



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
RÉSEAU EURO-MÉDITERRANÉEN DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
الشبكة الأوروبية - المتوسطية لحقوق الإنسان

EMHRN ACTIVITY REPORT



2009 – 2011

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1. Introduction

The current report describes the activities of the EMHRN over a three-year period from the beginning of 2009 to the end of 2011. It is supported by the financial reports of the EMHRN covering the same period.

From the beginning it has been a period of intense activity. Before 2011, it was marked by increased pressure on human rights defenders and democracy promoters including political events such as the Israeli invasion of Gaza, increased pressure by the regimes on the populations and its civil society, increased social and economic discontent in a number of countries, the Union for the Mediterranean ending up in a political dead lock, and broad accommodation of the EU and its member states to the political situation in the region, prioritizing stability rather than democratic development.

Then came the revolutionary moments in the region which completely altered the situation and condition for human rights and democracy work. During and after the revolutionary moments, the EMHRN was active on many fronts. It was present in Tunisia and close to the human rights defenders before the fall of Ben Ali. Shortly after the revolution, it opened a mission that has worked in Tunis and in the country giving priority to women, young people and the marginalised groups of the country. Meanwhile, EMHRN President Kamel Jendoubi was elected as Chair of the independent election committee that did an internationally recognised work to ensure fair and free elections. The EMHRN was also present in Egypt during its revolutionary moments, and followed the rising attacks on human rights defenders and democracy promoters with great concern, as well the inflation of trials of civilians at military courts. Protecting and promoting the work of human rights defenders in Syria and Algeria, as well as highlighting human rights and international humanitarian law violations in the occupied Palestinian territories and attacks against the freedom of association and expression of Israeli human rights NGOs were a top priority. The EMHRN also gave close attention to the role of women in the revolutions and the problems they are currently facing to ensure that their rights are protected. Meanwhile, the EMHRN pursued thematic activities on migrants and refugee rights, human rights education, the independence of the judiciaries, et.al. This work was further sustained by advocacy work and interface activities in Brussels as well as by our communication work.

This report does not go into details on all these developments and on how the Network responded to them, since it would lead to a report of several hundred pages that would only be read by very few.

This narrative report of activities is instead aimed at providing with a more practical overview of the activities carried out by the EMHRN in its different fields of engagement and focus, leaving the political aspects of its work to the political report and the strategy paper that will be presented at the Copenhagen General Assembly.

Furthermore, the report builds on the detailed annual activity reports written by the Secretariat in relation to the finalizing of the annual audits of the EMHRN's accounts. The reader who wishes to look the EMHRN's activities into details can therefore refer to the reports as published on the EMHRN's website: www.euromedrights.org¹.

The current report hence takes its point of departure in the objectives for EMHRN activities that were set out by the General Assembly in Barcelona. The main elements of the Work Program and strategy remained in place in 2011.

Concretely, it takes its outset in the Work Program 2008-2010 that was adopted at the 8th General Assembly of the EMHRN in Barcelona within the framework of the 2006-2010 EMHRN Strategy and describes to which degree the objectives were achieved in the period from 2009 to 2011.

As mentioned, the region experienced significant changes since the last EMHRN General Assembly; changes that were not foreseen in Barcelona. In order to maintain its highest degree of relevance, the Network had to adapt to these and to be ready to act with flexibility to address the situations most appropriately. While remaining within the framework of the overall strategy and focus areas set out in

¹ The reports are only available in English; however the Secretariat will be pleased to translate parts into Arabic or French upon request.

the work program in Barcelona, this means that work plans and activities for example have had to diverge from previously defined strategies. Therefore the report also describes activities that were initiated in addition to those that were indicated in the past work program.

2. 2008-2010 WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme adopted in Barcelona basically aimed at 'giving flesh' to the EMHRN 2006-2010 strategy² while adapting the latter to the changes that had taken place in the region since the strategy had been adopted. It aimed at

- strengthening the EMHRN members' capacity to promote and protect human rights at local and regional levels through strategic interventions in the following areas:
 - Human Rights and Democratisation:
 - Freedom of Association
 - Justice
 - Women's Rights
 - Human Rights Education
 - The Security of Human Beings:
 - The Middle East Conflict
 - The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers
 - Economic and Social Rights
- using and monitoring the human rights and democratisation instruments of the EU, the ENP and the EMP where relevant, and increasing members' and local NGO's capacity to act in this regard;
- developing membership support instruments in the field of solidarity and training;
- engaging in and stimulating networking and partnerships beyond the Network at regional and local level;
- involving the media in the work of the EMHRN and its members;
- engaging in and stimulating discussions and debate about the overall development in the region and response strategies in this regard;
- maintaining and developing a high level of ownership of EMHRN activities by the members, as well as transparency and democratic principles in the executive bodies and administration of the Network. This included the systematic implementation of gender mainstreaming in the EMHRN's activities.

It was also planned that an external evaluation of the EMHRN's work would be carried out while implementing activities helping the EMHRN to readjust where needed.

Besides these points, it was the EMHRN's ambition to increasingly focus on how the development within the thematic field of work of the EMHRN and EMP, ENP and EU policies related to one another.

It was suggested to explore other avenues for regional advocacy work that would be complementary to the EMHRN's current work on the EU such as the identifying the added value of the Network addressing international agendas of the UN human rights bodies, or regional bodies such as the Arab League.

² See www.euromedrights.org

It was also the EMHRN's ambition to explore ways to promote the role of young people and make their presence in human rights work more visible

Finally, the EMHRN would seek to improve its capacity to address urgent issues by downscaling the 'project load' of the working groups while providing them with more time and resources to respond to immediate concerns and campaigns of members (and other human rights NGOs). In addition, it would develop its solidarity work, and facilitate the EMHRN's and the working groups' capacity to react to changing circumstances.

The EMHRN's 8th General Assembly was held in the light of a growing disillusion with the EU as a human rights actor, and in the light of the challenges caused by the marginalisation of human rights in the South.

But, as it will be presented below, many changes took place, which lead to on-going reassessments and adaptations of the Network's interventions.

The following pages move into the different points of set out by the EMHRN work programme and look into how the EMHRN acted in this context.

3. THE EMHRN'S THEMATIC WORK

3.1 Freedom of Association

Objectives

*The **overall framework** of this activity was the human rights values and international standards pertaining to freedom of association in the EuroMed region.*

*The **general objective** was to develop capacity for sustained civil society monitoring, expertise and action on freedom of association conducive to change in legislation - in particular in the South and East Mediterranean area - where relevant and, by extension, conducive to democratic reform.*

*The **short term objective** was to further develop the establishing of a regional civil society instrument to monitor freedom of association and, through networking, increasing NGOs capacity to work on this issue within their constituencies. A short term objective was also to support on-going work and campaigns of members and partners on freedom of association, and advocacy and media work in this regard*

Activities

The planned activities were the following:

- Drafting annual reviews on the situation of freedom of association in legislation and practice – including proposals for ways/indicators to measure progress or setbacks; the reports were meant to regularly set the question of freedom of association on the agenda of decision makers, NGOs and media in the region.
- Organising working group meetings for EMHRN members and resource persons in the Arab and EuroMed region aimed at developing regional networking. In this regard the EMHRN would liaise with other regional and local initiatives in the region.
- Developing and maintaining a section on freedom of association on the EMHRN's web site.

- Disseminating the results of its monitoring activities to the media, civil society groups and governments while support on-going actions and campaigns by civil society

The EMHRN Working Group on Freedom of Association was renewed early 2009. Two WG meetings held in Paris and Madrid gathered representatives of key human rights NGOs and resource persons from both the North and South Mediterranean. EMHRN carried out several advocacy missions (France, Spain, Geneva /UN) and awareness raising activities (Morocco) and published numerous statements and advocacy letters in 2009. Contacts with other initiatives (Club de Madrid, Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, International Center for Non-Profit Law, and Arab Initiative for Freedom of Association) were reinforced. Information on Freedom of Association in the EuroMed region was made available through 4 newsletters and a blog on Freedom of Association updated weekly.

Output 2009

- Establishment of a new Working Group on Freedom of Association composed of human rights defenders from both South and North Mediterranean countries;
- WG meeting organised in Paris and in Madrid;
- Contacts maintained with other regional FoA initiatives such as those of the Club de Madrid, the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, the International Center for Non-Profit Law and the Arab Initiative for Freedom of Association;
- Meeting between FoA WG and Moroccan NGOs to raise Moroccan NGOs' awareness about the relevance of freedom of association;
- Meetings with French officials, Union for the Mediterranean co-presidency, regarding human rights commitment in general, and Freedom of Association in particular;
- Meetings with Spanish officials, EU Presidency, regarding Freedom of Association;
- Mission to Geneva;
- A third Annual report on FoA drafted and documented in cooperation with 60 EMHRN member organisations, and published at a public meeting in Cairo in January 2010;
- Drafting of statements in support of numerous individual cases, and drafting of advocacy letters within the framework of the ENP;
- 4 newsletters;
- A blog on Freedom of Association updated weekly.

In 2010, the EMHRN came closer to its overall objective of developing and strengthening partnerships, networking and cooperation between human rights NGOs, activists and wider civil society in the Euro-Med region in the field of freedom of association. The EMHRN WG on Freedom of Association further established itself as a regional pool of expertise for the promotion and the protection of the right to freedom of association in the region and was increasingly acknowledged by partners (NGOs, national governments and international organisations) in the region.

The 2010 Review on Freedom of Association was well received, like its three predecessors, and used by key actors in the region including NGOs, INGOs, governments, academics, etc. The Review provided clear and detailed information on the situation of freedom of association while monitoring progresses and setbacks. It was presented in different countries of the region and opportunities were thus provided for EMHRN members and partners to build their capacity to deal with issues related to freedom of association and to increase their networking skills.

Outputs 2010

- Two Working Group meeting on Freedom of Association organised in Geneva and in Beirut,
- Public meeting on freedom of association in Cairo co-organised with the CIHRS,
- Side-event on freedom of association within the Palais des Nations in Geneva in cooperation with EMHRN members and the World Organisation against Torture,
- Public meeting on freedom of association in Beirut in cooperation with Solida,
- Meetings with EMHRN members and partners in Geneva (CIHRS, FIDH, OMCT, ISHR),
- Meetings with Lebanese officials regarding freedom of association in Beirut,
- Fourth Annual Report on Freedom of Association published,
- Various statements in support of numerous individual cases and drafting of advocacy letters within the framework of the ENP,
- 4 newsletters and weekly update of EMHRN blog on freedom of association.

In 2011, the EMHRN further consolidated the positive results from 2009-10 with the expertise and the role played by its Working group on Freedom of Association as a regional forum for increasingly acknowledged human rights NGOs such as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association.

The EMHRN developed a series of successful advocacy and capacity building activities around this 2010 Review and in 2011 published a report on freedom of association for organisations defending minorities in Turkey. Throughout 2011, the EMHRN was instrumental in raising awareness about issues related to freedom of association via its publications, regular newsletters on freedom of association and the information made available on its blog on freedom of association and other channels of communications.

Outputs 2011

- A Working Group (WG) meeting organised in Athens (the second meeting postponed to January 2012 due to a change of project coordinator);
- One (the fourth in a row) Annual Review on Freedom of Association;
- Two country reports on freedom of association in Turkey and Algeria;
- Presentation of the 2010 FoA Annual Review at a side event during the ordinary session of the Human Rights Council (UN) as well as at a meeting on the participation of civil society in peaceful demonstrations organised by the Danish Institute for Human Rights and CIVICUS;
- Launch of the country report on Turkey in Istanbul and Ankara accompanied by meetings with Turkish NGOs and authorities and EU representatives;
- 5 missions organized: to Tunisia and to Egypt following the fall of the Ben Ali and Mubarak regimes; to Geneva to meet with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association; to Algeria for a fact finding mission in preparation of the country report on Algeria in collaboration with Algerian EMHRN members; and to Egypt to investigate attacks on civil society and foreign funding;

- Various statements in support of numerous individual cases and drafting of advocacy letters within the framework of the ENP;
- Update and translation in English, French, and Arabic of the Freedom of Association pages on the EMHRN website;
- 4 newsletters on Freedom of Association;
- One assessment report on organisational capacity building needs of EMHRN members.

Summarising

Example of achievements

Following EMHRN advocacy meetings in February 2009, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders updated the 2004 report on “Applying the Declaration on human rights defenders - Meeting the standards of the right to association”. Following a subsequent advocacy mission in March 2010, where an EMHRN delegation met with the same Special Rapporteur and representatives from the OHCHR MENA Department, the Human Rights Council adopted in October 2010 a resolution appointing a mandate-holder on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association for a period of three years. The EMHRN, as well as others, can certainly be directly credited for this development which constitutes a very important achievement of the project at the international level.

Through publications, seminar and Working Group meetings, information sharing, capacity building and advocacy initiatives that were undertaken the EMHRN has been a useful instrument in raising awareness about issues related to freedom of association. More and more NGOs in the region now show interest in this issue. Amongst other, it provided support and capacity building for Egyptian civil society.

However, considerable efforts still remain to be made to ensure real progress on the ground despite the uprisings and revolutionary moments in the region. Very restrictive legislations remain in force or were introduced, and they are actively used against human rights NGOs. However, the adoption of a new, liberal law on associations in Tunisia in 2011 has to be warmly welcomed as well as the multiplying of civil society groups in Tunisia, Libya and Syria and of trade union groups in Egypt.

Despite the on-going negative trends in the region, the EMHRN believes that its activity has developed itself in a positive way. The expertise developed by the EMHRN and the advocacy activities carried out proved to be fruitful at the international level. The EMHRN believes that it has contributed to bringing freedom of association higher on the EU agenda, notably in its renewed Neighbourhood policy where freedom of association now ranks high on the agenda. Similarly, the EMHRN efforts have contributed to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders updating its 2004 report on “Applying the Declaration on human rights defenders - Meeting the standards of the right to association” and later to the passing of a Human Rights Council’s resolution appointing a mandate-holder on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association for a period of three years.

3.2 The independence and the impartiality of the Judiciary

Objectives

The **human rights framework** of this activity was the international standards pertaining to the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

The **general objective** was the consolidation of networks and of groups of actors in South and East Mediterranean societies with capacity to influence the judiciaries towards reform.

The **short term objective** was to further develop and sustain possibilities for free debate between key actors concerning the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in order to support processes and initiatives towards reform.

Activities

The EMHRN had succeeded in starting-up a promising process around the issue of the independence and impartiality of the judiciary that was considered as important to consolidate and to develop. Hence, the proposed activities involved extension and follow-up to the on-going activities by

- conducting national meetings in Egypt and in Algeria similar to the ones conducted in Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. These were intended to stimulate debate on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and also to promote the drafting of national reports on this question;
- organising follow-up seminars, where feasible, in the target countries, aimed at presenting the national reports and recommendations for reform;
- promoting and supporting the efforts to establish an Arab union of judges *inter alia* by inviting judges active in these efforts to take part in the above-mentioned seminars, and otherwise allowing them to meet with fellow magistrates in the Arab countries to prepare for the establishment of the above-mentioned Union;
- conducting regional working group meetings on the judiciary twice a year with an aim to ensure coordination by stakeholders of the above process, develop synergies between the various activities and develop/sustain a regional civil society perspective on developments in the field of justice. A particular focus lied on the question of justice, counter-terrorism measures and the inter-linkages between the North and the South of the Mediterranean in that regard;
- exploring the idea of creating a pool of trial observation teams that would monitor trials considered to be emblematic for the situation of the judiciaries in the region. Trial missions would have an important function in terms of a protection mechanism, of stimulating debates about the judiciaries and of building civil society capacity to monitor the judiciaries.

The Justice Working Group was renewed in early 2009, and met in Paris (as well as in Rabat in early 2010). The EMHRN organised two follow-up seminars in Amman and in Beirut where its reports on the independence of the judiciary in Jordan and in Lebanon were presented and their recommendations were discussed and improved. Work on new reports on Algeria and on Egypt was initiated and experts hired. A regional seminar on the networks of judges in the EuroMed region was held in Cairo and cooperation with the FIDH and the ICJ in the field of judicial reform was reinforced. This led to a joint conference held in Morocco in January 2010.

Output 2009

- A follow-up seminar on the Jordan judiciary was held in Amman;
- A follow-up seminar on the Lebanese judiciary was held in Beirut;
- A regional seminar on the networks of judges in the EuroMed region was held in Cairo;
- The Justice Working Group was re-established in early 2009, and met in Paris in June 2009 and in Rabat in January 2010;
- An expert was hired to draft the report on the Egyptian judiciary (to be published in 2010);
- Algerian Experts were hired in Algeria to draft a national report (to be published in 2010);
- A mission to Algeria co-organised with the Coordinator of the Solidarity project;
- Cooperation with the FIDH and the ICJ in the field of judicial reform was reinforced and led to a joint conference held in Morocco in January 2010.

The activities implemented in the field of Justice in 2010 contributed to the EMHRN further establishing itself as a regional actor in the field of justice reform.

The activities carried out in 2010 were in line with the short term objectives, i.e. *“to develop spaces for debate for the main actors of the judiciary in South and East Mediterranean countries, providing room to exchange ideas and proposals for future reforms”*. In particular national meetings (in Morocco and in Algeria) allowed main actors - especially judges and lawyers - to debate on the current state of justice and on the contents of future reforms. However, difficulties met in Algeria, Morocco, Jordan and to a lesser extent in Lebanon in 2010 confirmed that this is a very sensitive field where progress is slow, and that maintaining a sustained active civil society engagement remains a challenge. This is mainly due to limited capacity of the local organisations to be involved but also due to the sensitiveness of the issue.

However, the work accomplished within the EMHRN Working Group on Justice in 2010 (and the years before) made it possible to increase the skills of some of its members while creating a sense of ownership of the project and its activities. One of the challenges met in 2010 was the limited involvement of the WG members in issues not directly related to their respective countries, which would thus be potentially weakening the regional impact of the group. At the national level, the project was instrumental e.g. in creating and supporting a coalition of Moroccan organisations advocating for judicial reforms.

In relation to the EMHRN programme's overall objective of contributing to an independent judiciary, the advocacy missions organised in 2010 proved an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the governments in the region on reforms of the judiciary. The reports on independence and impartiality of the judiciary (report on Algeria published in 2010) are very useful tools in this regard. However, as mentioned above a lot remains to be done before civil society in the region has the capacity to efficiently influence the judiciaries towards reforms.

Output 2010

- Two Justice Working Group meetings held in Morocco and in Egypt;
- Joint conference with the FIDH and the ICJ on the issue of judicial reform in Morocco in January;

- Advocacy mission to Morocco in March presenting legal memorandum on judicial reform to authorities;
- Launch of the EMHRN report on The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary in Lebanon in Beirut;
- Advocacy mission to Lebanon to discuss reform initiatives for the judiciary including meeting with minister of Justice;
- Meeting in Amman with Minister of Justice;
- Follow-up meeting with Algerian lawyers and civil society representatives to discuss the draft report on The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary in Algeria;
- Meeting with Egyptian judges to follow up on the networking of judges and on the establishment of a virtual network of judges as well as preparation of the follow-up meeting on the independence of the judiciary in Egypt.

The activities carried out in 2011 departed from the initial work program on Justice mainly because the project on the impact of anti-terrorist legislation on the judiciaries proved to be either not the most urgent issue in relation to independence of the judiciaries or was already covered by other initiatives. It was instead decided to focus on the core issue on which the justice project had developed a track record, namely the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and two reports on the independence of the judiciaries in Egypt and Algeria respectively were published in 2011.

Through the publication of these reports and the related meetings organised in Egypt and Algeria to present and discuss the reports, the EMHRN succeeded in opening possibilities where key actors of the judiciary were able to discuss issues related to the judiciaries and their limited independence, providing room to exchange ideas and proposals for future reforms. However, it was also confirmed, for instance in Algeria where no public meeting could be organised, that it is a very sensitive field where progress is slow.

Output 2011

- Follow up meeting in Egypt: Joint conference with the CIHRS on the independence of the judiciary in Egypt;
- Launch of the EMHRN report on The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary in Egypt in Cairo;
- Launch of recommendations from the conference on the independence of the judiciary in Egypt;
- Launch of report from the conference on the independence of the judiciary in Egypt;
- Advocacy mission to Egypt to discuss reform initiatives for the judiciary;
- Publication of the report on the independence of the judiciary in Algeria;
- Launch of the report on the independence of the judiciary in Algeria;
- Preparation of regional seminar on the reform initiatives of the judiciaries in the wake of the Arab spring, which was held 11-13 February 2012 in Rabat, Morocco.

Summarising

Examples of achievements

The publication of the EMHRN report on the Independence of the Judiciary in Lebanon in March 2010 led to a public debate in the Lebanese media including exchanges of points of view between the High Council of the Judiciary, the EMHRN and its local members.

In Egypt, the EMHRN Report on the reform of judiciary was reflected in the Charter on Independence of Judiciary supported by civil society organisations and independent judges to amend the existing law of judiciary.

In relation to the EMHRN programme objective, the Network did succeed in creating possibilities for free debate between key actors concerning the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. The EMHRN took several initiatives to promote regional networking amongst judges in the region, but political changes inside the few judges associations in the region, constraints on judges' freedom of movement and the revolutionary moments meant that further efforts had to be postponed. The EMHRN remains attached to the idea of developing its trial monitoring, however in view of the need to respond to other imminent needs in the field of justice in the region did not find the resources to act systematically on this question. Although the ambitious goal of developing a coherent regional approach remains a challenge, the Network produced a solid track record in this field through its reports, and it had a number of dialogues with governments at ministerial level.

Elements which would have to be taken into account when measuring achievements in this area include an experienced donor resistance to fund work on human rights and the fight against terrorism in both Europe and the Arab region, as well as the sudden changes produced by the revolutionary moments, but also the fact that reform initiatives remain an almost exclusive national, and political highly sensitive domain.

The EMHRN took several initiatives to promote regional networking amongst judges in the region, but political changes inside the few judges associations in the region, constraints on judges' freedom of movement and the revolutionary moments meant that further efforts had to be postponed. The EMHRN remains attached to the idea of developing its trial monitoring, but did not find the resources to act systematically on this question.

3.3 Women's Rights, Gender Equality and Mainstreaming

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** of this activity was the human rights values and international standards relating to women's rights and the achievement of gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region.*

*The **general objective** was that key civil society networks and groups of actors in the EuroMed region would effectively monitor government policies within the context of The Barcelona Process: the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and actively integrate gender mainstreaming into their work.*

*The **short term** objectives were to:*

- further enhance knowledge of gender mainstreaming and capacity of NGOs to integrate this into daily work;*
- further promote cooperation between women's rights and human rights organisations and networks to promote gender equality within their organisations;*

- *further increase awareness about gender discrimination in the region and monitor public policies in this regard, in particular the Istanbul Action Plan on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society (IAP).*

Activities

Strengthen networking and gender mainstreaming by conducting bi-annual working group meetings in order to discuss, monitor and implement the following:

- Promoting gender mainstreaming and conducting training courses for human rights and civil society organisations in this regard;
- Promoting gender mainstreaming within the EMHRN organisations and executive bodies;
- Supporting civil society campaigns and initiatives pertaining to gender equality and women's rights (such as the campaign on lifting the reservations to the CEDAW);
- Monitoring the Barcelona process: the Union for the Mediterranean, the European Neighbourhood Policy and other governmental policies relevant for the region. Monitoring targeted in particular the Action Plan on 'Strengthening the Role of Women in Society', adopted by the EuroMed Partners in Istanbul in November 2006. In this regard the EMHRN aimed at contributing actively to the agenda of the 2009 EuroMed Follow-up Conference to the Istanbul meeting;
- Maintaining an EMHRN antenna in Jordan to deal with gender issue in the EuroMed region.

In 2009, the EMHRN pursued its work on the follow-up on the Istanbul Plan of Action (IAP), through a shadow report on the IAP, national awareness raisings/coordination meetings (Jordan, Lebanon, Sweden, Egypt, Morocco, Denmark), advocacy meetings (Stockholm, Cairo, Brussels, Copenhagen and Rabat) and a regional NGO Conference in preparation to the Euro-Med Ministerial Conference.

An EMHRN Gender Mainstreaming Policy Document was drafted and gender mainstreaming activities or training within the other WGs (Justice, Freedom of Association, Migration) were carried out. A specific sub-website for the Gender WG was set up. Finally, the Gender WG was renewed early 2009 and met twice (Stockholm and in Istanbul).

Output 2009

- 2 Working group meetings (Stockholm and in Istanbul);
- 7 National awareness raising seminars/coordination meetings on Istanbul Action Plan (IAP) (Jordan, Lebanon, Sweden, Egypt, Morocco, Denmark);
- Shadow Report on Istanbul Plan Action published in English, Arabic, and French;
- 5 advocacy meetings on the IAP in Stockholm, Cairo, Brussels, Copenhagen and Rabat;
- Participation in the Second Euro-Med Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society in Marrakech;
- A Regional Conference "Gender Equality in the Euro-Med Region: From Plan of Action to Action?" in Istanbul;
- A sub-website for the gender working group available at <http://gender.euromedrights.net>;

- A draft EMHRN Gender Mainstreaming Policy Document;
- Gender mainstreaming of the EMHRN WG (training of the Justice WG, revising FOA Review, participation in MAWG);
- Support to regional campaigns;
- 3 press releases/open letters on the occasion of the 8th of March, 30th anniversary of the CEDAW and the EU-Lebanon Association Council;
- Participation in 7 meetings/seminars/conferences for advocacy purposes on gender equality, IPA and women's rights.

In 2010 the EMHRN actively invested resources in different opportunities to monitor and to influence the UFM and the ENP as well as governmental policies to promote gender equality with special focus on the IAP. The EMHRN seminar "For a Real Gender Equality in the EuroMed Region" looking at the implementation of the Marrakech Conclusions led to conclusions which were later reflected in the Alicante EuroMed Civil Forum's Final Declaration. The EMHRN drafted various open letters, conducted advocacy missions to EU institutions in Brussels and the Belgian government (at that time holding the EU Presidency), participated in debriefings of ENP subcommittees meetings, meetings with European ambassadors and ministers for foreign affairs, etc.

Also in 2010 the EMHRN decided to systematically monitor the EuroMed governments' lifting of CEDAW reservations, and to integrate CEDAW in all its discussions and lobby and advocacy visits with EuroMed governments. It also initiated facilitating coordination with other networks and established framework for discussions.

An EMHRN policy paper and a work plan on gender equality were adopted in 2010 and specific sessions of the Gender Working Group meetings were devoted to strengthen the members' knowledge and understanding of basic concepts related to gender mainstreaming and to develop their capacities to implement this approach in their own organisations .

Outputs 2010

- Lobby visits in Brussels (January and November);
- Follow-up meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, organised by the EMHRN and the EuroMed NGO Platform on 23-24 April 2011 in Casablanca, Morocco;
- 2 Gender WG meetings: the first one in Casablanca, Morocco (24-25 April), and the second at the Dead Sea, Jordan (2-3 October);
- Gender mainstreaming training (30 September- 1 October) and EU Gender project partners meeting (1st October), Dead Sea, Jordan;
- Launch of the Amman EMHRN office (20 June), fully set-up and equipped;
- Adoption of the "EMHRN Gender Equality Policy Paper" and the "Women's Rights and Gender Working Group's Work Plan 2010-13", which were approved by the EMHRN Executive Committee in October 2010;
- EMHRN position paper on Marrakech Conclusions of the 2nd Euro-Med Ministerial Meeting on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society" Marrakesh, 11-12 November 2009 – available at www.euromedrights.org/gender/istanbul-action-plan/emhrn-documents/9092.html;

- Various open letters and press releases (Women's International Day, 8 March, available at http://en.euromedrights.org/index.php/news/emhrn_releases/67/4170.html); First anniversary of Marrakech Conclusions, 11 November; etc;
- Publication of the French version of EMHRN Gender Mainstreaming Reference Kit (GMRK).

In 2011, the EMHRN continued monitoring and lobbying for the use of the ENP Action Plans and the Marrakech Conclusions as an instrument to promote gender equality and women's rights in the transition processes. However, the Network decided to downscale the work on the Marrakech Conclusions due to the dead lock of the Union for the Mediterranean. Two national workshops were held in Amman and Cairo which led to concrete recommendations. The EMHRN advocated these through visits to the EU institutions in Brussels, meetings with local EU delegations and various consultation processes, open letters and statements throughout 2011.

The EMHRN further supported the work of its members and other organisations in the field of gender equality through training sessions on participation of women in the transition processes, disseminating examples of gender-sensitive Constitutions and targeting support to various NGOs and campaigns in the region. Cooperation between women's rights and human rights organisations to promote gender equality was strengthened via exchange of information and coordination of activities with various actors (AISHA – the Arab Women Forum, the European Feminist Initiative, WIDE, the European Women's Lobby, etc.). Training and tools were provided to Jordanian organisations to use gender mainstreaming within their own structures, and the implementation of EMHRN gender equality policy was further achieved through a training of all EMHRN staff.

However, due to the changes in the region efforts to lobby governments and transitional bodies follow-up on the recommendations from the national workshops in Amman and Cairo were limited.

Output 2011

- Lobby visits in Brussels (21-24 November) and lobby visit in Tunisia (7 December);
- 2 Gender Working Group meetings: in Madrid, Spain (8-9 April), and Tunis, Tunisia (8-9 December);
- A national training on gender mainstreaming in Amman (17-18 May);
- A public event on women in transitions in Madrid (7 April);
- A meeting with Spanish women's and human rights NGOs in Madrid (8 April);
- A regional workshop/training in Madrid (7 April);
- 2 national conferences/workshops: in Amman, Jordan, in cooperation with ACHRS (14-15 March), and in Cairo, Egypt, in cooperation with NWF (28-29 June);
- Various press releases and statements issued by the EMHRN and various articles published by local media covering the EMHRN activities.

Summarising

Examples of achievements

Following systematic awareness raising and advocacy work by the EMHRN including a large, regional civil society conference in Istanbul, the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference in Marrakech, November 2009, discussing the Role of Women in Society (commonly referred to as the Istanbul Plan of Action, IPA) integrated a number of EMHRN recommendations in its final conclusions including recommending “taking measures that enable the full and effective implementation and translation into legislative and policy reform of UN conventions related to human rights of women, in particular CEDAW and its Optional Protocol”

The EMHRN was all in all successful in lobbying the EuroMed instruments in order to promote a human rights based approach on promoting the role of women in society. Regretfully, the Union for the Mediterranean did only follow-up or monitor the implementation of the Marrakech Conclusions to a little extent. Around the advent of the ‘Arab Spring’, the EMHRN deemed that it was politically important to prioritise supporting women’s rights defenders in their work around the current political transitions and constitutional reforms.

The ‘Arab Spring’ also meant that a number of planned activities, e.g. gender mainstreaming courses, had to be postponed although work on internal gender mainstreaming of the EMHRN was continuously been pursued. The EMHRN believes that its work on women’s rights and gender mainstreaming through the activities of its Gender working groups resulted in a significant alliance of women’s rights defenders in the region. The EMHRN developed a leading and important forum for women’s rights defenders providing these with resources to keep up their work at the national level.

3.4 Human Rights Education (HRE)

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** of this project was human rights culture and values as expressed in educational activities.*

*The **general objective** was to generalise networking of human rights NGO in the field of education and develop their capacity to deliver and advocate for learning rooted in human rights based values as well as in policies in this regard.*

*The **short term objective** was to*

- *Further develop networking among human rights NGOs dealing with HRE in the Euro-Mediterranean region;*
- *Engage NGOs in systematic exchange about methodologies and approaches for human rights based learning;*
- *Engage NGOs in assessing public policies regarding HRE and how to impact on these as civil society.*

Activities

In 2009, a second Resource Book from the Summer School in Turkey in 2008 was completed and it was later published in 2010. The Working Group on HRE reassumed its work in the course of 2010.

Output 2009

- A second Resource Book from the Summer School in Turkey in 2008 was initiated (and was completed in 2010);
- The Report from the 2008 Summer School in Turkey was published on the EMHRN website in September.

In the course of 2010, decision was made to assess the previous work done and discuss the added value of the EMHRN in light of the regional changes. Discussions took place within the EMHRN Executive Committee – and later within the Working Group on Human Rights Education – that e.g. questioned the efficiency of the EMHRN Summer Schools held in previous years, especially in relation to the outcome vs. the costs involved. These discussions included the question of whether youth should be mainstreamed into the overall work of the EMHRN or solely remain within the field of the Human Rights Education work.

Although a seminar on the challenges to Human Rights Education work within the informal sector and a study on Human Rights Education within the public sector had been scheduled for 2010, it was eventually decided to first do a mapping of HRE initiatives and to discuss it with the Working Group before engaging directly in broader activities. As a result of this, the foundation for achieving the objectives of the HRE work in the Network was laid in 2011.

Output 2010

- Discussion paper on HRE presented at the EMHRN Executive Committee meeting in February 2010;
- Second Resource Book on Human Rights Education finalized and published on the EMHRN website in English and Arabic;
- Concept Paper on the HRE project submitted for discussion and approval at the EMHRN Executive Committee meeting in Paris on 22-24 October;
- HRE WG meeting in Jordan scheduled for December 2010 was postponed to 15-16 January 2011 in Malta.

In 2011, the EMHRN's Working Group on HRE invested time resources to networking with civil society organisations to better understand the challenges to HRE in the region following the revolutionary moments, laying down the foundations for its future work. The Network decided to prepare a project of a tool box on HRE methodologies and an advocacy guide on HRE for 2012 and, to initiate work to promote the UN Declaration on HRE and Training as an opportunity to hold governments responsible to their commitments to HRE.

Although only few concrete outcomes were achieved in 2011, the EMHRN considered it important to take the time to analyse the challenges to HRE in the light of the developments in the region and to identify the needs of the organisations working on HRE in order to provide solid ground for EMHRN work on HRE in the future.

Output 2011

- 2 Working Group meetings, Malta, 15-16 January 2011 , and Cairo 2-3 July 2011;
- 1 discussion paper on human rights education activities in the formal sector (national level);

- 1 discussion paper on the EMHRN's definition of HRE;
- A preliminary map of key national and regional human rights education activities in the region.

Summarising

Examples of achievements

In 2009, the EMHRN published 'A Practical guide to human rights education from the EMHRN Summer School 2008' with its 'Resources for Human Rights Education 2: Using Games, Films and Role-Playing'. In 2010, the Network published its Second Resource Book on Human Rights Education on the EMHRN website in English and in Arabic.

Partially as the result of various constraints and because of the perceived need for reflection and assessment of the added value of EMHRN in the field of HRE, identifying what a specifically EuroMed regional approach to human rights education can bring to the context of the radically changed situation in the region after in 2011, most of the HRE activities took place in the latter half of the reporting period. However, a significant outcome is the definition of good work perspectives on NGO exchanges of HRE methodologies and perspectives for policy work based on the UN Declaration for Human Rights Education that can be developed in future work of the EMHRN.

3.5 Palestine, Israel and Palestinians

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** of the project was the international human rights standards and international humanitarian law relating to conflict prevention, management and resolution.*

*The **general objective** was to create a regional civil society advocacy forum aimed at raising awareness about the need for the EU, the ENP and EMP governments to set the respect for human rights and international humanitarian law at the heart of peace promotion.*

*The **short term objective** was to further develop the activities of the EMHRN WG on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians to become a key critical human rights advocacy forum on EU policies pertaining to Israel and Palestine.*

Activities

- Working group meetings strengthening the capacity of the Working group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians to become a key vehicle for advocating a human rights approach to the conflict and to occupation;
- Researching and publishing reports on the relations between the EU, Israel and Palestine dealing with key human rights issues in the OPT and inside Israel; Monitoring as to how the EU (the EP, the Commission and Council plus member states) deals with and reacts to these developments; and critical analysing of the EU compliance with its obligations according to its own treaties, international law and the EU Guidelines on Human Rights;
- Developing the capacity of participating organisations and individuals to advocate within the framework of the EMP and the ENP and to find their way within the EU institutions and their policies (in Brussels as well as EU delegations);

- Developing cooperation with other civil society organisations by promoting respect for human rights, international law and international humanitarian law in relation to the situation in Israel and Palestine.

In 2009, the EMHRN took several initiatives in relation to the Israeli war on Gaza (December 2008-January 2009). One of this was the publication of a report on the EU's response to the Israeli offensive. The Network undertook several advocacy activities, including field missions, and took the lead in coordinating NGO follow-up on the Goldstone Report. In relation to the EU's political dialogue with Israel and the Palestinian Authority, EMHRN's advocacy efforts included publication of notes on human rights violations, meetings, press releases as well as four advocacy missions to EU Member States. The EMHRN PIP Working Group was renewed in early 2009 and met twice: first in East-Jerusalem and later in Madrid. Three trainings for Israeli, Palestinian and European NGOs were organised during 2009.

Output 2009

- 2 WG meetings in East-Jerusalem and in Madrid;
- One report on the EU's response to the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip;
- Advocacy (2 missions in the field, advocacy meetings in Brussels and EU Member States, press releases, etc.) in relation with the offensive on the Gaza Strip and the subsequent Goldstone Report;
- Strengthening of the information and coordination amongst INGOs in relation to the follow-up on the Goldstone report;
- Advocacy (publication of notes on human rights violations, meetings, press releases, etc.) in relation to EU political dialogue with Israel and with the Palestinian Authority;
- 4 advocacy missions to EU Member States capitals;
- 3 trainings for Israeli, Palestinian and European NGOs;
- 21 statements or press releases (either by the EMHRN or jointly with other organisations).

In 2010, the activities of the PIP Working Group developed further in order to become a key critical human rights advocacy forum on EU policies pertaining to Israel and Palestine. This was achieved through monitoring of the EU relations with Israel and the Palestinian authority, discussing the status of Israel within the ENP, meetings with EMHRN members, and EU and Member States representatives, reaching out to civil society at large, capacity building, publishing notes and a report, as well as issuing press releases. During 2010 the EMHRN became increasingly a focal point for expertise on the EU-Israel relations, and the Network was regularly contacted by NGOs in Europe and in Israel/OPT for advice or information on EU advocacy. EMHRN initiatives included the communication of EU News following EU policies and identifying opportunities for advocacy, an online advocacy database, and the coordination of the NGO follow-up on the Goldstone Report.

An important challenge addressed in 2010 were the restrictions to freedom of movement still imposed on the PIP Working Group members from Gaza, which had a strong impact on the activities of the EMHRN. The increased attacks against Israeli HR organisations which started with the publication of the Goldstone report in September 2009 and continued throughout 2010 constituted another obstacle to EMHRN work. In this context the EMHRN decided to direct some of its resources to monitor the restrictive Knesset bills under discussion and to lobby EU diplomats and Parliamentarians about this issue.

Output 2010

- 2 Working Group meetings in Europe;
- 1 annual report;
- 7 advocacy missions;
- 20 EMHRN statements, policy briefs related to the situation in Israel and the OPT (either by the EMHRN or jointly with other organisations);
- 2 trainings;
- Strengthening of the information and coordination amongst INGOs in relation with the follow-up on the Goldstone report;
- EMHRN website providing information on human rights developments in the Middle East conflict;
- Development of a PIP online advocacy database (access restricted);
- Recruitment of a full time PIP project assistant bringing additional capacity.

In 2011, the PIP Working Group developed further its activities through closely monitoring the EU relations with Israel and the Palestinian authority, strengthening information and coordination around the Goldstone process in the UN, meetings with EMHRN members and EU and Member States representatives and diffusing information on the human rights violations in Israel and the OPT. A report on the Israeli Arab minority and on the EU-Israel relations was published and very well received. All in all, the role of the PIP Working Group as a focal point for expertise on the EU-Israel relations was confirmed and strengthened in 2011.

The restrictions to the freedom of movement of members from Gaza continued to be a challenge in 2011 although the opening of the Rafah border allowed them to participate in some activities. Due to the restrictions on movements between Israel and the West Bank, no meeting could be held in East Jerusalem. A new challenge in 2011 were the increased attacks against Israeli human rights organisations via several Knesset bills already adopted or under discussion that have had a practical impact on the overall work of the Working Group, as it needed to prioritise informing the EU and its Member States about the situation and requesting them to raise EMHRN concerns with Israeli authorities.

Following-up on a decision made in 2010, the PIP WG focused its advocacy efforts, beyond the EU institutions themselves, on two selected target EU Member States such as the UK and Germany in which a large part of the advocacy took place.

Output 2011

- 2 Working Group meetings, both held in Europe;
- 1 annual report;
- 4 advocacy missions and 4 other travels;
- 22 statements, policy briefs related to the situation in Israel and the OPT (either by the EMHRN or jointly with other organisations);

- 4 trainings;
- Information on human rights developments in the Middle East conflict on the EMHRN website;
- Development of a PIP online advocacy database (access restricted);
- Recruitment of a full-time assistant bringing additional capacity (under an OSI-grant).

Summarizing

Examples of achievements

Following EMHRN advocacy efforts regarding a series of anti-democratic bills in Israel and subsequent diplomatic concerns raised by the EU, the Israeli foreign funding bill which would have further undermined the work of NGOs in Israel was put on hold.

Following its 2010 report on the EU and the Palestinian Arab Minority in Israel the EU increased its attention to the human rights situation of the Palestinian Arab minority inside Israel.

The EMHRN PIP Working Group has managed to sustain and reinforce its role as a consistent alliance between Palestinian, Israeli, Arab and European NGOs and has become a reference point for human rights related to Israel and Palestine. Hence, the EMHRN moved closer to its general objective of establishing a regional civil society advocacy forum aimed at raising awareness about the need for the EU/ENP/EMP and governments to set the respect for human rights and international humanitarian law at the heart of peace promotion.

A challenge for the EMHRN in its work on Israel and Palestine is the wide coverage of the task related to closely following individual EU Member States policies and to following-up on the advocacy missions organised in EU capitals. To cope with this, the EMHRN decided to focus its advocacy predominantly on a limited number of countries, i.e. the UK and Germany for 2010. At the overall level of the central EU institutions the EMHRN remains a key advocacy force having its voice heard and recommendations included in EU's bi-lateral relations with Israel and Palestine.

3.6 The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** of the activity was the international human rights standards and international humanitarian law regarding migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, in particular those relating to the Geneva Conventions; the Convention on Migrant Workers and their families; the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and relevant ILO Conventions.*

*The **general objective** was to:*

- *Strengthen regional civil society cooperation on policies, projects and exchange of information related to the rights of migrants and refugees.*
- *Engage in dialogue with governments and EU institutions on questions relating to human rights, migration, refugee and asylum issues.*
- *Develop the capacity of local organisations in the South Mediterranean to tackle issues relating to migrants', refugees' and asylum seekers' rights.*

*The **short term objective** of the activity was to:*

Further develop a human rights based civil society platform for cooperation on questions pertaining to the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers including the setting-up of alert missions on emblematic cases of violations of migrants' or asylum seekers' rights.

Activities

- Two regional working group meetings per year with the aim of:
 - Exchanging information about participants' work and increasing mutual knowledge thereof,
 - Conducting training about the EU and developing human rights response to these policies including monitoring the follow-up to the EuroMed Ministerial meeting on migration,
 - Identifying joint projects between the participants,
 - Monitoring research and publication of reports;
- Organising sub-regional meetings in order to strengthen sub-regional networking;
- Implementing a regional Migration and Asylum Alert mission mechanism regarding emblematic cases of violations of migrants' and asylum seekers' rights;
- Drafting and publishing country fact sheets and publishing newsletters on migration and refugees;
- Maintaining an EMHRN antenna in Morocco to deal with refugee and migration issues in the EuroMed region.

In 2009, the EMHRN pursued its objective of creating a regional exchange platform on migration and asylum. Two meetings of the Migration and Asylum Working Group were organised, both providing training and advocacy opportunities, and a sub-regional seminar on the Mashrek countries was held in Cairo. The EMHRN also initiated the process of drafting a Maghreb country fact sheets study. Two mapping and networking visits were organised in Egypt and Tunisia. Two missions were carried out in Italy, Lampedusa, and France, Calais, within the framework of the Alert Mission Mechanism established in 2008. These missions aimed at acting on emblematic cases where the rights of migrants and refugees are violated (the latter though early 2010).

Output 2009

- 2 meetings with the Migration and Asylum WG (in Brussels and in Nicosia);
- A sub-regional meeting on Mashrek countries in Cairo;
- Launching of the drafting of a Maghreb country fact sheets study;
- 2 mapping and networking visits in Egypt and in Tunisia;
- 2 Alert Missions (in Lampedusa, Italy, and in Calais, France);
- Advocacy meetings in Brussels and Cairo;
- 7 Newsletters on migration and asylum;
- Updated blog on Asylum and Migration (available at www.euromed-migrasyl.blogspot.com);
- Several briefings notes, ad hoc briefings and contribution to conferences and hearings.

In 2010, the EMHRN managed to achieve a good part of its short-term objectives for its work on the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers' rights. Several research missions organised in the Maghreb countries resulted in a report and four country factsheets on the judicial and administrative framework for the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. The Alert Mission Mechanism was consolidated with the publication of the report from the Calais mission and from two other alert missions carried out in Israel and to the Brussels EU institutions. Networking visits were organised in Tunisia, Turkey, Brussels and Morocco. The objective of creating a regional exchange platform on migration and asylum was pursued throughout 2010 through meetings of the Migration and Asylum Working Group and a sub-regional seminar on the Maghreb countries.

A challenge during 2010 was the difficulty to conduct alert missions in North Africa due to the political context prevailing in Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. Another important challenge was a little number of requests for urgent alert action received in 2010. This is due to migration issues still being low on the agenda of many EMHRN member organisations and due to their capacities still being limited.

Output 2010

- Two Working Group meetings in Istanbul and Beirut;
- A sub-regional meeting on Maghreb countries in Paris;
- Publication of a study on migration and asylum in Maghreb countries;
- Publication of 4 factsheets (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya);
- Three alert missions to France, to Israel and to the European institutions;
- Publication of the report from the Alert Missions in France and Israel;
- Advocacy meetings in Brussels;
- 4 Newsletters on Migration and Asylum;
- Updated blog on Asylum and Migration (available at www.euromed-migrasyl.blogspot.com);
- Several briefing notes, ad hoc briefings, press releases and contributions to conferences and hearings.

In 2011, the EMHRN consolidated its Alert Mission mechanism with the organisation of four missions (Italy/Tunisia, Turkey, Cyprus and Tunisia (Libyan refugee camps)). In addition to provide updated information on critical situations these missions also contributed to building and enhancing the capacity of local civil society organisations involved in dealing with migration and refugee issues. The EMHRN Working Group on migration and asylum met twice during the year, and a seminar dealing with current migration issues on Tunisia was also held.

As was the case in previous years, the primary challenge faced by the EMHRN in 2011 was the low level of priority given to migration and asylum issues by many human rights organisations in the region. In addition, the revolutionary moments that occurred in several countries of the region in 2011 had a strong impact on the work of the EMHRN and its members. On one hand, countries previously inaccessible became more open and new organisations working on human rights and on migrants appeared in Tunisia and Libya thus significantly facilitating the work on migration issues. On the other hand, however, an unprecedented influx of migrants took place into certain countries. At the EU level this influx reinforced negative discourse regarding security and the need to strengthen border controls. In the south, civil society as a whole is facing significant challenges in countries where regimes have been toppled, bringing migration and refugee issues into the heart of human rights protection and promotion.

Output 2011

- Two Working Group meetings in Rabat, Morocco, and Zarzis, Tunisia;
- One public debate on migration and asylum in Morocco, in Rabat;
- One seminar on migration and the asylum system in Tunisia, in Zarzis;
- Two field visits to Egypt (Cairo) and Tunisia (on the Libyan border);
- Four alert missions to: Italy/Tunisia, Turkey, Cyprus and Tunisia (Choucha);
- Publication of the report from the alert mission in Turkey (in four languages);
- Advocacy meetings in Brussels;
- 2 Newsletters on Migration and Asylum;
- Updated blog on Asylum and Migration (available at www.euromed-migrasyl.blogspot.com);
- Several briefing notes, ad hoc briefings, press releases and contributions to conferences and hearings.

Summarising

Examples of achievements

In 2009, the EMHRN established an urgent alert mechanism protecting migrants' and refugees' rights enabling it to conduct regular missions in the region.

In July 2010, the EMHRN delegated a mission to the European institutions in Brussels with the objective of alerting EU officials on the planned funding by the EU of a new detention centre or "Commissariat" for Lebanon's General Security. This EU initiative had triggered serious concerns amongst the Lebanese NGO community in the light of the widespread practice of arbitrary detention in Lebanon.

At a meeting held in Beirut later in December 2010, a representative of the EU Delegation informed that the Commission, rather than funding the building of detention facilities, was at that time considering funding a feasibility study, which would raise the issue of the legality and the judicial control of administrative detention.

At the moment the EMHRN's working group on Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees constitutes an important forum for encounters between NGOs in the region specialised in this field.

The primary challenge faced by the EMHRN in its work on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees' rights has been the fact that the issue remains a rather new topic for the human rights organisations in the region. Hence, in all its actions, the EMHRN has raised awareness about the fact that migrants have human rights and that the violations should be denounced regardless of whether they occur in Europe or in the South Mediterranean countries. However, following the revolutionary moments new organisations defending migrants' and refugees' rights have emerged in Tunisia and the possibility of identifying partners in Libya are now open. While the EMHRN's work on migrants and refugees can yet be further consolidated, especially in light of the regional changes, there are good foundations for the work to take new steps forward.

3.7 Economic and social rights

Objectives

The **human rights framework** was the international human rights standards pertaining to economic and social rights.

The **general objective** was the setting-up of civil society instruments and mechanisms to monitor the impact of the free trade zone and the MEDA programmes on human rights in the EuroMed region.

The **short term objective** was to initiate a process of training NGOs on action-based approaches to economic and social rights in the region.

Activities

- Exploring the possibility of establishing a Working group on economic and social rights;
- Looking into ways of mainstreaming economic and social rights concerns into the agenda of the other EMHRN Working groups;
- Exploring a possibility of producing a practical resource for economic and social rights that could be used by NGOs in the region.

In 2009, EMHRN published a study on Economic and Social Rights of Migrants and Refugees in the EuroMed Region, under the Migration and Refugees work.

Output 2009

- Publication and diffusion of the study on Economic and Social Rights of Migrants and Refugees in the EuroMed Region (see under Migration);
- Publication in cooperation with Comisiones Obreras and the EuroMed Trade Union Forum, et al. of a report on Employment and the Right to Work in the EuroMed Region.

For most of the reporting period the EMHRN faced challenges in terms of mobilisation of resources that would allow it to develop systematic activities on economic and social rights.

Nevertheless, discussions about the future work of the EMHRN in the field of economic and social rights were part of the consultation process on the strategy initiated with the membership in 2010.

Output 2010

- No specific output related to economic and social rights was achieved in 2010.

In 2011, the concrete outcome of EMHRN's work in the field of economic and social rights was the publication of a report on economic and social rights in EU-Tunisia relations. The report was published in June 2011 under the framework of the EMHRN Solidarity project (see below)

Output 2011

- Launch of report on Economic and Social rights in EU-Tunisia relations.

Summarising

The EMHRN continued its practice of issuing regular reports and statements bearing on economic and social rights in the EuroMed region, in particular with the publication of the three above mentioned reports. However, especially in view of the increased demand on the EMHRN to respond to the changes in the region, regrettably the EMHRN was not able to develop systematic activities in the field of economic and social rights.

3.8 Communication

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** of this activity was the human rights objectives and values expressed by the EMHRN and its members.*

*The **general objective** was to effectively voice and communicate information about the activities and concerns of the EMHRN and its members to the membership, relevant media, decision makers and civil society groups, and to communicate information to the membership about human rights developments relating to their work.*

*The **short term objective** was to:*

- *Develop the necessary resources to fulfil the general objectives; inclusive developing the website in order to reflect the work of members and of the main human rights issues in the region, the EMP and the ENP.*

Activities

- Maintain a full-time position of the communication officer in Copenhagen in charge of the EMHRN's internal and external communication;
- Employ a communication officer in Cairo responsible for relations with the Arab media and the Arab pages of the EMHRN's web site;
- Seek to identify resources for employing a media officer in Brussels;
- On the executive level, strengthen the EMHRN work in terms of monitoring, reacting and communicating to the outside world about civil society concerns related to the human rights situation in the region;
- Issue news briefings and newsletters with information from members and about the latest human rights developments in the EuroMed region, the EU, etc.
- Proactively contact members in order to exchange information and increasingly target specific news to specific needs;
- Develop and maintain the EMHRN new website and build-up additional thematic modules.

In 2009, the EMHRN launched its new website providing better service and more information to its users. The website was available in the EMHRN's three working languages such as Arabic, English and French. Two videos were edited. Additional thematic modules were made available (gender sub-website; page on Gaza; the EMHRN General Assembly of December 2008). Information was also made available through the diffusion of EMHRN's internal newsletters and weekly news bulletins, both

posted on the website as well. With the help of the new communication officer based in Cairo, the EMHRN was able to develop its relations with the press, both in Europe and in the Arab world.

Output 2009

- Opening of an office in Cairo and hiring of a communication officer based in Cairo;
- 6 internal Newsletters distributed to the EMHRN members and posted on the website;
- 50 weekly news bulletins sent to 3.100 subscribers (approximately 2000 in English, 500 in French and 600 in Arabic);
- Launch of a new website in September and regular update of its content in Arabic, French and English;
- Bags and USB sticks distributed to all WG members;
- Press conference on the first anniversary of Operation Cast Lead (15 December, Brussels);
- Press conference at the occasion of the Gender Conference (November, Istanbul) ;
- 2 press meetings in March in Brussels to strengthen links with journalists;
- 2 videos edited and posted on the website (General Assembly of December 2008; Human Rights Education Summer School Summer 2008);
- A new EMHRN presentation leaflet designed and printed;
- New distribution lists created in the EMHRN database (EMHRN members by countries, media themes, Foreign Affairs Ministries, etc.);
- Reception organised in Paris (January 2010) for the official opening of the EMHRN Paris office.

In 2010, a discussion about a reorganisation of EMHRN's communication team was initiated. In the course of 2011 this led to the decision to move the position of the Communication Officer from Copenhagen to Brussels and to hire a web editor to be based in Cairo.

Due to staff shortages, regretfully, in that period, the EMHRN's internal newsletters and pro-active media work were put on hold. The EMHRN was only partially able to meet its short term objectives. The upgrade of the website was carried out although efforts remain to be done both technically and content-wise to fully achieve this objective.

The increase of EMHRN presence in the media was partially achieved as far as the Arab media is concerned thanks to the communication team in Cairo. As for the European media, no major change was noticed in 2010.

At the overall level, the EMHRN, in spite of unexpected constraints and difficulties in the period covered, was able to increase its overall visibility and this was achieved because of various activities through media events or initiatives arranged by the communication team, in particular towards the Arab media.

Output 2010

- Further development of the EMHRN website in 3 languages;
- Increased presence of the EMHRN on social networks (Facebook, Twitter);
- 59 news briefs and policy statements uploaded on website and disseminated;
- Numerous press conferences and public events organised in relation to EMHRN activities (see under the relevant sections).

In 2011, the EMHRN communication work was further hindered by staff issues which, however, were partially solved in the second half of the year with the hiring of a new Communication Officer, based in Brussels and no longer in Copenhagen. By the end of the year, a new position of webmaster, based in Cairo, was also created (the webmaster was eventually hired early 2012).

The upgrade of the EMHRN website was not fully successful due to technical impairs that required major changes in the website format and content. Nevertheless, the website could be regularly updated throughout 2011 and there was also an increase in the number of visitors accessing news from the EMHRN. The EMHRN presence in the media was further consolidated as far as the Arab media. As for the European media, no major change was noticed in 2011. However, it is expected that the presence of a Communication Officer in Brussels will gradually lead to achieving this objective in the coming years.

In spite of the constraints and challenges faced again in 2011, the EMHRN managed to further increase its overall visibility and this was achieved because of its various activities through media events or initiatives arranged by its communication department. The Arab Spring led also to an increase of EMHRN activities in the field of communication. This was because of the EMHRN staff, the members of the EMHRN Executive Committee and the EMHRN member organisations in the field were much more solicited by the media than previously.

Output 2011

- Further development of the EMHRN website in 3 languages;
- Increase presence of the EMHRN on social networks (Facebook, Twitter);
- 240 news briefs and policy statements (in English, Arabic and French) uploaded on website and disseminated;
- Numerous press conferences and public events organised in relation to EMHRN activities (see under the relevant sections).

Summarising

Examples of achievements

In 2011, the 240 news briefs and policy statements (in English, Arabic and French) were uploaded on the website and disseminated.

EMHRN activities today often reach media in the region while making regular head-lines in Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia as well as in the European Union Press Agency and the Agence Europe.

At the overall level, the EMHRN, in spite of unexpected constraints and difficulties in the period covered, was able to increase its overall visibility and this was because of various activities through media events or initiatives arranged by the communication team, in particular towards the Arab media.

During the period in question the number of statements and press releases issued by the Network also grew considerably. The EMHRN now regularly appears in media, in particular in the Arab region. However a good deal of progress remains to be done before the EMHRN's significant work gets the media attention that it rightly deserves.

4. MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

4.1 Solidarity

Objectives

The **human rights framework** was the principles of the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (UN 9 December 1998).

The **general objective** was to

- ensure that EMHRN members experienced that the Network constitutes a protection mechanism for them;
- make use of available human rights protection instruments when EMHRN members partners were at risk.

The **short term objective** was to identify and implement modes to perform systematic solidarity work when the EMHRN members or their work are at risk.

Activities

- Employ a full time coordinator to deal with solidarity actions – in particular in relation to Algeria, Syria and Tunisia, including organisation of regular missions as well as meetings with human rights defenders;
- Allocate time for each coordinator in the staff to deal with urgent interventions within his/her remit and activate the working groups in this regard;
- Draft a concept paper on the EMHRN policy and practice related to solidarity work and urgent action;
- On the executive level, strengthen the EMHRN's work related to monitoring and responding to changes of the human rights situation in the region;
- Maintain close cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

In 2009, the EMHRN started a two-year solidarity programme focusing on Tunisia, Algeria and Syria. A coordinator and an assistant were employed in Paris. The EMHRN reached to set up the Solidarity Group on Tunisia which managed to meet in Tunis. A report on the EU-Tunisia bilateral relations was commissioned and several advocacy missions regarding Tunisia were carried out in Brussels and

Strasbourg. Contacts were made in Syria with the aim of setting up human rights internet courses as from 2010. Two field missions were carried out in Algeria. The EMHRN was also able to monitor and follow up on numerous individual cases through trial observation missions (Tunisia, Syria) and press releases. Furthermore, the EMHRN working groups dealt with membership solidarity issues. This was in particular the Freedom of Association Working group and the PIP working group as a result of an attack against human rights defenders within these areas of work.

Throughout 2009 the EMHRN also maintained its close cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Foundation.

Output 2009

- A 2-year specific programme on Solidarity set up as from April 2009;
- A coordinator and an assistant employed and an antenna dealing with Solidarity opened in Paris;
- One field mission to Tunisia;
- One meeting of the Tunisia Solidarity Group in Tunis;
- Hiring of a researcher and a research assistant for the Report on EU-Tunisia bilateral relations;
- Advocacy meetings in Brussels and Strasbourg;
- 2 trial observation missions to Tunisia;
- One field mission to Syria;
- One trial observation mission to Syria;
- 2 field missions to Algeria;
- 20 press releases published in English, Arabic and French;
- 5 new participants attended the EMHRN Gender WG and Migration WG meetings.

In 2010, in line with its general objective the EMHRN managed to be increasingly perceived by its members and partners in Algeria, Syria and Tunisia as an effective protection means for human rights defenders at risk. Through field visits, mail exchanges and online meetings the EMHRN was able to remain in close contact with the activists and to take prompt actions whenever needed. Close cooperation with its members and partners in the whole region increased the impact of EMHRN action, creating a multiplier effect to its capacity to respond to emergencies and to be a part of regional campaigns.

The activities implemented in 2010 were also part of a long term strategy aimed at reinforcing the capacities of human rights organisations in Algeria, Tunisia and Syria. The EMHRN provided room for Algerian and Tunisian human rights organisations to meet and engage in a dialogue enhancing their cooperation and their capacity to plan action. In this perspective, the emphasis was placed on mechanisms of cooperation between the EU and Tunisia and Algeria in order to reinforce the capacities of member and partner organisations to carry out joint lobbying actions towards the EU. The advocacy actions undertaken in the framework of the project in 2010 increased the awareness of key EU and Member States' decision makers about the situation of human rights defenders in Algeria, Tunisia and Syria, while contributing to enhancing their international exposure and thus their security.

Output 2010

- 2 field visits in Algeria;
- 1 meeting on Algeria (in Casablanca) + 1 training in Algeria on EU-ALG relation & advocacy;
- 1 trial monitoring in Algeria;
- 1 advocacy mission to the EU (Algeria);
- 1 advocacy mission to the EU (Tunisia);
- 8 trial monitoring missions (Tunisia) (jointly with partner organisations);
- 2 meetings of the Tunisia Solidarity Group;
- 1 report on the EU-Tunisia relations;
- 1 field visit in Syria;
- Various meetings in and outside Syria;
- 7 trial monitoring missions to Syria (jointly with partner organisations);
- Numerous statements.

In 2011, the developments that took place in Tunisia and Syria led to adjustments in EMHRN's strategy and activities. In Tunisia, the prospect of a real political transition process led to the decision to open an EMHRN Mission in Tunis in April 2011. This aimed at providing support to civil society organisations and groups and at facilitating their interaction with other stakeholders abroad, including the EU (see below). In Syria, in view of the severe deterioration of the situation, the EMHRN focussed its work on supporting Syrian human rights groups, inside and outside the country, in their efforts to provide updated information on the massive human rights violations and coordinate their work. In 2011, the EMHRN managed through a series of activities and advocacy missions to increase the visibility of its Algerian member organisations and to increase the awareness about the human rights situation in Algeria both at the UN and the EU level.

The activities implemented in 2011 were also part of a strategy aimed at reinforcing the capacities of human rights organisations in Algeria, Tunisia and Syria. The EMHRN provided room for Algerian and Tunisian human rights organisations to meet with the aim to enhancing cooperation amongst them and their capacity to plan action with a mid-term perspective. The emphasis placed on cooperation mechanisms between the EU and Tunisia and Algeria helped reinforcing the capacities of member and partner organisations to plan and carry out joint lobbying actions towards the EU.

Challenges faced in 2011 included the continued restrictions on access in Algeria and Syria where most international human rights organisations are refused entry visas. To overcome this challenge, the EMHRN implemented low profile missions and mobilised a wide range of actors to diversify the persons to be sent in Algeria whereas no mission could be sent to Syria for security reasons. Another challenge related to the communication between the EMHRN and local human rights organisations in Algeria and Syria which are closely monitored and under security risks. A third challenge that continued to prevail in 2011 resulted from the tensions existing between local human rights organisations.

Finally, the EMHRN followed closely the developments in Egypt and the growing attacks human rights defenders and democracy promoters. Two missions were conducted prior and after the revolutionary moments sparked up by the Egyptian youth, while Egyptian human rights defenders were invited to meet with the EU institutions in Brussels (see the Freedom of Association and Advocacy chapters).

All in all, throughout 2011 the EMHRN managed to pursue its efforts to reduce the isolation of human rights defenders in Algeria, Syria and Tunisia and build up networks at the regional level through the EMHRN Solidarity project.

EMHRN Mission in Tunisia

Thanks to its newly established Mission in Tunisia, the EMHRN was able to provide political, moral and financial support to the Tunisian civil society in transition, to monitor key developments of transition process and to facilitate access of Tunisian NGOs to EU and UN institutions as well as exchanges and networking among Euro-Med civil societies. The EMHRN Mission in Tunisia successfully organised a series of public seminars in cooperation with EMHRN Tunisian members, facilitating exchanges among the latter and a number of new organisations that emerged after 14 January 2011. The EMHRN initiated a survey assessing the needs of new civil society groups all over Tunisia and was able to identify relevant civil society initiatives and to establish partnerships in 9 governorates. The EMHRN started addressing the needs of these new local partners via a series of training sessions aimed at reinforcing their capacity to work efficiently, communicating clearly and establishing clear and consistent programmes of action. By doing so, the EMHRN succeeded in becoming a reference among new Tunisian CSOs seeking technical support and expertise.

The objective of facilitating exchanges and networking among Euro-Mediterranean civil societies was also achieved. The EMHRN Mission functioned as an interface providing contacts between Tunisian associations and representatives of other countries, as well as contacts of new civil society actors to visiting delegations (governmental and non-) in Tunisia. The increasing number of requests for contacts and mediation coming from Euro-Mediterranean civil society shows the recognition of the role of the EMHRN Mission as far as the new associative dynamic in Tunisia is concerned.

The objective of facilitating access of Tunisian NGOs to the EU and the UN institutions was, to a large extent, achieved. The EMHRN Mission had regular contacts with the EU delegation in Tunis and to a lesser extent with the UN bodies. However, this was achieved only with limited success in involving Tunisian EMHRN members and new civil society groups in these exchanges due to the fact that most of the new civil society actors need technical support before being able to relate to the EU and the UN.

Output 2011

- A strategy seminar on Algeria, in Tunis on 22-24 May;
- At (first) meeting of the Algeria Solidarity Group in Paris in November;
- Three field visits in Algeria, on 26 February, 23 April and 9-10 June;
- One Algeria advocacy mission to Brussels (EU) on 23-24 May;
- Six advocacy missions in Geneva (UN) on 29 May-1 June, in Brussels (EU) on 6-7 June and 15 June, in Brussels again on 3-7 October, in Amsterdam/The Hague on 16-17 October and in Paris on 27 October;
- One meeting of Syrian human rights activist and international human rights expert in Paris on 24-25 November;
- Six issues of a human rights education online review, Riwaq al Shebab, and setup of a website (available at <http://www.riwaq-shabab.net>);
- Two missions to Egypt;
- Two solidarity and field missions to Tunisia on 6-7 and 18-22 January;

- A joint EMHRN-FIDH seminar on the Democratic Transition in Tunisia on 17-20 March in Tunis, and a seminar report;
- A 1½-day workshop on the role and needs of civil society activists in the transition Period, in Tunis on 19-20 March in cooperation with the FIDH;
- Numerous open letters, statements and press releases on Algeria, Syria and Tunisia throughout 2011;
- The opening of an EMHRN Mission in Tunisia.

Summarising

Examples of achievements

In March 2012, the EU Commissioner Stefan Füle, undertook an official visit to Algeria. For a year, the EMHRN had been strongly encouraging the EU Commissioner to meet with civil society actors on the ground. For the first time in March 2012, the EU Commissioner eventually met with a large panel of civil society's organisations, including organisations of families of disappeared, at the EU Delegation in Algiers.

Following an EMHRN Solidarity mission to Syria, carried out in January 2011 in partnership with the International Solicitors Human Rights Group (SIHRG) and the International Union of Lawyers (UIA), disciplinary procedures undertaken against two prominent human rights lawyers by the Syrian bar association were abandoned.

In November 2009, the EMHRN succeeded to bring together most strands of the Tunisian human rights groups despite a heavy monitoring of EMHRN staff and Tunisian HRDs by the Tunisian security forces. Two unprecedented meetings were successively organized with the attendance of more than 25 human rights defenders and several international organizations, at a moment where the ruling regime did not allow more than two human rights activists to sit around the same table.

The EMHRN work on solidarity has expanded significantly and above expectations over the last years. The activities implemented under the Solidarity project allowed organisations in Algeria, Tunisia and Syria not only to improve their security, but also reduced their isolation and helped building new networks at a regional level. This was achieved also through the involvement of local human rights organisations in various regional fora, including the EMHRN Working Groups, regional conferences, meetings or symposiums. Hence, the instrument set up by the EMHRN has proven its value and could be used in other countries.

However, several challenges do remain. The first one lies with restrictions on access (refusal of entry visas) to Algeria and Syria which to a certain degree, in the case of Algeria (and of Syria before the outbreak of the revolution) has been partially overcome by implementing low profile missions and diversifying the persons sent to the two countries. Another challenge was to maintain a sufficient level of exchange with the local human rights organisations despite close monitoring by the authorities. This has been addressed through innovative communication means inclusive shadow e-mail addresses, Skype conferences or third persons conveying messages.

Finally, the return of the EMHRN President Kamel Jendoubi, the subsequent organisation of a large conference on human rights in Tunisia in cooperation with the FIDH, and the initiation of an EMHRN Mission placed the EMHRN in an important position in Tunisia and in a new role as an actor at national level accompanying the rise of a new Tunisian civil society.

4.2 Training

Objectives

*The overall **human rights objective** of the activity was to create human rights training tools adapted to the context of the Euro-Mediterranean region where these do not exist and aimed at strengthening human rights activists' capacity to deliver human rights work within a EuroMed context.*

*The **general objective** was to create synergies between different training and capacity building efforts within the Network and fill-in gaps where these exist.*

*The **short term objective** was to set up a first series of training courses while visualising the training activities of the members.*

Activities

- Establishing an overview over planned training and capacity building activities within the membership and seeing where there are obvious synergies to be established;
- Implementing training and advocacy activities on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) (see above);
- Conducting training courses with member organisations on gender mainstreaming (see above, point 3.1.3);
- Looking into the possibility of developing a practical resource on economic and social rights in a EuroMed context (see above).

In 2009, the EMHRN conducted three successful European Neighbourhood Policy and advocacy training sessions in Morocco, Denmark as well as in the Working Group on Freedom of Association. In relation to gender mainstreaming, internal trainings were carried out with the Justice, Freedom of Association and Migration Working Groups. External training was included in the EMHRN work programme as from 2010.

Output 2009

- 3 ENP and advocacy training sessions on the ENP in Morocco, Denmark as well as in the Working Group on Freedom of Association;
- Gender mainstreaming of the EMHRN WG (training of the justice WG, revising FOA Review, participation in MAWG).

The short term objective of maintaining and developing a series of EMHRN training courses was partially met in 2010, with one training course on EU institutions and human rights mechanisms organised (for Algerian organisations). However, first steps – internal discussions, drafting of terms of reference, initial fund raising initiatives - were made towards the drafting of an EU Human Rights Guide aimed at describing the EU institutions (ENP, UfM, etc.) and human rights mechanisms following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. This Guide, which is meant to be a practical interactive training tool, is expected to be drafted in the course of 2011. In relation to advocacy towards the EU institutions, the capacities of EMHRN member organisations were also increased through participation in advocacy missions visiting the EU institutions in Brussels. In addition to specific training courses, it should be noted that many of EMHRN's other activities in 2010, not least the meetings of the various Working Groups, included training sessions on specific matters related to the topic of each Working Group

Output 2010

- One national training seminar on European institutions and human rights mechanisms for Algerian NGOs in Algeria;
- Training of members from Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon and Jordan participating to EU advocacy missions in Brussels (see chapter on Advocacy below).

In 2011, the EMHRN organised one specific training on EU mechanisms in Algeria, but as in previous years, numerous training activities, for members and non-member organisations, were organised in the framework of its other projects (see under the respective headings, including Freedom of Association, Women's Rights and Gender, Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians, etc.). Work on a new Training Guide on the human rights mechanisms in the relations between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries was further conducted, including selection of the researcher and first outlines of the Guide.

In relation to advocacy towards the EU institutions, the capacities of EMHRN member organisations were also increased through participation in advocacy missions in Brussels in 2011.

Training on gender mainstreaming was provided for member organisations as well as for EMHRN staff members as part of the implementation of the EMHRN Gender Equality policy paper adopted in 2010.

Output 2011

- One national training seminar on European institutions and human rights mechanisms for Tunisian NGOs during the EMHRN Seminar in Tunis;
- Training of members from Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Syria participating to EU advocacy missions in Brussels (see chapter on Advocacy below);
- A series of training activities carried out under the framework of EMHRN Working Groups (see the respective chapters).

Summarising

Examples of achievements

A first training session on European institutions and human rights mechanisms for Algerian NGOs was held by the EMHRN the Trade Union House, Maison des Syndicats, Algiers, in December 2010 gathering 40 participants. The participants gave a very positive feedback on the activity and acquired skills were later used in successful advocacy missions to Brussels.

A training workshop on EU advocacy for NGOs from 15 European countries was organised in June 2011 with an aim to strengthen their advocacy capacity. 40 NGOs are now registered for the second workshop organised in May 2012.

Over the last 3 years, the EMHRN has managed to develop and to implement a series of training activities either related to the ENP and the EU human rights mechanisms or to the specific topics dealt with by EMHRN respective Working Groups. Practical training is also provided to member organisations participating in advocacy or in field missions organised by the EMHRN.

Some aspects of EMHRN objectives, for example the overview of member organisations training activities, still remain to be achieved. However, it is fair to say that by focusing on issues that are not

covered elsewhere – not least advocacy towards the EU institutions - the activities implemented by the EMHRN in the three-year period have contributed to the project's general objective which was to ensure the existence of the necessary training tools and courses fulfilling the need of civil society organisations in the EuroMed region.

5. ADVOCACY AND DIALOGUE

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** was the EU, the ENP and the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean (BP: UfM) instruments pertaining to international human rights standards in the EuroMed region.*

*The **general objective** was to efficiently communicate the EMHRN and members' policies and recommendations to the relevant representatives of the EU, the ENP and the BP:UfM and to ensure feed-back from and dialogue with these on human rights. The objective was also to ensure that EMHRN members were aware of these and could benefit from this knowledge in their human rights work.*

*The **short term objective** was to further develop EMHRN advocacy activities in relation to the EU, the ENP and the BP: UfM as well as its function as an interface between EMHRN members and the said institutions.*

Activities

- Maintaining an interface between the EU, the ENP, and the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean (BP: UfM) and its members through its office in Brussels, including organising visits of members to Brussels; continuing promotion of its general policies and recommendations vis-à-vis the BP: UfM, the EU and partner governments; disseminating reports and policy papers produced by its working groups and mission teams while promoting their recommendations; diffusing information on the web and in newsletters about key issues of the human rights dimension of the EMP.
- Conducting training courses in the region on the human rights instruments in the EU, the ENP and the BP: UfM aimed at strengthening civil society capacity to deal critically with EU, BP: UfM and ENP human rights instruments and South Mediterranean countries' human rights policies. Updating training materials in this regard.
- Expanding EMHRN advocacy and lobby activities in relation to the human rights instruments of the ENP, including drafting monitoring reports and statements, and in this regard establishing a position of a full time coordinator to deal with the ENP.
- Continuing close cooperation with other Brussels based NGOs.

In 2009, the EMHRN consolidated and developed its advocacy work in relation to the EU institutions and upgraded staff in that regard. The advocacy work was increasingly consulted by EU institution representatives and was regularly presented in the Council (Maghreb-Machrek group, the European Parliament Subcommittee on human rights, and the EU Commission (country desks, regional desks, EU delegation representatives). In this respect, significant work was done in the Brussels office in relation to the presentation and follow-up on EMHRN Migration and Freedom of Association reports, advocacy around the EU-Israeli relation (follow-up on the Gaza offensive) and the promotion of the EMHRN report on gender equality and advocacy before the EMP ministerial meeting on women's rights. The EMHRN Brussels office reinforced its cooperation with other NGOs in Brussels e.g. through participation in the NGO Human Rights and Democracy Network and joint advocacy efforts.

Finally, the EMHRN conducted a mission to Geneva in order to evaluate the added value the EMHRN could bring to human rights work with the UN institutions.

Output 2009

- Approximately 300 officials of the EMP met through direct encounters;
- EMHRN or joint open letters and press releases or briefing notes with other NGOs were sent out before most Association Councils / Subcommittees on Human rights meetings between the EU and Mediterranean countries;
- Fruitful delegations of human rights defenders in Brussels from Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia;
- Successful lobbying concerning European Parliament resolutions on human rights;
- Successful cooperation with other NGOs in Brussels e.g. through participation in the NGO Human Rights and Democracy Network and joint advocacy efforts;
- Promotion of migration reports in Brussels;
- Promotion of the human rights positions related to the EU-Israeli relation;
- Promotion of the EMHRN report on gender equality and advocacy before the EMP ministerial meeting on women's rights;
- Mission report on potential work of the EMHRN vis-à-vis the UN's human rights bodies.

In 2010, the EMHRN further developed its position vis-à-vis the EU institutions as an interface between its members and partners, and the EU institutions in Brussels. This was shown by the high number of visits and missions organised or supported by the Brussels office for its members organisations and the fact that the EMHRN was more and more requested to provide input and contacts by the EU institutions.

The EMHRN succeeded in strengthening its work on human rights within the bi-lateral relations between the EU and South Mediterranean Partners. In order to further strengthen its impact in this regard, the Network developed an advocacy strategy on bilateral relations targeting mainly Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria. While the strategy proved successful with Morocco with discussions organised at high political level both with the EU and Moroccan officials, advocacy on human rights in Tunisia and Egypt faced strong resistance within EU institutions and Member States and did not achieve to influence EU's policies with regard to these countries. EMHRN bilateral advocacy work was nevertheless strengthened in 2010 thanks to the EMHRN's new Solidarity project focussing on Tunisia, Algeria and Syria (see under Solidarity).

Beside the EU's bilateral relations with the South Mediterranean countries, EMHRN advocacy focused in 2010 on its main thematic priorities, i.e. Freedom of Association, Gender, Justice and Migration. These were addressed via advocacy meetings, documents and missions which all benefited from the contribution of the EMHRN thematic Working Groups.

Finally, the EMHRN organised a training session for secretariat staff and the EC members in Geneva on the UN institutions. This aimed at enabling the EMHRN to better evaluate which type of actions it could foresee in Geneva.

Output 2010

- Approximately 300 officials of the European institutions met through direct encounters;
- EMHRN joint open letters and press releases or briefing notes with other NGOs were sent out before most Association Councils/Subcommittees on Human Rights meetings between the EU and Mediterranean countries;
- High level meetings in the EU institutions on the European Neighbourhood Policy and countries, e.g. with members of the Commission;
- Delegations of human rights defenders from Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon and Jordan to Brussels;
- High level EMHRN delegation to advocate for human rights with Moroccan and EU officials in Rabat;
- Successful lobbying at the European Parliament with numerous invitations to speak in parliamentary meetings (notably on Syria, Egypt and Morocco);
- Successful cooperation with other NGOs in Brussels e.g. through participation in the NGO Human Rights and Democracy Network and joint advocacy efforts.

In 2011, in light of the Arab Spring, the EMHRN adapted its advocacy strategy at EU level to react to the changing environment. EMHRN advocacy work led to concrete results: the EU underlined in its 'Renewed ENP' that it will focus more on human rights, democratisation and partnership with civil society: Gender equality, first very seldom mentioned in the 'Renewed ENP', was later included in the EU Council Conclusions of 1 December. Together with other NGOs the EMHRN also succeeded in raising awareness about the insufficient attention towards the respect for international humanitarian law in the ENP.

The EMHRN developed targeted actions and recommendations for each country of the region with, at EU level, a priority given to Tunisia and Egypt, entering a transition process, and Syria in view of the massive human rights violations occurring there. Through advocacy missions and high level meetings, the EMHRN was able to raise awareness on the situation and needs of local human rights NGOs and to have their concerns and recommendations reflected in several EU documents. In addition to the above, specific advocacy was also developed on Algeria.

In parallel, the EMHRN developed further its advocacy on EMHRN main thematic issues.

All in all, the EMHRN succeeded in developing high quality advocacy throughout 2011. EMHRN relations with the EU institutions made a qualitative step and the EMHRN's profile in Brussels was strongly strengthened in the context of the Arab Spring.

Output 2011

- Approximately 300 officials of the European institutions met through direct encounters;
- Participation in about 30 seminars gathering EU officials and civil society representatives on human rights and democracy issues in Brussels;
- EMHRN joint open letters and press releases or briefing notes with other

NGOs were sent out before most meetings between the EU and Mediterranean countries (notably Subcommittees on Human Rights and Association Councils);

- 2 EMHRN position documents on the Renewed European Neighbourhood Policy were issued and used as a basis for advocacy;
- Many high level meetings in the EU institutions after the Arab Spring on the new Partnership between the EU and south Mediterranean countries and the Renewed European Neighbourhood Policy were organised e.g. with members of the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Parliament and EU member states representations in Brussels;
- Delegations of human rights defenders from Israel, Palestine, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, and Syria were sent to Brussels to do advocacy;
- An advocacy mission on gender equality was organised in November with delegates from Jordan, Morocco, Algeria and Egypt;
- Successful lobbying at the European Parliament with numerous invitations to make a speech at EP meetings (notably on Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Israel, Palestine and gender equality);
- Successful cooperation with other NGOs in Brussels e.g. through participation in the NGO Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) and joint advocacy efforts, especially with the HRDN ad hoc working group on the MENA region in relation to the “renewed ENP” (publication of joint documents and high level joint advocacy meetings).

Summarising

Examples of achievements

The EMHRN and its members in Egypt have often raised awareness on the human rights situation in Egypt. In 2008, EMHRN advocacy around the EU-Egypt sub-committee on political dialogue led to a strong European Parliament resolution on Egypt referring to many human rights issues. As a result, the Egyptian authorities decided to cancel the subcommittee meeting. In 2011 and 2012, threats to freedom of association in Egypt were also mentioned in a European Parliament resolution thanks to EMHRN’s advocacy work.

In reaction to the publication of the revised European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in May 2011, the EMHRN pushed for benchmark on women’s rights as a means for the EU to monitor and assess democratization in partner countries. This advocacy objective was pursued through meetings with the Commissioner in charge of the ENP and with different levels of staff at the European External Action Service. On 3 February 2012, Lady Ashton and Commissioner Füle in charge of the ENP issued a letter to the Foreign Ministers of all EU member states in which they elaborated on the human rights benchmarks to be used for monitoring the implementation of the revised ENP. Women’s rights were included.

The EMHRN can today rightly be said to be one of the leading human rights NGO in Brussels with regard to the South and East Mediterranean countries. The Network has built-up a range of partnerships with other human rights organisations. It is regularly consulted by representatives of the EU institutions (the European Parliament, the EU Commission and the European Council). On many occasions its policy recommendations and those of its members are reflected into EU institutions

approach to the region. The EMHRN's challenge is to deepen its work, in particular towards EU member states and towards other international fora, first and foremost the UN human rights bodies.

6. PARTNERSHIPS

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** of this activity was to encourage broad alliances of civil society groups from different constituencies and with different mandates to work together on the basis of adherence to international human rights standards*

*The **general objective** was to contribute to developing and supporting efficient networks of civil society groups rooted in human rights values that can impact positively on the situation in the EuroMed region.*

*The **short term objective** was to actively maintain and develop partnerships within and beyond the human rights community working in the region.*

Activities

- Continuing to support and host the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.
- Supporting the EuroMed NGO Platform to become an efficient clearing house for EuroMed civil society networks.
- Continuing support to the drafting of a National Human Rights Plan in Morocco.
- Maintaining and strengthening relations with international human rights organisations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the FIDH, OMCT, etc.
- Continuing developing partnerships with trade unions, private and political foundations, and religious based organisations.
- Developing relations with other forums for dialogue on human rights values and standards, such as social forums and political platforms.

Throughout 2009, the EMHRN maintained or reinforced its relations and support to key partners in the region including the EuroMed NGO Platform and the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. The EMHRN was exchanging information and coordinating activities, among others through joint initiatives and statements, with international human rights organisations. In addition, close relations were kept on a daily basis with the Human Rights and Democracy Network in Brussels. In Denmark, the EMHRN maintained its strong involvement in activities and in future development of the Danish MENA Network.

Output 2009

- Several hundred NGOs and civil society representatives directly linked up to the EMHRN and its human rights activities in the EuroMed region;
- Relations maintained or consolidated with partners, inter alia international human rights organisations; the National Human Rights and Democracy Plan in Morocco; the Fundamental Rights Agency; the Brussels Human Rights and Democracy Network and International Human Rights Organisations; the Danish NGO MENA Network; the EuroMed NGO Platform; the Euro-

EMHRN's short term objective *«to actively develop and increase EMHRN partnerships within and beyond the human rights community working in the region»* was met in 2010. Indeed, the EMHRN further developed its cooperation with civil society within and beyond the human rights community in the EuroMed region. It maintained and strengthened its cooperation with a number of new networks and organisations such as the EMHRF, the EuroMed NGO Platform, and the HRDN. With the aim of providing support to the EuroMed NGO Platform, the EMHRN agreed to enter a Consortium composed of IMED (team leader), IEMED; AAND, Chouala, the EuroMed NGO Platform and MIO-ECSDE to conduct activities of support to civil society in the Mediterranean region. The Consortium won the tender and implementation started in 2010.

Furthermore, exchange of information and coordination of activities with major international human rights organisations was reinforced through regular telephone meetings. In Denmark, the EMHRN maintained its strong involvement in the activities of the Danish NGO MENA Network.

Finally, the EMHRN ended its participation in the Consortium supporting the drafting of a national human rights plan in Morocco after the end of the Contract period.

Output 2010

- Several hundred NGOs and civil society representatives directly linked up to the EMHRN and its human rights activities in the EuroMed region;
- Relations maintained or consolidated with the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Right Defenders (EMHRF); the EuroMed NGO Platform; the EuroMed Civil Society Consortium; the Danish NGO MENA Network; Brussels Human Rights and Democracy Network and Brussels based international civil society organisations; the Fundamental Rights Agency; the National Human Rights and Democracy Plan in Morocco; other EuroMed networks and initiatives and other international human rights organisations.

In 2011, the EMHRN continued its structured relations with the EMHRF, the EuroMed NGO Platform, the Danish MENA Network and the Human Rights and Democracy Network.

However, the EMHRN decided to fully downscale its active participation in the Regional Civil Society Consortium as it did not agree with the conduct of the Consortium's affairs. The EMHRN also continued to be active in the board of the EuroMed NGO Platform while facing the difficulties met in creating financial sustainability.

The EMHRN continued its good informal cooperation with a large number of international human rights organisations in its thematic work, its country work and in work at the level of Brussels and increasingly in Geneva.

The Network has sought to be as inclusive as possible in all its activities, whether thematic or country-wise. This resulted in a large number of contacts and exchanges.

Finally, the EMHRN received consultative status with the International Organisation for the Francophonie and became a re-nominated member of the Fundamental Rights Agency's Civil Society Platform.

Output 2011

- Several hundred NGOs and civil society representatives directly linked up to the EMHRN and its human rights activities in the EuroMed region;
- Relations maintained or consolidated with the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Right Defenders (EMHRF); the EuroMed NGO Platform; the Danish NGO MENA Network; the Brussels Human Rights and Democracy Network and Brussels based international civil society organisations; other EuroMed networks and initiatives as well as other international human rights organisations;
- Consultative Status with the International Organisation of the Francophonie;
- Membership of the Fundamental Rights Agency Civil Society Platform continued;
- Process of applying for eco-soc consultative status with the UN initiated.

Summarising

Examples of achievements

Several hundred NGOs and civil society representatives are on a yearly basis directly and regularly linked up to the EMHRN and its human rights activities in the EuroMed region.

One of the trademarks of the EMHRN has become the large number of organisations with whom it cooperates, coordinates and exchanges. This is the case when such missions are organised, statements are issued, workshops, seminars and training sessions held. The EMHRN believes it has achieved many objectives in this field and that its working methods bring added value to civil society in the region.

The EMHRN regrets that it was not possible to strengthen the EuroMed NGO Platform and to provide it with the necessary sustainability. It also believes the international human rights NGOs could gain much by structuring their exchanges to a higher degree than at the present. However, it seems that the networking approach remains the most apt to intensify civil society organisation partnerships in the region.

7. EXECUTIVE BODIES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** was to ensure necessary means, resources and capacity for the executive bodies to implement the objectives of the EMHRN and to reflect the values upon which the Network is built.*

*The **general objective** was to*

- *Implement the statutes and by-laws of the EMHRN in a transparent and democratic way, and ensure the participation of members in delivering the EMHRN's agenda;*
- *Ensure gender-mainstreaming of the EMHRN;*
- *Ensure that the EMHRN membership and strategy reflect one another.*

The **short term objective** was to

- Support the work of EMHRN executive bodies;
- Further develop internal communication practices to ensure transparency and ownership to decision making;
- Develop a gender mainstreaming policy.

Activities

- Holding a General Assembly of the EMHRN in late 2008 with a main focus on recent trends that impact on human rights as well as how to respond to these
- Holding three annual Executive Committee meetings
- Holding three annual steering group meetings aimed at supervising the daily management of the secretariat and assisting the President in his/her role as a working President
- Holding an annual meeting of conveners, political referents and coordinators of EMHRN working groups
- Finalising and setting up a gender audit of the EMHRN and developing a gender mainstreaming policy on that basis
- Updating the statutes in order to match the development of the EMHRN
- Defining a proactive approach to new memberships
- The EMHRN Executive Committee (EC) was elected at the EMHRN's 8th General Assembly in Barcelona on 12-14 December 2008. The EC has been composed as follows:
 - Kamel Jendoubi, President, CRLDHT, Tunisia
 - Moataz El Feghery, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Egypt
 - Michel Tubiana, Ligue des Droits de l'Homme (LDH), France
 - Wadih Al-Asmar, Centre libanais des droits humains (CLDH), Lebanon
 - Lone Lindholt, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Denmark
 - Mustafa Emrah Şeyhanlioğlu, Human Rights Association, Turkey
 - Marie Lavrentiadou, Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity (EEDDA), Greece
 - Danial Saoud, Committee for the Defence of Democracy Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria (CDF), Syria
 - Magali Thill, ACSUR Las Segovias, Association for Co-operation with the South, Spain
 - Maysa Zorob, Al-Haq, Palestine

As planned, the EMHRN held three executive committee meetings (in Copenhagen, Istanbul and Brussels) and two Steering Group meetings. Back to back with one of the EC meeting, a successful seminar on "Conflicts in a deadlock, conceptual and empirical reflection on the case of the Western Sahara" was organised.

Output 2009

- 3 Executive Committee meetings (Copenhagen, Istanbul and Brussels);
- One seminar on "Conflicts in a deadlock, conceptual and empirical reflection on the case of the Western Sahara";
- 2 Steering group meetings.

EMHRN's short term objectives in regard to its executive bodies and membership were met in 2010 with the successful organisation of the meetings of the Executive Committee and the steering group. The work towards a gender mainstreaming policy was further implemented with the adoption of a policy paper and a work programme. On the issue of membership, contacts were made with several organisations in Italy, Egypt, Germany, France and other countries in line with the objective of increasing the number of EMHRN members by the end of 2011.

Regarding its general objectives, in 2010 the EMHRN embarked on a process of revising its strategy in order to match the developments in the region and the needs of its members. A large consultation process with its members and other key actors was launched to collect inputs and ideas for the strategy. This process, which lasted right up until the preparations for the GA in early 2012, required considerable time and resources from the secretariat in 2010, as well as the engagement of the members of the EC.

Output 2010

- 3 executive committee meetings (Beirut, Amman and Paris);
- 3 Steering group/ Quartet meetings (Copenhagen);
- Adoption of financial reports and a new work programme.

In 2011, like in the previous years, the short term objectives were met with all the meetings being held as planned. The work towards a gender mainstreaming policy was further implemented through ensuring gender mainstreaming of the draft Strategy for 2012-2018. As for the issue of membership, contacts were made with several organisations from Egypt, UK, Jordan and France.

Regarding its general objectives, the EMHRN worked further on drafting and discussing a revised strategy that would match the developments in the region and the needs of its members. Based on the consultation process with its members - as well as with other key actors and its own staff - in order to collect inputs and ideas for the strategy, the EMHRN drafted a new version of the Strategy. In parallel, a process of revising EMHRN organisational structures in order to match the new Strategy was launched with the hiring of a consultant who was asked to submit a report with recommendations and proposals early 2012.

Output 2011

- 4 executive committee meetings (Geneva, Cairo, Copenhagen, Athens);
- 3 Steering group/ Quartet meetings (Copenhagen);
- Broad strategy discussion within the EMHRN membership was initiated;
- Adoption of financial reports and a temporary work programme for 2012 and 2013.

Memberships

The following organisations were adopted by the Executive Committee for membership of the EMHRN upon ratification of the General Assembly:

- Regular members:

National Organisations

- Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Non Violence Studies, Egypt
- ARCI, Italy
- Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism (KISA), Cyprus
- Greek Council for Refugees, Greece
- Human Rights Institute of Catalonia, Spain
- KVINFO, Denmark
- Mizan Law Group for Human Rights, Jordan
- National Federation Women's Solidarity, France
- SODEPAU, Spain
- Solicitors International Human Rights Group, United Kingdom
- Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC), Palestine

Regional Organisations

- Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI) (Egypt)
- European Association for the Defence of Human Rights (Belgium)

- Associate members

- Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) (Switzerland)

The following organisations are **no longer members** of the EMHRN:

- Aim for Human Rights, Netherlands (closed down in 2010)
- Intercenter, Italy (did not respond to two letters by the EMHRN asking whether the organisation is still conducting activities relevant to the mandate of the EMHRN)

Summarising

Examples of achievements

The Executive Committee developed a new strategy document based on an inclusive consultation process with the members.

During the three-year period covered by the report, the EMHRN was able to fully achieve its objectives regarding the organisation of the General Assembly and the meetings of the executive bodies, the adoption and implementation of a gender mainstreaming policy and the drafting of a new strategy matching the developments in the region. It succeeded also in adopting a more proactive approach to membership leading to an increase in the number of member organisations.

8. ADMINISTRATION

Objectives

*The **human rights framework** of this activity was to build an efficient and resourceful administration enabling the EMHRN to fully implement its objectives, mission and vision.*

*The **general objective** was to provide administrative support to all areas of the EMHRN's work enabling the network to fully implement its strategy.*

*The **short term objective** was to set up necessary structures to implement the work programme of the EMHRN and to strengthen its capacity to respond proactively to changing circumstances in the region.*

Activities

- Consolidating the EMHRN's organisational structure, developing its administrative and financial procedures and hiring the necessary administrative staff to match the EMHRN's development and in transparent way.
- Ensuring long term and diversified funding for the EMHRN and developing a strategy in this regard.
- Consolidating three EMHRN antennas in the South (Amman, Cairo and Rabat) as well as the office in Brussels.
- Implementing a staff development plan.

In 2009, the EMHRN further developed its organisational structure with the opening of antennas in Cairo and Paris. It also reinforced its staff and worked on several staff development issues. An External review commissioned by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the support of SIDA and Europe Aid was finalised in February 2009 with positive conclusions.

Additional basket funding from SIDA was secured in the course of 2009, and the agreements on basket funding from SIDA and DANIDA for the 2010-11 work programme were finalised by the end of 2009.

Output 2009

- The secretariat was reinforced with additional staff (communication officer; human resources manager; solidarity coordinator and assistant);
- A staff representative was elected;
- The Staff Development Days, initially planned by the end of 2009, were finally held in March 2010. Guidelines on working from abroad were adopted;
- Two new antennas were opened, in Paris (Solidarity programme) and Cairo (Communication);
- The Amman office was officially registered; registration of the Cairo office is however pending;
- EMHRN Financial policies and procedures manual drafted and discussed (to be adopted in 2010);
- The External review commissioned by the Danish Ministry of Foreign affairs with the support of SIDA and the Europe Aid was finalised in February 2009;
- The EMHRN secured additional basket funding from SIDA for the implementation of its 2008-09 programme as well as funds for an IPA NGO

conference;

- Basket funding contracts with SIDA and DANIDA for the implementation of EMHRN 2010-11 Work Programme were finalised.

While EMHRN staff was reinforced throughout 2010 with additional recruitments, especially in the Brussels, Amman and Cairo offices, further steps were made to implement a coherent staff policy: a Staff Handbook was drafted (and finalised in 2011) and regular meetings were organised between the management and the staff representative to address relevant staff issues. Staff issues were also systematically taken up at the meetings of the management team. A Travel Security Policy was discussed and adopted and is now under implementation. Similarly, a Staff Development Policy was adopted although its concrete implementation was meant to start in 2011 following the organisations of the annual individual talks in the first half of 2011.

At the administrative level, the EMHRN consolidated the work of its offices and antennas abroad through the recruitment of additional administrative staff and a better coordination of work between headquarters in Copenhagen and these offices and antennas. Financial policies and procedures manual Draft, covering all financial procedures within the EMHRN, was presented to the Executive Committee in 2010. EMHRN IT services, formerly taken care of by in-house staff, were outsourced to an external IT company as from September 2010. Discussions started in 2010 for the renewal of all IT equipment in the EMHRN offices.

Following the recruitment of a part-time fundraiser, fundraising activities were implemented in the course of 2010, including through fundraising missions in France, the UK and Germany. The EMHRN was able to continue diversifying its funding sources as it secured funding from the EU for its Women Rights and Gender project as well as additional grants from other donors for various projects (Gender, Migration, PIP, etc.). Finally, the EMHRN maintained and developed regular contact with private foundations and development organisations throughout 2010.

Output 2010

- The secretariat was reinforced with additional staff: PIP project assistant, Human Rights Education Coordinator and Migration Coordinator (1 January 2011, based in Brussels);
- Following its official registration in 2009, the Amman office was officially opened in June 2010. Registration of the Cairo office is still pending;
- The EMHRN Financial policies and procedures manual was initiated in 2010;
- Fund raising activities were developed.

In 2011, the work of EMHRN offices and antennas abroad, in particular Brussels, Paris, Amman and Cairo, was strengthened through the recruitment of additional staff and the coordination of work between headquarters in Copenhagen and these offices/antennas. In addition, a Mission was established in Tunis in March 2011.

The EMHRN continued its efforts to implement a coherent staff policy, via the finalising of its Staff Handbook, regular meetings between the management and the staff representatives, annual individual talk with each employee, and an annual 3-day all-staff meeting which included both training and team-building sessions.

The EMHRN Financial policies and procedures manual was approved and made available to the staff in 2011 and most of the EMHRN IT equipment was renewed.

Finally, the EMHRN managed to further diversify its sources of funding thanks to funding received from the Open Society Institute and the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Additional funding from the EU was also secured for the EMHRN Solidarity and Freedom of Association programs in Paris as well as a one-year extension of the current EU funding for the Migration and Asylum project. The EMHRN was not able in 2011 to investigate possible funding with additional private foundations.

Output 2011

- The secretariat was reinforced with additional staff including a communication officer in Brussels, a director, a coordinator, a communication assistant and an administrative assistant in Tunis, as well as a project assistant and an administrative assistant in Amman;
- Establishment of a EMHRN Mission in Tunisia and formal registration with the Tunisian authorities;
- Publication of the EMHR staff Handbook;
- Implementation of the EMHRN Financial policies and procedures manual;
- Renewal of the EMHRN IT equipment;
- Development of fundraising activities.

Summarising

The EMHRN believes it managed to develop its administration and to diversify funding resources enabling it to sustain the activities of the EMHRN and implementing the major part of the work program adopted by the General Assembly in Barcelona. The EMHRN also showed the needed flexibility allowing it, to a large extent, to adapt to the changing circumstances in the region.

The Secretariat developed significantly in terms of the number of staff and offices. A major future challenge will be to reorganise it allowing it to be at the forefront of the development of the EMHRN.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the reported period the Network received support from the following donors to which the EMHRN is deeply grateful:

- *SIDA, DANIDA, EU Commission, Ford Foundation, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spanish International Development Cooperation Agency, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Open Society Institute, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Aprdev, ACSUR, the Swedish Churches.*

ANNEX 1: LIST OF EMHRN STAFF (MAY 2012)

On 1 May 2012, the EMHRN was (apart from interns) staffed as follows:

Management

1. Executive Director, Marc Schade-Poulsen, Ph.d, Mag.Art, in Anthropology, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 1997)
2. Programme Director, Marit Flø Jørgensen, MA in Contemporary Arabic Studies and International Relations, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 1999)
3. Advocacy Director, Sandrine Grenier, MA in European Community Law, Brussels (with the EMHRN since 2001)
4. Head of Administration, Poul Collemorten, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2007)
5. Fundraising and Human Resources, Fabrice Liebaut, Master Degree in Law, admitted as Lawyer to the French Bar, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2006)

Other staff

6. Project Coordinator for European Neighbourhood Policy, Emilie Dromzee, MA in European Community Law, Brussels (with the EMHRN since 2005)
7. Project Coordinator for Freedom of Association, Bérénice Michard, Masters in Political Science and International Cooperation and Project Management Paris (with the EMHRN since 2012)
8. Director of Gender projects, Lina Al Qurah, Gender specialist, Amman (with the EMHRN since 2007)
9. Project coordinator for Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians, Nathalie Stanus, Licence in Political science – International relations, Master in European Studies, Bruxelles (with the EMHRN since 2008)
10. Project coordinator for Solidarity Programme, Mathieu Routier, MA 2 in International Law, MA 1 in Oriental Studies and Juridical studies in the Arab world, Paris (with the EMHRN since 2009)
11. Solidarity project coordinator on Algeria, Marta Semplici, MA2 in European Affairs, Paris (with the EMHRN since 2009)
12. Coordinator Human Rights Education, Salma Anwar, MA Euro-Mediterranean Studies, Cairo (with the EMHRN since September 2009)

13. Communication Officer, Hayet Hayet Zeghiche, Journalist, Brussels (with the EMHRN since August 2011)
14. Media and Communication Officer, Shaimaa Abou Al Khei Sulima, Journalist, Cairo (with the EMHRN since 2009)
15. Executive Secretary, Maibritt Damgaard Jensen, MA (LSP) in French, BA in English, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2002, currently on maternity leave)
16. Executive secretary (in replacement of Maibritt Damgaard Jensen), Caroline Rey, MA in European and International Affairs (with the EMHRN since November 2011)
17. Vice-coordinator Refugee, Asylum Seekers and Migrant's Rights, Rim Hajji, MA in Asian studies, BA in English language, Rabat (with the EMHRN since 2009)
18. Project assistant, Refugee, Asylum Seekers and Migrant's Rights, Shadia El Dardiry, MA in Political Science, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since September 2011)
19. Project assistant, Gender project, Susanna Fridlund, BA in Political Science, Economics and Human Geography (with the EMHRN since January 2011)
20. Project assistant PIP, Nicole Lambert (with the EMHRN since May 2011)
21. Communication Tunis Mission, Anouar Moalla, Journalist (with the EMHRN since June 2011)
22. Book-keeper and administrative secretary, Migena Jakobsen, MA in business administration, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2008)
23. Administrative assistant, Marie Picalausa, Brussels (with the EMHRN since 2009)
24. Administrative assistant, Gender project, Amman, Sarah Tal (with the EMHRN since March 2011)
25. Administrative assistant, Solidarity Project, Anna Borojevic, MSc in Financial Engineering, Paris (with the EMHRN since February 2012)

ANNEX 2: LIST OF EMHRN PUBLICATIONS

EMHRN Publications - 2009

- Recommendations on Human Rights for the New Morocco/EU Action Plan in the framework of the Advanced Status
<http://www.euomedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2009/4039.html>
- A Practical guide from the EMHRN Summer School 2008
<http://www.euomedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2009/4268.html>
- Freedom of Association in the Euro-Mediterranean Region - 2009
<http://www.euomedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2009/4075.html>
- Summer school report 2008
<http://www.euomedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2009/3840.html>
- Active but Acquiescent: EU's Response to the Israeli Military Offensive in the Gaza Strip
<http://www.euomedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2009/3812.html>
- Fact-finding Mission in Lampedusa
<http://www.euomedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2009/3811.html>
- Gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region: From plan of action to action?
<http://www.euomedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2009/3915.html>

EMHRN Publications – 2010

- Summary report on the compliance of the trial of Mr. Muhannad Al-Hasanif
<http://www.euomedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2010/4468.html>
- Recommendation on Human Rights in Jordan for the new ENP action plan
<http://www.euomedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2010/4552.html>
- Tunisia: Inconsistent European Policies fail to address Human Rights abuses In Tunisia.
<http://www.euomedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2010/4651.html>
- Israel's Anti-Infiltration Bill: Another Aspect of Asylum Adhocracy
<http://www.euomedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2010/4720.html>

- Lack of Protection of Immigrants and Refugees in Maghreb region
<http://www.euromedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2010/4726.html>
- Freedom of Association in the Mediterranean region, A Threatened Civil Society
<http://www.euromedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2010/4758.html>
- Tunisia: Inconsistent European Policies fail to address Human Rights abuses In Tunisia
<http://www.euromedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2010/9139.html>
- Study on migration and asylum in the Maghreb
<http://www.euromedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2010/9148.html>
- EU and the Palestinian Arab Minority in Israel
<http://www.euromedrights.org/en/publications-en/emhrn-publications/emhrn-publications-2010/9154.html>

EMHRN Publications - 2011

- [Towards Establishing a Vision for the Independence and Impartiality of the Egyptian Judiciary](#)
- [EU policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: EMHRN takes part in PES Convention workshop \(25-26 nov\)](#)
- [Syrian Refugees in Turkey: A Status in Limbo \(October 2011\)](#)
- [Crucial need for debate about Tunisia's future economic and social policies in Tunisia and the European Union](#)
- [Position of the EMHRN in view of the forthcoming review of the European Neighbourhood Policy](#)
- [Egypt: Independence of the judiciary is the Guarantee to Achieving the Demands of the Egyptian Revolution](#)
- [CALAIS, THE VIOLENCE OF THE BORDER](#)
- [Syria: Publication of a joint trial observation report](#)
- [Report : EU and the Palestinian Arab Minority in Israel](#)