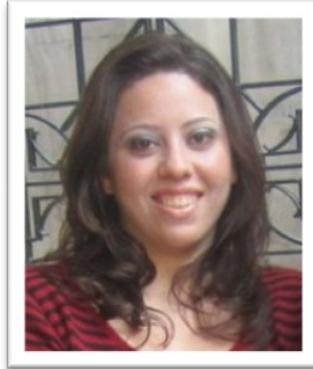
of a pluralistic, participatory, and prosperous society," said Fedia Gasmi, the project's manager and radio director. ■

MEPI Medregion Office News

MEPI Welcomes New Staff

The MEPI Regional Office in Tunis is pleased to welcome our new MEPI Administrator in Cairo, Dina Bissada.

In 2010, Dina graduated from the American University in Cairo, where she majored in Communications and Media Arts with a specialization in marketing, public relations and advertising and served as a member of the Student Union. While at AUC, she joined the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service as a marketing and webmaster trainee. In March 2010, she joined the Department of State as an on-call office management specialist. Before joining MEPI, Dina worked at different Embassy offices, including the Facilities Management Office, the Financial Management Center, the American



*Dina Bissada,
MEPI Administrator, Cairo*

Citizens Services Unit and the Foreign Commercial Service Office. She enjoys traveling, reading, shopping and swimming.

A warm welcome to Dina from all of us at RO Tunis!

Seeking Qualified Young Professionals from Tunisia and Libya



Legacy International, a U.S.-based non-governmental organization, is pleased to announce that its highly successful Legislative Fellows Program (LFP-MENA) will again take place in 2012-2014.

The Legislative Fellows Program (LFP-MENA) links community leaders from the United States, Kuwait, and Oman, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya. This two-year program supports young professionals from

the Middle East and North Africa, builds capacity in local Civil Service Organizations (CSO), and strengthens mutual understanding of the legislative and policy making processes in all countries. 22 Fellows will be selected from the six MENA countries to participate in a month-long, fellowship experience in Congressional offices, federal agencies, advocacy groups, and grassroots organizations in the U.S.

For more information about this program and eligibility please visit:

<http://apps.legacyintl.org/>. ■



Introducing a New Tool – The Financial Worksheet

By MEPI Grants Unit

We are currently introducing a new tool, the Financial Worksheet, which is designed to help our partners track their spending and complete the various new forms that we will begin using over the coming months. This tool has not been introduced to all our partners yet, but you will find it very useful once your Grants Analyst (GA) sends it to you.

The Financial Worksheet will help you develop a spending plan for the life of your grant and determine how much money to request for your next disbursement on the SF270 form. Further, it will help you understand how to complete the SF425 form when your GA asks you to do so. As the year progresses we will incorporate guidance for more forms into this worksheet in an effort to reduce the administrative burden placed on our partners, so that you can concentrate on your projects.

As is always true, do not hesitate to contact your GA if you have any questions or concerns. ■

We Will Participate in the Change

Recent events have shown that youth play a pivotal role in democratic transitions. This is especially true in countries, such as Egypt, where youth comprise a large portion of the population. Taking note of this crucial role, Egyptian NGOs and civil society actors are placing a strong emphasis on supporting youth's engagement and active participation in politics. For this reason, MEPI partner the Center for Peace and Human Development (CPHD) launched their "We Will Participate in the Change" campaign to support youth involvement in Egypt's democratic transition.

The campaign, part of their "Young Voter Registration Campaign" project, aimed to promote awareness of the election process among young Egyptians, targeting youth aged 18 to 27 in the Egyptian Governorates of Monofeya, Gharbeya and Helwan.

Over the period from July 1 to September 30, CPHD trained around 270 Egyptian youth through a series of six workshops and election simulations on "Encouraging Young People to Participate in the Political Process" and "Communication and Negotiation Skills."

"I am going to convince people in my community to go and vote."
Khaled (age 35)

"I like the idea of the simulation for the Election Day; it was really valuable." Shirin (age 20)

The workshops employed participative role playing as an interactive way to engage participants in the learning process, exposing volunteers to new methods and techniques for engaging and encouraging their peers to take part in the elections.

Participants learned about the electoral system, how to report electoral violations, the role of Members of Parliament, and how to choose an effective candidate.

The workshops brought together young activists, civil society representatives and political activists from the three targeted governorates.

These workshops were very successful in generating community discussion groups. In cooperation with Tahrir Lounge, five volunteers initiated a four grassroots campaigns in small and remote villages to educate voters about the election process and to encourage them to go vote.

Continuing to respond to the needs of Egyptian citizens, the project established a call center that helped youth in the three targeted governorates obtain an ID number or renew their ID card so they could vote in the upcoming elections.

Recognizing the important role social media has played in mobilizing people during the revolution, CPHD produced three Public Service Announcements (PSAs).

Through a humorous and constructive message, the PSAs urged youth to embrace a more active role in Egypt's democratic transition.

To better transmit their message and reach out to a greater number of youth, CPHD created an informative website (www.7ansharek.org) with information on the electoral process, how to obtain a voter ID card, and on the project's campaign. All campaign materials (graphics, posters, video, etc.) are posted on the website.

Registered users received a follow-up phone call from the Call Center encouraging them to move to the next step in the process and obtain their ID card.

Following the completion of the project, the youth who took part took the initiative to distribute more flyers and posters



"Yes, your vote will make a difference... Egypt will change through us"



"It is your right to choose, because today we are free"

CPHD designed and produced 30,000 posters that were produced and distributed in youth centers, universities, clubs, shopping centers, and bus stations throughout the three targeted governorates. Posters included the campaign slogan "We Will Participate in the Change".

and broadcast the within their PASs in youth centers communities. ■

Spotlight on MEPI Alumni

MEPI Alumni in Egypt Learn about Mentoring and Networking

The Egypt chapter of the MEPI Alumni Network organized a two-day workshop in September on mentorship and networking.

Speakers introduced the concept of mentoring, emphasizing that a mentor is a trusted counselor or guide, and they discussed the mutually beneficial nature of a mentor-mentee relationship. For a mentoring relationship to work, both the mentor and mentee must contribute equally.

The mentee needs to take responsibility for the relationship and must be prepared to seek advice from the mentor and be willing to listen to his

or her advice. On the other hand, the mentor must be able to act in the best interest of the mentee rather than his or her department, school, or institution, and make himself available to offer advice when needed.

The workshop provided an opportunity for the MEPI alumni participants to talk individually with entrepreneurs and academics to help identify their goals and the necessary steps to achieve them.

For example, the mentee may need someone to listen, give advice on career and family, and help with career decisions.

Alternatively, help may be required to manage employees,



During the Mentoring and Networking workshop

direct research, and write manuscripts or grant proposals.

Participants were reminded that, for the relationship to work effectively, the mentee should be conscious of his/her career at all

times, be aware of the opportunities that exist, and be prepared to consider the mentor's advice.

Speakers also presented ways that the mentee can prioritize and achieve

tasks efficiently. They highlighted the importance of networking, including making meaningful contacts that are long-lasting.



Middle East Partnership Initiative

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), located within the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, is a unique program designed to engage directly with and invest in the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). MEPI works to create vibrant partnerships with citizens to foster the development of pluralistic, participatory, and prosperous societies throughout the MENA region. MEPI partners with local, regional and international non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions, and governments.

MEPI Regional Office, Tunis

Housed in the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, the MEPI Regional Office Tunis administers MEPI local grant projects in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and West Bank/Gaza. Each year, MEPI provides a significant number of local grants directly to local organizations based in the Middle East and North Africa. These Grants promote reform and civic activism at the local and national levels in the Middle East and North Africa, build the institutional capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and strengthen civil society.

Stay Connected With MEPI

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