



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

**Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network
Final Report of Activities
2008-2009**

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SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

The following activity report covers EMHRN activities in 2008 and 2009. It takes its point of departure in the EMHRN work programme for 2008 and 2009 forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Since activities carried out in 2008 were described in details in the 2008 Activity Report, the present report only offers a detailed account of the activities carried out in 2009. However, it includes the outputs of both 2008 and 2009 and compares them with the objectives initially set out in 2007.

Human Rights and Democratisation

Freedom of Association (FOA)

The short term objective of the programme – to establish a regional civil society instrument to monitor freedom of association – has been achieved through the publication of three consecutive annual reviews that have been very well received by relevant actors in the region (NGOs, international organisations, governments, academics, etc.). The reviews have met their objectives, as they provide clear and detailed information on the situation of freedom of association in the region while allowing continuous annual monitoring of progress and setbacks in the various countries.

The production of the review has met two main challenges: 1) publishing a review each year – including the large array of partners in the process – has proved to be enormously time- and resource-consuming, also given that the situation of freedom of association does not evolve radically from one year to another. In practice, little space was left for implementing other activities beyond the review itself and therefore the full potential of the review as a tool for advocacy and lobbying could not be exploited; 2) members and partners in the region were associated to the production of the reviews and provided information and input to the chapters, especially in relation to their respective countries. However, despite the participation of EMHRN members in advocacy actions – which gave the opportunity to partners at risk to speak openly with relevant authorities – the small number of these actions following the publication of the reviews did not sufficiently materialise in concrete outcomes, and members' feeling of ownership of the project was therefore limited. Based on this experience, it was decided that the review, in the future, will be published every two years. By doing so, it will be possible to consult and involve members and partners more thoroughly, not only in the drafting of the review but also in the design and planning of the Working Group's advocacy strategy, and additional time will be allocated to implement follow-up and advocacy actions. This, in turn, should increase the members' involvement and feeling of ownership of the project.

During this initial phase, the Working Group on Freedom of Association has succeeded in establishing itself, mainly through the regional Annual Reviews, as a regional platform for exchanges and knowledge within the region. The Working Group has become a recognised regional actor in the field of freedom of association, consulted not only by international NGOs but also by intergovernmental bodies (in particular, the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the United Nations), while establishing ongoing cooperation with other regional programmes (including the new EMHRN project on solidarity) as well as launching initiatives in various

countries within the region. In this respect, the activities implemented during the period covered have immensely increased the potential of reaching the project's general objective, i.e. to develop sustained civil society monitoring and expertise on freedom of association. While it is too early to assess whether this monitoring and expertise will succeed in bringing positive changes in legislation (which are very difficult to obtain in view of the sensitivity of the issue), it should be noted that numerous governments from the South and East Mediterranean region have started to work on amendments in their legislations on NGOs (e.g. a new law on NGOs was adopted in Jordan in 2008; declarations aimed at amending the Algerian, Egyptian and Syrian NGO Laws were heard in 2009), while the issue was increasingly raised at a high level by the EU when meeting with South and East Mediterranean diplomats. It is also clear that the capacities of the civil society organisations (including women rights associations) to work and cooperate on issues related to freedom of association have increased, not least through their participation in the Working Group, as shown by the increasing number of organisations now working on the issue; It is therefore essential to continue and consolidate this work. A way to further increase the member organisations' capacities would be to assist them in improving their internal governance practices and to provide training in this field. This new avenue, which has emerged as a lesson learned from previous experience, will allow organisations to deal with issues related to freedom of association from a better outset, while also contributing to their greater involvement and better ownership of the work done by EMHRN in the field freedom of association in the future.

Justice

Despite the difficult political context and the sensitivity of this particular subject, the activities implemented in the period covered were successful. The activities managed to create spaces where key actors of the judiciary in the region were able to – freely – discuss issues related to the judiciaries in the region and their limited independence, and offered a free space to exchange ideas and proposals for future reforms. In particular, the regional meetings (Brussels, Cairo) and the national meetings (Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon) allowed for the main actors – especially judges and lawyers – to exchange and debate the current state of justice in the countries in the region as well as the needs for real judicial reforms. For that purpose they used EMHRN's Justice Reports, drafted with the contribution of civil society in the countries concerned, which proved to be extremely useful. In this respect the short term objective set for EMHRN's Justice programme in the two years covered was achieved, as spaces for free debate were either opened (seminars on the network of judges) or sustained (Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, etc.).

One of the main challenges faced during the project implementation is the difficulty of engaging with judges in the South-Mediterranean countries. In these countries, judges are usually prohibited to participate in initiatives of this nature without being appointed or at least authorised by their respective Ministry. Additionally, with the exception of Egypt and Palestine, judges' associations are either prohibited (Lebanon, Jordan) or under the control of the state (Morocco, Algeria, Syria) and therefore judges cannot rely on the protection of strong professional bodies should they wish to take a public stand. This situation had a clear impact on the project: in some cases, judges who had been invited to attend a EMHRN regional meeting abroad were not authorised to travel (Tunisia); in other cases the number of judges attending EMHRN meetings was lower than expected as many of them either did not receive the authorisation requested or preferred not taking any risks. To overcome this challenge, the EMHRN has, firstly, worked in each country with a (small) number of courageous judges who are not afraid to speak up and express their views publicly in an attempt to show other judges that this was indeed possible; secondly, the EMHRN has invested efforts in discussing and promoting the issue of free association for judges as a way to strengthen – in the long term – the role of the judges and their ability to act

collectively. When doing so, it has systematically associated European judges to these efforts as a way to break the international isolation faced by judges in the region.

While the project has met its immediate objectives, it should be noted, however, that it was less successful in ensuring optimal impact of the publications and follow-up to its meetings. One of the main reasons for this is the very limited capacity of the local members; following the meetings organised within the framework of the EMHRN project, it was difficult to take the issue even further, such as establishing or coordinating coalitions or groups of organisations. Examples of this include Jordan and Lebanon. The lesson learned from this experience is that, in the future, there is a need to focus more directly on the follow-up activities in the countries where the report is published and the meeting organised and to increase the capacities of the existing partners and/or if necessary, identifying new partners (as EMHRN is in the process of doing in Jordan).

The general objective of consolidating networks and groups of actors with capacity to influence the judiciaries towards reform was therefore only partially achieved, as explained above. At regional level, the discussions initiated at the Cairo meeting around the issue of regional networks of judges are a very important and innovative step towards this overall objective. A lesson learned from the past period is the crucial need to actively support regional networking amongst judges, as a tool to break isolation, increase solidarity amongst and with judges and strengthen judges' involvement in the debates on justice with the aim to promote reforms. It is too early to assess if and when this will lead to concrete outcomes in form of actual networks or unions of judges, but past initiatives in this field, including the idea of a virtual regional network (via a website), should be pursued. The EMHRN Justice Working Group succeeded in establishing itself as a regional actor in the field of justice reform, but its impact is still to be accordingly defined. The work done within the Working Group made it possible to increase the skills of some of its members while creating a sense of ownership of the project and its activities, which is however still to be developed. One of the challenges faced in this regard has been the limited involvement of the WG members in issues not directly related to their respective countries – thus weakening the regional impact of the group. In order to overcome this, the Justice WG will, in the next period, have an increased focus on trial observation, as a way to strengthen solidarity with judges and lawyers in danger and will simultaneously increase the involvement of WG members. Similarly, it will also work on the issue of the anti-terrorism legislations and practices which is in close continuation with its previous activities. This issue is also extremely relevant to the debate on security versus human rights, which is significant on both sides of the Mediterranean and is therefore a proper way to involve all members, from both the North and the South. At national level, the project has been instrumental in creating and supporting a coalition of Moroccan organisations advocating jointly for judicial reforms which has been and still remains very active. In other countries (notably Jordan) results have proved to be less convincing in particular due to the limited capacities in the field to sustain such initiatives. This challenge – which might also exist in the case of Algeria – will require additional capacity building that will be carried out through participation of the WGs and training organised in this framework and, if needed, by identifying additional partners.

Women's Rights and Gender Mainstreaming

The two-stringed approach adopted by the Gender Working Group, i.e. 1) promoting gender mainstreaming within the EMHRN and its member organizations and 2) exerting influence on the regional political agenda with regard to gender equality, proved successful. The short term objectives were achieved – although to various degrees: the knowledge of gender mainstreaming and the capacity of NGOs to do gender mainstreaming were increased through active participation to the Gender Working Group's meetings, training and activities in addition to the participation of

the gender working members in other WG meetings and activities that was dedicated to enhancing knowledge of gender mainstreaming. In this first phase, however, the focus was mostly directed towards WG members in order to ensure a high level of knowledge and the strong capacities within the Working Group; addressing the whole EMHRN membership will be at the core of the next phase, for which the Gender Working Group will be instrumental. Simultaneously, considerable work and efforts were invested in the monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Plan of Action (shadow report, meetings and conferences, advocacy missions, etc.), leading to a higher level of awareness in this regard. The Shadow Report provided updated critical documentation about gender discrimination in the Mediterranean countries and general trends in Europe giving examples from Sweden, France and Poland. Hence, it increased awareness about gender discrimination in the EuroMed Region. The EMHRN succeeded in strengthening cooperation between women's rights and human rights organizations through leading the establishment of a broad coalition working on the Istanbul Plan of Action for Strengthening the Role of Women in Society who participated in the 2009 follow-up conference. Furthermore, these organizations participated in broad consultations contributing to the shadow report. The EMHRN succeeded in supporting the process of achieving gender equality within the EuroMed region and in particular in the med region through being a key player in debates and policy processes on gender equality in the region, voicing the common concerns of women in Arab countries. The EMHRN strongly influenced the second Euro Med ministerial conference whose output the "Marrakech Conclusions 2009" included many of the recommendations of the shadow report.

One of the difficulties faced in the process was the perception that the regional action undertaken under the EMHRN Gender programme was not sufficiently linked to initiatives at national level - with a risk of losing the interest of member organisations. To deal with this, it was decided to link regional action and national initiatives more than was the case in the past, in particular by including in EMHRN future work an active support and participation to national campaigns related to gender equality.

At the end of the period covered, it is fair to say that the activities implemented are positive steps towards the project's general objective of having key networks and groups of actors in the EuroMed region effectively supporting the process of achieving gender equality within the context of the EuroMed region and integrating gender mainstreaming into their work. The activities carried out have led to an increased awareness on gender equality issues (and on some of the instruments available to achieve equality such as the Istanbul Plan of Action) amongst civil society organisations in the region, including EMHRN member organisations. The objective of integrating gender mainstreaming into their work, however, is still in its early stage and will require extensive and sustained work in the coming years.

Human Rights Education

As the project was put on hold during 2009 following the departure of the HRE coordinator, the short term objectives for 2008-2009 were only partially met. A Summer School was successfully organised in Turkey in 2008, but there has been little follow-up since, except for the publication of the second Resource Book (early 2010). Networking and diffusion of knowledge has potentially increased with the help of the first Resource Book published in 2008 and other activities (Working Group meetings in 2008, workshop in 2009), but the extent and impact of this increase are difficult to define as of yet.

Overall, the HRE Working Group has been an effective forum for the exchange of methodologies and experiences across the region, but it was not entirely successful in bringing NGOs (that are active in the field of HRE in the EuroMed region) together to discuss the challenges they face and

their response to these. Learning lessons from past experiences, the EMHRN intends, while capitalising on the previous results, to henceforth focus mainly on the exchange of skills and experiences amongst HRE NGOs in the region with the aim of identifying common responses and strategies. The basis for this approach will include the above-mentioned 2008 EMHRN report analysing HRE initiatives in the non-formal sector in the EuroMed region as well as a study (to be produced) on HRE provided in the formal sector. It is expected that the strategies on HRE that will be defined will include orientation and guidelines for the next EMHRN Summer School.

Human Rights and the Security of Human Beings

Palestine, Israel and Palestinians

The short term objective for EMHRN work on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians, which is to further develop the activities of the Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (PIP) Working Group to become a key critical human rights advocacy forum on EU policies pertaining to Israel and Palestine, has been met. This has been done through close monitoring of EU relations with Israel and Palestinian authority, discussing the advancement of Israel within the ENP, meetings with EMHRN members and EU representatives, reaching out to civil society at large, advocacy missions, publishing notes and a report, as well as issuing press releases. Furthermore, the EMHRN took the lead in coordinating and supporting the NGO follow-up on the Goldstone Report, in particular through the drafting of advocacy strategy papers. During 2009 the EMHRN has also increasingly become a focal point for expertise on EU-Israel relations, and the EMHRN coordinator is regularly contacted by NGOs in Europe and in Israel/OPT.

One main problem faced during the period covered was the fact that European members of the PIP Working Group are not as active as the Palestinian and Israeli members, and they do very little or no advocacy in their own country (disseminating EMHRN statement and report, etc.). This issue was taken up internally and discussed with the WG members and the recommendations were to strengthen the capacity of the European members, e.g. by organising missions within their respective countries (Spain, Denmark) and training for European members (specific training on EU advocacy planned in 2011), to respond more to their needs, e.g. by setting up a database with advocacy material (launched Autumn 2010), and to increase the exchange of experiences/practices with them. Another important problem was the ban on travel imposed on PIP WG members from Gaza which has had a strong impact on the work of the WG and the networking among members, and has increased the pressure on al-Haq, the only Palestinian organisation member of the EMHRN which is allowed to travel. To deal with this obstacle, it was decided to increase the pressure on Israel and the EU in this regard as well as reflect internally on other ways of bringing this issue forward (one avenue the EMHRN is exploring is to try to have the EMHRN members out of Gaza through Rafah instead of Erez). Also, the ban imposed by the Israeli authorities on the political referent of the PIP Working Group to travel to Israel or the Occupied Territories, has made the organisation of meetings in East-Jerusalem complicated.

Overall, the EMHRN PIP Working Group has been successful in constituting the only consistent Palestine-Israel human rights alliance. As shown during the war on Gaza in December 2008 and January 2009, the WG managed to remain united and productive despite considerable strains due to the political situation, which proves its viability and strength. It has thus moved closer to the 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 lesson learned from the past period is that there is a need for the PIP Working Group to increase synergies with other EMHRN WGs and in particular to more efficiently integrate other thematic (Migration, Justice,

Gender) into its activities. To do so, the WG is considering broadening its membership by including - or associating with - organisations working on these specific issues; as an example, close contacts were established with PHR-Israel, ACRI and the Coalition of Women for Peace in reaction to the recent attacks against Israeli NGOs, as well as WCLAC regarding gender issues in the OPT). Another challenge for future work of the PIP Working Group is to define a more refined and targeted lobbying strategy, which nevertheless is sufficiently flexible to be adapted to the developments on the ground (this was already discussed during the first PIP WG meeting of 2010).

The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The primary challenge faced by the EMHRN project on Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers has been the lack of knowledge and capacity of South-Mediterranean organisations in the field of migration and asylum with, sometimes, a lack of political will to engage in these issues. As a result, the project has sometimes experienced a low level of communication amongst Working Group members, between WG members and the Secretariat outside of meetings, and finally, the WG members have launched very few initiatives themselves. Nevertheless, the EMHRN project has during its two first years managed to provide members of the WG with an increased awareness and knowledge on the rights of migrants and refugees, an issue which is new for most countries in the South-Mediterranean region. The EMHRN project has contributed to strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations in terms of influencing policy processes, in particular through their participation in the Working Group's meetings and activities, although it is fair to say that the extent of this progress has not yet reached its full potential. There are also examples of North-South collaborations that have developed based on knowledge or contacts generated through the EMHRN Working Group although, again, the outcomes of these collaborations are only in their initial stages. Accordingly, the project's short term objective (to establish an 'observatory' for regional civil society cooperation on questions pertaining to the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers) can be deemed as achieved through the setting up and the meetings of the Migration and Asylum Working Group, and a sub-regional seminar on the Mashrek countries. However, the Working Group is still in an initiation phase and the results obtained so far are not yet solid; it is therefore necessary to pursue the activities, increase gradually the capacity of the members and monitor on an ongoing basis the progresses that do - or do not - take place in order to adjust the strategy.

One of the main challenges faced during the period covered has been the imbalance within the Working Group; This imbalance exists between the European members, who have more extensive experience with migration and asylum issues, and the Southern members, who have a more limited knowledge and capacity in the field, and often the insufficient political will of their organisations to engage actively with this issue. This problem could not be entirely solved during the past two years - and will not be solved in the short term as it is directly linked to the lack of capacities in the South. However, this problem was taken into account in the ongoing implementation of the project with the focus being increasingly set on the exchange of information and the capacity-building of members; this aspect will be prioritised even more in the next period.

Although their impact has been limited so far, the activities implemented in the period covered (Working Group meetings; drafting of reports; advocacy work; alert missions; etc.) have brought the EMHRN a step closer to its general objectives, in particular strengthening regional civil society cooperation regarding policies, projects and exchange of information related to the rights of migrants and refugees and developing the capacity of local organisations in the South Mediterranean to handle issues relating to migrants', refugees' and asylum seekers' rights.

Economic and Social Rights

During the period covered, the main difficulty this project faced was the fact that EMHRN was not able to mobilise the necessary human resources that would allow setting the economic and social rights as one of its main thematic priorities and developing a range of related activities. In practice, in the absence of a specific coordinator and a Working Group on Economic and Social Rights, very few activities were implemented and no concrete steps could be taken towards the drafting of a practical resource on economic and social rights. Accordingly, the short term objective of initiating a process of training NGOs on an action-based approach to economic and social rights in the region was not achieved.

Nevertheless, discussions about the future work of the EMHRN in the field of economic and social rights continued within EMHRN's Executive Committee and Secretariat during 2009. For the next period (2010-11), the EMHRN has suggested initiating work in this field by calling for a meeting of a smaller group of experts who would help conceptualising a concrete project proposal aimed at providing added value to ongoing work on economic and social rights in the region. Depending on the availability of funds, this would also include setting up a Working Group on Economic and Social Rights.

Membership Support

Communication

The EMHRN has managed to successfully meet its short term objectives regarding communication, i.e. to develop its resources in communication and to develop the website. A lesson learned from the past years was the need for the EMHRN to expand and improve its relations with the Arabic-speaking media in order to increase the flow of information from and to these media. To do so, a full-time communication officer (in addition to the one based in Copenhagen) was hired in Cairo with the task of monitoring and increasing relations with the Arab press and media and to update the Arabic pages of the EMHRN website. By drastically upgrading its communication in Arabic, it is expected that the role played by the Network will be further acknowledged, not only in Europe and the EU institutions as is already the case, but also in the Arabic countries and public at large. The Cairo-based communication officer started work in January 2009 and the first results after one year are very positive, showing an increase in coverage on the EMHRN and its activities in the Arab media. Additionally, the launching of EMHRN's new website in September 2009 as well as the regular Newsletters and News bulletins have led to an increase in the quantity and quality of information and services provided to EMHRN members and other actors.

By expanding its communication towards the Arab world and improving its communication tools (website, etc.), the EMHRN has made decisive steps towards its general objective which are to efficiently voice and communicate information about the activities and concerns of the EMHRN and its members within the membership and to relevant media, decision-makers and civil society groups. However, taking into consideration that EMHRN only recently started to focus on communication, a lot remains to be done. In this respect, all General Assemblies of the EMHRN have underlined the need to strengthen the EMHRN's internal and external communication in order to increase transparency and members' participation in EMHRN work as well as awareness in the media about the work of the EMHRN, underlining the importance of voicing the EMHRN's position with regard to current human rights developments.

Solidarity

During the Network's first years of existence, solidarity was dealt with on an *ad hoc* basis, depending heavily on the capacity of the secretariat and/or the Working Groups. Based on this experience, it has proved crucial for the Network to develop a consistent approach to these difficult situations and to be able to react concretely and systematically when human rights defenders and organisations, particularly those who are members of the EMHRN, are at risk. The EMHRN project on solidarity (focusing mainly on Syria, Tunisia and Algeria) started only in June 2009, and it is therefore too early to evaluate its outcome and to draw lessons from it.

It can be said that the short term objective - to respond with available means when EMHRN members or their work are at risk - was met, in particular with various solidarity and support actions during 2008 and 2009 and the start-up of the solidarity programme in 2009 (setting up the Solidarity Group on Tunisia, future publication of the report on EU-Tunisia bilateral relations in 2010, advocacy missions, field missions, trial observation missions, inclusion of additional Algerian and Tunisian organisations in EMHRN Working Groups, etc.). In practice, particularly when it comes to Syria, Tunisia and Algeria, the solidarity actions undertaken by the EMHRN have largely benefited human rights defenders not affiliated to the EMHRN, as was the case for many of the trial observations missions.

One of the challenges faced in the field of solidarity, particularly in the case of Syria, Tunisia and Algeria, is the extent of the protection and solidarity needs; answering to these needs, even partially, requires very important resources. In order to overcome this, and simultaneously initiate synergies within the region, partnerships and cooperation were systematically sought with other partners, including the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Foundation, EMHRN members, other international organisations (FIDH, OMCT, HRW, AI, etc.) and other relevant actors such as bar associations.

Overall, the general objective of establishing the Network as an efficient protection mechanism for its members is an ongoing process, but during the past two years the EMHRN has made considerable progress towards this objective, in particular by increasing its capacity to react when its members are at risk within the framework of its Working Groups and by starting up its programme on Syria, Tunisia and Algeria; in these 3 countries, human rights defenders at risk have within a short time frame increasingly identified the EMHRN as a mean to obtain support and experience solidarity.

Training

In accordance with the short term objective for its training activities in 2008-2009, the EMHRN has organised a series of training courses, focusing on human rights issues that are relevant for the region and not covered elsewhere. These courses (on gender mainstreaming, European Neighbourhood Policy and EU human rights instruments, and advocacy) took place either in the framework of EMHRN Working Groups (especially Freedom of Association, Gender and Women's Rights, Justice and PIP) or were conducted separately from the Working Groups as was the case in Morocco, Jordan and Denmark; in these latter cases, the courses were open to local EMHRN members and other civil society organisations. As far as gender mainstreaming is concerned, EMHRN training was based on the EMHRN Gender Mainstreaming Kit, which is available in Arabic and English (and French from 2010). The evaluation of the training by the participants, done after each course, was overwhelmingly positive.

In addition to the training courses, the capacities of the members were also increased through participation in the delegations going to Brussels, allowing them to use their new skills during the advocacy of the EU institutions. However, due to the high level of complexity of the EU decision-making process, involving a large number of actors, many participants expressed the wish to benefit from longer training sessions in the future. This would allow for more comprehensive presentations of the EU institutions and also organise practical workshops working on specific cases and during the sessions.

After the course, many participants of the training sessions also expressed the wish to be regularly updated on EU policies and issues. Doing so would enable the EMHRN to receive more feedback on how the skills acquired during its trainings are specifically used (e.g. letters, advocacy meetings, etc), especially by non EMHRN member participants, but this would require additional resources from the EMHRN which are not available at the time being

During the period covered, a new challenge occurred; this was the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty which will require renewing EMHRN training material on the EU and ENP mechanisms in order to inform and train EMHRN members on the new instruments and mechanisms.

By focusing on issues that are not covered elsewhere, the activities implemented in the period covered have contributed to the project's general objective to create synergies between training and capacity-building efforts within the Network and to fill in gaps, wherever they may exist. However, given that numerous EMHRN members are engaged in various training activities, in the future more effort will be needed to ensure proper synergies in the field of training. In order to achieve its general objective, the EMHRN intends to pursue its support to the capacity-building of its members through the informal learning processes offered by the Working Groups, and furthermore offer more targeted training with an increased focus on aspects related to basic organisational skills such as project management, fundraising, report-writing and internal governance.

Advocacy and Dialogue

During the period covered, mainly through its Brussels office but also through advocacy missions in EU Member States and South Mediterranean countries, the EMHRN successfully developed its activities in three areas: 1) it consolidated and developed its advocacy work with States and the EU institutions which increasingly consult the Network on issues pertaining to the Euro-Med region; 2) it also significantly strengthened its work on the bilateral relations between the EU and its Mediterranean partners by systematically following the bilateral political and 'technical' dialogues between the EU and its Mediterranean partners and finally; 3) it reinforced its cooperation with other NGOs in Brussels, often taking the lead on human rights issues in the Mediterranean region.

One challenge faced by the EMHRN in its advocacy and dialogue activities is the dilemma prevailing between the regional nature of the Network and its work and the fact that human rights issues are usually raised by the EU and the Southern partner countries on the bilateral level only; in order to deal with this problem, the EMHRN systematically integrates its thematic work in its bilateral activities and will, in the next phase, increasingly focus on the national level by drafting monitoring reports on particular countries or national issues and strengthening its advocacy work on individual countries – involving (as it also currently does) local members in this process. Another challenge faced is the limited knowledge and capacity of many EMHRN members and partners in dealing with EU/ENP issues, which negatively impacts their ability to carry out efficient advocacy work towards the EU institutions. To overcome this obstacle and build capacities within

its membership, the EMHRN organised trainings on ENP/EMP/EU matters both within the framework of its Working Groups and as separate courses (see under Training). These activities have increased the capacity of the NGOs to understand the ENP processes which led to some NGOs being more efficient at lobbying the EU institutions and to follow-up on commitments and activities at national level; this will need to be reinforced in the coming years in view of the important training needs amongst EMHRN members in this field.

As a whole, the project's short term objective – which is to build on and develop existing activities regarding the EU and EMP institutions and a critical approach to cooperation in bi-lateral relations in particular as concerns the human rights instruments of the ENP – was met, although the EMHRN will need to pursue its efforts in the coming years. A positive outcome from the period covered is the fact that the EMHRN has established itself as the focal point on information on the Maghreb-Mashreq region provided to the EU institutions. To sustain its position and expand on the positive outcome, the EMHRN will have to further build its relations with the EU institutions and the Brussels-based NGOs and media while sustaining its role as an efficient interface for the EMHRN members when dealing with the EU.

The results achieved during the past two years have been positive steps towards the general objective set for EMHRN's advocacy work, i.e. to efficiently communicate EMHRN's and members' policies and recommendations to the relevant representatives of the EU and EMP and ensure feed-back and dialogue with these. However, one lesson learned from these past years' experience is that the EMHRN can no longer limit its advocacy work to the EU only; it needs – to an extent that has yet to be ascertained – to also address the UN human rights bodies and the Arab League instruments. Therefore, while maintaining a strong focus on human rights in EuroMed relations, the EMHRN believes more strength could be added to its own and its members' work by also addressing the UN human rights bodies in Geneva, and (to a certain degree) the Arab League in Cairo – expanding the scope of the objective of its advocacy work.

Partnerships

The EMHRN cooperates with civil society within and beyond the human rights community in the region, as well as with international NGOs, in order to build partnerships and disseminate the values upon which it builds its work. In the past the EMHRN has actively cooperated with a number of partners and proactively initiated or supported the establishment of new networks and entities such as the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF), the EuroMed NGO Platform and the Danish NGO network under the Arab Initiative. It has initiated cooperation with the Moroccan Consultative Council on Human Rights in order to provide technical assistance to the drafting of a National Human Rights and Democracy Plan, and is also member of a consortium aimed at implementing a civil society programme in the Mediterranean region. The EMHRN has also sought broad alliance with – and outreach to – international and other non-governmental organisations, trade unions, environmental and development groups, as well as religious groups, inside and outside the region.

During the period covered, EMHRN's relations with key partners in the region, including with the EuroMed NGO Platform and the EMHRF, were fully maintained and reinforced, as well as the exchange of information and coordination of activities with major international human rights organisations, including at the Brussels level. In Denmark, the EMHRN has maintained its strong involvement in the activities and the future development of the Danish MENA Network. In this respect, the short term objective – to actively maintain and develop partnerships within and beyond the human rights community working in the region – was fully met in 2008-2009.

The links and relationships built with other organisations and initiatives in the period covered (and before) have contributed positively to EMNRH's general objective in the field of partnership which is to contribute to developing and supporting efficient networks of civil society groups in the EuroMed region rooted in human rights values. One of EMHRN's main challenges in this respect is to define and implement its own approach to human rights issues and instruments in the EuroMed region while developing fruitful cooperation with other international organisations. So far, the EMHRN has been relatively successful at doing this and has been careful in this process not to encroach upon specific themes of other NGOs; this positive achievement will need to be consolidated in the next years. In order to do so, the network will firstly sustain or strengthen its involvement in existing cooperation networks or projects that have proved successful (EMHRF; EuroMed Platform; etc.) and, when it comes to initiating or entering into new cooperation projects, EMHRN will systematically reflect on its specific added value to such projects.

Executive Bodies and Memberships

The short term objectives for Executive Bodies and Membership for 2008-2009 were met as so far the general assembly was successfully organised in 2008, with the election of a new Executive Committee and the meetings of the Executive Committee and the steering group were held as planned. The work towards a gender mainstreaming policy was initiated in 2009, and will potentially be ready by 2010. On the issue of its membership, the EMHRN realised during the period covered that in order to reinforce its legitimacy as representing the civil society in the whole EuroMed region and to increase its capacity to efficiently address the main relevant issues, it needs to enlarge its membership by including additional organisations from countries that are not at all or insufficiently represented as well as organisations active on specific issues that are insufficiently covered. As a result, this raise in the number of members was set as a major objective for the next two years (2010-11).

Regarding its general objectives, the EMHRN will need to sustain and strengthen its democratic governance as the only way to ensure a broad consensus amongst its members given the disparity in the views and backgrounds of its members and the fact that some issues it deals with are extremely sensitive. Although the EMHRN is characterised by the extreme diversity of its members, it has managed since its creation to establish and maintain democratic and transparent governance structures and procedures that ensure the representation of different categories of member organisations as well as gender and geographical balance. This will have to be maintained and reinforced.

Administration

During the period covered, the EMHRN took decisive steps to strengthen its structures (administrative staff, offices, staff policy, etc.): the Amman office was officially registered; two new offices were opened, in Cairo and in Paris; EMHRN's secretariat in Copenhagen was supplemented by additional staff, including a part-time fundraiser and part-time human resources manager; Staff development issues were addressed, partly through individual staff development talks and the organisation of 'Staff Development Days' held in 2008 and early 2010. These activities made it possible to achieve the EMHRN's short term objective regarding administration, i.e. to set up the necessary structures to implement its work programme and to strengthen its capacity to respond proactively to changing situations in the region. However, the work undertaken will need to be consolidated in the forthcoming period, in particular through the ongoing adjustment of the staff composition to EMHRN's work and needs (and the funding available) and the adoption of a formal staff policy providing for adequate staff development.

While the efforts made in the past two years have contributed to the general objective (to provide administrative support to all areas of the EMHRN's work enabling the network to fully implement its strategy), it should also be added that the EMHRN is engaged in an ongoing process by which the roles and spheres of responsibility of its staff have been gradually demarcated more clearly, following the continued growth in the organisation these past years. Clearer positions have motivated the staff, and have therefore become increasingly efficient. The network has now reached a stage where it needs to consolidate its organisational and not least administrative structures, while adopting and implementing specific strategies on issues such as staff development, fundraising, role and tasks of its antennas in the South, etc. These challenges, that will condition the future achievement of the general objective, have been identified as crucial in the next period.

ACTIVITY REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

The following report covers EMHRN activities in 2009. The report is first and foremost an activity report aiming at ensuring transparency and accountability of the EMHRN's work towards members and donors. Political reports accounting for EMHRN activities are presented by the Executive Committee (through its President) at the EMHRN General Assemblies. Evaluations are above all the task of the EMHRN general assembly and of external evaluators.

However, the report does relate the activities of the EMHRN to the goals set out in its work programme for 2008 and 2009. The report summarises the main points of the work programme and thereafter moves on to a detailed account of the different activities of the EMHRN comparing the outcome with the objectives set out in 2007.

Main Context of the Work Programme

Since June 2006 all talk of an Arabic spring in terms of democracy died out in the region and human rights discourse significantly weakened. South- and East-Mediterranean civil society was increasingly caught up in geo-politic tensions beyond its reach. This was primarily due to the situation in Iraq; the growing tension between the US (and Arab allies) and Iran; the situation in Israel- Palestine which considerably worsened with the offensive on Gaza and the effects of conglomerate sets of factors such as strengthened Islamist movements and the waged 'fight against terrorism'.

The situation in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel and the West Bank and Gaza is to a large extent conditioned by the broader regional conflict in the light of which regimes in countries like Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria have been able to consolidate at the expense of democracy and human rights.

Human rights respect is on the decrease in the EuroMed region since 2006. In this regard the response to the growing refugee crisis and migrant fluxes is worrying. With few exceptions, large parts of Europe reacts to these facts seeking to circumvent their own responsibilities by externalising forced migrant protection through measures of open sea interceptions, frontier control and the like.

The region has also witnessed a growing disillusion by civil society with the EU as a human rights and democracy promoter in the EuroMed region, as Europe seems unable to provide political means and actions to bring the region out of the current turmoil. Even though the ENP does provide new instruments and technical possibilities to promote human rights, the latest regional and national strategy plans and National Indicative Programmes brought comfort to the current regimes in place rather than challenging them on discrepancies between their commitments to human rights and democratic principles and their current practice. In this respect, the newly established Union of the Mediterranean (UfM), which relates little to human rights, seems to have brought more confusion than clarity in the overall relations between the EU and its South Mediterranean partners and in the capacity of the EU and its Member States to promote human rights in a consistent and significant manner.

In this context the EMHRN pursued the mid- and long-term process initiated by its working groups in order to consolidate their work in 2008 and 2009. They give sustainability to the work of the EMHRN and help build capacity to human rights organisations within their field of specialisation.

They deserve and need time to grow and develop and to show the expected results over the next coming years.

However, the EMHRN also wished to correct deficiencies and adjust its work to the political changes that took place.

The EMHRN believes that the choice of working on democratisation and the security of human beings in the EuroMed region remained valid key issues for the region. Hence, it continued work within its current areas of activities: Freedom of Association; Justice; Gender; Human Rights Education; Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians; Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the EuroMed Region; and Economic and Social Rights. In practice, however, due to limited resources, the work on Human Rights Education and on Economic and Social Rights had to be reduced to a minimum or put on hold in the course of 2009.

At the same time, as in 2008, the EMHRN sought to improve its capacity to address short term issues by downscaling the 'project load' of the working groups whilst providing them with more time and resources to respond to concerns and campaigns of members (and other human rights NGOs).

The following pages move into the activities that have been carried out in 2009 within the framework of the work programme and the activities set out to be implemented in 2008 and 2009.

2. NETWORKING

2.1. Working groups

Output 2008

- *A total of 12 working group meetings were organised in 6 different countries.*
- *Draft by-laws and a concept paper for the WG finalised*

Output 2009

- *A total of 9 WG meetings were organised in 7 different countries (one scheduled for December 2009 was postponed to January 2010)*
- *All working groups were renewed following a call for participation in the WGs in January 2009*

Activities 2009

At the General Assembly 2008, the renewal of the membership of the EMHRN Working Groups was announced. In January a call for participation was published on the website, as well as widely circulated to the EMHRN members. There was a strong interest in participation in the WGs shown by the many applications for each WG. Following criteria to ensure gender as well as geographic balance in the groups, the selection of members to the different groups were made and announced on the website during March 2009, ahead of the first WG meetings in April and May. Because of lack of funds, it was decided not to employ a new coordinator for the Human Rights Education coordinator and postpone the activation of the new WG until 2010. A short evaluation done at a coordinator meeting showed that the WGs are indeed more active and engaged than before, however, the challenges of making the members work in-between meetings as well as to make the work of the WGs visible, especially at the national level, remain.

2.2.Human Rights and Democratisation

The overall objective of these activities were to provide input to democratisation processes in the South Mediterranean region in the strategic intervention areas of freedom of association, justice, gender equality and women's rights, and human rights education and to increase EMHRN members' capacity in this regard through networking.

2.2.1. Freedom of Association (FoA)

Objectives according to Work programme

The **human rights framework** of the activity is the full implementation of human rights values and international standards relating to freedom of association in the EuroMed region, in particular in the South Mediterranean area.

The **general objective** is to develop sustained civil society monitoring and expertise on freedom of association conducive to change in legislation where relevant and, by extension, conducive to democratic reform.

The **short term objective** is to establish a regional civil society instrument to monitor freedom of association and, indirectly by extension, progress or setbacks of democratisation.

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 according to Work Programme

1. Drafting two 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 are meant to become an annual mediated event helping to set the question of freedom of association on the agenda of decision makers and civil society.
2. Organising Working Group meetings for EMHRN members and resource persons in the Arab and EuroMed region aimed at preparing the reports and developing regional networking. The EMHRN will liaise with other regional initiatives in the region such as the Arab Initiative for Freedom of Association, the Club de Madrid and the Friedrich Neumann Foundation and initiatives in the various countries in the South.
3. Developing and maintaining a section on freedom of association on the EMHRN's website.
4. Dissemination of the results to the media, civil society groups and governments while support ongoing actions and campaigns by civil society.

Planned output 2008-2009: 4 Working group meetings, 2 annual reports, 8 advocacy trips, 2 press conferences, website maintenance

Outputs 2008

- *Two Working Group meeting on Freedom of Association organised in Cairo and in Jordan*
- *Contacts maintained with other regional freedom of association initiatives such as the Club de Madrid, the Friedrich Neumann Stiftung and the Arab Initiative for Freedom of Association*
- *Co-organising of public meeting on freedom of association in Egypt in cooperation with the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies*
- *Co-organising a public meeting on freedom of association in Jordan in cooperation with the Amman Institute for Human Rights Studies*
- *Meeting on freedom of association between EMHRN WG and Egyptian NGOs and support to the Egyptian NGO campaign*
- *Meetings with Egyptian officials regarding freedom of association in Egypt*
- *Co-organising a mission to Jordan on freedom of association*
- *Meeting with Jordanian officials regarding the new law on freedom of association in Jordan*

- *A second Annual Report on Freedom of Association agreed and research published at a public meeting in the European Parliament, 8 December 2008, Brussels.*
- *Support and statements issued in 16 cases*
- *6 newsletters and a blog on freedom of association*

Outputs 2009

- *Establishment of a new Working Group on Freedom of Association, composed of human rights defenders from both South and North Mediterranean countries*
- *Two WG meetings organised in Paris and in Madrid*
- *Contacts maintained with other regional FoA initiatives such as those of the Club de Madrid, Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, International Center for Non-Profit Law and 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) on human rights commitment in general, and freedom of association in particular*
- *Meetings with Spanish officials (EU Presidency) on freedom of association and advocacy mission to Geneva (UN)*
- *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 newsletter and weekly update of EMHRN blog on freedom of association*

Description activities 2009

- EMHRN undertook a series of activities following the publication of its second Review on Freedom of Association in December 2008, including a mission in Geneva on 9 February. The Review was presented during a press conference followed by an information meeting on the Universal Periodic Review process of Jordan co-organised with the World Organisation Against Torture. Later, the EMHRN took the lead of an international coalition composed of the Club of Madrid, Human Rights Watch and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders which called upon King Abdullah II to reject a revised version of the law. During its mission to Geneva, the EMHRN met with the staff of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights defenders.
- Following a call for participation, the EMHRN WG on Freedom of Association was renewed early 2009. During their first meeting in Paris on 25-26 April, WG members discussed the methodology, the content and the indicators for the third annual Review on Freedom of Association and agreed on including two thematic chapters on minority associations and GONGOS. A training on gender mainstreaming was provided with the help of EMHRN Gender Working Group. Finally, representatives of the Club of Madrid and Naumann Foundation attended the meeting in order to present their activities with regard to the right to association in the Arab World. Following the WG meeting, a EMHRN delegation met with several French officials, including representatives of the French mission to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Middle East Department.
- During the second WG meeting (Madrid, 21-22 November) WG members discussed an advocacy strategy for the third Review on Freedom of Association. They agreed on launching the report in the South Mediterranean region - in Egypt - , while simultaneously presenting it before selected European institutions in Brussels. At the national level, WG members also

committed to organise seminars bringing together representatives of local organisations and the media as well as representatives of the EC delegations. A training on EU human rights mechanisms within the framework of the EU-South Mediterranean relations was conducted during the WG meeting. After the meeting, an EMHRN delegation, which included two Tunisian WG members, met with officials from the Spanish State Department for the EU (Relations with civil society organisation) and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Human Rights Department and Mediterranean Department) as well as with some MPs and with Casa Arabe Institute.

- After the first WG meeting, the EMHRN started to work on the third annual Review on Freedom of Association:
 - Terms of reference were drafted for each chapter of the report. A call for applications was published on EMHRN website to identify 11 rapporteurs in charge of collecting information and drafting the country chapters as well as four consultants responsible respectively for the chapter on Europe, two thematic chapters and the synthesis of the report.
 - As a positive development, some WG members, as was the case in Turkey, organised meetings to bring together the researcher of the country chapter, EMHRN WG member(s) and organisations facing restrictions to their right to associate. In other countries, such as Egypt or Algeria, the researcher met with the WG members of the country to discuss the situation and the content of the country chapter.
 - In March 2009, a fact-finding mission to Morocco was organised in cooperation with local partners to collect information for the Morocco chapter and to encourage the development of a national civil society movement in support of freedom of association in Morocco.
 - Once drafted, the chapters were submitted to the EMHRN Gender Working Group in order to ensure gender-sensitivity throughout the report.
 - The third annual review was launched in Cairo in January 2010. One regional and 11 national press releases were published in view of the launching of the Review.
- EMHRN's quarterly Newsletter on Freedom of Association, featuring information on freedom of association in both North and South Mediterranean countries, was sent out to civil society groups as well as governments and inter-governmental bodies and made available on the EMHRN website. EMHRN's blog on freedom of association (<http://euromedassociation.blogspot.com/>), set up in 2008, was maintained and the information available is increased and updated weekly.
- The EMHRN was involved in the drafting of numerous statements to support organisations that fall victim of violation to their right to freedom of association in the EuroMed region. The WG members also provided input on freedom of association for the drafting of open letters published by the EMHRN ahead of the EU-Egypt Association Council on 8 April and the EU-Algeria Association Council on 12 June 2009. Relevant information on freedom of association was also made available in relation to letters sent ahead of the EU-Morocco Sub-Committee on Human Rights on 24 July and the EU-Egypt Sub-Committee on Political matters on 7-8 July.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objective, challenges and possible shortcomings

The short term objective of the programme – to establish a regional civil society instrument to monitor freedom of association – has been achieved through the publication of three consecutive annual reviews that have been very well received by relevant actors in the region (NGOs, international organisations, governments, academics, etc.). The reviews have met their objectives, as they provide clear and detailed information on the situation of freedom of association in the region while allowing continuous annual monitoring of progress and setbacks in the various countries.

The production of the review has met two main challenges: 1) publishing a review each year – including the large array of partners in the process – has proved to be enormously time- and resource-consuming, also given that the situation of freedom of association does not evolve radically from one year to another. In practice, little space was left for implementing other activities beyond the review itself and therefore the full potential of the review as a tool for advocacy and lobbying could not be exploited; 2) members and partners in the region were associated to the production of the reviews and provided information and input to the chapters, especially in relation to their respective countries. However, despite the participation of EMHRN members in advocacy actions – which gave the opportunity to partners at risk to speak openly with relevant authorities – the small number of these actions following the publication of the reviews did not sufficiently materialise in concrete outcomes, and members' feeling of ownership of the project was therefore limited. Based on this experience, it was decided that the review, in the future, will be published every two years. By doing so, it will be possible to consult and involve members and partners more thoroughly, not only in the drafting of the review but also in the design and planning of the Working Group's advocacy strategy, and additional time will be allocated to implement follow-up and advocacy actions. This, in turn, should increase the members' involvement and feeling of ownership of the project.

During this initial phase, the Working Group on Freedom of Association has succeeded in establishing itself, mainly through the regional Annual Reviews, as a regional platform for exchanges and knowledge within the region. The Working Group has become a recognised regional actor in the field of freedom of association, consulted not only by international NGOs but also by intergovernmental bodies (in particular, the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the United Nations), while establishing ongoing cooperation with other regional programmes (including the new EMHRN project on solidarity) as well as launching initiatives in various countries within the region. In this respect, the activities implemented during the period covered have immensely increased the potential of reaching the project's general objective, i.e. to develop sustained civil society monitoring and expertise on freedom of association. While it is too early to assess whether this monitoring and expertise will succeed in bringing positive changes in legislation (which are very difficult to obtain in view of the sensitivity of the issue), it should be noted that numerous governments from the South and East Mediterranean region have started to work on amendments in their legislations on NGOs (e.g. a new law on NGOs was adopted in Jordan in 2008; declarations aimed at amending the Algerian, Egyptian and Syrian NGO Laws were heard in 2009), while the issue was increasingly raised at a high level by the EU when meeting with South and East Mediterranean diplomats. It is also clear that the capacities of the civil society organisations (including women rights associations) to work and cooperate on issues related to freedom of association have increased, not least through their participation in the Working Group, as shown by the increasing number of organisations now working on the issue; It is therefore essential to continue and consolidate this work. A way to further increase the member organisations' capacities would be to assist them in improving their internal governance practices and to provide training in this field. This new avenue, which has emerged as a lesson learned from previous experience, will allow organisations to deal with issues related to freedom of association from a better outset, while also contributing to their greater involvement and better ownership of the work done by EMHRN in the field freedom of association in the future.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of the EU Commission, DANIDA SIDA for the work in 2008 and 2009.*

2.2.2. The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary

Objectives

The human rights framework of this activity is the establishment of an independent and impartial judiciary in the South and East Mediterranean region based on international human rights standards.

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

The **short term objective** over the next two years is to develop spaces for free debate between key actors concerning the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in order to support processes and initiatives towards reform.

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 according to Work Programme

- Organising a seminar on the judiciary in Egypt (like the ones organised in Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia) aiming at stimulating debate on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and promoting the drafting of a national report on this question.
- Organising follow-up seminars in the target countries aimed at presenting the national reports and recommendations for reform.
- Promoting and supporting the efforts to establish a regional 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 said Union.
- Conducting regional working group meetings on the judiciary twice a year (back to back to the national seminars) aimed at ensuring coordination by stakeholders of the above process, developing synergies between the various activities and enabling civil society response to developments in the field of justice.
- A task of the Working group will be to re-launch the idea of creating a pool of trial observation teams that will monitor trials that are emblematic for the situation of the judiciaries in the region. Trial missions will have an important function as a protection mechanism, as stimulating debates about the judiciaries and building civil society capacity to monitor the judiciaries.

Planned output 2008-2009: 1 national seminar; 5 national follow-up seminars, 4 working group meetings, 8 press conferences, 20 networking and advocacy trips, webpage development on the judiciary

Output 2008

- *Justice working group meeting held in Brussels and in Istanbul*
- *Regional seminar on the independence of the Judiciary in the EuroMed region held in the European Parliament*
- *Launch of national report on the independence of the Judiciary in Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia at regional seminar in the European Parliament and afterwards widely disseminated*
- *Launch of Report on regional Judiciary reform initiatives in the European Parliament and afterwards widely disseminated*
- *Lawyers hired in Lebanon to draft a national report*
- *National meeting held in Morocco on the recommendations of the EMHRN report in the independence of the judiciary in Morocco*
- *Meetings organised with Turkish NGOs to discuss the question of the judiciary in Turkey and in the EuroMed region*

- Mission organised to Syria in relation to the trial against the authors of the Damascus Declaration and to Tunisia in relation to the trials concerning the upheavals in the Gafsa region
- 7 statements issued in relation to unfair trials in the region
- Cooperation established with the FIDH regarding plans to support the establishing of an Arab Union of Judges

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 early 2009, and met in Paris in June 2009 and 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 FIDH and ICJ in the field of judicial reform was reinforced and led to a joint conference held in Morocco in January 2010.

Activities 2009

- Following a call for participations launched in January 2009, the Justice Working Group was re-established early 2009. The final list of members was ready by March 2009 and the first meeting took place in June 2009, see below.
- A follow-up seminar on the Jordanian judiciary was held in Amman on 30-31 January. Over 60 participants attended the seminar co-organised with the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS). Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Justice, other Jordanian judicial institutions (judicial training institute, various courts, etc), numerous judges, lawyers and representatives of local and international organisations, as well as representatives of 5 EU Member States and the EC Delegation. The seminar was divided into three parts:
 - presentation and discussion of the conclusions of the 2008 EMHRN report on Jordan;
 - discussion, in workshops and plenary, of the recommendations included in the report;
 - discussion of a strategy for the civil society towards the promotion of these recommendations and justice reforms at large.Based on the outcome of the discussions and the work done in workshops, an updated version of the recommendations was drafted and later circulated amongst the participants and beyond. Minutes of the meeting were drafted and circulated. During the seminar, participants had agreed to join efforts and initiate an advocacy process at national level based on the recommendations included in the report. This initiative, supposed to take place under the lead of ACHRS, led unfortunately to little significant action in the course of 2009 due to lack of concrete leadership. EMHRN is considering sending a mission in 2010 with the aim of identifying one or several organisations able and willing to take this process further.
- In its efforts to promote regional networking of judges, the EMHRN, together with the CIHRS, organised a regional seminar, *Building Bridges Amongst Judges*, in Cairo on 2-3 May 2009. About 60 participants gathered on the first day, and 40 on the second day. Participants included Egyptians judges, lawyers, NGO representatives as well as judges and other experts from other Arab countries (Algeria, Palestine, Lebanon) and from Europe (France, Spain, Italy, Austria). The discussions focused both on the current situation of the Egyptian judiciary and on how to strengthen and sustain the cooperation between judges of the region as well as between judges in the region and in Europe. Faced with the impossibility of establishing a formal regional union of judges, the participants strongly suggested, as a concrete first step,

to set up a virtual network of Arab judges in the form of a website. The EMHRN offered to support and encourage this initiative by providing technical and material support for the website to be established. Steps towards this objective will be made by the EMHRN in the course of the 2010-11 period. Minutes of the Cairo seminar were drafted and circulated.

- The Justice Working Group met on 6-7 June 2009 in Paris. Additionally to a presentation of the methodology to the new WG members, the Working Group looked at the priorities to be followed in the field of the independence of the judiciaries and, in this respect, discussed issues such as updating and following up on the existing reports. In order to increase the level of work and exchanges between members in-between meetings, several sub-groups were formed with the task of preparing concrete proposals to be submitted to the WG before its next meeting, on the following topics: lobbying at national, European and UN level; the need for (or lack of) an annual Justice report and; the WG project of working on the impact of counter-terrorism on the functioning of the judiciaries of the EuroMed region. Finally, a whole session was dedicated to Gender Mainstreaming, facilitated by a member of the EMHRN WG on Gender. Minutes of the WG meeting were drafted and circulated.
- The follow-up seminar on the Lebanese judiciary was held in Beirut on 23-24 October 2009. It gathered about 70 participants, among others Lebanese judges, lawyers, NGO representatives as well representatives of the EU and UN. The Lebanese authors presented the draft EMHRN report on the Lebanese judiciary. The discussions focused primarily on the current situation of the judiciary in Lebanon, including the limited freedom of association of judges as well as on possible initiatives to be undertaken by civil society to promote reforms. The participants set up a follow-up committee to work on the finalisation of the report and propose concrete actions to promote judicial reforms. Minutes of the Lebanon follow-up seminar were drafted and circulated. The EMHRN report was finalised in the following months and launched officially in February 2010, where a delegation made of Lebanese organisations and EMHRN representatives met with Lebanon's Minister of Justice. The publication of the report triggered a debate in the local media on the issue of the independence of the Lebanese judiciary.
- In Egypt, despite the assistance of EMHRN Egyptian member organisations, the process of identifying a suitable and available expert to draft the EMHRN report on the Egyptian judiciary took longer time than expected. The expert, Foutouh El Chazli, was finally hired in autumn 2009 and his first draft was submitted by the end of 2009. Due to the time necessary to comment, edit, finalise and translate the report, the publication of the Egyptian report is only expected to take place mid 2010. As is the case in the other countries, a follow-up seminar will be organised in Egypt in September or October 2010 in order to present the report and discuss its conclusions and recommendations.
- Two Algerian experts (Amine Sidhoum and Madjid Benchikh) were identified in the course of 2009 to draft the EMHRN report on the Algerian judiciary. Following submission of their draft report, the Justice coordinator, together with the coordinator of EMHRN Solidarity programme, went to Algeria on 16-22 December 2009. The aim of the mission was to discuss the content of the report with Algerian lawyers and judges, gather additional information, and look at the possibility of organising a follow-up seminar in Algeria. A mission report was drafted and circulated.
- In the course of 2009, the cooperation initiated with FIDH and ICJ in the field of judicial reforms in the EuroMed region was reinforced with a joint effort undertaken to support advocacy initiatives in Morocco (where several important legislative reforms are in the making). Preparations were made in the second half of 2009 to organise a joint conference on

the judicial reform process in Morocco, as a further step following the EMHRN report and previous seminars. The conference was successfully held on 22-23 January 2010 with a large participation of both Moroccan officials and local society organisations. Minutes of the seminar are currently being drafted and will be circulated soon.

- Discussions about the creation a pool of trial observation teams continued throughout 2009 within the WG although no decision was made at this stage. The Justice Working Group members considered the possibility of increasing its trial observation efforts in the framework of its project on counter-terrorism that it wishes to initiate in 2010-11, and the idea of organising a training in trial observation for the members of the WG was also considered.
- A second meeting of the Justice Working Group, initially planned in November 2009, was eventually held in Rabat, Morocco in January 2010. During this meeting, the members discussed the WG's work programme for 2010 and 2011, including the initial phase of a project on the impact of the fight against terrorism on the judiciaries in the Euro-Med regional as well a project relating to the set up of a judges' virtual network (Internet website, see above).

B. Evaluation – achievement of objective, challenges and possible shortcomings

Despite the difficult political context and the sensitivity of this particular subject, the activities implemented in the period covered were successful. The activities managed to create spaces where key actors of the judiciary in the region were able to – freely – discuss issues related to the judiciaries in the region and their limited independence, and offered a free space to exchange ideas and proposals for future reforms. In particular, the regional meetings (Brussels, Cairo) and the national meetings (Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon) allowed for the main actors – especially judges and lawyers – to exchange and debate the current state of justice in the countries in the region as well as the needs for real judicial reforms. For that purpose they used EMHRN's Justice Reports, drafted with the contribution of civil society in the countries concerned, which proved to be extremely useful. In this respect the short term objective set for EMHRN's Justice programme in the two years covered was achieved, as spaces for free debate were either opened (seminars on the network of judges) or sustained (Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, etc.).

One of the main challenges faced during the project implementation is the difficulty of engaging with judges in the South-Mediterranean countries. In these countries, judges are usually prohibited to participate in initiatives of this nature without being appointed or at least authorised by their respective Ministry. Additionally, with the exception of Egypt and Palestine, judges' associations are either prohibited (Lebanon, Jordan) or under the control of the state (Morocco, Algeria, Syria) and therefore judges cannot rely on the protection of strong professional bodies should they wish to take a public stand. This situation had a clear impact on the project: in some cases, judges who had been invited to attend a EMHRN regional meeting abroad were not authorised to travel (Tunisia); in other cases the number of judges attending EMHRN meetings was lower than expected as many of them either did not receive the authorisation requested or preferred not taking any risks. To overcome this challenge, the EMHRN has, firstly, worked in each country with a (small) number of courageous judges who are not afraid to speak up and express their views publicly in an attempt to show other judges that this was indeed possible; secondly, the EMHRN has invested efforts in discussing and promoting the issue of free association for judges as a way to strengthen – in the long term – the role of the judges and their ability to act collectively. When doing so, it has systematically associated European judges to these efforts as a way to break the international isolation faced by judges in the region.

While the project has met its immediate objectives, it should be noted, however, that it was less successful in ensuring optimal impact of the publications and follow-up to its meetings. One of the main reasons for this is the very limited capacity of the local members; following the meetings organised within the framework of the EMHRN project, it was difficult to take the issue even further, such as establishing or coordinating coalitions or groups of organisations. Examples of this include Jordan and Lebanon. The lesson learned from this experience is that, in the future, there is a need to focus more directly on the follow-up activities in the countries where the report is published and the meeting organised and to increase the capacities of the existing partners and/or if necessary, identifying new partners (as EMHRN is in the process of doing in Jordan).

The general objective of consolidating networks and groups of actors with capacity to influence the judiciaries towards reform was therefore only partially achieved, as explained above. At regional level, the discussions initiated at the Cairo meeting around the issue of regional networks of judges are a very important and innovative step towards this overall objective. A lesson learned from the past period is the crucial need to actively support regional networking amongst judges, as a tool to break isolation, increase solidarity amongst and with judges and strengthen judges' involvement in the debates on justice with the aim to promote reforms. It is too early to assess if and when this will lead to concrete outcomes in form of actual networks or unions of judges, but past initiatives in this field, including the idea of a virtual regional network (via a website), should be pursued. The EMHRN Justice Working Group succeeded in establishing itself as a regional actor in the field of justice reform, but its impact is still to be accordingly defined. The work done within the Working Group made it possible to increase the skills of some of its members while creating a sense of ownership of the project and its activities, which is however still to be developed. One of the challenges faced in this regard has been the limited involvement of the WG members in issues not directly related to their respective countries – thus weakening the regional impact of the group. In order to overcome this, the Justice WG will, in the next period, have an increased focus on trial observation, as a way to strengthen solidarity with judges and lawyers in danger and will simultaneously increase the involvement of WG members. Similarly, it will also work on the issue of the anti-terrorism legislations and practices which is in close continuation with its previous activities. This issue is also extremely relevant to the debate on security versus human rights, which is significant on both sides of the Mediterranean and is therefore a proper way to involve all members, from both the North and the South. At national level, the project has been instrumental in creating and supporting a coalition of Moroccan organisations advocating jointly for judicial reforms which has been and still remains very active. In other countries (notably Jordan) results have proved to be less convincing in particular due to the limited capacities in the field to sustain such initiatives. This challenge – which might also exist in the case of Algeria – will require additional capacity building that will be carried out through participation of the WGs and training organised in this framework and, if needed, by identifying additional partners.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA and SIDA, the Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the French Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs to its work on justice in 2008 and 2009.*

2.2.3. Women's Rights and Gender Mainstreaming

Objectives

The **human rights framework** of this activity is the full implementation of human rights values and international standards relating to women's rights and the achievement of gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region so that men and women can enjoy equal human rights and participate on equal terms in the development of their societies.

The **general objective** is that key networks and groups of actors in the EuroMed region effectively support the process of achieving gender equality within the context of the EuroMed region and integrate gender mainstreaming into their work.

The **short term** objectives are to:

- Enhance knowledge of gender mainstreaming and the capacity of NGOs to integrate it into daily work;
- Strengthen cooperation between women's rights and human rights organisations and networks to promote gender equality within their organisations
- 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.

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 according to Work Programme

Strengthen networking and gender mainstreaming by conducting bi-annual working group meetings with the participation of the main networks on gender issues and women's rights in order to discuss, monitor and implement the following:

- Promoting gender mainstreaming and in this regard conducting training courses for human rights and civil society organisations
- Conducting gender mainstreaming within the EMHRN organisations and executive bodies
- Supporting 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 European Neighbourhood Policy and other governmental policies relevant for the region. Monitoring should in particular target the Action Plan on 'Strengthening the Role of Women in Society', adopted by the EuroMed Partners in Istanbul, November 2006. In this regard the EMHRN aims at contributing actively to the agenda of the 2009 EuroMed Follow-up Conference to the Istanbul meeting.
- Maintaining and EMHRN antenna in Jordan to deal with gender issue in the EuroMed region.

Output 2008-2009: 4 training seminars, 4 working group meetings, 2 monitoring reports, 20 advocacy and networking travels, 8 press conferences, EMHRN webpage development on gender and women's rights

Output 2008

- *Working group meetings held in Cairo and in Brussels*
- *Awareness raising meetings on the Istanbul action plan organised in Cairo with Egyptian NGOs and European officials*
- *A coordination meeting on the Istanbul action plan with European NGOs was organised in Brussels*
- *The Gender mainstreaming kit published*
- *Participation in two follow-up meetings to the Istanbul Action Plan organised by the European Commission*
- *Research on Violence against women in migration finalised (in cooperation with the Migration working group)*
- *Gender mainstreaming of EMHRN report on Freedom of association, statutes and by-laws promoted*
- *Conducting the first gender mainstreaming course for member organisation in Amman*
- *Preparation of awareness raising meeting on Istanbul Action Plan in Jordan in cooperation with the EU delegation*
- *Finalising of the first gender audit of the EMHRN.*

Output 2009

- 2 Working group meetings held in Stockholm and in Istanbul
- 7 National awareness raising seminars/coordination meetings on Istanbul Action Plan (IPA) (Jordan, Lebanon, Sweden, Egypt, Morocco, Denmark)
- Shadow Report on Istanbul Plan Action published in English, Arabic, and French.
- 5 advocacy meetings on the IPA 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 <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 CEDAW, and EU-Lebanon Association Council.
- Participation in 7 meetings/seminars/conferences on gender equality, IPA and women's rights

Activities 2009

- The EMHRN Amman Office was legally registered in Jordan according to the Association Law number (51) year 2008, under number 30 /1030 dated 28/9/2009.
- The two Gender Working Group meetings took place in Stockholm on 10-11 May and in Istanbul 24 October. The first meeting focused on preparing a strategy for IPA in light of the upcoming ministerial conference, and discussed the draft shadow report. It also approved the ToR of the GWG and decided to prepare a policy paper on gender mainstreaming. The second meeting focused on the preparation of the EMHRN seminar: 'From Plan of Action to Action?'
- Seven national awareness raising seminars/coordination meetings on Istanbul Action Plan were organised in Amman (14 February) and Jerash (27 June), Beirut (27 March), Alexandria (14-15 June), Stockholm (12 May), Rabat (24 July), and Copenhagen (3 October). The meetings were organised by the EMHRN and its local member organisations and partners and introduced the IPA and discussed with local NGOs what they could do to use the IPA as a mechanism for gender equality promotion especially in the light of the upcoming Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, taking place in Marrakesh 11-12 November 2009. In Jordan and Morocco follow-up groups were established to follow the process and coordinate lobbying towards the government. In Sweden there was media coverage of the event. (<http://sverigesradio.se/webbradio/?Type=db&Id=1742734>)
- The Shadow Report on the implementation of Istanbul Plan of Action was drafted in the span of 2009. It was broadly consulted with EMHRN members and key women's rights organisations in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Algeria and Europe. It was officially launched at the regional conference in Istanbul 24-25 October.
- The five advocacy meetings on the IPA took place in Stockholm (12 May), Cairo (16 June), Brussels (1-4 August), Rabat (23 July), Copenhagen (3 October). In Sweden an EMHRN delegation met with the Swedish Minister of Equality and Integration, as well as with parliamentarians and other officials. In Cairo, meetings were held with the League of Arab States. In Brussels, meetings were held with members of the Council of Europe, the European

Commission as well as Parliamentary Committees. In Morocco, the delegation met with the Minister of Social Affairs and the Family, responsible for the organisation of the EuroMed ministerial conference from Morocco. In Denmark, meetings were held with parliamentarians, representatives of the Department of Equality as well as the representatives at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs involved in the EuroMed process.

- A Regional Conference entitled "Gender Equality in the Euro-Med Region: From Plan of Action to Action?" was organised in Istanbul 24-25 October. The EMHRN, the Turkish Human Rights Association (IHD) and the EuroMed NGO Platform gathered 120 representatives of independent civil society, women's rights and human rights organisations from the Mediterranean and European countries to jointly make recommendations to the EuroMed Ministerial meeting on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society" as well as to discuss strengthening civil society cooperation on gender equality. The conference offered important networking opportunities with key women's rights and gender equality umbrellas, networks and other stakeholders. The Shadow Report was distributed widely at the Conference.
- The EMHRN participated in the Second Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in the Society in Marrakech, 11-12 November, as part of the Euro-Med NGOs Platform delegation. The Shadow Report on the implementation of the Istanbul Plan of Action and recommendations of the Conference "Gender Equality in the Euro-Med Region: From Plan of Action to Action?" were widely distributed to the governmental delegations participating in the ministerial conference.
- The EMHRN set up a sub-website on gender issues, gathering information on the Istanbul Framework of Action in particular, ensuring that important documents are available in English, French and Arabic: <http://gender.euromedrights.net>
- In relation to training, efforts were made primarily regarding the gender mainstreaming of the WGs. Sawsan Zaher from the GWG gave training on how to integrate gender into justice work at the Justice WG meeting in Paris in June, presenting the EMHRN Gender Mainstreaming Reference Kit. The GWG also commented on the indicators for the 3rd Review report on Freedom of Association. In order to ensure synergies between the Migration and gender projects, Christina Kaili participated in the Migration WG meeting held in Cyprus on October 30th. Before engaging in "external" training, it was felt that the GWG needed a Gender Mainstreaming Policy Paper, the GMRK translated into French as well as more internal training within the Working Groups of the EMHRN. Two external GM trainings have been planned for 2010.
- In relation to support of regional campaigns, the EMHRN invited the "Equality without reservations", the Egyptian NGO coalition on lifting reservations to CEDAW, as well as the nationality and heritage campaigns to participate in the conference in Istanbul. The coordinator also participated in the 2nd Regional Seminar on Lifting the Reservations to CEDAW organised in Amman on 28 May by the Regional Coalition "Equality without reservations".
- In relation to participation in important meetings on gender equality, the EMHRN gave a presentation on "Improving Women's Lives in the Mediterranean" at the seminar on "EU External Co-operation in Action" in Brussels on January 19-21, 2009. The coordinator also spoke at the International Conference "Gender Perspectives and Gender Indicators" on the EU Gender Policies in an International Context, held in the European Academy Berlin (EAB) , Berlin on 2-3 July. A meeting on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society" was organised

in Amman on 1 November attended by high officials, including the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Minister of political development, Minister of social development, EU Ambassador to Jordan, and the French and the Swedish Ambassadors to Jordan. An important output was the decision to establish a permanent committee on the IPA, most probably consisting of government and non-government representatives. News about the seminar was published in the Al Rai at http://www.alrai.com/pages.php?news_id=255794. On 8 November, the coordinator attended a meeting organised by the Equality Network (Musawa) in Jordan, with 30 participants which included a WG on the IPA. On 7-9 December, the coordinator participated in the Conference on "Collective Work in the Field of Women's Rights - Concepts, Contexts, Challenges" organised by GTZ Egypt in Cairo.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objective, challenges and possible shortcomings

The two-stringed approach adopted by the Gender Working Group, i.e. 1) promoting gender mainstreaming within the EMHRN and its member organizations and 2) exerting influence on the regional political agenda with regard to gender equality, proved successful. The short term objectives were achieved – although to various degrees: the knowledge of gender mainstreaming and the capacity of NGOs to do gender mainstreaming were increased through active participation to the Gender Working Group's meetings, training and activities in addition to the participation of the gender working members in other WG meetings and activities that was dedicated to enhancing knowledge of gender mainstreaming. In this first phase, however, the focus was mostly directed towards WG members in order to ensure a high level of knowledge and the strong capacities within the Working Group; addressing the whole EMHRN membership will be at the core of the next phase, for which the Gender Working Group will be instrumental. Simultaneously, considerable work and efforts were invested in the monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Plan of Action (shadow report, meetings and conferences, advocacy missions, etc.), leading to a higher level of awareness in this regard. The Shadow Report provided updated critical documentation about gender discrimination in the Mediterranean countries and general trends in Europe giving examples from Sweden, France and Poland. Hence, it increased awareness about gender discrimination in the EuroMed Region. The EMHRN succeeded in strengthening cooperation between women's rights and human rights organizations through leading the establishment of a broad coalition working on the Istanbul Plan of Action for Strengthening the Role of Women in Society who participated in the 2009 follow-up conference. Furthermore, these organizations participated in broad consultations contributing to the shadow report. The EMHRN succeeded in supporting the process of achieving gender equality within the EuroMed region and in particular in the med region through being a key player in debates and policy processes on gender equality in the region, voicing the common concerns of women in Arab countries. The EMHRN strongly influenced the second Euro Med ministerial conference whose output the "Marrakech Conclusions 2009" included many of the recommendations of the shadow report.

One of the difficulties faced in the process was the perception that the regional action undertaken under the EMHRN Gender programme was not sufficiently linked to initiatives at national level - with a risk of losing the interest of member organisations. To deal with this, it was decided to link regional action and national initiatives more that was the case in the past, in particular by including in EMHRN future work an active support and participation to national campaigns related to gender equality.

At the end of the period covered, it is fair to say that the activities implemented are positive steps towards the project's general objective of having key networks and groups of actors in the EuroMed region effectively supporting the process of achieving gender equality within the context

of the EuroMed region and integrating gender mainstreaming into their work. The activities carried out have led to an increased awareness on gender equality issues (and on some of the instruments available to achieve equality such as the Istanbul Plan of Action) amongst civil society organisations in the region, including EMHRN member organisations. The objective of integrating gender mainstreaming into their work, however, is still in its early stage and will require extensive and sustained work in the coming years.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA, SIDA and the Heinrich Böll Foundation to its work on gender and women's rights in 2008 and 2009.*

2.2.4. Human Rights Education

Objectives

The **human rights framework** of this project is to ensure the dissemination of human rights values to new generations in the EuroMed region through educational activities.

The **general objective** is to strengthen human rights NGO networking in the field of education and to promote the role of young people within the mainstream human rights movement.

The **short term objective** is to:

- Organise annual Summer Schools on educational methodologies aimed at human rights teaching and training for young human rights activists as a joint project of NGOs working on human rights education
- Increase networking among young people dealing with human rights
- Increase networking among human rights NGOs dealing with HRE in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 according to Work Programme

The EMHRN wishes to organise:

- Bi-annual regional working group meetings aimed at:
 - Preparing the annual Summer School for young people engaged in human rights,
 - Discussing and exchanging educational methodologies
 - Supporting campaigns and initiatives of civil society in the region
 - Facilitating the development of alumni networks

The Summer School will be planned by the members of the EMHRN HRE WG. The planning necessitates exchange and debates on HRE methodologies between the participating organisations. Hence the Summer Schools and the WG meetings are testing grounds for networking and developing of educational methodologies. These will be made publicly available on the EMHRN's website in the form of Resources.

In addition the EMHRN wishes to support networking between the members of the Alumni network by facilitating contacts and exchanges and occasional meetings.

Output 2008-2009: 2 Summer Schools, 4 working group meetings, 4 resources/reports, 20 networking and advocacy travels, EMHRN web development on human rights education.

Output 2008

- *WG meetings held in respectively Istanbul and Madrid*

- *Encounters with human rights NGOs dealing with human rights education in Istanbul and in Madrid*
- *Coordinating meeting of NGOs organising Summer Schools in the EuroMed region*
- *Preparation of the third EMHRN Summer School in Istanbul initiated in cooperation with Turkish NGOs*
- *Report from the second Summer School finalised*
- *Report about NGO work on HRE in the EuroMed finalised*
- *Resource book on human rights education methodologies finalised*

Output 2009

- *A second Resource Book from the Summer School in Turkey in 2008 was initiated, and is to be completed in 2010*
- *Due to funding constraints, it was decided to put the HRE project on hold when the HRE coordinator resigned in March, until funding was again secured*
- *The Report from the 2008 Summer School in Turkey was published on the EMHRN website in September*

Activities 2009

- During the EMHRN GA in Barcelona in December 2008, a workshop on HRE was organised. Colm Regan, the political referent of the WG until January 2009, introduced the publication HRE in the EuroMed Region: Issues and Challenges, and Mohammed Zeidan from Arab Human Rights Association in Nazareth, gave a presentation of the challenges faced by his organisation when working on HRE. Both presentations were a basis for the discussions on how to advance HRE in the EuroMed region. The Workshop on HRE gathered 40 participants, amongst them EMHRN members and Catalan NGOs working with youth and education.
- A wall painting (a Mural) symbolising the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), the 10th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (HRD), and the gathering of more than 100 human rights activists from the Euro-Mediterranean region for the EMHRN GA was produced during the GA. The members of the GA were invited to engage with the production of the mural through conversations with the artists as well as through a book where comments were welcomed. The artwork was presented to the GA through a performance of the artists. The artwork was led by Colm Regan and an art director working with 6 young human rights activists (3 Irish, 2 young people from Barcelona and an EMHRN member from Palestine/Israel). The Mural has been left to the Office for the Promotion of Peace and Human Rights of Catalonia who informed the EMHRN that the Catalane Federation of Human Rights NGOs would be interested in exhibiting the Mural in their offices.
- In August, Danial Saoud, who is both an EC member and has been the political referent for the HRE WG since January 2009, submitted a proposal to reactivate the HRE WG online. It was later discussed by the EC members during their first 2010 meetings.
- In September, the report from the EMHRN HRE summer school in Turkey, 2008 was published on the EMHRN website (in English).
(http://en.euromedrights.org/index.php/about_the_network/working_groups/human_rights_education_youth/3027.html)
- A draft vacancy for a position of Human Rights Education coordinator is in the process of being discussed with regards to content and location by the management with the aim of preparing for an EC discussion.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objective, challenges and possible shortcomings

As the project was put on hold during 2009 following the departure of the HRE coordinator, the short term objectives for 2008-2009 were only partially met. A Summer School was successfully organised in Turkey in 2008, but there has been little follow-up since, except for the publication of the second Resource Book (early 2010). Networking and diffusion of knowledge has potentially increased with the help of the first Resource Book published in 2008 and other activities (Working Group meetings in 2008, workshop in 2009), but the extent and impact of this increase are difficult to define as of yet.

Overall, the HRE Working Group has been an effective forum for the exchange of methodologies and experiences across the region, but it was not entirely successful in bringing NGOs (that are active in the field of HRE in the EuroMed region) together to discuss the challenges they face and their response to these. Learning lessons from past experiences, the EMHRN intends, while capitalising on the previous results, to henceforth focus mainly on the exchange of skills and experiences amongst HRE NGOs in the region with the aim of identifying common responses and strategies. The basis for this approach will include the above-mentioned 2008 EMHRN report analysing HRE initiatives in the non-formal sector in the EuroMed region as well as a study (to be produced) on HRE provided in the formal sector. It is expected that the strategies on HRE that will be defined will include orientation and guidelines for the next EMHRN Summer School.

➤ *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA and SIDA to its work in 2008 and 2009.*

2.3. Human Rights and the Security of Human Beings

The overall objective of these activities is to contribute to setting human rights at the heart of developments and conflicts in the region where human beings' security are at risk. The aim is to develop strategic interventions in this regard while increasing EMHRN's members' capacity through networking activities.

2.3.1. Palestine, Israel and Palestinians

Objectives

The **human rights framework** of the project is the full implementation of international human rights standards and international humanitarian law relating to conflict prevention, management and resolution concerning the Middle East conflict and Israeli occupation.

The **general objective** is 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** is to further develop the activities of the EMHRN WG on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (consisting of Israeli, Palestinian, European and Arab NGOs) to become a key critical human rights advocacy forum on EU policies pertaining to Israel and Palestine.

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 according to Work Programme

The activity consists in consolidating and developing current activity and involves:

- Working group meetings strengthening the capacity of the Working group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians to become a key vehicle advocating for a human rights approach to the conflict and to occupation.

- Researching and publicising an Annual Human Rights Review on the relations between the EU, Israel and Palestine dealing with the main development in the human rights situation in the OPT and inside Israel; How the EU (EP, Commission and Council plus member states) deals with and reacts to these developments; A critical analysis of whether the EU complies with its obligations according to its own treaties, international law and EU Guide Lines on Human Rights
- Developing the capacity of participating organisations and individuals involved in the project to advocate within the framework of the EMP and ENP and to find their way within the EU institutions and its policies
- Advocating for the recommendations in relation to the EU institutions and individual members states and raising awareness about the centrality of human rights in solving the conflict and ending occupation
- This core activity will be supplemented by missions when deemed relevant and support members' activities high-lighting the role of human rights in peace building.

Output 2008-2009: 4 Working group meetings, 1 annual report, 30 mission and advocacy travels, EMHRN web development on human rights in the Middle East conflict

Output 2008

- *2 WG meetings in Brussels and one ad hoc meeting in Jerusalem*
- *Employment of a coordinator on Israel, Palestine and Palestinians based in Brussels*
- *One mission to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza*
- *Advocacy meetings between EMHRN members in Israel and Palestine and representatives of the EU institutions organised in Brussels, Paris, Barcelona and Madrid*
- *13 EMHRN statements, policy briefs related to the situation in Israel and the OPT, as well as meetings between the EU and Israel.*

Output 2009

- *2 WG meetings in East-Jerusalem and in Madrid*
- *One report on 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 with the follow-up on the Goldstone report.*
- *Advocacy (publication of notes on HR 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*
- *20 statements or press releases (either by the EMHRN or jointly with other organisations)*

Activities 2009

- Internal networking: 2 PIP WG meetings took place in 2009:
 - On 1-4 April, the WG met in East-Jerusalem following Israel's refusal to deliver permits to enter the Gaza Strip where it was initially planned. During the meeting, the members discussed the first draft of the Gaza report, including the recommendations and its launch (see below), as well as ways to improve their overall advocacy strategy. A committee was set up to revise the mandate of the PIP WG. The WG meeting was followed by advocacy meetings on 3 April with the embassies of the Czech Republic, Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands, and with the European Commission delegation. On 4-5 April, the members took part in field visits in the North of the West Bank and in East-Jerusalem. Gaza members of the WG were not allowed to attend the meeting.

- On 16-18 October, a second WG meeting took place in Madrid. At this occasion, WG members met with representatives of the Spanish NGOs, trade unions and think tanks in order to define an effective strategy regarding EU-Israel relations. Furthermore, the participants discussed the future work of the WG and made suggestions in order to strengthen their advocacy capacities, with a particular attention to the Gaza situation and the follow-up to the UN Goldstone Report. Finally, the members discussed the reports to be published by the WG in 2010 both as to their format (should be shorter and more user-friendly) and their content (proposal was made to publish 2 advocacy reports in 2010, one on EU practice regarding the ME Peace Process and the human rights situation on the ground, the other regarding the Arab Minority in EU-Israel's relations). Again, Gaza members were not able to participate in the WG meeting.
- External networking: Outreach
 - In the course of 2009, the WG strengthened its relations with European NGOs through the meeting held in Madrid and the advocacy mission in the Czech Republic, Denmark and Sweden. Over the last months/years, the coordinator has been in contact with several organisations including Diakonia (Sweden), the Spanish Platform of NGOs for Palestine (Spain) and the Czech section of Amnesty on a regular basis.
 - Through its Brussels-based coordinator, the PIP WG has been actively involved in joint advocacy activities and information sharing among INGOs in Brussels. These include AI-EU office, Oxfam International, Aprodev, Cidse, FIDH, HRW and Save the Children.
 - The coordinator also established increased links with local Israeli and Palestinian organisations, non-members of the PIP WG during her visits in Israel/OPT or during trainings organised with Aprodev and Christian Aid in November 2009. Several organisations contacted the coordinator for information on the EU and advice regarding advocacy.
 - PIP WG's 2009 report and documents were widely disseminated among NGOs in Europe, Israel and Palestine increasing their capacity and contributing to the dissemination of the EMHRN's recommendations.
- EMHRN report : *Active but Acquiescent: EU's response to the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip*
 - In line with its practice to publish annual reports reviewing EU's policies towards Israel in a HR perspective, the PIP WG commissioned a research analysing EU's policies before, during and after the Operation Cast Lead in Gaza. The report's aim was to provide tools to civil society organisations in Europe, Israel and the OPT to advocate for the EU's and its Member States' responsibility in ensuring respect for international law. Two researchers, Nathalie Tocci and Théo Boutruche, were hired and their initial draft was discussed at the WG meeting in Jerusalem in April. The draft was also discussed with 16 Israeli and Palestinian civil society organisations as well as with a UN representative during a meeting in East-Jerusalem. The final report was published in English and its executive summary was translated into French, Arabic, Hebrew, German, Greek, Spanish, Danish and Swedish. The report was officially launched in Brussels on 14 May during a public event followed by a press conference. A EMHRN delegation also presented the outcomes and recommendations of the report to the European Commission and to the Swedish and Spanish representations to the EU. With the support of EMHRN local member organisations, the report was launched in Israel and the OPT on 27-28 May, and presented during a meeting with the EU Mission in Israel attended by representatives of the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands and Finland. The report was also presented to approximately 10 EU missions in the OPT, several Palestinian NGOs and local journalists and to an Arab member of the Knesset. Once released, the report became the main tool of

the advocacy efforts undertaken by the PIP WG in Brussels and in EU capitals (see below). Almost all 400 copies have been distributed to EU and Member States officials and to civil society organisations.

- Advocacy Brussels:
 - In the course of 2009, the PIP WG coordinator worked closely on EU advocacy with the representatives of Israeli and Palestinian NGOs in Europe (some of them newly established in Brussels), strengthening the relations also with the Israeli organisations non-members of the WG.
 - In 2009, the coordinator continued to cooperate closely with international organisations represented in Brussels, mainly through the informal coalition of development, humanitarian and human rights NGOs coordinated by Crisis Action since mid-2008.
 - In 2009, the EMHRN published numerous statements either on its own or jointly with other international organisations, including Amnesty International, FIDH, Aprovech, Cidse and Oxfam
- Advocacy in relation to Israel's Operation Cast Lead of December 2008: the EMHRN took several actions calling on the EU to put pressure on Israel to end its offensive and ensure accountability for the crimes committed on both Israeli and Palestinian sides:
 - During the offensive, the EMHRN sent out 3 joint press releases with other INGOs and created a special page on its website with updated information from EMHRN members on the Gaza conflict.
 - Just after the ceasefire, the EMHRN, FIDH and ICJ deployed a joint mission in Israel, the OPT and Egypt from 17 to 20 January 2009. The mission, composed of prominent human rights defenders and activists from Europe and USA, met with local Israeli and Palestinian HR organisations and institutions, several EU representatives, etc. After the mission, a statement was released and advocacy activities were organised by the mission participants in their respective countries. A press conference was also organised in Cairo on 20 January and Brussels on 22 January 2008.
 - After Operation Cast Lead, the EMHRN PIP WG has closely been following the issue of accountability for the violations and crimes committed during Operation Caste Lead. The coordinator participated with other INGOs to a briefing on Gaza held by the Czech Presidency on January 19. On 22 January, EMHRN and FIDH organised a joint advocacy mission which included a public intervention before the European Parliament's Human Rights Subcommittee followed by meetings with the EU institutions. On 11 February, the EMHRN, FIDH and AI sent a letter to the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs to express their disappointment at the EU's failure to take the lead in calling for an impartial investigation into alleged war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law committed during Operation Cast Lead. On 21 September, following the presentation of the UN Fact Finding Mission report on Gaza ("Goldstone Report"), the EMHRN released a press release calling on the EU and its Member States to support the report and its recommendations. On 2 November, the EMHRN and FIDH issued a statement calling on the EU to endorse the Goldstone Report at the meeting of the UN General Assembly on 4 November. On 10-11 December, a PIP Working Group delegation met with Ireland, Malta and the United Kingdom's permanent representations in Brussels and with the Socialist and the Green Parties in the European Parliament to discuss the follow-up done by the EU on the Goldstone Report. On 15 December, the EMHRN held a press conference in Brussels on the blockade of the Gaza Strip, the lack of accountability for the crimes committed during the period of the offensive and the EU continued policy of acquiescing Israel's violations of human rights (cf. EMHRN Report '*Active but Acquiescent*'). From 18 to 20 November, a delegation of EMHRN, Aprovech, Cidse and Crisis Action went to Gaza, where they met with

PCHR, Al-Mezan Center for HR and OCHA and were briefed about the economic impact of the Israeli offensive and the continued closure. By the end of 2009, the EMHRN took the lead for the coordination of advocacy in Europe on this issue. In December, the coordinator set up a coordination meeting of international NGOs based in Brussels, with the participation of al-Haq and B'Tselem, to discuss advocacy opportunities and strategies in Europe. Following this meeting, the coordinator drafted an EU advocacy briefing for NGOs. These advocacy and coordination work continues in 2010.

- Advocacy missions to EU capitals:
 - A PIP delegation visited the Czech Republic on February 18-19: the mission, co-organised with the local section of AI, included several meetings including with the Foreign Affairs Minister and a public event at Charles University.
 - From March 9 to 11, a PIP delegation visited Denmark and met with MPs and representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and participated in two public debates.
 - From 8 to 10 June, a PIP delegation went to Sweden (next EU Presidency) where it met with several governmental officials, participated in a public meeting in Parliament and held a press conference. The mission included also a meeting with local Swedish organisations in order to exchange and find common grounds of work under the Swedish Presidency.
 - On October 19-21, a PIP delegation went to Spain (next EU Presidency) and met with representatives of the Spanish government and the Spanish Congress. A press conference was organised followed by a public event in the Congress, in cooperation with the Intergroup for Palestine in the Spanish Congress.
- Advocacy in relation with EU political and human rights dialogue with Israel and the Palestinian Authority:
 - The PIP coordinator and other members of the PIP Working Group participated in a series of advocacy meetings, with other Brussels-based organisations, ahead of the EU-Israel Association Council meeting. On 9 May, the organisations met with the Council and the Permanent representation of Sweden, Czech Republic, UK, Ireland, France and Spain. From 25 to 28 May, they met with the Permanent representation of Sweden, Austria, Poland, Hungary and Portugal, the cabinet of Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner and the European Commission DG Relex. The EMHRN issued a press release ahead of the EU-Israel Association Council meeting that took place on 15 June.
 - In view of the meeting of the EU-Israel informal human rights working group on 3 September, the PIP working group drafted a note on the human rights violations committed by Israel in the OPT and inside Israel. The concerns raised in the note were then presented during a consultation meeting with NGOs organised by the European Commission in Brussels on 26 August.
 - In view of the EU-PA Joint Committee meeting of 24 June 2009, the EMHRN drafted a note on the human rights violations committed by the Palestinian Authority, which was addressed to the EU Troika attending the meeting. An updated version of the note complemented by a new paragraph on gender issues in the OPT was sent to the EU before the meeting of the EU-PA Political dialogue committee on 28 September. These letters raise concerns regarding freedom of association, gender discrimination, death penalty, detention, torture and ill-treatment as well as freedom of expression. This note was updated in view of the EU-PA Political Dialogue in September 2009.
- Training: 3 trainings were organised for Israeli and Palestinian human rights organisations, 2 of which were specifically dedicated to the members of the PIP WG:

- During the WG meeting in East-Jerusalem (1-4 April) WG members were informed and oriented about Israeli violations in East Jerusalem by the director of the Palestinian Mapping Centre, which was followed by a tour in East-Jerusalem organised by B'Tselem.
- During the WG meeting in Madrid (16-18 October), a specific session was dedicated to the issue of third state responsibility with the contribution of 3 experts.
- On 16-17 November, EMHRN, Aprodev and Christian Aid jointly organised a workshop on EU advocacy in Talitha Kumi, West Bank, which followed previous workshops organised by Christian Aid in 2008 and by the EMHRN in 2007. The workshop was attended by 13 Israeli and Palestinian NGOs, as well as 6 European NGOs. Its aims were to reach a comprehensive picture of the European Union as an international actor in its political and legal components; to understand how the interests of NGOs can match those of EU policy-makers; to investigate scope for joint advocacy work between Aprodev, EMHRN and Israeli and Palestinian organisations and; strengthen organisations' skills and capacities through joint work on specific campaigns. A report of the training was distributed to the members of the workshop as well as to all members of the PIP WG.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objective, challenges and possible shortcomings

The short term objective for EMHRN work on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians, which is to further develop the activities of the Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (PIP) Working Group to become a key critical human rights advocacy forum on EU policies pertaining to Israel and Palestine, has been met. This has been done through close monitoring of EU relations with Israel and Palestinian authority, discussing the advancement of Israel within the ENP, meetings with EMHRN members and EU representatives, reaching out to civil society at large, advocacy missions, publishing notes and a report, as well as issuing press releases. Furthermore, the EMHRN took the lead in coordinating and supporting the NGO follow-up on the Goldstone Report, in particular through the drafting of advocacy strategy papers. During 2009 the EMHRN has also increasingly become a focal point for expertise on EU-Israel relations, and the EMHRN coordinator is regularly contacted by NGOs in Europe and in Israel/OPT.

One main problem faced during the period covered was the fact that European members of the PIP Working Group are not as active as the Palestinian and Israeli members, and they do very little or no advocacy in their own country (disseminating EMHRN statement and report, etc.). This issue was taken up internally and discussed with the WG members and the recommendations were to strengthen the capacity of the European members, e.g. by organising missions within their respective countries (Spain, Denmark) and training for European members (specific training on EU advocacy planned in 2011), to respond more to their needs, e.g. by setting up a database with advocacy material (launch Autumn 2010), and to increase the exchange of experiences/practices with them. Another important problem was the ban on travel imposed on PIP WG members from Gaza which has had a strong impact on the work of the WG and the networking among members, and has increased the pressure on al-Haq, the only Palestinian organisation member of the EMHRN which is allowed to travel. To deal with this obstacle, it was decided to increase the pressure on Israel and the EU in this regard as well as reflect internally on other ways of bringing this issue forward (one avenue the EMHRN is exploring is to try to have the EMHRN members out of Gaza through Rafah instead of Erez) Also, the ban imposed by the Israeli authorities on the political referent of the PIP Working Group to travel to Israel or the Occupied Territories, has made the organisation of meetings in East-Jerusalem complicated.

Overall, the EMHRN PIP Working Group has been successful in constituting the only consistent Palestine-Israel human rights alliance. As shown during the war on Gaza in December 2008 and

January 2009, the WG managed to remain united and productive despite considerable strains due to the political situation, which proves its viability and strength. It has thus moved closer to the 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 lesson learned from the past period is that there is a need for the PIP Working Group to increase synergies with other EMHRN WGs and in particular to more efficiently integrate other thematic (Migration, Justice, Gender) into its activities. To do so, the WG is considering broadening its membership by including - or associating with - organisations working on these specific issues; as an example, close contacts were established with PHR-Israel, ACRI and the Coalition of Women for Peace in reaction to the recent attacks against Israeli NGOs, as well as WCLAC regarding gender issues in the OPT). Another challenge for future work of the PIP Working Group is to define a more refined and targeted lobbying strategy, which nevertheless is sufficiently flexible to be adapted to the developments on the ground (this was already discussed during the first PIP WG meeting of 2010).

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the financial support DANIDA, SIDA and the Swedish Churches for its work in 2008 and 2009.*

2.3.2. The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Objectives

The **human rights framework** of the activity is the full implementation of 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** is to:

- Strengthen regional civil society cooperation regarding 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 handle issues relating to migrants', refugees' and asylum seekers' rights.

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

Establish an 'observatory' (or loose network) for regional civil society cooperation on questions pertaining to the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers including monitoring individual cases of violations of migrants or asylum seekers rights.

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 according to Work Programme

The EMHRN wishes to hold 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 other related policies relevant to the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the EuroMed region
- 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 on violence against women in migration and on the economic and social rights of migrants and asylum seekers
- Developing proposals for establishing regional cooperation mechanisms, i.e. an observatory/loose network between European NGOs and NGOs in the South aimed at providing protection and legal assistance for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the EuroMed region
- Maintaining an EMHRN antenna in Morocco to deal with refugee and migration issues in the EuroMed region.

Output 2008-2009: 4 working group meetings, 55 networking and coordination travels, 5 reports on refugee and migrants rights, EMHRN web set-up, office expenses for Morocco antenna

Output 2008

- *One working group meeting in Madrid and one extended meeting in Rabat*
- *One public meeting in Madrid*
- *Launch of an Urgent Alert Mission Mechanism on Migrants' and Refugees' Rights*
- *Advocacy meetings in Brussels*
- *Fact-finding missions to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon*
- *2 Newsletters*
- *Publication of 3 reports on respectively 'Violence against Women in Migration', 'Migrants and Refugee Rights in the Mashrek' and 'Social and Economic Rights of Migrants and Refugees'.*

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 (www.euromed-migrasyl.blogspot.com)*
- *Several briefings notes, ad hoc briefings and contribution to conferences and hearings*

Activities 2009

- The EMHRN WG on the Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers (MAWG) was renewed early 2009 following a call of application to EMHRN WGs. In March, 20 organisations and their representatives to the WG had been identified as permanent members of the MAWG.
- The MAWG met twice in 2009, in Brussels on 22-24 May and in Nicosia on 30 October–1 November.
 - In Brussels, the agenda included following items: introduction of the members; Update on latest developments in the region; Presentation of the methodology, objectives and mandate of the MAWG; Training on the EuroMed cooperation frameworks in the field of migration and asylum; Presentation of the latest EMHRN reports on migration and asylum in the EuroMed region (Violence against migrant women; Social and economical rights of migrants and refugees: access to the labour market and health care; Migration and asylum in the Mashrek countries: protection gaps and country fact sheets); Presentation of the Alert Action mechanism; Discussion of the terms of references for the study on migration and asylum in the Maghreb countries; Closure of meeting and evaluation. The meeting was followed by bilateral meetings with EU officials. The minutes of the meeting were circulated and posted on the EMHRN website.

- In Nicosia, the agenda included: exchange of information on the latest developments in the region; Presentation of a movie on Iraqi refugees in Denmark; Meeting with migrants and refugees in Nicosia; Public session on migration and asylum in Cyprus (in the presence of the Cypriot Minister of Interior, several NGOs, Migreurop, UNHCR and a Palestinian refugee); Discussion on trafficking of human beings in Cyprus; Presentation of the Atlas on migration in Europe; Reception by the Mayor of Nicosia; Training on the definition of refugees; Exercise: group discussions and case studies on access to protection; Closure and evaluation. Cyprus' minister of Interior attended the public session. The minutes of the meeting were circulated and posted on EMHRN website.
 - The meetings led to the creation of a regional platform of exchanges on migration and asylum. Participants were offered the opportunity for in-depth discussions about the situation of migrants and refugees in the region, and for some of the participants to receive training on matters with which they were not familiar with.
 - MAWG members' knowledge of the legal and political instruments for the protection of migrants and refugees was increased through extensive presentations about the legal frameworks for migration and asylum in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Morocco (Brussels meeting) and a training on the Geneva Convention (Nicosia meeting).
- On 4-5 April in Cairo, the EMHRN organised a sub-regional meeting on migration and asylum in the Mashrek countries, with about 45 participants. Points on the agenda included: Main refugee flows in the Mashrek countries; Protection gaps for migrants and refugees; Violence against migrant and refugee women; Domestic migrant workers in the region; Migration and asylum in Lebanon; Migration and asylum in Jordan; Migration and asylum in Syria; Migration and asylum in Egypt. The seminar was followed by several advocacy and networking meetings with the European Commission, the Czech Republic's embassy (EU Presidency), the Egyptian Ambassador responsible for asylum, and numerous Egyptian civil society actors working on migration and asylum.
- The EMHRN launched the drafting of a Maghreb country fact sheets study in 2009. The Terms of References (ToR) for the study were discussed at the MAWG meeting in Brussels and finalised in August by a group of MAWG members. The study analyses the legal and administrative frameworks relating to migration and asylum in the Maghreb country, including the conditions for legal entry and stay, criminalisation of illegal entry, stay and/or exit, livelihood conditions, detention, deportation, access to protection, special needs of migrant women. For each country, a 'fact sheet' will be prepared. These fact sheets will then be compiled for the purpose of drafting a regional chapter analysing the protection gaps migrants and refugees face. Following adoption of the ToR, a call for application was launched and a team of four experienced researchers selected in December. The draft of the study is expected to be delivered in May 2010.
- EMHRN carried out two mapping and networking visits in 2009 with the purpose of meeting with local civil society activities in order to indentify their needs and possible cooperation/networking opportunities:
 - During a visit to Cairo on 6-8 April, the EMHRN coordinator met with local organisations (CIHRS, AMERA, Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights, Land Centre, Ashraf Ruxi, Medecins sans frontiers), the Egyptian ambassador in charge of asylum as well as EU representatives and EU Member States embassies to collect information on the situation of migrants and refugees and identify possible synergies between the EMHRN and the different actors.
 - The EMHRN visited Tunisia on 9-12 July 2009. Meetings were held with the European Commission, UNHCR, IOM, Conseil Supérieur des droits de l'Homme, Ministry in charge of

Tunisian migrants, Ligue tunisienne des droits de l'Homme, Centre National des libertés en Tunisie, Association des femmes tunisiennes pour la recherche et le développement, Association tunisienne des femmes démocrates, AMRDH, Hassan Boubakri (researcher).

- During 2009, the EMHRN launched two alert missions:
 - An Alert Mission was sent to Lampedusa, Italy, on 25-27 February. The mission took place following a riot by Tunisian nationals held in an Italian retention centre. The mission, composed of 5 persons, met with most civil society organisations active in Lampedusa as well as with the main intergovernmental organisations active in the detention centre. A report was published in French, Arabic and English.
 - A second Alert Mission was prepared by the end of 2009 with the aim of enquiring about the situation of migrants and refugees in Calais, France, especially following a police operation aimed at dismantling migrants' camps in the Calais region. The mission, with 4 participants, eventually took place on 25-January- 1 February 2010.
- The EMHRN was able to disseminate information on the situation of migrants and refugees in the region through various means:
 - 7 newsletters were distributed in 2009;
 - The MAWG blog (www.euromed-migrasyl.blogspot.com) was regularly updated. During 2009, the blog was visited by 4.979 visitors, among whom 2.554 unique visitors from 77 countries;
 - EMHRN wrote several briefing notes in view of open letter as well as briefing notes and contributed to ad hoc briefings, mainly to the attention of EU officials;¹
 - The EMHRN has been regularly invited to attend conferences and hearings as a key note speaker (hearing of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on readmission agreements Paris, 27 May; UNHCR's meeting on the situation of refugees in Morocco in June; meeting of the Network of Arab liberals, Brussels, 4 November; MIGREUROP's conference on readmission agreements, Paris, 27 November, etc.).

Most of the in 2008-2009 short term objectives for EMHRN work on the migrants, refugees and Asylum Seekers' Rights were met. The EMHRN organised several research missions in the region which resulted in the finalisation of three reports on issues related to migrants and refugees in the EuroMed region. A study on the situation in the Maghreb countries was also launched with an expected publication in 2010. An Alert Mission Mechanism was set up aimed at acting on emblematic cases where the rights of migrants and refugees are violated, and two alert missions were successfully carried out. Mapping and networking visits were organised in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia. The objective of creating a regional platform of exchanges on migration and asylum was pursued through the meetings of the Migration and Asylum Working Group, and a sub-regional seminar on the Mashrek countries.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objective, challenges and possible shortcomings

The primary challenge faced by the EMHRN project on Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers has been the lack of knowledge and capacity of South-Mediterranean organisations in the field of migration and asylum with, sometimes, a lack of political will to engage in these issues. As a result, the project has sometimes experienced a low level of communication amongst Working Group members, between WG members and the Secretariat outside of meetings, and finally, the

¹ See www.euromed-migrasyl.blogspot.com

WG members have launched very few initiatives themselves. Nevertheless, the EMHRN project has during its two first years managed to provide members of the WG with an increased awareness and knowledge on the rights of migrants and refugees, an issue which is new for most countries in the South-Mediterranean region. The EMHRN project has contributed to strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations in terms of influencing policy processes, in particular through their participation in the Working Group's meetings and activities, although it is fair to say that the extent of this progress has not yet reached its full potential. There are also examples of North-South collaborations that have developed based on knowledge or contacts generated through the EMHRN Working Group although, again, the outcomes of these collaborations are only in their initial stages. Accordingly, the project's short term objective (to establish an 'observatory' for regional civil society cooperation on questions pertaining to the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers) can be deemed as achieved through the setting up and the meetings of the Migration and Asylum Working Group, and a sub-regional seminar on the Mashrek countries. However, the Working Group is still in an initiation phase and the results obtained so far are not yet solid; it is therefore necessary to pursue the activities, increase gradually the capacity of the members and monitor on an ongoing basis the progresses that do - or do not - take place in order to adjust the strategy.

One of the main challenges faced during the period covered has been the imbalance within the Working Group; This imbalance exists between the European members, who have more extensive experience with migration and asylum issues, and the Southern members, who have a more limited knowledge and capacity in the field, and often the insufficient political will of their organisations to engage actively with this issue. This problem could not be entirely solved during the past two years – and will not be solved in the short term as it is directly linked to the lack of capacities in the South. However, this problem was taken into account in the ongoing implementation of the project with the focus being increasingly set on the exchange of information and the capacity-building of members; this aspect will be prioritised even more in the next period.

Although their impact has been limited so far, the activities implemented in the period covered (Working Group meetings; drafting of reports; advocacy work; alert missions; etc.) have brought the EMHRN a step closer to its general objectives, in particular strengthening regional civil society cooperation regarding policies, projects and exchange of information related to the rights of migrants and refugees and developing the capacity of local organisations in the South Mediterranean to handle issues relating to migrants', refugees' and asylum seekers' rights.

- *The EMHRN wishes to thank the EU Commission, the Ford Foundation, DANIDA and SIDA for support to its activities in 2008 and 2009.*

2.3.3. Economic and social rights

Objectives

The **human rights framework** of the activity is the full implementation of international human rights standards pertaining to economic and social rights.

The **general objective** is 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** is to initiate a process of training NGOs on action based approach to economic and social rights in the region.

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 according to Work Programme

The EMHRN will work to mainstream economic and social rights concerns into the dealings of the Working Groups. In addition, the EMHRN wishes to explore possibility of producing a practical resource on economic and social rights that could be used by NGOs in the region to take concrete steps to secure better economic and social rights enforcement in the region

Output 2008

- *Launch of study on Economic and Social Rights of Migrants and Refugees in the EuroMed Region*
- *EMHRN's participation in Aim for human rights project on indicators and the right to health in Egypt*

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 Obreros and the EuroMed Trade Union Forum, et. al of a report on Employment and the Right to Work in the EuroMed Region.*

Activities 2009

The publication and distribution of its Study on Economic and Social Rights of Migrants and Refugees, dealing with access to health care and labour market and based on case studies on France, Jordan and Morocco, was EMHRN's main activity on economic and social rights in 2009.

Additionally a report on Employment and Labour Law in the Euro-Arab countries and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was published in English, French and Spanish. The report was the result of research project conducted by the Comisiones Obreros, the EuroMed Trade Union Forum, Fondazione per la Paz y Solidarid, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the EMHRN in 2006 and 2007.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives and possible shortcomings and challenges

During the period covered, the main difficulty this project faced was the fact that EMHRN was not able to mobilise the necessary human resources that would allow setting the economic and social rights as one of its main thematic priorities and developing a range of related activities. In practice, in the absence of a specific coordinator and a Working Group on Economic and Social Rights, very few activities were implemented and no concrete steps could be taken towards the drafting of a practical resource on economic and social rights. Accordingly, the short term objective of initiating a process of training NGOs on an action-based approach to economic and social rights in the region was not achieved.

Nevertheless, discussions about the future work of the EMHRN in the field of economic and social rights continued within EMHRN's Executive Committee and Secretariat during 2009. For the next period (2010-11), the EMHRN has suggested initiating work in this field by calling for a meeting of a smaller group of experts who would help conceptualising a concrete project proposal aimed at providing added value to ongoing work on economic and social rights in the region. Depending on the availability of funds, this would also include setting up a Working Group on Economic and Social Rights.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA and SIDA in 2008 and 2009 to its activities within the field of economic and social rights.*

3. COMMUNICATION

Objectives

The **human rights framework** of this activity is to create efficient, comprehensive and transparent tools to transmit the human rights objective and values of the EMHRN and its members both internally and externally.

The **general objective** is to efficiently voice and communicate information about the activities and concerns of the EMHRN and its members within the membership and to 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** is to;

- Develop the necessary resources to fulfil the general objectives
- Develop the website as reflecting the work of members and the main human rights issues in the region, the EMP and ENP.
-

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 According to Work Programme

The EMHRN will:

- Seek to upgrade the position of the communication officer in Copenhagen in charge of the EMHRN's internal and external communication to full time.
- Depending on means available it will seek to employ two media officers, one based in the South Mediterranean and one in Brussels.
- On the executive level, it will strengthen its 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 its new website and build up additional thematic modules

Output 2008-2009: Weekly news bulletins, monthly policy briefs, quarterly newsletters, website development, regular media contact

Output 2008

- *Organising of public meetings and press conferences in relation to EMHRN WG meetings*
- *46 News bulletins issued to 2400 subscribers*
- *50 news briefs and policy statements disseminated to 3400 subscribers of the EMHRN news service as well as to EU and Arab media and EU institutions in Brussels*
- *4 newsletters*
- *7 video interviews*
- *Video page on Dailymotion <http://www.dailymotion.com/euromedrights>*
- *Organising of public event to honour EMHRN's first president, Abdelaziz Bennani (Casablanca)*

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)*
- *A new website launched in September and its content in Arabic, French and English updated regularly*

- *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.*

Activities 2009

- EMHRN communication human resources were reinforced in the course of 2009 with the hiring of a full-time communication officer Shaimaa Abu Elkhair, in January 2009, and the concomitant opening of an office in Cairo. The Cairo-based communication officer's primary task is to deal with the Arab press, ensure increased coverage of EMHRN activities in the Arab media and a better flow of information from and to the Arab press as well as maintaining the Arab pages of the EMHRN website. The application for the official registration of the EMHRN Cairo office was still pending with the Egyptian authorities at the end of 2009. Discussions took place within the EMHRN regarding a possible relocation of the other EMHRN communication officer from Copenhagen to Brussels. The decision on this issue was however postponed until early 2011.
- Throughout 2009 EMHRN worked successfully on extending and reinforcing its contacts with journalists. Two press meetings were organised in March in Brussels which were attended by numerous journalists including Lahbib Fahmy (al Jazeera), Nourredine Fridhi (el Hayat/MBC), Baudoin Loos (le Soir), Fathi Bechir (Agence Europe), Chiara Spegni (Ansa Med) and David Cronin (inter press service). The communication department regularly updated EMHRN database over press contacts in Brussels, the EU Member States and the South-Mediterranean countries, and added new distribution lists in the database including of EMHRN members by countries, media themes and contacts within Foreign Affairs Ministries.
- The EMHRN's new website was launched in September 2009 at www.euromedrights.org. This new tool offers additional, better and quicker services to the users. The content of the three versions in Arabic, English and French had been thoroughly updated before launching the website. When necessary, special pages were created on EMHRN website to cover specific events, such as pages on the Israeli offensive on Gaza and on EMHRN General Assembly in Barcelona in December 2008. For the latter event, a video was posted on the website and sent to all the participants in the form of a DVD. In January 2010, the first month were the new website was fully used, there were more than 28.000 unique visitors for 45.000 visits and 76.000 pages seen. Compared to the last peak (12.000 unique visitors in March 2009) this represents a 135% raise.
- EMHRN communication department published and distributed 6 EMHRN internal newsletters in 2009 which were also made available on the website. Additionally, 50 weekly news bulletins gathering all the statements, publications and activities of the EMHRN members were sent to the subscribers, i.e. approximately 2000 in English, 500 in French and 600 in Arabic.
- Various EMHRN activities were supported through media events or initiatives arranged by the communication department, including:
 - A press conference at the occasion of the NGO Gender Conference organised by the EMHRN in Istanbul in November.

- A press conference organised on 15 December on the first anniversary of the Israeli Operation Cast Lead and the EU's response to the offensive.
- A reception was organised in Paris on 28 January 2010 at the occasion of the opening of the EMHRN Paris Office (Solidarity programme).
- EMHRN overall visibility was increased with the distribution of bags and USB sticks (with EMHRN key document on them) to all WG members and the finalisation of EMHRN new leaflet presenting the network was designed and printed.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives and possible shortcomings and challenges

The EMHRN has managed to successfully meet its short term objectives regarding communication, i.e. to develop its resources in communication and to develop the website. A lesson learned from the past years was the need for the EMHRN to expand and improve its relations with the Arabic-speaking media in order to increase the flow of information from and to these media. To do so, a full-time communication officer (in addition to the one based in Copenhagen) was hired in Cairo with the task of monitoring and increasing relations with the Arab press and media and to update the Arabic pages of the EMHRN website. By drastically upgrading its communication in Arabic, it is expected that the role played by the Network will be further acknowledged, not only in Europe and the EU institutions as is already the case, but also in the Arabic countries and public at large. The Cairo-based communication officer started work in January 2009 and the first results after one year are very positive, showing an increase in coverage on the EMHRN and its activities in the Arab media. Additionally, the launching of EMHRN's new website in September 2009 as well as the regular Newsletters and News bulletins have led to an increase in the quantity and quality of information and services provided to EMHRN members and other actors.

By expanding its communication towards the Arab world and improving its communication tools (website, etc.), the EMHRN has made decisive steps towards its general objective which are to efficiently voice and communicate information about the activities and concerns of the EMHRN and its members within the membership and to relevant media, decision-makers and civil society groups. However, taking into consideration that EMHRN only recently started to focus on communication, a lot remains to be done. In this respect, all General Assemblies of the EMHRN have underlined the need to strengthen the EMHRN's internal and external communication in order to increase transparency and members' participation in EMHRN work as well as awareness in the media about the work of the EMHRN, underlining the importance of voicing the EMHRN's position with regard to current human rights developments.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA and SIDA in 2008 and 2009 to its activities within the field of communication.*

4. SOLIDARITY

Objectives

The **human rights framework** is the respect by state and non-state actors of 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** is to

- ensure that members experience that the Network constitutes a protection mechanism for them
- make use of available human rights protection instruments when EMHRN members are at risk, in particular the effective support of EMHRN regular and associate members.

The **short term objective** is to respond with available means when EMHRN members or their work are at risk.

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 according to Work Programme

The EMHRN will:

- 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 its policy and practice as regards solidarity work and urgent action
- On the executive level, strengthen its work regarding monitoring and responding to changes of the human rights situation in the region
- Seek funds enabling EMHRN members to pay regular visits to fellow members and other human rights NGOs in Algeria, Syria and Tunisia
- Maintain close cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Output 2008-2009: Press statements and contacts to authorities when needed, 20 travels for solidarity purposes

Output 2008

- *The EMHRN and the EMRHF continued working in synergy regarding support to EMHRN members*
- *The EMHRN further increased ad hoc solidarity work for members including missions and press statements*
- *The EMHRN identified funds to employ a full time coordinator to work on solidarity from 2009 and onwards*
- *The EMHRN conducted ad hoc solidarity work for members including missions and press statements*

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 reporter 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*

Activities 2009

- The necessary funds to implement a specific solidarity program on Algeria, Syria and Tunisia were secured in the course of 2008-early 2009 through a 2-year grant from the EU and AECID. Accordingly, an antenna was opened in Paris and a coordinator and a project assistant employed from April 2009 to implement the programme, which objectives are as follows:

- Overall objective: to support the development of spaces for action of HR organisations in Algeria, Tunisia and Syria gradually allowing these to strengthen a strategic and holistic approach to human rights;
- General objective: to contribute to the development of spaces for practicing the organisations' rights to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association and the right to freedom of movement, and for an action on these rights;
- Short term objectives: to facilitate the professionalisation of the work of HR associations by bringing them out of their relatively isolated and politicised environment, reinforcing contacts with colleagues in the EuroMed region; to facilitate the work of HR organisations to promote the said rights, including their capacity to plan beyond urgencies, and by promoting spaces for cooperation between the organisations inside and outside their home countries.
- Tunisia:
 - A first field mission to Tunisia took place in June 2009, during which the EMHRN coordinator and Executive Director held meetings with a range of human rights and democracy actors, the National Human Rights Consultative Council and the EU delegation.
 - Following this first step, a Tunisia Working Group ("Solidarity Group") was established with the aim of publishing an annual report on the human rights dimension in the EU-Tunisia bilateral relations, carrying out solidarity actions with Tunisian HR defenders at regional scale, fostering Tunisian human rights organisations' ability to cooperate and plan with a mid-term perspective, the Solidarity Group also intends to foster networking in European countries, incl. France, Italy and Spain, with regard to the situation of Tunisian HR defenders.
 - The first meeting of the Tunisia Solidarity Group was organised in Tunis on 13-15 November in presence of European (UK, Spain, France and Italy) and Tunisian civil society organisations. Despite the police's close scrutiny, two meetings were organised gathering EMHRN member organisations as well as a large number of human rights organisations. The meetings allowed participants to discuss priorities for the advocacy work on human rights in Tunisia. One of the concrete outcomes was the decision to organise a training in order to assist Tunisian HR defenders in communicating amongst themselves and with the outside world (the training will take place during the next meeting of the Solidarity Group in spring 2010).
 - In Autumn Khémaïs Chamhari was hired to draft the planned report on the EU-Tunisia relationship, and a research assistant based in Brussels was later hired to liaise with EU institutions and collect relevant data for the report. The report is expected to be released in the course of 2010.
 - In October, the EMHRN organised advocacy meetings regarding the human rights situation in Tunisia in Brussels, including with the vice-president of the EP's Human Rights Subcommittee. Shortly afterwards, a joint EMHRN-FIDH delegation participated in Strasbourg in a debate on the situation in the Gafsa mining belt, organised by MEPS.
 - In November, in the context of general elections in Tunisia, the EMHRN and FIDH sent two joint observation missions to the trials against the journalists and HR defenders, Taoufik Ben Brik and Zouhair Makhoulouf. Reports of these observation missions were drafted and circulated.
 - As part of an effort to reduce the isolation of Tunisian human rights defenders and to facilitate their participation in other EMHRN WGs or relevant regional seminars and events outside their countries, Tunisian organisations were selected during 2009 to participate in EMHRN other WGs, namely Gender, Justice, Migration and Freedom of Association.

- **Algeria:**
 - The first field mission to Algeria was carried out from 13 to 17 September in order to present the EMHRN Solidarity project to local civil society organisations, including EMHRN members, and to gather recommendations on the scheduled activities. An informal debriefing on EMHRN mission was organised by the Swedish embassy (EU Presidency) in Algiers with the presence of other European embassies. In December, another EMHRN delegation, made of the Solidarity and Justice coordinators, visited Algeria and discussed with the local partners the activities to be carried out in Algeria and the main obstacles to their implementation.
 - Following this, the EMHRN started to plan for a series of meetings that will gather Algerian human rights organisations and will take place in the course of 2010. These meetings will aim at raising their awareness and increasing their knowledge about regional and international human rights mechanisms, fostering the establishment of joint strategies and increasing mutual cooperation.
 - Algerian organisations were selected in the course of 2009 to participate in EMHRN other WGs, namely Gender, Justice, Migration and Freedom of Association
- **Syria:**
 - The EMHRN Solidarity coordinator travelled to Syria on 7-12 August and met with a large number of human rights organisations and defenders and in particular discussed the possibility of carrying out online human rights for human rights defenders. The mission also included meetings with representatives from the Swedish and French embassies and the EU delegation.
 - Following the arrest of two human rights defenders, Muhammad Al Hassani and Haitham Al Maleh, the EMHRN took the lead in coordinating regional and international civil society response. In coordination with CIHRS, FIDH, ICJ and others, the EMHRN has closely been following these two cases while liaising with several bar associations in Europe and in Arab countries to coordinate joint actions. In cooperation with EMHRN members and local partners, a EMHRN observation mission was sent to Syria on 10 October to attend the disciplinary committee session of the Damascus Bar Association.
 - Syrian organisations were selected in the course of 2009 to participate in EMHRN other WGs, namely Gender, Justice, Migration and Freedom of Association
- In the course of 2009, EMHRN maintained its close cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Foundation, which is hosted by the EMHRN in its Copenhagen offices. Cooperation with EMHRF included administrative support and exchange of information.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives and possible shortcomings and challenges

During the Network's first years of existence, solidarity was dealt with on an *ad hoc* basis, depending heavily on the capacity of the secretariat and/or the Working Groups. Based on this experience, it has proved crucial for the Network to develop a consistent approach to these difficult situations and to be able to react concretely and systematically when human rights defenders and organisations, particularly those who are members of the EMHRN, are at risk. The EMHRN project on solidarity (focusing mainly on Syria, Tunisia and Algeria) started only in June 2009, and it is therefore too early to evaluate its outcome and to draw lessons from it.

It can be said that the short term objective - to respond with available means when EMHRN members or their work are at risk - was met, in particular with various solidarity and support actions during 2008 and 2009 and the start-up of the solidarity programme in 2009 (setting up the Solidarity Group on Tunisia, future publication of the report on EU-Tunisia bilateral relations in

2010, advocacy missions, field missions, trial observation missions, inclusion of additional Algerian and Tunisian organisations in EMHRN Working Groups, etc.). In practice, particularly when it comes to Syria, Tunisia and Algeria, the solidarity actions undertaken by the EMHRN have largely benefited human rights defenders not affiliated to the EMHRN, as was the case for many of the trial observations missions.

One of the challenges faced in the field of solidarity, particularly in the case of Syria, Tunisia and Algeria, is the extent of the protection and solidarity needs; answering to these needs, even partially, requires very important resources. In order to overcome this, and simultaneously initiate synergies within the region, partnerships and cooperation were systematically sought with other partners, including the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Foundation, EMHRN members, other international organisations (FIDH, OMCT, HRW, AI, etc.) and other relevant actors such as bar associations.

Overall, the general objective of establishing the Network as an efficient protection mechanism for its members is an ongoing process, but during the past two years the EMHRN has made considerable progress towards this objective, in particular by increasing its capacity to react when its members are at risk within the framework of its Working Groups and by starting up its programme on Syria, Tunisia and Algeria; in these 3 countries, human rights defenders at risk have within a short time frame increasingly identified the EMHRN as a mean to obtain support and experience solidarity.

➤ *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of the EU Commission, AECID, DANIDA and SIDA for its work on Solidarity in 2008 and 2009.*

5. TRAINING

Objectives

The **human rights framework** of the activity is to create human rights training tools adapted to the EuroMed context where these do not exist aimed at strengthening members' capacity to deliver human rights work within a EuroMed context.

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

The **short term objective** is to set up a first series of training courses and visualise the activities of the members

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 according to Work Programme

The EMHRN will

- Establish an overview over planned training and capacity building activities the membership and see where there are obvious synergies to be established
- Implement training and advocacy activities on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)
- Conduct bi-annual training course on gender mainstreaming course (see under Women's rights and Gender)
- Look into possibility of developing a practical resource on economic and social rights in a EuroMed context

Output 2008-2009: 4 training courses on the European Neighbourhood Policy, 4 gender mainstreaming courses

Output 2008

- *Gender mainstreaming kit published*
- *Gender mainstreaming kit used for training in Morocco (AMDH) and Jordan (ACHRS)*
- *Migration refugee right working group and PIP working group continued integrating training activities on EU and international instruments in their work*

Output 2009

- *3 successful 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)*

Activities 2009

- On 10 June 2009, the EU coordinator conducted a training session on European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) organized for approximately 20 members of the Danish NGOs Network on the MENA.
- The EU coordinator organised and conducted a training session on "Human Rights Advocacy in EU-Morocco relations" organised by the EMHRN jointly with the four EMHRN Moroccan members. The training took place in Rabat on 15 October and gathered 39 participants. A specific session on advocacy tool was carried out under the lead of Sonia Herrero, human rights consultant. Both the participants of the training and the EMHRN members provided very positive feedback on the activity. The training report and materials (as well as the evaluation report) were made available after the training on the EMHRN website.
- During the meeting of the EMHRN Working Group on Freedom of Association held in Madrid on 21 November, the EU coordinator provided specific training to the 15 WG members on the human rights mechanisms prevailing between the EU and the South-Mediterranean countries. Minutes of the WG meeting, including the training session, were circulated after the meeting and are available on the EMNRH website.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives and possible shortcomings and challenges

In accordance with the short term objective for its training activities in 2008-2009, the EMHRN has organised a series of training courses, focusing on human rights issues that are relevant for the region and not covered elsewhere. These courses (on gender mainstreaming, European Neighbourhood Policy and EU human rights instruments, and advocacy) took place either in the framework of EMHRN Working Groups (especially Freedom of Association, Gender and Women's Rights, Justice and PIP) or were conducted separately from the Working Groups as was the case in Morocco, Jordan and Denmark; in these latter cases, the courses were open to local EMHRN members and other civil society organisations. As far as gender mainstreaming is concerned, EMHRN training was based on the EMHRN Gender Mainstreaming Kit, which is available in Arabic and English (and French from 2010). The evaluation of the training by the participants, done after each course, was overwhelmingly positive.

In addition to the training courses, the capacities of the members were also increased through participation in the delegations going to Brussels, allowing them to use their new skills during the advocacy of the EU institutions. However, due to the high level of complexity of the EU decision-making process, involving a large number of actors, many participants expressed the wish to benefit from longer training sessions in the future. This would allow for more comprehensive presentations of the EU institutions and also organise practical workshops working on specific cases and during the sessions.

After the course, many participants of the training sessions also expressed the wish to be regularly updated on EU policies and issues. Doing so would enable the EMHRN to receive more feedback on how the skills acquired during its trainings are specifically used (e.g. letters, advocacy meetings, etc), especially by non EMHRN member participants, but this would require additional resources from the EMHRN which are not available at the time being

During the period covered, a new challenge occurred; this was the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty which will require renewing EMHRN training material on the EU and ENP mechanisms in order to inform and train EMHRN members on the new instruments and mechanisms.

By focusing on issues that are not covered elsewhere, the activities implemented in the period covered have contributed to the project's general objective to create synergies between training and capacity-building efforts within the Network and to fill in gaps, wherever they may exist. However, given that numerous EMHRN members are engaged in various training activities, in the future more effort will be needed to ensure proper synergies in the field of training. In order to achieve its general objective, the EMHRN intends to pursue its support to the capacity-building of its members through the informal learning processes offered by the Working Groups, and furthermore offer more targeted training with an increased focus on aspects related to basic organisational skills such as project management, fundraising, report-writing and internal governance.

➤ *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA and SIDA for its work in 2008 and 2009.*

6. ADVOCACY AND DIALOGUE

Objectives

The **human rights framework** is the EU, ENP and EMP instruments pertaining to international human rights standards in the EuroMed region.

The **general objective** is to efficiently communicate EMHRN and members' policies and recommendations to the relevant representatives of the EU and EMP and ensure feed-back from and dialogue with these on human rights.

The **short term objective** is to build on and develop existing activities regarding the EU and EMP institutions and a critical approach to cooperation in bi-lateral relations in particular as concerns the human rights instruments of the ENP.

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 According to Work Programme

The EMHRN will

- Maintain an interface between the EU, EMP and ENP mechanisms and its members through an office in Brussels, including organising visits of members to Brussels when issues pertaining to their work are on the EU agenda; continuing promoting its general policies and recommendations vis-à-vis the EMP, the EU and partner governments; disseminate reports and policy papers produced by its working groups and on missions while promoting their recommendations; diffusing information on the internet and in newsletters about key issues of the human rights dimension of the EMP.
- Conduct bi-annual training courses in the region on the human rights instruments in the EU, ENP and EMP aimed at strengthening civil society capacity to deal critically with EU, EMP and ENP human rights instruments and South Mediterranean countries' human rights policies.

- Provide input to a report every third year on the situation of democratisation and the security of human beings in the region (based on the work of the EMHRN WGs) and the EU, EMP and ENP response to this.

Output 2008

- *Approximately 50 officials of the EMP met through direct encounters*
- *Successful lobbying concerning European Parliament resolution on human rights in Egypt*
- *Successful cooperation with other NGOs in Brussels through participation in the NGO Human Rights and Democracy Network and joined advocacy efforts*
- *EMHRN or joint open letters and press releases with other NGOs were sent out before most Association Council meetings between the EU and Mediterranean countries*
- *Promotion of Justice reports in Brussels*
- *Promotion of the human rights positions related to EU-Israeli relation*

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 EU-Israeli relation*
- *Promotion of EMHRN report on gender equality and advocacy before EMP ministerial meeting on women's rights*

Activities 2009

- **European Neighbourhood Policy**
 - On 17 April, the EMHRN issued a Position Paper on the European Neighbourhood Policy in view of the forthcoming discussions on the ENP in the EU Council and the negotiations with South Mediterranean countries as the current action plans are coming to an end.
 - The EMHRN Director participated in the first civil forum of the Eastern Partnership in Brussels on November 16-17. In December, the EMHRN participated in the meeting of an informal group of NGOs working on the ENP in Brussels in order to exchange on future developments. In this framework, a letter was sent to the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum steering group to coordinate actions.
 - The EMHRN raised its position on the regional and national situation of human rights at the Commission's consultation meeting on December 14 in view of the 2010 Progress reports on the implementation of ENP Action Plans on Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel and Palestine. It also forwarded written input collected from members and EMHRN documents on these countries to the Commission.
- **EU-Mediterranean Countries bilateral meetings**
 - The EMHRN issued press releases or letters in consultation with its local members ahead of Association Councils EU-Lebanon (23 February), EU-Egypt (27 April), EU-Algeria (16 June, with FIDH and OMCT) and EU-Morocco (7 December).
 - In view of the annual Sub-Committee on Human Rights EU-Morocco and the EU-Egypt Sub-Committee on Political matters, a briefing note was sent with EMHRN recommendations including the contributions from EMHRN local members. In addition, the EMHRN sent a

letter to the EU ambassadors in Cairo. The British Ministry of Foreign affairs replied to this letter expressing its support.

- The EMHRN participated in consultation meetings by the EU Commission with Brussels based NGOs in view of the meeting of the EU-Egypt Sub-Committee on Political matters, and the Subcommittees on Human Rights EU-Jordan, EU-Morocco and EU-Tunisia. On 25 September, the EMHRN attended a debriefing of the meetings of the Human Rights Subcommittees with Egypt and Morocco.
- EMHRN's recommendations on asylum policies were distributed to the relevant EU representatives ahead of the EU-Morocco WG on migration and social affairs (24 November).
- EU Member states: in addition to the numerous meetings, visits, public events and press conferences held in the EU Member States' capitals within the framework of EMHRN various projects (see under the respective headings), following actions were undertaken directly by the EMHRN Brussels office:
 - Informal meetings were organised with Swedish representatives to discuss the EU Swedish presidency's priorities regarding human rights in the EuroMed region. In May, the EMHRN sent a letter to the Swedish government with recommendations for its EU Presidency.
 - Wadih Al Asmar, EMHRN EC member, presented EMHRN's evaluation of EU human rights policy with Lebanon in a conference on "Building Consensus about EU Policies on Democracy Support" on 9-10 March in Prague organised by the EU Czech presidency.
 - On 27 May, the EU coordinator participated in a seminar on the ENP organised by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a preparation to the Belgian EU presidency.
 - In October a meeting was held with the Director for the Mediterranean region and other staff in the Belgian Foreign Affairs Ministry.
- European Commission
 - Regular meetings were held with representatives of the European Commission on all issues and countries the EMHRN is dealing with.
 - In October, a high level meeting was held with the European Commission's Director for Human Rights.
- European Parliament
 - The EMHRN communicated with the European Parliament delegations that visited Morocco and Western Sahara on 25-28 January, Algeria on 23-26 February and Lebanon on 6-11 April. The Brussels office informed local EMHRN members of the programme of these delegations. Meetings were organised with NGOs in Algeria and Lebanon.
 - Michel Tubiana, EMHRN EC member, made an intervention during a hearing on "the Human Rights Dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean" before the EP Subcommittee on Human Rights on 10 February.
 - The European Parliament's resolution on the review of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of 19 February included a number of EMHRN positions.
 - The EU Coordinator presented EMHRN recommendations in a brainstorming session on human rights organised by the ALDE group on 14 April.
 - On 7 May, the European Parliament's resolution on the 2008 Annual Report on Human Rights in the World and the EU's policy on the matter reiterated many concerns expressed by the EMHRN.
 - The EMHRN was consulted on the European Parliament's draft resolution on Syrian human rights defenders (Al Hassani's case) on 17 September.
 - In October a strategy meeting was held with the staff of the EP Socialist Group.

- The EMHRN was contacted in order to set up a meeting with Egyptian NGOs for Mr Buzek, President of the European Parliament, during his visit to Cairo on 21 November.
- In December, the advocacy director had a meeting with the Amnesty International, the FIDH and the team of the chair of the HR subcommittee to discuss their next 6 months programme and made suggestions to include presentations on EMHRN main activities.
- Cooperation with NGOs: the EMHRN participated to the HRDN (Human Rights NGO Network in Brussels) meetings in 2009 and had a number of coordination meetings with Brussels based NGOs and other civil society actors.
- Media: the EU coordinator participated to a briefing for journalists on the situation of women in the Mediterranean region on 21 January and a briefing on the EU and Morocco relations for Moroccan journalists on 19 March.
- Freedom of Association: Khémaïs Chammari and the EU coordinator presented the findings and recommendations of the EMHRN freedom of association reports at the first EU-African Union civil society seminar on human rights in Brussels on 16-17 April.
- Gender equality
 - The EMHRN attended a debate on 18 November, organised by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, on the EU response to violence against women.
 - Throughout 2009, EMHRN advocacy director had several meetings and contacts with the EU Commission about preparations for the gender equality EMP Marrakesh ministerial conference (11-12 November) and presented EMHRN's views.
 - An EMHRN delegation came to Brussels on 31 August to 4 September to present the EMHRN shadow report on gender equality and lobby before adoption of the EU position for the Marrakesh ministerial meeting. Meetings were organised with the 3 EU institutions, with the organisation in charge of the EU programme on gender equality, NGOs and the embassies of Morocco and Jordan. An informal presentation was made at the Council Maghreb-Mashrek Group.
 - The advocacy director had meetings with Belgian women's rights NGOs to discuss possible cooperation in view of the Belgian Presidency.
 - On 7 October the advocacy director spoke as representative of the EuroMed NGOs Platform in the UfM High Level Officials' meeting on women's rights. It gathered representatives of all UfM governments, the Commission and the Arab League.
- Work with specific countries:
 - Egypt*
 - The Brussels office organised meetings with representatives from the EU institutions for the visit of Ayman Nour, former political prisoner in Egypt, in Brussels on 15 April. Moataz El Fegieri, EMHRN EC member, participated in the meetings. A successful press conference was also organised and the visit received wide media coverage in Egypt.
 - Morocco*
 - In partnership with its members in Morocco, the EMHRN organised and conducted a training session on "Human rights Advocacy in EU-Morocco relations" on 15 October in Rabat. A report and an evaluation of the training were drafted and circulated.
 - In consultation with its Moroccan members, the EMHRN released a report including recommendations for the future Action Plan in the framework of Morocco's Advanced Status with the EU. The report and its executive summary (available in French, Arabic and English) was widely distributed to EMHRN contacts and presented by an EMHRN member's

delegation to Brussels from 29 November to 2 December. The delegation had meetings with representatives of various EU institutions, EP political groups, EU Commission, several Member States' Representations to the EU, the Belgian Foreign Affairs Ministry and NGOs.

- The EMHRN participated in a national seminar organised by the Euromed Moroccan Network of NGOs on November 5 in Rabat and aimed at monitoring the implementation of the EU-Morocco ENP Action Plan.

Tunisia

- The EMHRN lobbied for an EP emergency resolution ahead of Tunisia's presidential and legislative elections. A joint EMHRN-FIDH letter in support of the political prisoners of the Gafsa-Redeyef region was sent out to MEPs on 13 October. A debate in the plenary session on the human rights situation in Tunisia was planned on 20 January 2010.
- On 21 October, a projection of a documentary on the situation in the Gafsa-Redeyef region took place in the margin of the plenary session of the EP in Strasbourg. The meeting was jointly organised by the EMHRN and FIDH upon invitation of three MEPs.
- From October to December, the EMHRN lobbied key EU Member States for the adoption of a declaration on human rights in Tunisia.
- On 2-4 December the EMHRN arranged advocacy meetings for Khémaïs Chammari (Tunisian HR defender) who met with representatives of the European Commission and the EU Council, MEPs and EP political groups, the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NGOs, in an effort to alert them on the alarming degradation of the human rights situation in Tunisia. Mr. Chammari also took part in a press conference on the case of Mr. Ben Brik.

Lebanon

- The EMHRN participated in a 2-day workshop on the evaluation of the implementation of the ENP EU-Lebanon Action Plan organised by a EU delegation in Beirut on 7-8 October. Wadih Al Asmar, EMHRN EC member, provided an evaluation of the implementation of the human rights objectives of Action Plan. The EU coordinator attended and made contacts with several officials of the Commission in Beirut.

Libya/ Syria

- In 2009, the EMHRN followed up on EU-Libya negotiations in relations to the signature of a Framework Agreement and on the signature of the EU-Syria Association Agreement.

Israel/Palestine

- For advocacy and dialogue on Israel/Palestine, please look at specific section in Israel, Palestine and the Palestinians.
- EU programmes / European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)
 - In the framework of the 2009 mid-term review of EU's financial instruments (Country and Regional Strategy Papers and Indicative Programme), the EMHRN informed its members of the consultations with civil society launched by the European Commission, encouraging them to contribute to this process.
 - The EMHRN director attended an EU Commission Regional Seminar on Thematic Instruments and Programmes in Cairo on 11-13 May.
 - The advocacy director participated on 9 July and 17 November in consultation meetings organised by the Commission with NGOs and political foundations on the future strategy for the EIDHR.
 - EMHRN contributed to the HRDN (Brussels HR NGOs) joint position sent out on 15 September to the Commission.
 - The advocacy director expressed the EMHRN's positions in the consultation meeting on the EIDHR organised by Aidco in the Commission on the EIDHR work plan 2010 in October.

- An EMHRN delegation met on 3 September with Commission's officials dealing with the EU programme "Investing in people" focusing on gender equality in the EuroMed region.
- EMHRN reports: instead of producing an annual report on the democratisation and the security of human beings in the region and the EU, EMP and ENP response to this, input on the EU, EMP and ENP positions, policies and practices were included into some of the specific thematic reports produced by EMHRN Working Groups in the course of 2009, such as the report Active but Acquiescent: EU's response to the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives and possible shortcomings and challenges

During the period covered, mainly through its Brussels office but also through advocacy missions in EU Member States and South Mediterranean countries, the EMHRN successfully developed its activities in three areas: 1) it consolidated and developed its advocacy work with States and the EU institutions which increasingly consult the Network on issues pertaining to the Euro-Med region; 2) it also significantly strengthened its work on the bilateral relations between the EU and its Mediterranean partners by systematically following the bilateral political and 'technical' dialogues between the EU and its Mediterranean partners and finally; 3) it reinforced its cooperation with other NGOs in Brussels, often taking the lead on human rights issues in the Mediterranean region.

One challenge faced by the EMHRN in its advocacy and dialogue activities is the dilemma prevailing between the regional nature of the Network and its work and the fact that human rights issues are usually raised by the EU and the Southern partner countries on the bilateral level only; in order to deal with this problem, the EMHRN systematically integrates its thematic work in its bilateral activities and will, in the next phase, increasingly focus on the national level by drafting monitoring reports on particular countries or national issues and strengthening its advocacy work on individual countries – involving (as it also currently does) local members in this process. Another challenge faced is the limited knowledge and capacity of many EMHRN members and partners in dealing with EU/ENP issues, which negatively impacts their ability to carry out efficient advocacy work towards the EU institutions. To overcome this obstacle and build capacities within its membership, the EMHRN organised trainings on ENP/EMP/EU matters both within the framework of its Working Groups and as separate courses (see under Training). These activities have increased the capacity of the NGOs to understand the ENP processes which led to some NGOs being more efficient at lobbying the EU institutions and to follow-up on commitments and activities at national level; this will need to be reinforced in the coming years in view of the important training needs amongst EMHRN members in this field.

As a whole, the project's short term objective – which is to build on and develop existing activities regarding the EU and EMP institutions and a critical approach to cooperation in bi-lateral relations in particular as concerns the human rights instruments of the ENP – was met, although the EMHRN will need to pursue its efforts in the coming years. A positive outcome from the period covered is the fact that the EMHRN has established itself as the focal point on information on the Maghreb-Mashreq region provided to the EU institutions. To sustain its position and expand on the positive outcome, the EMHRN will have to further build its relations with the EU institutions and the Brussels-based NGOs and media while sustaining its role as an efficient interface for the EMHRN members when dealing with the EU.

The results achieved during the past two years have been positive steps towards the general objective set for EMHRN's advocacy work, i.e. to efficiently communicate EMHRN's and members'

policies and recommendations to the relevant representatives of the EU and EMP and ensure feed-back and dialogue with these. However, one lesson learned from these past years' experience is that the EMHRN can no longer limit its advocacy work to the EU only; it needs – to an extent that has yet to be ascertained – to also address the UN human rights bodies and the Arab League instruments. Therefore, while maintaining a strong focus on human rights in EuroMed relations, the EMHRN believes more strength could be added to its own and its members' work by also addressing the UN human rights bodies in Geneva, and (to a certain degree) the Arab League in Cairo – expanding the scope of the objective of its advocacy work.

➤ *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA and SIDA for its work in 2008 and 2009.*

7. PARTNERSHIPS

Objectives

The **human rights framework** of this activity is 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** is to contribute to developing and supporting efficient networks of civil society groups in the EuroMed region rooted in human rights values.

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

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 According to Work Programme

The EMHRN will:

- continue to support and host the EMHRF
- support the EuroMed NGO Platform to become an efficient clearing house for EuroMed civil society networks
- maintain and strengthen its close relations with international human rights organisations Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the FIDH, OMCT, etc.
- continue developing partnerships with trade unions, private and political foundations, religious based organisations
- develop relations to other forums for dialogue on human rights values and standards, such as social forums and political platforms

Output 2008

- *Several hundred NGOs and civil society representatives directly linked up to the EMHRN and its human rights activities in the EuroMed region*
- *Relations consolidated with partners listed hereunder*

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 listed hereunder*

- **Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Right Defenders:** EMHRN maintained its close cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Foundation, which is hosted by the EMHRN in its Copenhagen offices. Cooperation with EMHRF included administrative support and exchange of information.

- **EuroMed NGO Platform:**
 - A board meeting of the Platform took place on 11-13 January 2008 in Rabat. The board constituted itself of the following persons: President Abdelmaksoud Rachdi (Moroccan EuroMed Platform), Vice President Gerarda Ventura (Italy, FEMEC), Secretary General Michel Tubiana (EMHRN), Treasurer, Magdy Abdel-Hamid Belal (Egyptian EuroMed Platform). The board agreed to maintain the Platform's secretariat in France and to employ Pau Solanilla (dispatched from the IEMED in Barcelona) as coordinator in 2008. It also adopted a work plan for 2008 comprising organising the Civil Forum under the French Presidency of the EU.
 - Nine members of the EuroMed NGO Platform, including the EMHRN, formed a consortium (under the lead of Acsur) and presented a bid for the EU Commission tender for the Regional Programme, ENPI South, aiming *inter alia* to enhance the capacity of civil society organisation to provide inputs to the Barcelona process and the European Neighbourhood Policy. The Consortium was selected to make a final bid which at the end was not accepted by the Commission due to technical objections raised against one consortium member.
 - The EMHRN delegation played an important role in the EuroMed Civil Forum meeting on migration and movement that was held in Marseille on 30 October to 1 November. It organised a workshop on human rights and migration and was active in several other workshops. The EMHRN delegation consisted of Michel Tubiana, Marc Schade-Poulsen, Khemais Chammari, Chadi Sidhom, Jane Freedman and Lina Qurah (funded by the Heinrich Böll Foundation).
- **Danish NGO Network:** The EMHRN is in the steering group of the Danish MENA Network and has as such contributed to the development of the work plan as well as a fundraising proposal for a continuation of the Network for 2010-2011. In the framework of this Network, the EMHRN organised training on the EU Neighbourhood Policy, conducted by the EMHRN ENP coordinator in Brussels and attended by approximately 20 participants from Danish NGOs on 10 June. The EMHRN also co-organised a meeting on the implementation of CEDAW in the MENA and Denmark, where the EMHRN coordinator on gender gave a presentation on 4 October. The participation of the EMHRN in the Danish MENA Network has strengthened EMHRN networking and cooperation with Danish NGOs as well increased visibility of the EMHRN in Denmark. In 2010 EMHRN members from the region will be able to benefit from some of the trainings organised by the Network.
- **Brussels Human Rights and Democracy Network and International Human Rights Organisations:**
 - The EMHRN consolidated cooperation with the international human rights movement and actively forged alliances with civil society on a human rights agenda in Brussels. The EMHRN participated in meetings of the Human Rights and Democratisation Network (HRDN-Brussels-based NGOs) and joint work, such as the production of a manifesto for new members of the European Parliament in June and stands in the European Parliament in October. Meetings of the HRDN are held every 6 weeks.
 - The EMHRN has maintained good day-to-day working relations with international organisations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, FIDH, OMCT, Frontline, ICJ, etc. Numerous letters, recommendations, press releases, etc. have been published jointly with these organisations.
- **Fundamental Rights Agency:** The EMHRN became member of the Civil Society Platform of the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna following attendance by the Executive Director at its first meeting on 7-8 October 2008. The EMHRN has since followed the development of the FRA and provided input to the dialogue on its activities.

- **National Human Rights and Democracy Plan in Morocco:** In late 2006 the EMHRN became part of a Consortium with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and EuroMed Network (a Brussels-based consultancy firm), the latter being the lead agency, to present a bid for a tender of the EU Commission to provide technical assistance for the development of a national plan for human rights and democracy, made by the Moroccan Consultative Council for Human Rights (CCDH). The EMHRN agreed to its participation after close consultation with its members in Morocco being members of the CCDH, i.e the ADFM and the OMDH, the idea being that the EMHRN's participation should take place in partnership with the EMHRN members. The Consortium won the bid and placed two experts in Rabat at the Documentation Centre for Human Rights leading the project under the CCDH in September 2007. Regretfully the project faced many delays due to; the Parliamentary elections in autumn 2007; the fact the institutional setup between the Documentation Centre and the CCDH had not been clarified; initial communication problems inside the Consortium; and problems with establishing clear leadership of the process. The EMHRN held several meetings with the CCDH and its member organisations in Morocco. It also attended and facilitated a national symposium on the national plan on 27-29 April 2008 in Rabat. The project only took off for good after Ramadan 2008. Since then the EMHRN has contributed to the process of drafting the Action Plan by suggesting adequate experts at the request of the CCDH.
- **Other EuroMed networks and initiatives:** The EMHRN had regular contacts and meetings with EuroMesCo, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Aprove member organisations, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the European Coordinating Committee of NGOs on the Question of Palestine, La Maison de l'Europe, etc.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives and possible shortcomings and challenges

The EMHRN cooperates with civil society within and beyond the human rights community in the region, as well as with international NGOs, in order to build partnerships and disseminate the values upon which it builds its work. In the past the EMHRN has actively cooperated with a number of partners and proactively initiated or supported the establishment of new networks and entities such as the EuroMed Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF), the EuroMed NGO Platform and the Danish NGO network under the Arab Initiative. It has initiated cooperation with the Moroccan Consultative Council on Human Rights in order to provide technical assistance to the drafting of a National Human Rights and Democracy Plan, and is also member of a consortium aimed at implementing a civil society programme in the Mediterranean region. The EMHRN has also sought broad alliance with - and outreach to - international and other non-governmental organisations, trade unions, environmental and development groups, as well as religious groups, inside and outside the region.

During the period covered, EMHRN's relations with key partners in the region, including with the EuroMed NGO Platform and the EMHRF, were fully maintained and reinforced, as well as the exchange of information and coordination of activities with major international human rights organisations, including at the Brussels level. In Denmark, the EMHRN has maintained its strong involvement in the activities and the future development of the Danish MENA Network. In this respect, the short term objective - to actively maintain and develop partnerships within and beyond the human rights community working in the region - was fully met in 2008-2009.

The links and relationships built with other organisations and initiatives in the period covered (and before) have contributed positively to EMNRH's general objective in the field of partnership which is to contribute to developing and supporting efficient networks of civil society groups in the

EuroMed region rooted in human rights values. One of EMHRN's main challenges in this respect is to define and implement its own approach to human rights issues and instruments in the EuroMed region while developing fruitful cooperation with other international organisations. So far, the EMHRN has been relatively successful at doing this and has been careful in this process not to encroach upon specific themes of other NGOs; this positive achievement will need to be consolidated in the next years. In order to do so, the network will firstly sustain or strengthen its involvement in existing cooperation networks or projects that have proved successful (EMHRF; EuroMed Platform; etc.) and, when it comes to initiating or entering into new cooperation projects, EMHRN will systematically reflect on its specific added value to such projects.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support by and cooperation with the many partners listed above in 2008 and 2009.*

8. EXECUTIVE BODIES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Objectives

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

The **general objective** is 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** is to

- maintain and develop the work of EMHRN executive bodies
- develop internal communication practices to ensure transparency and ownership to decision making
- look into the membership of organisations and individuals who are not using or feeding into the EMHRN
- define a proactive approach to new memberships
- develop a gender mainstreaming policy

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 according to Work Programme

- Hold a General Assembly of the EMHRN in 2008 with a main focus on recent trends that impact human rights as well as how to respond to these
- Hold three annual Executive Committee meetings
- Hold 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
- Hold an annual meeting of conveners, political referents and coordinators of EMHRN working groups
- Finalise and set up a gender audit of the EMHRN and develop a gender mainstreaming policy on that basis
- Update the statutes in order to match the development of the EMHRN
- Define a proactive approach to new memberships

Output 2008

- *One general assembly*
- *2 executive committee meetings (Casablanca and Brussels)*

- *One seminar on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership*
- *3 Steering group meetings*
- *Adoption of political report, activity report, financial reports, a new work programme, statutes, by-laws and concept paper on WGs*
- *Election of new executive committee members*
- *4 new EMHRN members adopted, and cancellation of 7 memberships*

Output 2009

- *3 executive committee meeting (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*

Activities 2009

- The EMHRN Executive Committee (EC) was elected at the EMHRN's 8th General Assembly in Barcelona on 12-14 December 2008. The EC is composed as follows:
 - Kamel Jendoubi, President, CRLDHT, Tunisia
 - Moataz El Fegiery, 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 Şeyhanlıoğlu, Human Rights Association, Turkey
 - Marie Lavrentiadou, Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity (EEDDA), Greece
 - Danial Saoud, Committee for the Defense 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
- Following the General Assembly on 12-14 December 2008, EMHRN's newly elected EC convened in Copenhagen on 13-15 February 2009. At this first meeting, the EC was constituted and the EC members discussed among others the key developments in the Euro-Med region, in particular Israel's war against Gaza, the evaluation of the 2008 General Assembly and the implementation of its decisions, as well as EMHRN's future activities.
- The Executive Committee also convened in Istanbul on 19-21 June 2009. At the meeting, the EC members launched the process for the development of the new EMHRN Strategy 2011-2017 and discussed the human rights situation in Turkey, as well as the modalities of the EMHRN's possible participation in the United Nations, the Arab League and the African Union in line with the General Assembly's decision to enlarge the EMHRN's mandate to work with other institutions. Furthermore, the EC discussed the work and future activities of the Working Group on Justice and started the preparations for the Istanbul Plan of Action conference on October 24-25 2009.
- Finally, the EC convened in Brussels on 2-4 October 2009. At the meeting, the EC continued the process for the development of the new EMHRN Strategy, and, in this regard, discussed the human rights situation in Europe and the Arab world, as well as the role of the EU and the UN in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The EC also discussed in depth the work and future prospects of the Working Group on Migration and Refugees. The EC meeting was also an occasion to organise a seminar, on 2 October, on "Conflicts in a deadlock, conceptual and empirical reflection on the case of the Western Sahara" with the participation of the EC

members, EMHRN Executive director, Programme director, project coordinators, the EU Commission, and different experts. The aim of the seminar was to start an internal process within the EMHRN in order to clarify its positions on human rights and international humanitarian law related to the Western Sahara.

- All EC meetings were occasions for the EMHRN to set-up meetings with EMHRN members and civil society organisations in the countries of concern as well as with government and EU representatives. The EC furthermore continued the practice of issuing a statement on key questions regarding the human rights situation in the region following its meetings.
- The question of gender mainstreaming of the EMHRN was the subject of several EC meetings. Initiatives in that regard are mentioned above under the Gender Working Group activities. The EMHRN initiated work to draft a gender mainstreaming policy paper.
- In between the EC meetings, on 17 April and 4 September 2009, steering group meetings were held in Copenhagen in order to facilitate the management of the EMHRN. Following the General Assembly 2008, the Steering group is composed of EMHRN President Kamel Jendoubi, Vice President Lone Lindholt, Treasurer Moataz El Fegier, and the EC member in charge of gender mainstreaming, Magali Thill. Due to the health situation of Kamel Jendoubi, Michel Tubiana took part in the 2009 meetings.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives and possible shortcomings and challenges

The short term objectives for Executive Bodies and Membership for 2008-2009 were met as so far the general assembly was successfully organised in 2008, with the election of a new Executive Committee and the meetings of the Executive Committee and the steering group were held as planned. The work towards a gender mainstreaming policy was initiated in 2009, and will potentially be ready by 2010. On the issue of its membership, the EMHRN realised during the period covered that in order to reinforce its legitimacy as representing the civil society in the whole EuroMed region and to increase its capacity to efficiently address the main relevant issues, it needs to enlarge its membership by including additional organisations from countries that are not at all or insufficiently represented as well as organisations active on specific issues that are insufficiently covered. As a result, this raise in the number of members was set as a major objective for the next two years (2010-11).

Regarding its general objectives, the EMHRN will need to sustain and strengthen its democratic governance as the only way to ensure a broad consensus amongst its members given the disparity in the views and backgrounds of its members and the fact that some issues it deals with are extremely sensitive. Although the EMHRN is characterised by the extreme diversity of its members, it has managed since its creation to establish and maintain democratic and transparent governance structures and procedures that ensure the representation of different categories of member organisations as well as gender and geographical balance. This will have to be maintained and reinforced.

➤ *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA and SIDA to its activities in 2008 and 2009.*

9. ADMINISTRATION

Objectives

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

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

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

A. Implementation of activities

Activities 2008-09 according to work programme

The EMHRN will work to

- Consolidate its new organisational structure, developing a business plan and hire the necessary administrative financial staff to match EMHRN's development
- Ensure long term and diversified funding for the EMHRN and develop a strategy in this regard
- Strengthen two EMHRN antennas in the South as well as the office in Brussels and seek to register these with the authorities
- Implement a staff development plan

Output 2008

- A plan for staff development procedures and staff development talk was finalised
- The staff situation in the EMHRN was stable in 2008 except for the administrative department
- In June 2008 Nathalie Stanus was employed as coordinator in Brussels of EMHRN work on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians
- On 1 May 2008 Sune Rolsted was dismissed from his position as head of administration. His position was taken up by Poul Collemorten
- Also Marie Chowdury was dismissed from her position on 1 August and Aws Muhsin resigned on 1 September 2008. They have been replaced by respectively Migena Jacobsen and Per Frank Hansen
- The Staff met for joint training and planning meetings on four occasions

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 pending
- EMHRN Finance Policy 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 Europe Aid was successfully finalised in February 2009
- 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.*

Staff issues 2009

Staff was reinforced throughout 2009 in order to follow EMHRN developments:

- Shaimaa Abou Al Khei Sulima was hired in January 2009 as media and communication officer responsible for the Arab press and is based in Cairo.
- Fabrice Liebaut, former Justice Coordinator, was in January 2009 appointed as fundraising and human resources manager (starting June 2009).
- Marie Picaulasa was hired as administrative assistant in the Brussels office in replacement of Elvis Soudy whose contract terminated early 2009.
- Mathieu Routier and Marta Semplici were hired in April 2009, respectively as project manager and project assistant of the newly established EMHRN programme on Solidarity, based in Paris.
- Rim Hajji was hired in April 2009 as project assistant for the Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers programme based in Rabat, Morocco.
- Nancy Demicheli was hired as new Justice Coordinator in Copenhagen in May 2009.
- In November 2009, Maibritt Damgaard Nielsen, executive secretary, came back from maternity leave while Laureline Rossigneux stopped as scheduled in November.
- Finally, Nour Hemici, Human Rights Education coordinator, terminated her employment with the EMHRN at the end of February 2009. The position was not filled during 2009 (this will be done in 2010).

At 31 December 2009, EMHRN was (apart from interns) staffed by:

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)

Coordinators

6. Project Coordinator for European Neighbourhood Policy, Emilie Dromzee, MA in European Community Law, Brussels (with the EMHRN since 2005)
7. Project Coordinator for Justice, Nancy Demicheli, Master Degree in Law, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2009)
8. Project Coordinator for Migration, Chadi Sidhom, MA in Business administration, Rabat (with the EMHRN since 2007)
9. Project Coordinator for Freedom of Association, Thibaut Guillet, MA International and European Law of Human Rights, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2007)
10. Director of Gender projects, Lina Al Qurah, Gender specialist, Amman (with the EMHRN since 2007)
11. 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)

12. 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)

Executive staff

13. Communication Officer, Marc Degli Esposti, Journalist, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2006)
14. Media and Communication Officer, Shaima 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)
16. Solidarity project assistant, Marta Semplici, MA2 in European Affairs, Paris (with the EMHRN since 2009)
17. Refugee, Asylum Seekers and Migrant's Rights project assistant, Rim Hajji, MA in Asian studies, BA in English language, Rabat (with the EMHRN since 2009)

Administrative staff

18. IT coordinator (part time), Per Frank Hansen, Engineer, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2008)
19. Book-keeper and administrative secretary, Migena Jakobsen, MA in business administration, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2008)
20. Administrative assistant, Marie Picalausa, Brussels (with the EMHRN since 2009)

Although it was not possible to adopt a coherent staff development plan in 2009, this task is now taken up by the newly appointed human resources manager for further initiatives to be taken in 2010. A staff representative was elected in 2009 and first steps were taken in order to set up a security committee as required by Danish law, and to adequately structure the relations between the staff and the management. The Staff Development Days, initially planned by the end of 2009, were finally held in March 2010. Guidelines on working from abroad were also adopted in the course of 2009.

Administrative issues 2009

In the course of 2009, EMHRN established two new antennas in Paris (Solidarity programme) and Cairo (communication) where offices were rented and the necessary staff hired. The registration procedure of the Paris office was completed without delay while in Cairo the application for registration was still pending at the end of the 2009. Official registration of the existing Amman office was also granted in 2009.

A Finance Policy, covering all financial procedures within the EMHRN, was drafted by the secretariat and discussed by the executive bodies of the EMHRN in the course of 2009 for final adoption in 2010.

Funding 2009

The External review commissioned by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the support of Sida and Europe Aid was successfully finalised in February 2009. Following this the EMHRN was able to secure additional basket funding from Sida for the implementation of its 2008-09 programme as well as funds for a IPA NGO conference that was held in October 2009. By the end of 2009 basket funding contracts with Sida and Danida for the implementation of EMHRN 2010-11 Work Programme were finalised.

The EMHRN was also able to continue diversifying its funding sources as it secured funding from the EU for its solidarity programme and additional grants from a series of other donors for various projects (Gender, Migration, Justice, etc.). Finally, the EMHRN maintains or develops regular contact with private foundations and development organisations.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives and possible shortcomings and challenges

During the period covered, the EMHRN took decisive steps to strengthen its structures (administrative staff, offices, staff policy, etc.): the Amman office was officially registered; two new offices were opened, in Cairo and in Paris; EMHRN's secretariat in Copenhagen was supplemented by additional staff, including a part-time fundraiser and part-time human resources manager; Staff development issues were addressed, partly through individual staff development talks and the organisation of 'Staff Development Days' held in 2008 and early 2010. These activities made it possible to achieve the EMHRN's short term objective regarding administration, i.e. to set up the necessary structures to implement its work programme and to strengthen its capacity to respond proactively to changing situations in the region. However, the work undertaken will need to be consolidated in the forthcoming period, in particular through the ongoing adjustment of the staff composition to EMHRN's work and needs (and the funding available) and the adoption of a formal staff policy providing for adequate staff development.

While the efforts made in the past two years have contributed to the general objective (to provide administrative support to all areas of the EMHRN's work enabling the network to fully implement its strategy), it should also be added that the EMHRN is engaged in an ongoing process by which the roles and spheres of responsibility of its staff have been gradually demarcated more clearly, following the continued growth in the organisation these past years. Clearer positions have motivated the staff, and have therefore become increasingly efficient. The network has now reached a stage where it needs to consolidate its organisational and not least administrative structures, while adopting and implementing specific strategies on issues such as staff development, fundraising, role and tasks of its antennas in the South, etc. These challenges, that will condition the future achievement of the general objective, have been identified as crucial in the next period.

Acknowledgements

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

Marc Schade Poulsen
Copenhagen 2010



ANNEX 1: PUBLICATIONS AND STATEMENTS 2008-2009

EMHRN Publications 2008

[Economic and Social Rights of Migrants and Refugees](#)

[Asylum and Migration in the Mashrek](#)

[Violence against migrant and refugee women](#)

[Gender Mainstreaming Training Kit](#)

[Freedom of Association in the Euro-Mediterranean region - 2008 Review](#)

[Resources for Human Rights Education in the Euro-Mediterranean region](#)

[The Middle East Quartet: A progress Report](#)

[The Initiatives in the Field of Judicial Reform in the Euro-Mediterranean Region](#)

[The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary in Morocco](#)

[The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary in Jordan](#)

[The Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary in Tunisia](#)

EMHRN Publications 2009

[Recommendations on Human Rights for the New Morocco/EU Action Plan in the framework of the Advanced Status](#)

[Gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region: From plan of action to action?](#)

[Summer school report 2008](#)

[Active but Acquiescent: EU's Response to the Israeli Military Offensive in the Gaza Strip](#)

[Fact-finding Mission in Lampedusa](#)

[Freedom of Association in the Euro-Mediterranean region: 2009 Review](#)

EMHRN Statements 2008

[SYRIA: A trial against freedom of expression](#)

[Independent online newspaper attacked, Its content completely destroyed](#)

[Alaa Byassi prevented from travelling](#)

EU-Morocco Advanced Status: Priority for Human Rights in the Strengthening of EU-Morocco Relations

Egypt: AHRLA finally authorised to be officially re-registered!

MIDDLE EAST QUARTET IS FAILING, WARN AID AGENCIES

Freedom of association

Gaza: Human rights Defenders in prison?

Unfair trial of 12 members of the National Council of the Damascus Declaration for Democratic National Change (NCDD)

Tunisia: Harassment against human rights defenders continues

The United Against Torture Coalition (UAT) and the Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) call upon the European Union (EU) for urgent action on the closure of the Nafha Society for the Defense of Prisoners and Human Rights in Nablus

The EMHRN and the IHD urge the Turkish authorities to allow Jon Rud access to Turkey

A delegation of the EMHRN discussed the new Law on Societies during a visit in Jordan

Bill on entry, stay and movement of foreigners: Algeria must reconsider its draft law

Call on heads of States of the European Union

EMHRN Contribution in relation to the ENP Progress Reports on the implementation of the Human Rights Chapter of the EU-Israel Action Plan in 2008

Ongoing judicial and administrative harassment against Mr. Mazen Darwish

"EU-Israel privileged relations": Europe must not turn a blind eye to the deteriorating human rights situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Directive of the European Union on return - The current text does not guarantee the respect for fundamental rights

Ensuring respect of international law to prepare for peace

The Egyptian authorities impede freedom of association: an organisation prevented from participating in a UN meeting

Appeal to respect the freedom of movement owed to the Al-Haq General Director

Time to take Action for Gender Equality

Four Syrian beheaded, hundreds still under the threat of execution in Saudi Arabia

An imperative duty to act

Progress in Human Rights Respect must be a Condition for Deepening EU's Relations with its Southern Neighbours

Open letter to Mr Bouteflika

Two Tunisians face expulsion to Tunisia despite risk of torture or other ill-treatment

Stop the arbitrary investigation against the Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM)

Stop Collective Punishment and Unlawful Killings

Open letter on the occasion of March 8th 2008 International Women's Day

The "Peace Award 2008" Laureate and another human rights activist violently assaulted by the Tunisian police

Letter to the EU Commission: Contribution as regards Human Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region

Two women activists violently assaulted by the Tunisian police

Letter on the occasion of the Association Council EU/Lebanon

Syria: new arrest and prosecutions against pro-reform activists

Stop the collective punishment of civilians in Gaza

Recommendations on human rights in view of the meeting of the Subcommittee on political matters between the EU and Egypt

Greece: Human rights activists face attacks and court actions by neo-Nazis

Crackdown on Syrian activists continue

Egypt : Deportation of 1400 Eritrean asylum seekers

Positive Step towards the Respect of Freedom of Association in Egypt but Concerns Remain

Egypt: Serious concerns over restrictions to the freedom of movement of judges Hisham Bastawissi and Ashraf El-Baroudi

Recommendations to the 2009 Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference to follow up on the implementation of the Istanbul Framework on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society"

Freedom of expression must be respected - Release Ethem Açıkalın

Review the trial of Saber Ragoubi and Imed Ben Ameer

The Association Lambda Istanbul Shut Down, Stop the Persecution Against Minorities' Rights

EMHRN Statements 2009

Free Muharrem Erbey!

Syria: Where is Nizar Ristnawi?

30th anniversary of CEDAW: End discrimination against women by lifting all reservations to CEDAW

Tunisia: New smear campaign inciting to hatred and violence against human rights defenders

No peace without respect for international law, No respect for international law without EU pressure

Slandering Media Campaign against Tunisian Human Rights Defenders and Journalists

Morocco: Aminatou Haidar must be allowed to go home

EMHRN recommendations to the Spanish Presidency of the EU

Despite police intimidation, the EMHRN-Solidarity Group meeting took place in Tunis

Tunisia: Zouhair Makhoulouf denied the right to fair trial

Tunisia: Taoufik Ben Brik's trial – a parody of justice

Palestinian Human Rights Defenders denied permits to leave Gaza

Tunisia – Arrests, harassment and physical violence: blackout for Human rights supporters

Syria: M. Al-Hassani Disbarment Signals Continuing Persecution and Intimidation of Lawyers and Human Rights Defenders

Turkey: Release Filiz Kalayci!

Syria: Open letter on Human Rights Lawyer Mohanad Al-Hassani

The EU must Pursue Accountability and Justice for Victims in Gaza by Endorsing the Goldstone Report at the UN General Assembly

Tunisia: Presidential threats against independent journalists put into practice

Tunisia: Radhia Nasraoui forbidden to leave Tunisia!

SYRIA: call to reveal immediately fate of lawyer Haitham Al Maleh

Tunisia: The die is cast....no more bets!

EMHRN Executive Committee Meeting – Brussels, October 2009

Tunisia: Call for the release of the prisoners of conscience of the mining basin

Tunisia: International Day of Solidarity with the people of Gafsa

Recommendations to the Swedish Presidency of the EU

Letter to the EU (Czech) presidency

15 NGOs highlight inconsistencies in EU's approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

The EMHRN calls on the EU and its Member States to support the UN Fact Finding Mission report on Gaza and its recommendations

OPEN LETTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE EU- PA POLITICAL DIALOGUE - 28 SEPTEMBER 2009

SYRIA: Closure of the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression

Note on the human rights situation in Israel and the OPT

SYRIA: Release immediately human rights defender Muhannad Al Hassani!

SYRIA: NOHR-S still unlicensed leaving its members under imprisonment threat

Freedom of Association in Jordan: King Abdullah II Should Reject New Societies' Law

Recommendations on human rights in Egypt in view of the second EU Egypt subcommittee on political matters

Grant the rejected Iraqi asylum seekers in Denmark humanitarian residency permit

EMHRN Executive Committee Meeting - Istanbul June 2009

LIBYA: Deep concern about the death of human rights defender Fathi El-Jahmi: United Nations and Libyan authorities urged to react

The EMHRN Supports Universal Jurisdiction

Harassment Against Human Rights Defenders Must End!

Replace Law on Associations Proposed Amendments Not Sufficient to Meet Rights Obligations

Illegal refoulement of 500 migrants to Libya : the EU must condemn Italian authorities

New harassment of a human rights organisation

Incoherent EU approach to Human Rights and Democratisation

Human rights defender's freedom of movement and right to a fair trial violated

LETTER ON THE OCCASION OF MARCH 8th 2009, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Women's rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region must be made a priority

EMHRN delegation goes to Lampedusa

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network welcomes the release of the Egyptian opposition leader Ayman Nour

Time for changes for Women's rights in Lebanon!

First meeting of the New EMHRN Executive Committee

Gaza/Czech EU Presidency: High profile mission in Prague

The headquarters of radio Kalima and the CNLT surrounded and looted

Gaza/Operation cast lead: Final statement of a mission of prominent lawyers and activists

GAZA: INTERNATIONAL HIGH LEVEL MISSION

A stronger reaction is needed

Aid agencies call for suspension of enhanced EU-Israel agreements

EU must take strong measures to ensure Israel's respect for international law

No peace without respect for international law, No respect for international law without EU pressure

Palestinian Human Rights Defenders denied permits to leave Gaza

OPEN LETTER TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO ORGANISE LOCAL CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN RAMALLAH TO RECEIVE THEIR DIRECT INPUTS (25/12/ 2009)

OPEN LETTER TO THE EU MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRES ADDRESSING INCONSISTENCIES IN THE EU'S APPROACH IN THE MIDDLE EAST PROCESS AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 27-28 OCTOBER 2009 (22/09/2009).

Co-signed by: EMHRN, Amnesty International, Broedeeljek Delen, CAFOD, CCFC Terre Solidaire, CIDSE, Oxfam International, Defense for Children International, Pax Chrristi International, Diakonia, Trocaire, United Civilians for Peace, Medico international, War Child, MS Action Aid Denmark.

NGOs highlight inconsistencies in EU's approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

(Co-signed by: EMHRN, Christian Aid, APRODEV)

The EMHRN calls on the EU and its Member States to support the UN Fact Finding Mission report on Gaza and its recommendations

OPEN LETTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE EU- PA POLITICAL DIALOGUE - 28 SEPTEMBER 2009

Note on the human rights situation in Israel and the OPT in view of the fourth meeting of the EU-Israel Informal Human Rights Working Group, due to take place on 3 September

OPEN LETTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE EU- PA JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

OPEN LETTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE EU-ISRAEL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL 15 JUNE 2009

EMHRN recommendations to the Swedish Presidency of the EU (June 2009)

REPORT: Active but Acquiescent: EU's Response to the Israeli Military Offensive in the Gaza Strip (May 2009)

The EMHRN Supports Universal Jurisdiction

EU approach to Human Rights and Democratization

Human rights defender's freedom of movement and right to a fair trial violated

Letter to the EU (Czech) presidency

(Co-signed by: EMHRN, Amnesty International and FIDH)

Gaza/Czech EU Presidency: High profile mission in Prague

Gaza/Operation cast lead: Final statement of a mission of prominent lawyers and activists

(Co-signed by: EMHRN, FIDH, and International Commission of Jurists)

EU/Israel: A stronger reaction is needed

EU must take strong measures to ensure Israel's respect for international law

Aid agencies call for suspension of enhanced EU-Israel agreements

(Co-signed by: Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network , Avaaz, Broederlijk Delen (Belgium), CAFOD (UK), CCFD (France), Christian Aid (UK and Republic of Ireland), Danish Church Aid (Denmark), Diakonia (Sweden), FIDH (France), medico international (Germany and Switzerland), Muslim Aid (UK), Oxfam International, Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims (Denmark), Trócaire (Ireland), United Civilians for Peace (Netherlands), World Vision (UK))

ANNEX 2: MEETINGS 2008-2009**Meetings 2008**

Meeting name/type (Wg, seminar, etc)	Title (if any)	Programme	Date (2008)	Location	No. of Participants
WG Meeting		FoA	23-24-may	Cairo	18
WG Meeting		FoA	8-9-nov	Amman	13
WG Meeting		Justice	9-10-feb	Brussels	27
Open Seminar		Justice	11-feb	Brussels	28
Follow-up Seminar		Justice	24-25-oct	Rabat	70
WG Meeting		Justice	8-9-nov	Istanbul	31
WG Meeting		Gender	11-12-oct	Brussels	28
Regional Planning and Coordination Meeting on the Istanbul Action Plan		Gender	11-may	Cairo	15
WG Meeting		HRE	1-2-mar	Istanbul	21
WG Meeting		HRE	3-5-oct	Madrid	24
WG Meeting		PIP	7-8-apr	Brussels	18
WG Meeting		PIP	28-jul	Jerusalem	14?
WG Meeting		PIP	8-9-nov	Brussels	11
WG Meeting		MAWG	11-13-apr	Madrid	31
WG Meeting (Launch of Alert Mission)		MAWG	10-12-oct	Rabat	30
(Co-organised) EuroMed Civil Forum	Living Together	MAWG	30-oct-1-nov	Marseille	
General Assembly		EMHRN	12-14-dec	Barcelona	102

Meetings 2009

Meeting name/type (WG, seminar, etc)	Title (if any)	Programme	Date (2009)	Location	No. of Participants
Mission on 2nd Review		FoA	09-feb	Geneva	20
WG Meeting		FoA	25-26-apr	Paris	19
WG Meeting		FoA	21-22-nov	Madrid	17
Fact-finding Mission		FoA	March	Morocco	2
Follow-up seminar		Justice	30-31-jan	Amman	60
Regional Seminar	Building Bridges Amongst Judges	Justice	2-3-may	Cairo	100
WG Meeting		Justice	6-7-june	Paris	22
Follow-up seminar		Justice	23-24-oct	Beirut	70
Conference on the judicial reform process in Morocco		Justice	22-23-jan 2010	Morocco	100
WG Meeting		Justice	January 2010	Rabat	26
WG Meeting		Gender	10-11-may	Stockholm	21
WG Meeting		Gender	24-oct	Istanbul	21
National awareness raising seminars		Gender	14-feb	Amman	29
National awareness raising seminars		Gender	27-june	Jerash	26
National awareness raising seminars		Gender	27-mar	Beirut	18
National awareness raising seminars		Gender	14-15-jun	Alexandria	30
National awareness raising seminars		Gender	12-may	Stockholm	44
National awareness raising seminars		Gender	24-july	Rabat	28
National awareness raising seminars		Gender	3-oct	Copenhagen	15
Regional conference	Gender Equality in the Euro-Med Region: From Plan of Action to Action?	Gender	24-25-oct	Istanbul	96
WG Meeting		PIP	1-4-apr	Jerusalem	11
WG Meeting		PIP	16-18-oct	Madrid	12
Joint mission with FIDH and ICJ		PIP	17-20-jan	Israel	11
Advocacy Mission		PIP	18-19-feb	Czech Republic	8
Advocacy Mission		PIP	9-11-mar	Denmark	7
Advocacy Mission		PIP	8-10-jun	Sweden	6

Advocacy Mission		PIP	19-21-oct	Spain	6
Joint Workshop with Aprovech and Christian Aid		PIP	16-17-nov	West Bank	29
WG Meeting		MAWG	22-24-may	Brussels	25
WG Meeting		MAWG	30-oct-1-nov	Nicosia	24
Sub-regional Meeting		MAWG	4-5-apr	Cairo	45
Alert Mission		MAWG	25-27-feb	Lampedusa	5
Alert Mission		MAWG	25-jan-1-feb 2010	Calais	5
Field Mission		Solidarity	June	Tunisia	2
WG Meeting		Solidarity	13-15-nov	Tunis	9
Field Mission		Solidarity	13-17-sep	Algeria	1
Field Mission		Solidarity	7-12-aug	Syria	1
EC Meeting			13-15-feb	Copenhagen	15
EC Meeting			19-21-jun	Istanbul	13
EC Meeting			2-4-oct	Brussels	21

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