



2012

ACTIVITY REPORT

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
RÉSEAU EURO-MÉDITERRANÉEN DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

الشبكة الأوروبية - المتوسطية لحقوق الإنسان



Table of Contents

Preface	3
Activity Report	6
1. Introduction	6
2. Networking	6
2.1. Working Groups	6
2.2. Human Rights and Democratisation	7
2.3. Conflict situations	18
3. Communication	27
4. Membership Support.....	29
4.1. Solidarity	29
4.1.1. Solidarity project	29
4.1.1.1. Algeria.....	29
4.1.1.2. Syria.....	32
4.1.1.3. Tunisia	35
4.1.2. EMHRN Mission in Tunisia.....	35
4.2. Training	38
5. Advocacy and dialogue	40
6. Partnerships.....	47
7. Executive Bodies and Memberships	49
8. Administration	51
9. Acknowledgments	53
10. List of annexes	53



Preface

- The EuroMed region has changed radically after the onset of the revolution in Tunisia in December 2010 that triggered a wind of change for democracy. Although it is occurring in a volatile environment, **a fundamental transformation is taking place in the region.**
- Despite new avenues for democracy in the South there is no guarantee that current transition phases will lead to democracy based on respect for human rights as universally recognised. The build-up of consolidated democratic institutions is only in the making and far from being achieved. In this connection, and despite the emergence of an important number of new civil society organisations and groups in countries that experienced uprisings, **civil society remains weak and unprepared for the new challenges** brought by the changes in the region. The number of European and International actors, including foundations, present in the South and East Mediterranean has significantly increased. However, many of these do not have track records from working in the region or the mechanisms to react rapidly or creatively to move resources.
- Furthermore, **human rights violations that previously plagued the region have far from disappeared in 2012.** Lack of respect for fundamental freedoms, for the independence of the judiciary, for women's rights and gender equality, and for migrants' and refugees' rights remain characteristic features of the region as well as the lack of respect for economic, social and cultural rights. The opening of the political spheres and the rise to legislative power of Islamist parties have made human rights problems surface that were not previously on the political agendas such as encroachments on freedom of conscience, discrimination and the lack of respect of rights to diversity.
- As an illustration of these new trends, Egypt and Tunisia are going through **a critical period of political transition, instability and crisis, the outcome of which is unclear** and depends on the fallouts of political and societal fights between the different political, social, economic and religious forces. In this conjuncture, it is essential to ensure the protection of human rights defenders and groups and their work that are key in contributing to an outcome of the transition process that is respectful of international human rights values and standards as well as democratic principles.
- **Conflicts are still very present.** The Middle East peace talks remained blocked while the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory and violations of international humanitarian law has steadily intensified. Syria remained in the throes of a deep crisis that is unfolding amidst escalating violence, full-blown militarization with clear and dangerous sectarian overtones. Also the Kurdish issue and the Western Sahara conflict negatively impact on human rights promotion and democracy building across the region.
- In Europe attacks on migrant and refugee rights remained key issues. **Racism and xenophobia are salient features of European societies often with focus on Muslim minorities** making the promotion of exchanges between the North and the South important and hence increased regional civil society cooperation relevant.
- Seen from a regional perspective **the Euro-Mediterranean area remains asymmetric** in the sense that in the EU one finds predominantly stable, affluent, democratic, and overall human rights abiding societies with a civil society that is free to act while in the South and East Mediterranean one finds less affluent, conflict ridden, previously mostly non-democratic, countries suffering from high unemployment rates, important percentages of populations living in poverty and economic inequality which now are on the move while large scale human rights violations prevail.
- As mentioned above, human rights organisations, despite the important role they play, remain relatively weak. In several countries of the South they are still heavily oppressed while in others they have to tackle the challenges that have arisen from the new situations. In Europe, civil society groups dealing with the Arab world and the Mediterranean region from a human rights perspective remain after all relatively few and need more resources to have their voices heard in the public debate.
- In general, while human rights values are at the heart of social movements' concerns, the human rights organisations face the task of connecting to the broader segments of the societies to which they belong as well as of defining their relation to religion based parties.
- The EMHRN thus continue to work in an environment where key issues in relation to the protection and promotion of human rights remain unchanged from before the revolutions. But it is also **facing new challenges** arising from the changes in the region. In that context, **2012 was a transitional year for EMHRN:** during its latest General Assembly in June 2012, the EMHRN members adopted a **new Strategy for 2012-2018.** In addition, they elected a new Executive Committee presided by Michel Tubiana, as well as



ratified the new members recommended to them by the former Executive Committee.

- The new strategy 2012-2018 will amongst other address three key challenges arising from the changes in the region. The **first challenge** consists in the fact that the geo-political entity in relation to which the EMHRN was created, the Barcelona process, has almost disappeared – except on paper. Today almost no one is at the receiving end for dialogue, advocacy or regional reporting on regional Euro-Med human rights and democracy issues. Although the EMHRN's identity and regional mandate will remain historically rooted in the Barcelona process, and although its geographical mandate will remain unchanged, future work will be built on the fact that human rights organisations in the EU and South and East Mediterranean believe in a common destiny, wish to work together, learn from one another and help one another in protecting and promoting human rights around the Mediterranean and in the EU.
- Closely linked is the **second challenge**, consisting in the fact that the South Mediterranean region is even less homogeneous than before. Up to the start of the revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia the South and East Mediterranean region, in particular the Arab countries, without being uniform could be said to face more or less the same oppressive regimes, the same lack of fundamental freedoms, gender inequalities, dependent and partial judiciaries, dominant security apparatuses, wide spread torture, etc.
- The changes produced by the revolutions imply that the situation now varies significantly from one country to another. Hence no uniform approach to the region can be taken. **The EMHRN will therefore adopt a more diversified approach than in the past also because the situation in each country most likely will change frequently** with setbacks, steps forward, etc. As a part of this adaptation the EMHRN and its members will have to deal with human rights in transition processes and in democracy building, including gender equality and women's rights and participation.
- The **third challenge** (linked to the previous ones) lies in the need to deal with the fact that the EMHRN gains its strength and cohesion from being a regional, transnational organisation while at the same time most influential political processes take place at national and bi-lateral levels between the EU and its Southern Neighbours.
- Following the adoption of the new Strategy 2012-2018, the EMHRN commissioned an expert in organisational management to make a study on the structural adjustments needed by the EMHRN to implement its strategy. **The EMHRN is currently looking into the changes to its**

organizational structure that arose from the new strategy and that will be gradually implemented over the next 2-3 years. The path and the extent of the full implementation will depend on the availability of funds as some decisions require that additional funding is secured.

- For the time being, this annual report covers all activities conducted by EMHRN in 2012, in relation to the general and short term objectives set out in the previous strategy and work programmes. In the upcoming years, activity reporting will also reflect the new strategic objectives defined by EMHRN.
- The Working Group on **Freedom of Association and Assembly** has established itself as a recognized regional forum for human rights NGOs. EMHRN expertise was increasingly acknowledged and solicited by partners (NGOs, national governments and international organisations), while its advocacy work on Freedom of Association has steered many reactions from interlocutors (local governments, EU and UN). However, considerable work remains to be done on the ground as the general tendency is one of growing restrictions. One key concern remains on the increased impact of the EU to truly implement its "renewed" Neighbourhood Policy.
- With regard to **Justice**, EMHRN took in 2012 the first steps towards the objective of establishing a regional civil society instrument aimed at supporting local processes and initiatives towards reform : a regional seminar, a first working group meeting in Morocco and the publication of a report on the reform of the Judiciaries in the wake of the Arab spring. This will be followed up in the new strategy by increased work and allocated resources on Justice in the upcoming years.
- **Women's rights and Gender** mainstreaming continued to be a prolific area of initiatives by EMHRN. The dedicated working group remains an appropriate platform to strengthen regional coordination and networking. National meetings in Tunis, Beirut and Rabat allowed promoting and protecting women's rights in the political transition, while the publication of a "Gender media guide" was welcomed by journalists to ensure a better coverage of women's rights in transition countries. However EMHRN work on gender is strongly challenged by the political developments, including an increased marginalization of women, violence against women and infringement of their rights.
- Despite continuing restrictions on the freedom of movement of its members from Gaza, the Working Group on **Palestine, Israel and Palestinians** continued to be a key critical human rights advocacy forum, while the EMHRN remained an EU



focal point for expertise on EU-Israel relations. In 2012, the joint EMHRN-APRODEV report on promoting and ensuring respect for international law was successfully launched as an advocacy tool for CSOs in Europe and Israel-OPT.

- Despite the fact that **Migration and Asylum** remain marginal topics for human rights organizations in the region, the importance of a regional forum was demonstrated by the high interest shown by applicants when the EMHRN Working Group on Migration and Asylum was renewed following the General Assembly. The uprisings allowed previously inaccessible countries, such as Tunisia and Libya, to open up in 2012, hence facilitating work on those issues, but migrants and refugees are facing increased vulnerability and hostile policies towards them. Facing those significant challenges, the EMHRN continues to implement a wide array of activities and meetings to support regional dialogue, develop policy discussions and promote the rights of migrants and refugees in the region.
- In relation to **Economic and Social rights**, the first steps have been taken in 2012 in order to include them among the priorities of the new EMHRN Strategy 2012-2018. Following consultations and discussions at the level of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee have allowed to lay solid foundations for starting the work in the upcoming years.
- Under the **Solidarity** chapter, the EMHRN intervention in **Algeria** was welcomed by Algerian human rights defenders who increasingly see the cooperation with EMHRN as a way to strengthen their own protection and their organisations' capacities. In 2012, despite increased harassment, impediments and visa restrictions, all schedule activities in Algeria were implemented, as well as several extra joint initiatives such as advocacy actions and joint publications.
- The situation in **Syria** has developed in 2012 into a wide scale human rights crisis, with systematic violence and militarization of a conflict gaining sectarian overtones. EMHRN has stepped its activities in order to support human rights groups and facilitate coordination, show solidarity, reinforce the capacities to document violations and advocate for human rights. As highlight, a conference was organized by EMHRN in July 2012, mobilizing in Brussels 100 participants from Syria and elsewhere, as well as international representatives from CSOs, EU and UN institutions, in support of Syrian human rights defenders. However, as the situation remains unpredictable, EMHRN

work will remain flexible in order to stay relevant to the needs of defenders on the ground.

- 2012 was a transition year for Solidarity activities in **Tunisia**, as the EMHRN conducted a restructuring of its mission in Tunis. After resuming its activities, the Tunis mission was able to become a well-recognized driving force of the Tunisian civil society, with a good visibility in the media, by playing its role of a capacity building and networking platform. In the upcoming years, the EMHRN will further expand on its well established contacts with Tunisian groups in order to promote a vibrant civil society capable of influencing the human rights agenda in the current transition process.
- **Advocacy and dialogue** remained key fields of work for the EMHRN in 2012, especially vis-à-vis EU institutions. Stated changes of EU policies towards the Arab world and the new EU human rights strategy were opportunities for the EMHRN to lobby on the lack of implementation of the revised ENP. The role of EMHRN as an interface between its member organisations, partners and the EU institutions was further strengthened in the course of 2012, as demonstrated by the high number of visits and missions organized in Brussels, as well as the increasing solicitations received from both EMHRN members and EU institutions to provide assistance, contacts and inputs. However, as EMHRN concerns are rarely raised by the EU public diplomacy who remains reluctant in using this tool with the Arab world, EMHRN will develop its work targeting influential actors in EU foreign policy in order to achieve more at the EU level. Furthermore, priority will be given on developing work within EU Member States in order to influence joint EU policies in line with the new EMHRN strategy.
- Finally, 2012 was a transitional year also for **communication** activities at the EMHRN, as sustained efforts to achieve a complete revamp of the communication strategy were engaged in light of the new 2012-2018 strategy. In order to better support EMHRN's advocacy objectives and to provide a higher degree of visibility, both to the activities and to the Network as such, the communication team has completely reworked its communication material and introduced new working routines. EMHRN also designed a new communication strategy and hired a new Communication Director who will be in charge of implementing the new work plan over the next two years.

Activity Report

1. Introduction

- The following report covers activities undertaken by the EMHRN in 2012. The report is first and foremost an activity report aiming at ensuring transparency and accountability of the EMHRN's work towards its members and donors. Political reports accounting for EMHRN activities are presented by the Executive Committee (through its President) at EMHRN general assemblies. Evaluations are above all the task of the EMHRN general assembly and of external evaluators.
- However, the report does compare the 2012 activities with the general and short term objectives set out in EMHRN's work programmes for the previous years. 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 adopted for 2012.

2. Networking

2.1. Working Groups

Outputs

- ✓ A total of 11 Working Group meetings were organised in seven different countries gathering about 270 participants. In addition, two Algeria Solidarity Group meetings were held.
- ✓ A call for participation in the EMHRN Working Groups on Justice (JWG); Freedom of Assembly (FOA); gender equality and women's rights (GWG) ; Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers (MRA WG) ; and Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (PIP) was launch on July 5 following the EMHRN General Assembly in June among all EMHRN members. A total of 115 applications were received, with 54 out of 64 regular members of the EMHRN applying for membership in one or more working groups. The composition of the new WGs were announced in October and the first meeting of the new WGs held in October – December 2012 (except for the Justice WG, where the coordinator was only recruited in March 2013 and the first JWG meeting held in May 2013).

Activities

- The GWG, MRA WG and the PIP WG all met twice during 2012 as planned. The FOA WG met thrice in 2012, as the first meeting in January 2012 had been postponed from 2011. The JWG met once in relation to a seminar on the Independence of the Judiciaries in the Wake of the Arab Spring (see part on Justice); while the HRE WG had its postponed meeting from 2011 in January 2012.
- The objectives of the call for participation in the WGs were twofold. Firstly, to allow for a renewal of the membership of the WGs, allowing new members of the EMHRN (whose membership had been ratified by the GA) to join and for others to confirm their interest in remaining members of certain WGs. Secondly, strengthening the WGs (as outlined in the new EMHRN strategy for 2012-2018 adopted by the GA) by giving priority to organisations with expertise in the field of work of the WG as well as identifying and accepting resource organisations from non-EMHRN member organisations to join the WGs.



2.2. Human Rights and Democratisation

The overall objective of these activities was 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.

2.2.1. Freedom of Association (FoA)

The **human rights framework** of the activity is the human rights values and international standards pertaining to freedom of association and of peaceful assembly in the Euro-Med region.

The **general objective** was to establish capacity for sustained civil society monitoring, expertise and action on freedom of association and freedom of assembly conducive to the promotion and protection of freedom of association and assembly in particular in the South and East Mediterranean area.

The **short term objectives** were to **(1)** consolidate a regional civil society instrument to monitor freedom of association and assembly, and through networking, **(2)** increase NGOs capacity to work on these issues within their constituencies, including by supporting on going work and campaigns of members and partners on freedom of association and assembly, **(3)** influence decision makers to promote freedom of association and assembly, including through advocacy and media work.

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- Conduct Working Group (WG) meetings for key human rights organisations in the Euro-Med region aimed at monitoring freedom of association, and assembly, building CSO's capacities and developing regional networking.
- Publish and launch the Algeria country report on FoA.
- Prepare a regional publication on freedom of assembly from a legal and practical point of view (to be published in 2013).
- Disseminate news and analyses on freedom of association and assembly to the public (civil society groups, governments, the media and international bodies) through press releases and a regular FoA News Bulletin.
- Advocate towards local governments, EU institutions, Member States and the UN on issues of freedom of association and assembly.
- Develop and maintain a section on FoA on the EMHRN's website.

Activities scheduled

- 3 Working Group meetings
- 4 Advocacy/Solidarity missions
- Regular press releases and briefs on freedom of assembly (FOAA) to feed advocacy actions and missions
- Algeria country report on FoA published and launched
- Elaboration of framework documents for the regional review on FOAA
- Elaboration of FOA Bulletin template and publication of 3 News Bulletins
- Solidarity and advocacy campaign for Osman İşçi

Outputs

- ✓ 3 WG meetings organised in Tunis (January), Paris (May) and Cairo (November)
- ✓ 4 missions organized: Egypt (February, April & November) related to repression of demonstrations and reform of the NGO law; Turkey (December) related to imprisonment of a HRD member of the WG (Osman İşçi)
- ✓ Numerous statements and press releases denouncing legal and practical restrictions of FOAA and supporting individual cases; drafting of advocacy letters regarding the same issues; contributions to critical inputs to ENP documents; drafting of critical and comparative analysis of draft laws on associations and demonstrations
- ✓ Algeria country report on FoA published and launched
- ✓ Framework documents for the regional review on freedom of assembly elaborated: Terms of Reference (ToR), indicators, gender strategy, outline, and specific Syria report ToR
- ✓ A FoA News Bulletin template created as a regular communication and dissemination tool
- ✓ 3 News Bulletins published and disseminated to civil society groups, governments, the media and international bodies
- ✓ Solidarity and advocacy campaign in support to detained WG and EC member Osman İşçi
- ✓ Update and translation in English, French, and Arabic of the Freedom of Association pages on the new EMHRN website



Activities carried out

- The **Working Group on Freedom of Association** held three meetings in 2012. During the **first meeting in Tunis** on 21-22 January, the group discussed the outcome of the country report on Algeria, agreed on the work plan for 2012, and held a discussion with Tunisian civil society to assess the progress of the democratic transition and challenges ahead. During the **second meeting in Paris** on 19-20 May, the group mainly discussed the issue of freedom of peaceful assembly (FOPA) and how to elaborate indicators for the regional report. Members also received training on the issue by an expert from the OSCE Panel of experts on FOPA. The working group was renewed after the EMHRN General Assembly (June 2012). The **third meeting in Cairo** on 23-24 November was an introduction of FOA work to the new WG members (16 new members out of 23). The group validated the reference documents for the FOPA regional review and elected an advisory committee. It decided to elaborate a specific study on freedom of association and assembly in Syria. Finally it agreed on the work plan for the first half of 2013, and held a discussion with Egyptian organizations on the transition process and drawbacks in the fields of freedom of association and assembly and human rights in general.
- **The EMHRN organised various missions related to freedom of association in 2012.** Considering the increased attacks on civil society and foreign funding in Egypt and the repeated threat of a regressive reform of the NGO law, three fact-finding/advocacy missions were organised to meet with civil society organisations, the EU Delegation, EU Member State representatives, as well as Egyptian representatives of the Executive, the Parliament and political parties. One of these missions (April) was also the occasion of meeting with the UN Special rapporteurs on FoA, human rights defenders and HROs from the Arab region during an international seminar. Missions were followed-up by press releases, advocacy work at the EU level in coordination with the Brussels office of the EMHRN, and deepened networking with members and other actors. Following the detention in Turkey of WG and EC member Osman İşçi (June), the EMHRN organized a solidarity mission to Ankara in December to visit Mr. İşçi in jail and meet with Turkish civil society organizations (NGOs and trade unions) and the EU Delegation.
- **The EMHRN monitored and raised awareness about developments related to freedom of association and assembly in law and practice.** In response to the new Associations Law in Algeria the EMHRN collaborated with its Algerian members to update an analysis on the human rights effects of the Law after its publication in January 2012. The EMHRN drafted briefs analysing several NGO draft laws in Egypt, and released press statements on these repressive proposals. The new Tunisian NGO law was used as a “good practice” document for civil society in Egypt and Algeria, shared with WG members and used as an example in advocating for a more liberal reform in Egypt.
- As part of the monitoring and awareness-raising activities, the EMHRN created and published a **quarterly News bulletin on freedom of association and assembly**. This News bulletin is a new communication tool, monitoring the situation in the different countries of the region through input from and communication with WG members. It allows for dissemination of information and analysis of FOA related issues to a large public including civil society organizations, international organizations, EU and EU Member State institutions.
- **The EMHRN issued several statements** in support of human rights organisations and defenders whose freedom of association and assembly were violated (cf. Annex 1). Several open or closed letters and public statements were drafted in cooperation with the WG members and published ahead of important legislative reforms and high level meetings between the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries (e.g. to the Egyptian parliament following moves to restrict freedom of association; before the EU-Algeria Association Council; ahead of Egyptian President Morsi’s visit to Brussels and before the Egypt- EU ‘task force’ meeting; ahead of the EU-Morocco sub-committee on human rights; etc.). The EMHRN also gave comments on the ENP progress reports concerning Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine, and on the EU-Algeria Action plan in relation to FoA issues. A joint letter was addressed to EU institutions and member states raising the case of WG and EC member Osman İşçi and the repression of HRDs in Turkey. The EMHRN was quoted in different media on issues related to freedom of association (i.e. Algerian news websites with regards to the launch of the country report on FoA in Algeria, and other statements on the repression HRDs and CSOs; Egyptian newspapers and TV regarding advocacy missions on NGO law and other HR issues) indicating an increased awareness of the media of the importance of freedom of association and the work done by the Network and its members.
- The EMHRN also submitted **regular information to relevant UN bodies on FoA** related issues, such as informal communications to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of peaceful assembly and association and other relevant SR (on Human Rights Defenders and Freedom of expression). The EMHRN met with the SR on FoA twice in 2012 to present its regional work and raised particular concern on the situation of Algeria and Egypt. The EMHRN also presented a communication to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2012 on the situation of human rights defenders in Algeria, with particular emphasis on freedom of association and peaceful assembly.
- **The country report on Algeria “Lifting the state of emergency: a game of smoke and mirrors. The exercise of**



freedom of association and assembly in Algeria” was published in February 2012, and launched at a press conference in Algiers in March, and [on the web](#). Algerian and European media relayed the information, and the report was well received and widely distributed to NGOs, EU institutions and UN bodies.

- **Work on the regional report on freedom of peaceful assembly (FOPA) was started.** Based on discussions during the second WG meeting and exchanges with an ad-hoc advisory committee, Terms of Reference, indicators, a gender strategy and an outline proposal were prepared. These documents were validated in September by the advisory committee in Madrid, and in November by the WG in Cairo. This report is the first of a two-part study on freedom of assembly: first, legal aspects, and second practical issues. After the WG’s decision specific ToR, indicators and an outline proposal for a report on freedom of association and freedom of assembly in Syria was elaborated. These reports will be published in 2013.
- **The EMHRN launched a solidarity and advocacy campaign** in support of detained WG and EC member Osman İşçi in September, including a web campaign linked to the EMHRN website, a petition, and letters to Turkish embassies to be sent by organizations and individuals. This was completed by closed letters to the EU and Member States, in coordination with other international human rights groups and a European trade union federation.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- The project came closer to its objective of **developing and strengthening partnerships, networking and cooperation** between human rights NGOs, activists and wider civil society in the Euro-Med region in the field of freedom of association. The WG on Freedom of Association and Assembly has established itself as a recognised regional forum for human rights NGOs and has developed a pool of expertise on the right to FOAA. This expertise is increasingly acknowledged by partners (NGOs, national governments and international organisations): several INGOs working on the Arab region and/or on issues of freedom of association have solicited EMHRN for expert advice and coordination (SOLIDAR, Danish MENA Network, and International Human Rights Support). The EMHRN has played an increasing and leading role in coordinating NGOs on FoA in Algeria and Egypt, and is also increasingly consulted by inter-governmental bodies, such as the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and EU institutions. Beyond this, the EMHRN has been interviewed and quoted in different media on issues related to freedom of association (i.e. Algerian news websites with regards to the new Associations law and the launch of the report on Freedom of

Association in Algeria; Egyptian media on the attacks against CSOs and the new law on associations; Deutsche Welle radio on freedom of association in Egypt and Turkey, etc.).

- Concretely, the project contributes to achieving EMHRN strategic goal regarding **“promoting regional exchanges of experience and regional perspectives and policies on legislation and practices regarding fundamental freedoms ... looking into how civil society in one country can benefit from experiences in other countries”** (2012-2018 Strategy) in that a working group of 23 organizations meets regularly and shares information, experience and coordinates actions, agreeing on a program of advocacy priorities, publications and capacity building. A dynamic has been created among WG members, who own the project and its outcomes, share and diffuse information. Their capacity has increased thanks to regular exchanges of information, experience and one training session so far. A good indicator of ownership is the high rate of organisations that presented a candidate to the new Working Group (that was renewed after the EMHRN General Assembly in June 2012).
- The second strategic objective regarding democratic transition, **“developing policies, advocacy and support initiatives, missions, aimed at supporting the work of human rights defenders working at national level”**, combined with an awareness-raising objective, is increasingly met through a multiform action. This includes the monitoring of the legal and practical situation in the region, developing legal arguments and proposals on planned legislative reforms in countries in transition, carrying out advocacy meetings at national level and at EU and Member State level, and facilitating coordination between civil society actors at regional level to increase their capacity to influence policy reforms and democratic development. Advocacy visits and letters have on many occasions steered reactions from interlocutors (local governments, EU and UN) either positive in the form of commitments to take action for human rights promotion, or defensive, arguing that efforts are done promoting public freedoms, proving that public denunciation affect their policies (cases of Algeria, Egypt, EU).
- However, **considerable work remains to be done to ensure real progress on the ground.** Indeed two years after the ‘Arab spring’ the general tendency is that of growing restrictions of public freedoms and in particular freedom of association and assembly. In Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, and Palestine, legal measures and repressive practices seek to curtail civil society action and control the public spaces that were gained in the uprisings. Counteracting these negative trends requires a clear political commitment from the governments of the region and from its European institutional partners (EU and Member States), encouraged by strong external and internal pressure. In light of the above, many efforts remain necessary, but the EMHRN believes that it has contributed to **setting freedom of association,**



assembly and movement increasingly on the EU and UN agenda. As an indication thereof one can mention the statements made by EU HRVP Ashton and the European Parliament following attacks on freedom of association and peaceful assembly in Egypt, the regressive law in Algeria, mentions of freedom of association and assembly in the ENP Progress Reports, inclusion of these issues in the discussion agenda for Association Councils, as well as direct mention of EMHRN work and threatened partners in Algeria by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression in his mission report.

- Finally, **the EMHRN contributes to providing and disseminating detailed and updated information** on developments in the field of freedom of association and assembly in the region and in specific countries while allowing monitoring of progress and setbacks (through a News bulletin, as well as country and regional reports). This allows for raising awareness and increasing knowledge of a wide variety of actors, from generalist NGOs to officials working on the region but not necessarily aware of these issues, to intergovernmental bodies that find useful sources of information. Promotion and sharing of documentation and publications in regional forums, press conferences, NGO events and advocacy meetings have allowed not only for increased outreach but also mainstreaming of FoA issues in the work of well-established generalist human rights organisations and development organisations who do not usually work on the issue.

2.2.2. Justice

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

*The **general objective** was to support civil society work on reform initiatives and transitional justice processes by enhancing regional cooperation and exchange between human rights NGOs, lawyers and judges aimed at supporting national initiatives in this field.*

*The **short term objective** was to establish a regional civil society instrument aimed at supporting local processes and initiatives towards reform.*

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- Monitor the situation of independence and reform of the judiciary, and of transitional justice in the East and South Mediterranean region while keeping an eye also on the situation in Europe.

- Regarding challenges, **one of EMHRN's main concerns remain how to increase impact of advocacy and recommendations to the EU to truly implement it "renewed" ENP and "more for more" approach**, by not upgrading relations with countries that massively violate human rights and freedoms, such as Algeria and Egypt. On the other hand, the political situation in several countries is a real challenge to EMHRN capacity to bring solidarity and support to its members: the representative of the Turkish Human Rights Association (IHD), Mr. Osman İşçi, member of the WG and EMHRN Executive Committee, has been detained since June 2012, in spite of EMHRN and other INGOs' steep efforts to have him released. Finally, Syrian members face severe violations of their rights and freedoms, and restrictions on their movements jeopardize their participation in EMHRN work. However, solidarity is strong among WG members, as shown by the decision taken in the third WG meeting of 2012 to elaborate a country-study on freedom of association and assembly in Syria. Furthermore, the development in the region and the attempts to curtail FoA and FOAA reconfirms the importance of the issue and the importance of EMHRN to continue to work on it.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of the EU Commission, DANIDA and SIDA to its work on freedom of association in 2012.*

- Carry forward the efforts of the Justice Working Group, whose members include actors who are directly engaged in reform initiatives on the ground or who have direct experience from work on reform initiatives in other countries. The group will monitor the situation in different countries of the region, and follow the developments in Europe, by issuing regular reports on the independence of the judiciary and transitional justice initiatives.
- Supporting judicial reform and transitional justice initiatives at national level.
- React to attacks against the independence of judiciaries and its defenders.
- The WG will also monitor EU and its member state programmes aimed at the judiciaries in the region as well as EU-South Mediterranean cooperation in this field.
- The WG will constitute a resource pool for trial monitoring when the issue of the independence of the judiciary is at stake and for solidarity work where lawyers and judges are under attack.



Activities scheduled

- 1 regional seminar on the independence of the judiciary in the Euro-Med region
- 1 Justice Working Group meeting
- 1 report on the independence of the judiciary in the Euro-Med region
- Recruitment of a justice coordinator.

Outputs

- ✓ Regional seminar on “*The Reform of the Judiciaries in the Wake of the Arab Spring*”, held 11-12 February in Rabat, Morocco
- ✓ Meeting of the Justice WG in Rabat, Morocco, 13 February
- ✓ [Publication](#) of the report on “*The Reform of the Judiciaries in the Wake of the Arab Spring*”, in English, French and Arabic, as well as online country reports on the situation in Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.
- ✓ ToR for Justice Coordinator prepared, but position only launched in January 2013 (when funding was secured).

Activities carried out

- The **regional seminar “The Reform of the Judiciaries in the Wake of the Arab Spring”** was convened in Rabat on 11-12 February, with the Moroccan Association of Human Rights (AMDH) and the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights (OMDH). 60 participants from the Euro-Mediterranean region attended the two-day seminar, including lawyers, judges, human rights activists and researchers representing 15 countries in the region. The seminar aimed at mapping reform initiatives in the region after the 2011 revolutionary moments, identifying commonalities and differences, challenges and opportunities, and making recommendations to support these reform initiatives, as well as identifying the main actors in these processes and how civil society can support the reform processes. In preparation of the seminar, EMHRN commissioned researchers to prepare background papers on reform initiatives, actors and prospects in Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Jordan.
- **Meeting of the Justice Working Group.** Members of the WG took the opportunity to meet in relation to the regional seminar, on 13 February. The objective of the meeting was to evaluate the outcomes of the regional seminar in relation to regional work on reform of the judiciaries in the Euro-Med region and the added value of the EMHRN in relation to this regard.
- The main findings of the seminar were summarised in a **report on “The Reform of the Judiciaries in the Wake of the Arab Spring”**. [The report](#) gives a brief summary on the most

common characteristics of the judiciaries in the Arab world and outlines the main reforms undertaken in Arab countries as a result of the uprisings. It identifies opportunities, risks and the emergence of new actors, and makes recommendations on priorities for legal reforms and for concrete actions to be taken by CSOs and international actors. The country background papers on reform initiatives were reworked and included in the beginning of the Report. Hard copies of the report were distributed in English, French and Arabic at the EMHRN General Assembly in June to the more than 100 participants.

- The **Terms of Reference for the Justice Coordinator** were developed. It was suggested that in the long term the position should be based in the EMHRN regional office in Tunisia. As the EMHRN is in the middle of an organisational restructuring, it was decided to postpone the hiring of the coordinator until 2013.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- In relation to the objective of *establishing a regional civil society instrument aimed at supporting local processes and initiatives towards reform* the EMHRN took the first steps in this direction by convening the regional seminar bringing together representatives of CSO and the judiciaries, as well as researchers to identify the possible added value of a regional approach to reform of the judiciaries in the Euro-Med region in the wake of the developments in the region since 2011. Participants expressed the usefulness of meeting and exchanging information in relation to the challenges of judicial reforms, and encouraged more regional cooperation especially in the field of transitional justice as the seminar made it clear that regional perspectives on the judiciaries are lacking. While transitional justice processes are necessarily local, responding to the needs and experiences of the particular country, exchange of experiences was deemed very useful and beneficial for building capacity of civil society to engage and support such processes. Creating spaces for exchange between representatives of the judiciaries and CS was also seen as very important; both as a means to provide a support mechanism for reform willing judges, lawyers facing harassment and to document malfunctions of the judiciaries (by e.g. trial monitoring). These findings were discussed by members of the EMHRN Justice WG with a specific focus on what added value the EMHRN could bring. On this basis a proposal for EMHRN work on justice was included in the EMHRN strategy 2012-2018 as well as in the Work Program 2012-2015. Both documents were discussed and adopted by the EMHRN General Assembly in June 2012. In July a call for participation in the EMHRN WG was launched, including for a new WG on Justice.



- The EMHRN report on the reform of the judiciaries in the wake of the 'Arab Spring' and its country chapters which outline the situation of the independence of the judiciaries, the main reform initiatives and the actors, have also been welcomed as an important initiative supporting local initiatives towards reform.
 - The shortcoming of the project has been that we had to postpone the hiring of a coordinator, and thus did not have the human resources to follow up on the seminar and report in 2012 nor to convene the first meeting of the new Justice WG (a coordinator was hired in March 2013 and the first JWG meeting will take place end of May 2013).
 - The challenges of the project relates to teasing out in more detail the added value of the EMHRN in relation to working on the independence and the impartiality of the judiciary and transitional justice in the Euro-Med region, without duplicating the work of other stakeholders. Moreover, the extent to which a regional approach can support local reform initiatives is yet to be identified. These aspects will be the main focus of the first meeting of the new Justice WG in 2013.
- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA and SIDA to its work on justice in 2012.*

2.2.3. Women's Rights and Gender mainstreaming

The human rights framework of this activity was the human rights values and international standards relating to women's rights and gender equality in particular the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The general objective was to promote sustainable civil society networks and groups of actors in the Euro-Med region with the capacity to influence civil society and decision makers to actively promote and protect the rights of women in the region as well as actively integrating gender mainstreaming into their work.

The short term objectives were to further strengthen regional cooperation between women's rights and human rights organisations and networks aimed at (1) supporting national work to promote and protect women's rights during the current political transitions, (2) actively support women's rights activists and organisation under attack.

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- Convey meetings in preparation of a regional conference gathering women's rights defenders from the Euro-Med region including the most important EU, Euro-Med and Arab networks.
- Bring together the many initiatives focusing on obstacles, gaps and challenges to women's rights and gender equality and formulate recommendations and strategies for setting these initiatives into more concerted action.
- Monitor the situation of women's rights in the South and East Mediterranean region and support women's rights defenders work at national level.
- Monitor EU policies and advocate for the EU to uphold its commitments to promote women's rights and gender equality internally and externally.

- Monitor situations in EU where women are marginalized.
- Continue awareness raising on the importance of gender mainstreaming as an approach to fight discrimination based on sex and promote equal opportunities for men and women.
- Continue the gender mainstreaming process of the EMHRN based on a Gender Audit of the EMHRN.

Activities scheduled

- 2 Working group meetings
- 4 national meetings
- 1 advocacy mission
- 1 media guide publication
- 1 press conference
- Gender Audit of the EMHRN

Outputs

- ✓ 2 Women's Rights and Gender Equality Working Group meetings in Cyprus (28 April) and Egypt (7-8 December)
- ✓ 3 national meetings in Tunisia (27-28 February), Lebanon (26-27 June) and Morocco (17-18 July)
- ✓ 2 consultation meetings with Syrian women's rights activists in Brussels (12 July) and Cairo (6 December)
- ✓ Training for Syrian women's rights activists on how to support women who are victims of violence, Cairo (5-7 December)
- ✓ Advocacy mission to Cairo (20-23 November) and lobby meetings in Tunis (28 February), Beirut (28 June) and Cyprus (26 April).
- ✓ Publication of a gender media guide on women in transition (9 December)
- ✓ A training session based on the gender media guide in Cairo (9 December)



- ✓ 2 Press conferences in connection to the national meeting in Tunis and the launching of the EMHRN Gender Media Guide respectively
- ✓ Various press releases and statements issued by the EMHRN and various articles published by local media covering the EMHRN activities (cf. Annex 1)
- ✓ Gender audit report of the EMHRN

Activities carried out

Working Group meetings

- The **third meeting of the Working Group** on women's rights and gender equality took place in Nicosia, Cyprus on 28 April. The group discussed on how to best adapt the activities of the EU-founded project to the latest developments in the region. The members also made a self-evaluation of the work of the WG during the term 2009-mid 2012, underlining advantages, shortcomings and recommendations to the next WG. Ahead of the meeting, the EMHRN and the Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies (MIGS) organised the strategizing workshop "*Guaranteeing Women's Rights in the Political Transitions Taking Place in the Arab World: Development of Joint Strategies*" on 27 April in Nicosia, Cyprus, bringing together the key initiatives in relation to women's rights and gender equality in the Euro-Med countries. The participants issued a [statement](#) to express their unified stance against the continuous exclusion and marginalization of women in the transition and reform processes in the Arab world.
- The **fourth meeting of the Working Group** on Women's Rights and Gender Equality took place in Cairo, Egypt on 7-8 December. Participants to the first meeting of the renewed WG representing key human and women's rights organizations from the Euro-Med region discussed the situation of women's rights in the Euro-Med region, challenges to women's rights and how to address them. During the meeting, it was decided that the overall theme of the EMHRN 2013 Conference and of the EMHRN 2013 Report on Women's Rights and Gender Equality will be combatting violence against women. A meeting was organised with Egyptian women's rights activists on 6 December to follow-up the national meeting held in Cairo in June 2011. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the current women's rights situation in Egypt, to identify challenges, priorities and to identify where the WG members and the EMHRN could support the Egyptian organizations. A meeting was also convened with Syrian human rights defenders to discuss how to support Syrian women.

National meetings

- In **Tunisia**, the EMHRN, Collectif 95 Maghreb-Egalité and the Association tunisienne des femmes démocrates (ATFD) organised the meeting "*Strengthening and promoting women's basic human rights in Tunisia as part of the democratic transition and constitutional reforms and in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)*" on 27-28 February in Tunis. The 74 representatives of women's rights and human rights organisations from several regions discussed and agreed on recommendations in relation to the economic, social and political spheres as well as in relation to international and domestic commitments to women's rights. Specific recommendations were also made in relation to the EU-Tunisia relationship, including the new EU-Tunisia ENP Action plan which was being discussed at the time.
- In **Lebanon**, the EMHRN, in cooperation with Kvinna till Kvinna, key Lebanese women's rights organisations and Lebanese EMHRN members¹ organized the meeting "*EU-Lebanon European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Action Plan, challenges and opportunities to support women's rights and the realisation of gender equality in Lebanon*" on 26-27 June. The 47 participants discussed and agreed on recommendations addressed to the Lebanese state, the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), the EU institutions, and Lebanese women's rights organizations. The event was extensively covered by the main Lebanese daily newspapers. On 28 June, an EMHRN delegation met with Minister of Justice Shakib Kortobawi to convey the recommendations of the meeting and in particular those related to the laws/ draft laws addressing gender based discrimination and violence against women. The EMHRN delegation also met with Secretary General of the National Commission for Lebanese Women, Fadi Karam, to discuss how the recommendations could contribute to the implementation of the measures defined in the different areas of intervention of the national strategy for Lebanese women (2011-2021).
- In **Morocco**, the EMHRN, in cooperation with Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM), Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH), Organisation Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme (OMDH) and Espace Associatif convened a meeting on "*What are the prospects for the genuine participation of women in public life and the promotion of their political, social and economic rights in the context of reform?*" on 17-18 July in Rabat. The 75

¹ Association Najdeh, Collective for Research and Training on Development –Action (CRTD-A), KAFA Enough Violence and Exploitation, Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH), Lebanese Council to resist Violence Against Women (LECORVAW), Lebanese Democratic Women Gathering (RDFL), Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO) and Women's Humanitarian Organization (WHO).



participants from several regions in Morocco discussed and adopted concrete joint recommendations in relation to women's political, economic, social, cultural and civil rights. Specific recommendations were also made to the EU in relation to the new EU-Morocco ENP Action Plan, the advanced status and the new revised ENP.

- On **Syria**, the EMHRN organised a consultation meeting with Syrian women's rights activists in Brussels on 12 July in parallel to the EMHRN conference "*Human rights and civil society in Syria: revealing the truth, preparing the transition*". 13 Syrian women's rights activists attended the meeting to discuss violations to women's human rights in Syria, and the needs of CSOs in relation to addressing these violations. A follow-up consultation meeting with 13 Syrian women's rights activists was organized on 6 December in Cairo with an aim to identify how the EMHRN member organisations could assist the Syrian representatives in their work and allow for networking opportunities to break the isolation of the Syrians due to the situation and travel restrictions. As an outcome of these meetings, identifying the need for training, the EMHRN organized a three-day training for Syrian women's rights activists entitled "*Enabling activists to support violated Syrian women*" on 5-7 December in Cairo. The aim of the first day of training was to build the activists capacities to receive and assist victims of rape and other types of violence. The second day of training focused on CEDAW, aiming to help the activists understand the convention and its protocol as a tool for advocating for women's human rights. The third day of training was devoted to how to provide psychological support to women traumatized and tortured.

Advocacy

- **Egypt:** EMHRN sent a high level delegation to Cairo, Egypt from 20 to 23 November to address the worrying developments in relation to women's rights and human rights. Concluding the mission to Cairo, the EMHRN raised concerns in a [press release](#) about how gender equality is not in progress in Egypt neither in law nor in practice.
- **Tunisia:** Following the national meeting in Tunisia, an EMHRN delegation on 28 February met with President of the Constituent assembly to submit the concerns and recommendations in relation to enshrining women's rights and equality between women and men in the new constitution and legislation
- **Cyprus & EU Presidency:** Ahead of the Working Group meeting in Cyprus, EMHRN and MIGS organised an opening ceremony on 26 April in Nicosia, Cyprus, attended by the Cypriot Foreign Minister to advocate that Cyprus under their Presidency of the European Union put women's rights high on their agenda. The meeting also provided a space for networking between local organisations, journalists and key women's rights activists in the region.

Awareness-raising on gender mainstreaming

- The **EMHRN Gender media guide** titled "[Where are the Women? : A practical Guide for media professionals covering the political transitions in the Arab World](#)" was published on 9 December. The guide's aim is to address the marginalization of women by bringing to light a more gender balanced media coverage of women in transition countries. It provides a checklist of gender-friendly reminders as well as a database of female experts from all sectors of society. The launch of the Gender Media Guide was followed by a training of 36 journalists in Cairo on December 9.
- A **press conference** with journalists and media professionals was organized to launch the Gender Media Guide in Cairo on 9 December. Another press conference was held on 28 February following the National Meeting in Tunisia to inform about the outcomes and recommendations, and the event was broadly covered in Tunisian and French daily newspapers.
- A **Gender audit** was produced to look into the gender mainstreaming efforts of the EMHRN since the first audit was conducted in 2008. It focused on the degree of implementation of EMHRN's commitment to gender mainstreaming in its structures and activities. The Gender audit 2012 was presented to the EMHRN Executive Committee in January 2013.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

Strengthened regional cooperation between women's rights and human rights organisations

- The WG meetings provided appropriate platforms for women's rights and human rights organisations and networks to come together to discuss and strategize. They encouraged further strengthening of regional cooperation and supporting national works (e.g. through meetings with Egyptian and Syrian women's rights activists during the meeting in Cairo). They allowed joint assessments of the gender equality and women's rights situation in the context of the political transitions, as well as recommendations for the participants to work on together regionally, while at the same time supporting the national work of the WG members.
- The activities also enhanced networking with Syrian and Egyptian organisations, linking Syrian and Egyptian women's rights activists and human rights defenders to the key women's rights and human rights organisations in the Euro-Med region. Furthermore, networking with other actors, such as Amnesty International and European Women's Lobby (EFL) helped explore opportunities for future coordination and cooperation.



Supporting national work to promote and protect women's rights in the political transitions

- The national meetings held in Tunisia, Beirut and Rabat availed a space for activists to gather and discuss on how to promote women's rights and gender equality in the transition processes and political reforms. The meetings identified priorities and measures to be taken to improve the women's rights situation in Tunisia, Lebanon and Morocco, building on the new national dynamics following the Arab spring. The EMHRN supported the work of the national NGOs in their efforts to promote and protect women's rights during the current political transitions by promoting the integration of these priorities and measures into the ENP Action plans. The EMHRN also supported its member organizations in monitoring these measures nationally, and met with governmental officials in the three countries to push for their implementation.
- The national meetings were also successful in engaging key stakeholders including national, regional and international women's rights and human rights NGOs, representatives of national governments and the EU in discussion on national women's rights concerns in Tunisia, Lebanon and Morocco. They helped building the participants capacities to use Euro-Med policies on gender equality, including the ENP and IMP and the bilateral relations between the EU and third countries to support their national and regional work. As national decision-makers were present at these meetings, opportunities were provided to influence them directly to promote gender equality, women's rights and participation in the transition processes and political reforms (cf. Section 5 of the report on Advocacy).

Advocacy

- Advocacy, both on country level and in relation to EU policies, was partly successful. In Cyprus, a commitment was made to hold a meeting on women's rights during the Cypriot presidency. Following up on this commitment, the Minister of Foreign Affairs hosted an International Seminar entitled "*The EU as an International Actor: Women in Democratic Transitions, Peace and Security*" organised by the Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Cyprus, the European Inter University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation and the Jean Monnet Chair, on 14 December at the EU House in Nicosia.
- In Morocco, the participants were able to deliver their comments and recommendations in relation to the national agenda for gender equality for the period 2011-2015 directly to the former Minister and a representative of the current Minister of Social Development, Family and Solidarity participating in the National Meeting. The meetings in Lebanon and Tunisia following the National Meetings, allowed for conveying recommendations directly to the

decision makers. The advocacy mission to Egypt expressed its deep concern about the marginalisation of women and the increase in violence against women, although more work on this issue is required in order to influence the Egyptian government.

- The EU institutions in Brussels were regularly lobbied to mainstream gender in the ENP action plans between the EU and the countries, as well as in the regional ENP, through visits, various consultation processes and statements, notably in preparation of the human rights subcommittees, the negotiation of the ENP action plan (Lebanon) and the 2013 ENP Progress report. **The EMHRN was successful in its demands, as the EU addressed women's rights concerns in its programs of policies adopted in 2012** (they were almost absent in the ENP 2011). In its report "*Delivering on a new ENP*", the EU underlines that "*The EU will continue to step up its efforts to support women's rights across the region, ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed into all relevant co-operation activities and promote effective action against trafficking across the neighbourhood.*"

Supporting women's rights activists and organizations under attack

- The meetings with Syrian and Egyptian activists opened a space for in-depth discussion of the main challenges to women's rights in the current situation, as well as in setting priorities and making suggestions on how CSOs, including the EMHRN, can better provide support to the Syrian and Egyptian organisations through networking, advocacy, solidarity and awareness raising. The EMHRN also supported Syrian activists thanks to a capacity building training on dealing with victims of violence. The EMHRN provided support through issuing statements, condemning sexual assaults and defamation of women's rights activists and organizations. Marginalisation of women's rights in the transitions, including increased violence against women, was also raised directly in meetings with EU officials and national authorities. With the high level mission to Cairo, the EMHRN was able to advocate for respect of human rights in the transition process in Egypt, with a specific focus on guaranteeing women's rights by enshrining gender equality in the Constitution, combatting gender based violence and ensuring women's political representation in the decision making processes and within the new institutions, supporting the demands of CSOs in Egypt.

Integrating gender mainstreaming in EMHRN work

- On the political level, while most key reference documents (statutes, by-laws, etc.) were already gender mainstreamed the new strategy for 2012-2018 adopted by the EMHRN General Assembly in June 2012 was gender mainstreamed (and was reviewed by the Gender Equality and Women's



Rights Working Group) and the Gender Equality Policy Paper was integrated in the strategy outlining EMHRN's commitments to gender mainstreaming.

- On the organisational structure and culture level, the new elected EMHRN Executive Committee consists of an equal number of men and women (six men and six women). Among the 11 new national EMHRN members whose membership was ratified by the EMHRN GA, three were women's rights organisations, increasing the share of women's rights organization from 8.6 to 13.9% of the EMHRN memberships. Attempts were made to include women in all EMHRN missions, but member organisations were sometimes unable or unwilling to appoint female delegates. The renewed EMHRN WGs have an average of 1/3 women (except the Gender Equality and Women's Rights WG with only one man), which is still not parity but an improvement compared to the previous WGs. In relation to EMHRN staff, out of 28 staff, 22 are women.
- On the programme level, Gender was included as a priority in EMHRN advocacy in Brussels throughout 2012. Gender concerns were raised in the different advocacy missions of the Network and efforts made to have women participate in these missions, however not always successfully. The ToR of most EMHRN reports were checked by the Gender coordinator and advice was given to project coordinators in relation to gender mainstreaming of reports: for example, in the regional report on FoA, gender indicators were included in the ToR and outline, in addition to a separate strategy on how to mainstream each chapter of the report. With regard to WGs, it was suggested to appoint/elect a gender focal point in each WG to assist them in more sustained gender mainstreaming. These focal points will meet on a yearly basis to evaluate their work and to receive some training. The Gender Audit was produced and while it is positive in relation to the gender mainstreaming commitments of the EMHRN, it points out the weaknesses in implementation, especially in relation to the EMHRN members. This is partly due to the environment in which the EMHRN members operate, where political and religious forces challenge the very notion and principles of gender equality. This makes it ever so relevant to continue strengthening the EMHRN and its members' capacity to work on gender mainstreaming in the future.

Shortcomings and Challenges

2.2.4. Human Rights Education (HRE)

The human rights framework of this project was ensuring the implementation in formal and non-formal settings of training, dissemination and information efforts aimed at the building of a universal culture of human rights.

- **Follow-up** on the implementation of the recommendations made during the national meetings was limited due to lack of financial resources dedicated to this within the Gender project. In order to overcome this, efforts were made to systemize the follow-up through specific projects with the member organisations with which EMHRN organised those meetings. EMHRN is currently cooperating with the Egyptian organisation "New Woman Foundation" in order to raise funds for a joint project of monitoring EU-Egypt relations in terms of gender equality and women's rights.
- One of the main challenges in relation to the work on gender equality and women's rights has been the **political developments, including an increased marginalisation of women, violence against women and infringement of their rights**. In 2011 there was optimism in relation to the 'Arab Spring' and the call for more democracy and human rights, including women's rights, while 2012 saw the coming to power in Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt of religious conservative parties, the abolishing or change of quotas for women's political representation, marginalisation of women from transitional bodies, of women's rights in the constitutions, and an alarming increase in violence against women. Women's rights organisations and human rights organisations had thus to adjust their work from promoting gender equality and women's rights to protecting these rights, which more than ever came under attack. While this situation only makes it more relevant to strengthen regional cooperation and national efforts, and to support women's rights activists and organisations under attack, it demanded a change of strategy and prioritisation. Scheduled activities had to be adapted in order to reflect as much as possible this new reality (e.g. in relation to the content of the National Meetings). Furthermore, the political situation in Syria made it impossible to convene a National meeting within the country. Instead we seized the opportunity to invite Syrian women's rights defenders to Brussels, and later to Cairo, to allow them both to meet with key women's rights organisations in the region and to provide them with training, responding to their needs, and thus substituting the National Meeting with two consultation meetings and a training.
 - *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA, SIDA, the European Union and the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID) to its work on women's rights and gender in 2012.*

The general objective was to reinforce networking of NGOs in the field of HRE, including by establishing a broad formal or informal regional coalition of human rights NGOs promoting and protecting HRE (seen as a life-long, comprehensive and



empowering process by which people at all levels of development and in all strata of society learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies).

The short term objectives were to: 1.engage NGOs in networking and systematic exchanges about methodologies and approaches to human rights based learning; 2. Engage NGOs in assessing public policies regarding HRE and how to impact on these as civil society.

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- Strengthen networking between CSOs involved in HRE activities in the Euro-Med region, contribute to identify the common challenges faced by these organisations, and elaborate common strategies to overcome them.
- Promote networking of NGOs engaged in HR education.
- Discuss and exchange educational methodologies.
- Discuss and monitor public policies regarding human rights education.
- Support campaigns and civil society initiatives in the region.

Activities scheduled

- 1 Working Group meeting (postponed from November 2011)
- Elaborate a Work plan for HRE

Outputs

- ✓ 1 Working Group meeting, Tunis 7-8 January 2012
- ✓ Decision to integrate HRE in the capacity building work of the EMHRN as outlined in the Strategy for 2012-2018 adopted by the EMHRN General Assembly in June 2012.

Activities carried out

- A Working Group meeting was held in Tunis on 7-8 January with 10 participants. The main aim of the meeting was to discuss activities for Work Plan for 2012. Following the 2-day discussions, the WG decided to develop concept papers on a) an advocacy guide on HRE (as a follow up on the work done on the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education); b) a tool kit on existing HRE materials and methodologies in the Euro-Med region; c) an updating of the EMHRN section of the HRE on the website (and a possible development of a sub-site on HRE). The meeting saw the participation of two more organisations working on HRE in Europe, namely the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies, thus fulfilling the demand from the previous meeting of getting a better

balance between northern and southern organisations by recruiting more European organisations to the HRE WG.

- As part of the WG meeting, a roundtable session was organised with Tunisian organisations working on or with HRE (representatives of the Arab Institute for Human Rights et al.). The aim of the round table was for the HRE WG to learn about the challenges to HRE in Tunisia and to allow Tunisian NGOs to network and build relations with peers from the Euro-Mediterranean region. The meeting also exchanged educational methodologies and discussed the challenges to HRE after the 'Arab Spring'.
- Within the framework of developing the new strategy for the EMHRN for 2012-2018, members and experts were consulted and it was recommended that the EMHRN develop a more comprehensive capacity building approach and that HRE be integrated in this work instead of being the subject of an independent WG. This would allow to mainstream an educational approach throughout the EMHRN as well as to develop more specialised thematic training either within the thematic WGs or under the capacity building unit.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- In relation to the general objective of reinforcing networking of NGOs in the field of HRE by establishing a broad regional coalition of HROs promoting HRE, the EMHRN succeeded in bringing together HROs working on HRE in the Euro-Med region as well as to reach out to local organisations in countries where the HRE WG met. The HRE WG discussed how to reinforce HRE in the region; however, as it struggled to define clearly its added value, it was less successful in establishing a sustainable broad regional coalition.
- In relation to the short term objective of engaging NGOs in networking and systematic exchanges about HRE methodologies, it was achieved at the HRE WG meeting and with the suggestion of developing a tool kit, however, it was difficult to make members interact in between meetings and to find the best format for systematic exchanges.
- In relation to engaging NGOs in assessing public policies regarding HRE and how to impact on these as civil society, it was suggested to work on the UN Declaration on HRE, as it put forward State commitments to HRE. It was furthermore suggested to make a guide on how to advocate on HRE using the Declaration. However, there was not full agreement as to the impact of the Declaration and the capacity to work on it.
- In relation to the challenges and possible shortcomings, the biggest challenge has been to define clearly the added value of the work on HRE WG in the Euro-Med region as HRE is a very broad concept and the EMHRN members work in many different fields related to HRE. As all members agree that HRE remains very relevant in the Euro-Med region, not at least



after the 'Arab Spring', it has been decided to integrate it in the overall EMHRN strategy within its capacity building unit, in order to ensure that HRE is mainstreamed in the EMHRN work.

2.3. Conflict situations

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

2.3.1. Palestine, Israel and Palestinians (PIP)

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

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

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

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- Strengthen the capacity of the Working Group on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (PIP WG) to become a focal point in the Euro-Med region for advocating a human rights approach to the conflict and to occupation.
- Research and publicise reports on the relations between EU, Israel and the OPT deal with key human rights and IHL issues in the OPT and Israel, how the EU institutions and Member States react to these developments, and analyse critically whether the EU complies to its obligations according to its own treaties, international law and EU Guidelines on Human Rights and IHL.
- Develop the capacity of participating organisations and individuals involved in advocacy within the framework of the EU, ENP and UfM.
- Develop cooperation with other civil society organisations promoting respect for human rights, international law and IHL in relation to Israel and the OPT.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA and SIDA to its work on Human Rights Education in 2012.*

Activities scheduled

- 2 Working Group meetings
- 2 reports on the relations between the EU, its member states, Israel and Palestine
- 1 training on EU advocacy for European NGOs
- 18 advocacy travels which may be used for advocacy in Brussels, Israel and the OPT, EU member states and Geneva according to the needs and advocacy opportunities
- Two workshops for European CSOs and PIP members on EU advocacy regarding the conflict

Outputs

- ✓ 2 working Group meetings, both held in Europe
- ✓ 1 annual report jointly written with APRODEV
- ✓ 5 advocacy missions and five other travels
- ✓ 23 statements or policy briefs (including some that were not public) related to the situation in Israel and the OPT, either by the EMHRN or jointly with other organisations
- ✓ 1 training on EU advocacy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- ✓ Weekly EU News bulletin, information on human rights developments in the conflict provided on the EMHRN website, development of a PIP online advocacy database (restricted access)

Activities carried out

Internal Networking – Two PIP Working Groups (PIP WG) meetings

- On 12-13 May 2012 a PIP WG meeting took place in Paris. Ahead of the EMHRN General Assembly, members evaluated the achievements, strengths and weaknesses of the WG over the last three years. This evaluation helped develop the group's strategy, including priorities issues, activities and advocacy targets for the next three years.

- On 22-24 October the second PIP WG meeting was held in Brussels (following renewal of the WGs). Outcomes of the June 2012 EMHRN General Assembly, as well as the first Executive Committee meeting were discussed. The group introduced its new members, discussed strategy priorities with other Brussels-based INGOs and, on that basis, agreed upon the WG's strategy for 2012-2015.

External networking – outreach to international, Israeli and Palestinian NGOs

- Networking with **Brussels-based NGOs**: in 2012 the PIP WG was actively involved in joint advocacy activities and information sharing with INGOs in Brussels, including AI-EU office, Oxfam International, APRODEV, CIDSE, Crisis Action, FIDH, Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA), European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), Actions in the Mediterranean, the European Movement and others. The EMHRN organised some of the meetings of the informal coalition of humanitarian, development, peace and human rights NGOs coordinated by Crisis Action, and liaised with solidarity organisations like ECCP when the need arose. Several joint statements were drafted (cf. annex I).
- Networking with **representatives of Israeli and Palestinian NGOs** based in Europe or travelling to Brussels: throughout 2012, the EMHRN worked closely on EU advocacy with the representatives of Israeli and Palestinian NGOs in Europe (incl. EU representatives of Al Haq and Adalah, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel and PCATI). The PIP WG supported its members' advocacy activities and strengthened its cooperation with Israeli and Palestinian NGOs not members of the EMHRN. In 2012 the EMHRN further developed contacts with the Coalition of Women for Peace, Mossawa, Yesh Din, Gisha, PHR-Israel, Settler Watch, DCI Palestine, the Mattin Group and the Hotline for Migrant Workers.
- Networking with **civil society organisations** at capital level in Europe: in 2012, the EMHRN, through its PIP WG, strengthened its relations with European NGOs. During most advocacy missions and WG meetings, meetings were held with local CSOs in order to strengthen EMHRN's work at national level and to broaden the member's contacts in Europe. An EU advocacy workshop was also organised and in April, September and October, the PIP WG mobilised European civil society to take action regarding the EU-Israel ACAA protocol that was due for a vote at the European Parliament.

EMHRN report on EU-Israel relations: Promoting and Ensuring Respect for International Law

- The [joint EMHRN-APRODEV report](#) was successfully launched in Brussels on 14-16 February and subsequently presented in Brussels, Israel-OPT, Denmark, Sweden and Paris. The report was intended as an advocacy tool for CSOs in Europe and

Israel-OPT and was widely disseminated during advocacy missions and trainings organised around the report.

Advocacy activities

- In January and April, as part of EMHRN's ongoing work related to the 2011 report on *"The EU and the Palestinian Arab Minority"*, the PIP WG participated in missions to EU institutions organised by Adalah, PCATI and PHR-Israel's EU representative on developments regarding the Arab minority in Israel, including the 'Praver Plan bill' and the EU Heads of Mission report on Israeli Arabs.
- In February and June the joint EMHRN-APRODEV report on EU-Israel relations was launched in cooperation with Al Haq, PCATI and APRODEV at the EU and Belgian institutions, as well as the media and civil society in Brussels.
- In April, the EMHRN participated in and supported the organisation of a mission on migration issues in Brussels on the Israeli "Law to prevent infiltration" in cooperation with Adalah, PHR-Israel, PCATI, Amnesty International and the Hotline for Migrant Workers.
- In June, the EMHRN organised an advocacy mission in cooperation with Crisis Action and Oxfam International ahead of the 5th anniversary of the Gaza closure with representatives from Al Mezan and Gisha.
- In October a mission to EU institutions with members Adalah, Al Mezan, PCATI and Al Haq was organised ahead of the 2012 European Neighbourhood Progress Report for Israel.
- In November, following the Israeli offensive on Gaza, the EMHRN organised an advocacy mission to Brussels asking for accountability for violations and lifting of the Gaza closure with Al Mezan, Al Haq, Amnesty International and Oxfam International.
- Other advocacy activities in Brussels: In February the EMHRN and Al Haq participated in several advocacy meetings with the EEAS and Member States representatives to discuss the new EU-PA Action Plan. In April the EMHRN, including members Al Haq and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, organised advocacy ahead of the EU-PA human rights subcommittee meeting. In July, the PIP WG organised a mission ahead of the EU-Israel Association Council with PIP members Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and Al Haq in cooperation with Amnesty International, APRODEV, CIDSE, and Oxfam International. In October and November the EMHRN organised a joint advocacy round with Adalah and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights ahead of the EU-Israel Informal Human Rights Working Group and Political Subcommittee meeting.

Advocacy missions to EU Member States

- In April and May 2012, the PIP EU Member State advocacy missions consisted of missions to launch the EMHRN-



APRODEV report in Denmark, Sweden and France. The report was presented to Parliaments, MFAs, media and civil society, in cooperation with partners on the ground (DanChurchAid, Diakonia and ACAT) and members (PCATI, Al Haq, Al Mezan, RCT).

Advocacy in Israel

- On 19-26 February the EMHRN-APRODEV report was launched in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Ramallah jointly with APRODEV, Al Haq, PCATI and Adalah. The report was presented to EU officials and representatives from Member States as well as Israeli, Palestinian and international civil society

Training

- In February, within in the context of the mission to Israel-OPT on 23 February, the EMHRN organised a training session on the EMHRN-APRODEV report in Ramallah and Tel Aviv (see above). In May, a workshop on EU advocacy for European NGOs was organised in Paris. 40 participants representing more than 23 European organisations and two non-European organisations attended it.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- In 2012, **the WG continued to be a key critical human rights advocacy forum** providing input to the EU on the respect of human rights and international humanitarian law ahead of important events relating to EU relations with Israel and the PA (e.g. EU-PA action plan, ENP progress reports, EU country human rights strategies, EU-Israel Association Council, human rights meetings with the PA and Israel etc.). **The EMHRN is the leading NGO providing this very specific input for Israel and the OPT to the EU institutions**, and many of the EMHRN recommendations were reflected in the outcomes of these meetings. In the context of this work, the WG has also contributed to highlighting the problems related to the EU-Israel ACAA protocol, which led to an EU-wide civil society mobilisation to raise MEPs' awareness on this issue, even though the protocol passed in the end. On the EU Member States level, following the launch of the report in Denmark, guidelines on the correct labelling of settlement products were issued in Denmark in line with the reports' recommendations. The WG has also continued its work started in 2011 on the mainstreaming of the IHL guidelines in the EU, managing to highlight the issue and on-going discussions, despite that no concrete measures have been adopted yet.
- **The work around this report was particularly positive in terms of capacity building and networking with EU Member States, international, Israeli and Palestinian civil society.** The

trainings on EU advocacy held in Paris, Tel Aviv and Ramallah around this report were an opportunity to increase information sharing and capacity building on EU advocacy regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for civil society. Furthermore, many joint advocacy endeavours have been undertaken with INGOs based in Brussels (e.g. the work on labelling of settlement products has also been co-ordinated with Crisis Action), as well as in Member States (e.g. launches of the report in Sweden, Denmark and France, as well as advocacy on ACAA and labelling undertaken with CSOs in Member States).

- In 2012, **the coordination with Brussels-based representatives of Israeli and Palestinian NGOs increased**, and through this co-ordinated work, especially with the EU representatives of the PIP WG's Israeli and Palestinian members, the PIP WG managed to keep the violations relating to the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel, Palestinian prisoners and detainees (including torture), migrant's rights (in cooperation with the EMHRN Working Group on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers) and attacks against HRDs high on the EU agenda by providing it with regular updates from the ground. **The WG's work on accountability and the Gaza closure has been more challenging in 2012, as these topics are not a priority on the EU's agenda**, the EU even actively working against the PA's accession to the international criminal court. The WG has decided that it would work towards keeping these issues on the EU's agenda in 2012-2015.
- An important challenge for the work of the EMHRN in 2012 continued to be the **restrictions to freedom of movement imposed on the PIP WG members from Gaza**, although the relocation of one of the PIP members from Gaza to Europe made it easier to have a representative from Gaza involved in PIP activities. The restrictions on movement between Israel and the West Bank made it also difficult, if not impossible, for the PIP WG to meet in East-Jerusalem. Therefore **no meeting could be organised in Israel or the West Bank in 2012**.
- The group's previous strategic focus on Germany and the UK within EU member states has been evaluated in 2012, and it has been decided to continue working on Germany in 2013-2014 and start working on the Netherlands and Poland, as well as follow-up on work done in Denmark and France, as these countries are influential within the EU. The WG has also decided that there was an added value of drafting shorter advocacy papers in the future to support the advocacy efforts of NGOs in Europe, Israel and the OPT, as this was previously identified as a way to address the lack of capacity of the WG to follow developments and advocacy undertaken by the WG in member states. Therefore, in line with these strategic discussions, it was decided that **four short advocacy papers will be drafted in 2013-2014, with one on Germany-Israel relations, and another on accountability**. The second report,



scheduled for 2012, has been postponed to 2013, as the coordinator went on maternity leave.

- It is fair to say that the short-term objective for EMHRN work on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians, which is to further develop the activities of the PIP WG to become a key critical human rights advocacy forum on EU policies pertaining to Israel and Palestine, was met in 2012. This was done through close monitoring of EU relations with Israel and the Palestinian authority, discussing the advancement of Israel within the ENP, meetings with EMHRN members, EU and Member States representatives, reaching out to civil society at large, capacity building, publishing briefing notes and a report, as well as issuing press releases. Through this, the **EMHRN moved closer to the general objective of establishing a regional civil society advocacy forum** aimed at raising awareness about the need for the EU and governments to set the respect for human rights and

international humanitarian law at the heart of peace promotion. Throughout 2012 the **EMHRN remained a focal point for expertise on EU-Israel relations**, and was regularly contacted by NGOs in Europe and in Israel and the OPT for advice or information on EU advocacy. The EU News drafted by the EMHRN was widely disseminated to help NGOs following EU policies and identifying opportunities for advocacy. EMHRN's online advocacy database was widely used by PIP members and non-member NGOs to access it. Overall, the EMHRN PIP Working Group was successful in strengthening its role and importance as the only consistent Palestine-Israel human rights alliance.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the financial support DANIDA, SIDA, OSI and Church of Sweden has provided for its work in 2012.*

2.3.2. The Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

*The **human rights framework** of the activity was 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 objectives** were to (1) Establish strong regional civil society cooperation on policies, projects and information exchange related to the rights of migrants and refugees; (2) Engage in dialogue with governments and EU institutions on questions relating to human rights, migration, refugee and asylum issues and influence their policies in this regard; (3) Develop the capacity of local organisations in the South Mediterranean to handle issues relating to migrants', refugees' and asylum seekers' rights.*

*The **short term objectives** were to (1) Support regional and sub-regional networking of NGOs as well as cooperation and dialogue between these; (2) Develop policy discussions and formulation on migration and asylum; (3) Promote international and regional human rights instruments and development of legislative and political frameworks of protection; (4) Raise awareness on the situation of migrants and refugees including setting-up urgent alert missions.*

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- Hold two regional WG meetings with the aim of a) exchanging information about participants' work and increasing mutual knowledge thereof; b) conducting training on the EU and developing human rights response to these policies including monitoring the follow-up to the Euro-Med Ministerial meeting on migration; c) identifying joint projects between the participants.
- Enhance the capacity of local civil society in the Euro-Med region to work on migration, refugee, and asylum issues.
- Monitor, research and publish reports.
- Implement a regional Migration and Asylum Alert mission mechanism regarding emblematic cases of violations of migrants and asylum seekers rights.
- Update and publish country fact sheets and newsletters on migration and refugees.

Activities scheduled

- 2 Working Group meetings
- 4 Updated Country factsheets
- 3 Field visits
- 3 Alert missions
- 5 Newsletters

Outputs

- ✓ 2 Working Group meetings in Rome (Italy) and Oujda (Morocco)



- ✓ 2 mapping and networking missions (field visits) to Libya (Tripoli and Benghazi) and Algeria (Oran, Tlemcen and Maghnia)
- ✓ 1 advocacy mission to Brussels
- ✓ 1 solidarity mission to Larnaca, Cyprus
- ✓ 2 trainings on the rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers
- ✓ Update and publication of Country Factsheets on Migration and Asylum in the Maghreb (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Libya) in FR, EN, and AR
- ✓ 4 Newsletters on Migration and Asylum
- ✓ Updated [blog](#) on Asylum and Migration
- ✓ Several briefings notes, ad hoc briefings, press releases and contributions to conferences and hearings

Activities carried out

Working Group meetings

- The **first MAWG meeting took place on 17-19 May in Rome, Italy**. The meeting included a public roundtable session on Italy's internal and external migration policies and their impact on the rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The roundtable included government officials, trade union representatives, UNHCR and civil society representatives. The session was followed by a two-day internal session where WG members evaluated the EMHRN's Migration project – in particular the work of the WG, role of WG members and EMHRN secretariat, the effectiveness and impact of activities undertaken, lessons learnt, and future priorities. In addition, the work plan for the rest of 2012 was discussed and agreed upon by members.
- The **second MAWG meeting was held in Oujda, Morocco on 30 November – 1 December** and included a small public session with civil society representatives of Moroccan and migrant organisations to discuss issues relating to legal aid and social and economic rights of migrants and refugees in the area. During the internal session, the WG members presented themselves and the situation in their respective countries, and discussed both the strategy of the EMHRN with regards to migration and the work plan for 2013. This meeting was the first after the renewal of the WG following the EMHRN General Assembly that took place in June.

Capacity building

- Participants to WG meetings organised throughout 2012 had the opportunity to partake in in-depth discussions about the situation of migrants and refugees in the region. MAWG members' knowledge of the legal and political instruments for the protection of migrants and refugees was increased through extensive presentations about the frameworks for migration and asylum that exist in Italy and Morocco, in

particular. During the WG meeting in Morocco, members also gained significant insight into the situation in Algeria following an in-depth presentation by delegates who took part in a mission organised a few days prior to the meeting. Members also exchanged information regarding the situation in their respective countries allowing them to develop a regional understanding of developments.

- A **regional training on the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in North Africa** – in particular Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya – was organised in collaboration with the Tunis Centre for Migration and Asylum (CeTuMa). The training took place in Tunis on 8-10 October, 2012 and included an introduction to international and regional conventions pertaining to the protection of refugees and asylum seekers, domestic policies and legislation and implications for rights of refugees and asylum seekers, and EU policies and their impact on the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in North Africa. The training included civil society representatives from the four target countries.
- A **training on the rights of refugees and migrants in Libya** was organised in Tripoli on 4-6 December, 2012 in collaboration with the UNHCR mission in Tripoli. The training included an overview of international protection mechanisms, civil society initiatives in Libya and the impact on migrant and refugee rights, and an exchange of best practices with civil society representatives from neighbouring countries in the region. The majority of participants were from Tripoli and Benghazi, from both generalist organisations and humanitarian organisations hoping to increase their capacity to work on refugee and migrant protection and legal aid.
- In light of major changes in the region following the uprisings that took place in 2011, **the EMHRN updated its Country Factsheets on Migration and Asylum in the Maghreb (Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Algeria)** and published these in English, French, and Arabic. These Factsheets provide in-depth information regarding the legal frameworks in the countries in the ground, how these are translated into practice, and impact on the rights of migrants and refugees. These factsheets are an important tool for civil society actors working in the field and enhance their capacity to address the major problems association with migration and asylum legislation (and its implementation) in their respective countries.

Mapping and networking visits

- A **mission to Libya** (Tripoli and Benghazi) was organised on 8-12 September. The mission's main objective was to meet with local civil society, international organisations, and authorities to gather information relating to the situation of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the country, as well as gain understanding of the work carried out by local civil



society on the issue and of their training needs. During the mission, delegates also had the opportunity to visit a detention centre and discuss with detention centre officials the policies they employ vis-à-vis migrants detained. Following the mission, several CSO representatives were invited for a training in Tunis on migration in the region.

- A **mission to Algeria** was organised on 26-29 November (Oran, Tlemcen, and Maghnia). The mission's objective was to map the situation of migrants and refugees in the border region of Algeria, in particular in Maghnia, which is the main crossing point into Morocco. Delegates focused on meeting the different migrant communities in the area to discuss major issues and investigate their situation with regards to access to legal aid, social and economic rights, etc. A presentation of the mission was given to WG members in Oujda and follow-up strategies discussed.

Advocacy

- An **advocacy mission** was organised to Brussels on 8-9 March to meet with EU Commission representatives to discuss concerns related to the Mobility Partnerships being negotiated with Tunisia and Morocco, and the possible violation of rights that might result for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Following the mission, a position paper was issued by the EMHRN about its human rights concerns and the need to guarantee that the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are safeguarded in the framework of these partnerships. Follow-up advocacy was undertaken in Tunisia and in Brussels.

Solidarity

- A **solidarity mission** was organised to Larnaca, Cyprus, to attend the final trial against Doros Polykarpou. The mission was organised by the EMHRN, together with the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, the European Network Against Racism and Migreurop. Doros Polykarpou is the executive director of Action for Support, Equality, Antiracism (KISA) and member of the WG. Following a violent attack by the Greek Resistance Movement of the 13th Rainbow Festival – the largest antiracist festival in Cyprus, organised each year by KISA – Polykarpou was accused of 'rioting and participating in an illegal assembly', punishable by three years in prison. The case is indicative of a general trend in Europe where those who defend the rights of the migrants and the refugees face increased harassment. The EMHRN delegation attended the trial in order to monitor that Polykarpou was given a free and fair trial.

Dissemination of information

- The EMHRN was able to disseminate information on the situation of migrants and refugees in the region through various means: 1 position paper following the advocacy

mission to Brussels was published and diffused to relevant national, EU and civil society actors; Updated Country Factsheets on Migration and Asylum were launched online in English, French, and Arabic (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya); 4 newsletters were distributed – the last two after having revamped the newsletter so as to be more reader-friendly and interactive; the [EMHRN blog on asylum and refugees](#) was regularly updated; the EMHRN issued several press releases, briefing notes, open letters, ad hoc briefings, mainly to the attention of EU officials; the EMHRN participated in relevant conferences (i.e. seminar organised by the Arab Institute of Human Rights, 3-4 March in Djerba, where the EMHRN was invited as a panel speaker; conference organised by Médecins du Monde and LADDH on sub-Saharan migration and access to rights in Algeria, 30 June in Algiers); the EMHRN took part in various meetings with relevant EU, UN and other representatives (i.e. meeting with the former Tunisian Prime Minister and undersecretary for migration, with local Tunisian civil society representative); the EMHRN also diffused information to the media regarding issues of concern, such as the situation of refugees and asylum seekers living in the Choucha camp near the Tunisian-Libyan border.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- EMHRN actions in 2012 contributed significantly to **supporting regional and sub-regional networking of NGOs** via its WG meeting structure, the missions organised which involved delegates from a variety of organisations/country, and its trainings. The importance of having a regional platform of exchange on migration and asylum, namely the EMHRN Migration and Asylum Working Group, was confirmed by the high interest demonstrated by applicants with its renewal following the EMHRN's General Assembly in June 2012. Both at the Rome and Oujda WG meetings members had the chance to discuss key issues relating to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the region and discuss possible follow-up and strategies to be undertaken. In the framework of the trainings carried out, organisations from a variety of countries were brought together, where they had the possibility to share experiences, discuss strategies, and address migration as a regional phenomenon. Reactions from members and participants have been extremely positive – reaffirming the added value of regional exchanges, especially for civil society actors in Libya and Tunisia which are relatively new. This regional dimension still needs to be further encouraged in the future. In the same vein, the involvement of both generalist human rights and specialized migrant rights' organisations in activities proved enriching. This has significantly helped in raising awareness of migrant rights amongst generalist human rights



organisations, while encouraging specialist organisations to adopt a rights-based approach towards migration issues.

- The objective of **Promoting international and regional human rights instruments and development of legislative and political frameworks of protection** was pursued through building capacity of organisations to advocate for the development of protection mechanisms. The two trainings organised by the EMHRN were successful in providing civil society organisations needed expertise on the legal framework relating to migration and asylum at the international, regional, and local levels. Furthermore, the process around the missions organised within the framework of the project (consultation with local organisations, drafting of terms of reference, identification of mission members, defining programs with local civil society, involving local organisations in meeting with international organisations and authorities, consulting on findings and recommendations, etc.) contributed to enhancing the capacity of local civil society to deal with migration and refugee issues. The missions allowed for a transfer of knowledge not only on European migration policies affecting the rights of migrations in the south of the Mediterranean but also of migration policies implemented by regimes in the Southern Mediterranean, which in turn enhanced the local organisations' capacity to engage in dialogue and advocacy with their governments. Participation of local organisations in such missions also enhanced their capacity to report on the rights of migrants and refugees for an international audience due to follow up activities involved, such as drafting mission reports and presenting mission findings.
- The aim of **developing policy discussions and formulation on migration and asylum** was achieved in large part through the WG meetings and side events organised in the framework of these meetings. These WG meetings provided members with the possibility to discuss in-depth information about specific migration cases and recent developments in the region while in public meetings members had the opportunity to exchange ideas with policy makers and local civil society and address policies implemented and their impact on rights of migrants and refugees. Statements and advocacy documents issues are drafted in collaboration and with the input of partners and members on the ground and include policy recommendations so as to support the inclusion of rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in state policies and legislation.
- In relation to the objective of **raising awareness on the situation of migrants and refugees**, this was accomplished via a variety of activities. The field missions to Algeria and Libya allowed the EMHRN to gather important information, both in relation to the situation of migrants and refugees and the work of civil society on the ground in relation to these. Via the trainings organised and the WG meetings, awareness was also raised by presenting mission findings and by discussing urgent cases brought forward by members and

participants. Awareness was also raised on policies affecting migrants and refugees via the newsletters and regularly updated blog as well as the documents (position papers, statements, etc.) issued throughout the year by the EMHRN on these issues. Finally, the updated factsheets on migration and asylum in the Maghreb provide in-depth legal information about the situation of migrants and refugees in the countries in question, including the gaps between legislation and practice, serving as a useful information tool for civil society and other actors working in the field.

- The **primary challenge** faced by the EMHRN in 2012 – in continuity with previous years – is that **migration and asylum remains a marginal topic for human rights organisations in the region**. While many organisations are adapting to the fact that their countries have turned into transit or host countries (and not just migrant-producing countries) and the EMHRN has been partly successful in mainstreaming migration issues in the work of certain members of civil society, public opinion still remains deeply suspicious of migrants and refugees, which in turn makes certain organisations reluctant to tackle the issue. Moreover, the rights of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers – non-citizens in countries where citizens are still struggling to claim many of their rights – continue to be considered of marginal importance. In all its actions, the EMHRN raised awareness about the necessity to denounce all violations of the migrants and refugees' rights regardless of whether they occur in Europe or in the South Mediterranean countries and has tried to encourage a rights-based approach to migration issues and the important of protecting refugee and migrant rights in democratic societies. It also encouraged civil society actors in the south to push for adequate migration and asylum laws, especially in countries undergoing significant legislative and constitutional amendments (i.e. in Morocco and in Tunisia, and to a lesser extent Libya).
- **The uprisings that took place in the region in 2012 had an important impact on the work of the EMHRN**. They opened up access to countries previously inaccessible, such as Tunisia and Libya, thus significantly facilitating the work on migration and refugee issues in these countries. However, these political changes have also led to increased vulnerability for refugees and migrants in the area – the breakdown of the security apparatus in Egypt and the focus on the transition has meant migrants and refugees in the country are more vulnerable to attacks, while in Libya it has meant increased power of traffickers and militia in dealing with migrants and refugees, often to their detriment. Moreover, at the EU level this development has reinforced the discourse regarding security, the need to strengthen Frontex, etc. and policies are becoming increasingly hostile towards migrants. In the south, civil society as a whole is facing significant challenges with restructuring themselves and adapting to the new developments. This sometimes makes it difficult to prioritize



certain policy areas, such as migration and refugees at the local level – despite increased interest in the issue. However, increased freedom in Tunisia, for example, allowed the EMHRN to reach out to a number of new organisations from all over the country on migration and refugee issues, organise a regional training, as well as voice concerns to authorities on a regular basis regarding migration issues and related EU policies. In Libya, the EMHRN has been able to organise a mission, meet with a variety of new and interested actors, and organise a training on the rights of migrants and refugees in the country.

- As a response to challenges observed in the past years, **two main changes have been made to the project in 2012**. The **first is related to the alert mechanism put in place in previous years**. A recurring challenge in relation to this mechanism has been that members have not been as proactive as hoped in approaching the secretariat with urgent cases and have not had the capacity to follow-up on the ground as expected. While efforts were made to raise awareness about this mechanism via emails, the blog, discussions with members, etc. it was decided to focus in 2012 on mapping and networking missions (i.e. field missions) and advocacy/solidarity missions rather than alert cases, as well as capacity building (trainings). This also allows the EMHRN to focus on protracted refugee and migrant cases (such as on the Algerian-Moroccan border). Another important change in the project relates to the **closure of the**

Morocco antenna. Following the EMHRN's restructuring process, it was decided to limit the number of offices of the EMHRN in the region and establish fewer but larger regional offices (Maghreb, Mashrek) to improve synergies in the organisation and effectiveness of activities implemented. For strategic and political reasons it was decided to place the Maghreb regional office in Tunisia, and with the resignation of the project assistant in Rabat in mid-2012 it was deemed the best time to implement the closure of the office. **However, the Tunis office has become an important focal point for migration issues in the region due to its proximity to both Libya, Algeria, and to a lesser extent Morocco**. Moreover, via this regional office, synergy between migration issues and other human rights-related issues has increased, increasing both impact and effectiveness of EMHRN actions.

- In spite of the above-mentioned challenges and changes brought to the project, the activities implemented in the period covered 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 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, DANIDA and SIDA for support to its activities on migrants and asylum seekers and refugees' rights in 2012.*

2.3.3. Economic and Social Rights

*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 a regional civil society instruments to monitor economic and social rights in the EuroMed region (including the impact of the free trade zone and the ENPI programmes on human rights).*

*The **short term objectives** were to (1) initiate debate amongst EMHRN membership on how to deal with economic and social rights at regional level; (2) initiate a process of training NGOs on action based approaches to economic and social rights.*

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- The EMHRN will explore the possibility of establishing a Working Group on Economic and Social Rights aiming amongst other at 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.

Activities scheduled

- Including economic and social rights among the priorities of the EMHRN in the EMHRN Strategy for 2012-2018
- Initial discussion at the level of the new EMHRN Executive Committee of an EMHRN program on eco-soc rights
- Identifying possibly funding opportunities for an EMHRN program on eco-soc rights and possible fundraising (depending on opportunities)

Outputs

- ✓ Eco-Soc rights included among the priorities in the EMHRN Strategy for 2012-2018
- ✓ EMHRN program on eco-soc discussed at the EC level



- ✓ Two meetings on eco-soc rights in Tunisia (see Tunisia mission)
- ✓ Possible funding opportunities identified

Activities carried out

- Consultation with EMHRN members and experts in relation to the new EMHRN strategy in relation to eco-soc rights
- New strategy discussed and approved by the EMHRN General Assembly in June in Copenhagen where it was stressed that eco-soc should be one of the priorities in the new Strategy
- Eco-soc discussed at the EMHRN Executive Committee meeting in September in Copenhagen with a decision to prepare a paper and on this basis have a strategic discussion on the EMHRN program on eco-soc rights in 2013 in order to, if funding is secured, to be able to start working on eco-soc rights in 2014.
- Two meetings in the framework of the Tunisia mission. The first one in the mining region Gafsa and the other in Kairouan,

gathering representatives of civil society to discuss eco-soc problems (see Tunisia mission)

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- In relation to achieving the objectives, the first steps have been taking in relation to inscribing eco-soc among the priorities of the new EMHRN Strategy 2012-2018, to have discussed and confirmed its importance by discussing it at the EMHRN General Assembly as well as to have initiated discussions on the level of the EMHRN Executive Committee. This has laid solid foundations for starting the work in 2014 and being able to reach the objectives.
 - *The EMHRN wishes to thank DANIDA and SIDA for support to its activities on economic and social rights in 2012.*



3. Communication

The **human rights framework** of this activity was to create efficient and comprehensive tools to disseminate human rights values and norms in the Euro-Med region.

The **general objective** was 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 objectives** were to **(1)** Upgrade the website of the EMHRN reflecting its work, that of its members and the main human rights issues in the region; **(2)** Increase the number of people accessing news from the EMHRN; **(3)** Increase the presence of the EMHRN in the media; and **(4)** Efficiently ensure communication between the EMHRN and its members when relevant.

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- Maintain a full time communication officer in Brussels in charge of the internal and external communication and responsible for relations with the European media and the French and English pages of the EMHRN website.
- Maintain a full time communication officer in Cairo responsible for relations with the Arab media and the Arab pages of the EMHRN web site.
- Hire a webmaster in Cairo.
- Hire a communication intern in Brussels.
- On the executive level, strengthen EMHRN work in terms of monitoring, reacting and communicating 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 Euro-Med region, the EU, etc.
- Proactively contact members in order to exchange information and increasingly target specific news to specific needs.
- Re-design EMHRN website and build-up additional thematic modules and blogs.

Activities scheduled

- Maintain a communication officer, Brussels
- Hire a communication intern, Brussels
- Maintain a communication officer, Cairo
- Hire a webmaster, Cairo

- Translations of documents (website)
- Press conferences
- Printing of pamphlets etc.
- Upgrading and developing web site
- Updating mailing lists

Outputs

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

Activities carried out

- EMHRN website was completely redesigned in the course of 2012 with additional pages and content in the 3 language versions (Arabic, English and French). The website was updated on a daily basis. The migration of the old website to a new one with a different CMS (Content Management System) meant that statistics on the number of hits on the site could unfortunately not be collected. The google analytics system has been integrated in the new website and is now operational (as far as stats running from January 2013 are concerned).
- In addition EMHRN online presence was further reinforced through Facebook and Twitter (the number of followers went over 6.000 at the time of writing the report).
- The communication team assisted in organising press conferences and public events in relation to many of EMHRN thematic activities, ensuring media coverage of EMHRN initiatives and documents (reports, recommendations, etc.). Reference to these press events is made under the specific thematic sections of this report.
- In the course of 2012, a total of **214 news briefs and statements/press releases** were uploaded on EMHRN website and disseminated to a total of 4.319 subscribers of EMHRN news service as well as to EU and Arab media and EU institutions in Brussels. The list and the links to these briefs and statements are included in Annex 1.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- During the first half of 2012, **EMHRN communication work focused mainly on repairing the basics**. The website has thus



undergone a complete redesign. Nevertheless, data migration was not successfully achieved and hampered the technical set up of the new website. Delays in the launch meant that the staff had to dedicate a lot of time and energy on technical fixes and less time was therefore given to peripheral aspects of the communication work.

- Despite technical setbacks, EMHRN communication team managed to successfully launch brand **new looks for EMHRN thematic newsletters** (namely FoA and Migrasyl). These completely revamped publications enjoyed an increasing audience (they have been periodically sent to some 774 recipients so far) and have significantly contributed to widen EMHRN's outreach both within members and to external partners.
- The Communication Department has also worked to produce **new communication outputs** and make use of new communication channels. These efforts culminated in the promotion of diversified communication supports; thematic factsheets, toolkits, training guides; webpages dedicated to campaigns and the use of NICT tools (online petition; Facebook events; twitter alerts; etc.)
- The Communication team was involved in the drafting and the design of reports from the onset. They provided overall guidance for the production process and ensured harmonised formulation, use of visuals and reader friendly formats to maximise both the impact and the readability of the reports. They also provided input on how to make the best use of the reports and advised on elements of how/when/who to the dissemination strategy should enclose.
- The **Communication team took part in many EMHRN activities and assisted the different Working Groups in organising communication-related activities.** Photo exhibitions, press conferences to launch publications, joint informal evening talks, press invites, telephone interviews, featured in TV programmes and even facilitated access to EMHRN delegation members by the media. These activities have led to heighten the profile of EMHRN both in the European and in the Arab media. Both EMHRN Communication Officers (in Brussels and in Cairo) are now being sought regularly by the press on issues pertaining to human rights in the region.

- The Communication team also provided **sustained support for translation of all the press releases**, the statements, the publications and the material EMHRN has produced over the course of 2012. The team ensured as much as possible that EMHRN terminology is consistently taken up, that the language used is of the highest standards and that a harmonised layout is replicated throughout.
 - The Communication team reactivated the **EMHRN social media use** and thus both EMHRN Facebook and twitter accounts are now success being revived and are fairly active and fed on a daily basis.
 - Amid its busy communication front, the Communication team has also been engaged in reforming its processes and has regularly sought to assess their work. Periodic meetings, briefings and feedback sessions all helped shape the communication team and foster initiatives between the team and their content –oriented colleagues. With some degree of success, the communication team not only reinforced its capacities but also managed to synchronise cross sectorial work and contribute to better and more efficient internal communication within EMHRN staff.
 - To that effect, the communication team provided substantial input to the consultant on the EMHRN structure and to the Communication Consultant. Both consultants submitted reports indicating how important it was to place the communication department at the heart of EMHRN strategic plans. The communication team also contributed in a significant manner to internal EMHRN soul searching and gave concrete proposals on how to reform and restructure communication. These sessions punctuated the year 2012 and mobilised considerable energy.
 - Last, though not least, the Communication team deployed efforts to expand the network of EMHRN partners and to join common initiatives so as to introduce the EMHRN perspective whenever appropriate. These efforts could have been further enhanced but due to limitations in human resources and conflicting schedules, it was not always possible to do so.
- *The EMHRN wishes to thank the DANIDA and SIDA for their support to its communication activities in 2012.*



4. Membership Support

4.1. Solidarity

4.1.1. Solidarity project

4.1.1.1. Algeria

The **general objective** was the promotion of a vibrant civil society in Algeria capable of influencing national human rights agendas and act on the international level

The **short term objective** was (1) to support human rights defenders at risk by breaking the relative isolation of the Algerian activists; (2) to develop the capacities of human rights organisations in Algeria to jointly plan and cooperate in having access to international human rights mechanisms at UN and EU level.

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme:

- Organise two solidarity group meetings between Algerian and European human rights organisations to engage them in a networking process.
- Send monitoring and support missions to Algeria and constantly monitor the human rights situation in the country.
- Contribute to strengthening links among professional groups (trade unions) in Europe and Algeria.
- Conduct advocacy and awareness raising activities in relation to EU, EU member states and UN bodies.
- Draft and disseminate a brief on the on EU-Algeria relations and on the situation of human rights in Algeria.
- Reinforce capacities of Algerian human rights defenders on EU and UN human rights mechanisms and advocacy.

Activities scheduled

- 2 meetings of the Algeria Solidarity Group
- 4 missions to Algeria (trial monitoring and solidarity missions)
- 5 meetings with European trade unions
- 1 brief on EU-Algeria relations and on the situation of human rights in Algeria
- 2 advocacy missions of Algerian delegation to Brussels

Outputs

- ✓ 2 meetings of the Algeria Solidarity Group: Tunis from 9-10 June; Rome-Florence from 5 to 10 November
- ✓ Local meeting for the creation of the network of human rights lawyers (RADDH), 27 January

- ✓ Local coordination meeting of Algerian Solidarity group members in Algiers, 16 July
- ✓ 3 trial observation missions, March-June
- ✓ 2 field visits to Algeria: 12-20 July and 30 Oct – 2 Nov
- ✓ 5 meetings with European trade unions: France, 20 Feb.; ITUC, 10 April; ETUC, 8 May; Italy, 24 May; UK, 14 August
- ✓ 1 briefing on the situation of human rights in Algeria plus 26 press releases, 3 open letters, 1 report, 1 joint confidential letter and 3 written contributions on Algeria throughout 2012
- ✓ 2 advocacy visits to Brussels, 24-25 January and 10-11 April
- ✓ Side-event in Geneva during UPR of Algeria, 29 May
- ✓ Advocacy meetings with Italian officials, 7-8 November
- ✓ Advocacy meetings with French officials, 6 December

Activities carried out

Networking

- **Algeria Solidarity Group Meetings (ASG):** The two yearly meetings of the ASG were held in June and November as scheduled. The first meeting was held in Tunis 8-10 June (20 participants). The main objectives were to take stock and evaluate the work done by and with the ASG since its establishment in November 2011 and to discuss the strategy and joint actions at international level for the six coming months. The second ASG meeting took place in Rome 5-6 November (18 participants). At this occasion, the EMHRN in cooperation with its Italian member, ARCI, facilitated several other meetings with Italian media (public TV and radio), Italian officials (Human Rights Commission of the Senate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, political parties, trade unions). Six extra participants joined the delegation to attend the European Social Forum held in Florence 9-10 November. Algerian members were involved as speakers in some of the public meetings. The EMHRN also facilitated a meeting between ASG members and a representative of Amnesty International.
- The EMHRN supported the participation of five Algerian human rights defenders to three public seminars organised in France (January, April, May) in order to reinforce the links and create synergies between the Algerian community abroad and the Algerian human rights defenders still in the country.



- **Establishment of a Network of HR Lawyers:** The EMHRN supported the creation of a network of human rights lawyers (RADDH) with the aim of providing protection to activists who are victims of judicial harassment, especially those living in isolated areas. The Network was officially constituted during a meeting held in Algiers on 27 January.
- **Meetings with trade unions:** In 2012, five meetings were organised with European and international trade-union's representative with the aim of raising their awareness about the situation of human rights defenders and trade unionists in Algeria. The meetings were held with unions from Italy (CGIL, UIL), France (CFDT, CGT, Solidaires, FSU, UNSA) and the UK (TUC, UNISON). Besides these, the EMHRN facilitated contacts between the ITUC, the ETUC and SNAPAP's president and two meetings were convened with them in Brussels between April and May.

Monitoring the human rights situation in Algeria

- **Trial observations:** In support of RADDH lawyers, the EMHRN decided to focus on cases of activists outside Algiers subject to judicial harassment because they exercised their right to peaceful assembly. In this regard, two court procedures were observed in Laghouat on 28 March 2012 and in Tiaret on 18 April 2012. Along with other NGOs, the EMHRN appointed an observer to both hearings of Mourad Dhina's trial in Paris (held on 21 March and 4 April 2012) in order to show solidarity with him and with Al Karama, a Swiss foundation working on human rights in the Arab world of which M. Dhina is the Executive Director.
- **Solidarity missions:** A field mission was conducted between 12 and 20 July. The mission collected information on associations facing obstacles in their formal registration process following the adoption of the new Algerian law on associations. The outcome of the coordination process initiated with the establishment of the network of lawyers for the defence of human rights (RADDH) was evaluated. Additionally, the meeting of the Algerian members of the ASG on 16 July 2012 was facilitated. Its aim was to discuss and strengthen coordination at local level amongst ASG members to implement concrete activities on the ground. Finally, the field visit provided the opportunity to meet European embassies (France, Italy and Norway) in order to inform them on freedom of association in Algeria and to raise-awareness about harassment of human rights defenders. From 30 October to 2 November, Michel Tubiana, president of the EMHRN, was able to visit Algeria for a short field mission to meet with members and partners in Algiers and Oran to discuss the political context.
- **Diffusing information on the HR situation to decisions makers in the EU, UN and EU member states:** In 2012 the EMHRN issued 26 press releases on Algeria, 3 open letters (January, October, December), 1 report '*Lifting the State of*

Emergency: A Game of Smoke and Mirrors' (February, see section on Freedom of Association), 1 report "*Political reforms" or additional lock on society and politics in Algeria'* (May), 1 briefing on the situation of human rights in Algeria (October), 1 joint letter to the EU Delegation and European Embassies in Algiers, 3 written contributions to the EU and the UN (February, March, September).

- **Diffusing information on the HR situation in Algeria to academia and civil society:** The press releases, reports and letters mentioned above were also disseminated widely to civil society through the EMHRN mailing list. In addition, the EMHRN supported the participation of Algerian HRDs in three public seminars held in Paris (see *Networking*). In November, the Algerian delegation attended the European Social Forum held in Florence 9-10 November. Algerian members were involved as speakers in a number of public meetings and met with civil society's groups from Italy, Europe and the Maghreb.

Advocacy

- **EU institutions:** an advocacy mission to the EU institutions went to Brussels on 24-25 January 2012 in the context of negotiations between EU and Algeria on the adoption of an ENP Action Plan. The delegation, composed of 4 members, had several meetings (MEPs, staff of EU Commissioner Füle; office of the EU Special Representative for the Southern Mediterranean region, Mr. León; EU Member states' representatives at the European Council; EEAS, including Algeria desk). It made a presentation before the Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Maghreb Delegation of the European Parliament on 25 January. From 10 to 11 April, ahead of the EU Election Observation Mission to Algeria, the EMHRN organised another advocacy visit to Brussels with its three Algerian member organisations (CFDA, LADDH, SNAPAP) who presented the main conclusions of the ASG joint report on the restrictive laws adopted in Algeria in 2011. On 15 October, the EMHRN jointly with its Algerian members and the FIDH issued an open letter along with a briefing on the situation of human rights in view of the negotiations on an ENP action Plan and, on 4 December, a joint press release ("*EU-Algeria Association Council: Priority to Human Rights!*").
- **UN:** Specific written contributions were addressed to the UN Human Rights Council (session of February) and the High Commissioner for Human Rights (field visit in September); a side-event on the situation of human rights in Algeria was organised jointly with CIHRS, CFDA and FIDH during the Universal Periodic Review of Algeria, on 29 May.
- **EU Member States:** In November, Italian members of the EMHRN facilitated the organisation of a series of meetings for the Algerian delegation with the Ministry of International Cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, some political

parties and the Italian media. A hearing on the Human Rights situation in Algeria was held in the Senate's HR Committee. Following the hearing, the president of the HR Committee wrote an open letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asking him to call on Algerian authorities to respect its HR commitments in view of the Summit between Italy and Algeria that took place on November 14. In December, two advocacy meetings were held in Paris with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidency; a joint open letter was addressed to French President in view of his official visit to Algeria.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- The EMHRN intervention was welcomed by Algerian HRDs who increasingly see the cooperation with the EMHRN as a way to strengthen their own protection and their organisations' capacities. In 2012, all scheduled activities were implemented, as well as several extra joint initiatives such as advocacy actions and joint publications.

Networking

- The **Algeria Solidarity Group has proved to be a useful and efficient platform to undertake joint actions and fostering cooperation** on the ground, for instance through the establishment of a network of lawyers aimed at supporting human rights and trade-union activists, victims of judicial harassment.
- Regarding the **mobilisation of international trade unions**, the coordination with SNAPAP made it possible to agree on thematic priorities (obstacles to the creation of autonomous trade-unions, obstacles to their right to expression, peaceful assembly, threats and judicial harassment of union activists, violations of ILO conventions) and to identify the ILO annual session in Geneva as the main target for joint advocacy. As a main result of the networking process, international trade unions actively advocated and **eventually succeeded in having Algeria included in the list of countries to be examined by the Committee on Application of Standards during the annual session of ILO in Geneva** (June 2012 – examination postponed to 2013).

Monitoring

- The EMHRN (and the ASG) has strengthened its role as an actor able to promote and facilitate cooperation and to protect human rights defenders and civil society's groups in Algeria. The protection of human rights defenders and activists was further strengthened through the mobilisation of lawyers of LADDH and RADDH. An effective information sharing process within the ASG enabled EMHRN to react quickly to violations via several joint press releases along with

other international NGOs, but also trial observation and field missions. Throughout 2012, EMHRN's releases were regularly quoted by French-language newspapers in Algeria.

Advocacy

- **EU-Algeria Cooperation mechanisms:** The emphasis placed on cooperation mechanisms between the EU and Algeria helped reinforcing the capacities of member and partner organisations to plan and carry out joint lobbying actions towards the EU. The cooperation among ASG members allowed EMHRN to identify thematic priorities (freedoms of association and peaceful assembly, trade union freedoms, judicial harassment against human rights and trade-union activists, the disappeared, and access to the country for international observers) and to elaborate specific recommendations. The regular and updated information provided to the decision-makers proved to have some impact as the EU, UN and EU Member States frequently addressed these human rights priorities in their public releases. For example, see: United Nations (Press release of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, April; Press release of the special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Maina Kiai, May; Report of the mission to Algeria of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue, June; letters of allegation of the Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association to Algeria; Opening remarks by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay during her mission to Algeria, September); EU (Letter from European External Action Service, December, in response to our joint letter of October; Press release "EU-Algeria: first ever election observation mission" following Commissioner Fule's visit to Algeria, March; Report of the EU elections observation mission to Algeria, August); EU Member states (Letter of the President of the HR Committee of the Italian Senate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, November).
- **Advocating for a more proactive role of the EU delegation:** The EMHRN kept advocating for a more proactive role of the EU delegation regarding in particular the protection of human rights defenders and the effective implementation of EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders. Following a joint letter at the initiative of EMHRN, the EU Delegation for the first time mandated an observer to attend the court hearing in the trial against four human rights defenders on 25 September 2012.
- **Facilitating access for Algerian HRD to the EU and UN:** In line with its objectives, EMHRN was able to provide Algerian human rights organisations with a better access to the EU and UN decision makers through several advocacy missions, in some cases organised jointly with other international NGOs.



- **Capacity building:** The advocacy missions proved important as a way to building the capacities of Algerian human rights defenders and organisations. Indeed, these missions are a way to strengthen the capacity of Algerian activists to jointly plan but also to understand EU and UN human rights mechanisms, to elaborate a clear message, hence, to increase their impact on relevant decision makers.

Challenges

- **Fragmentation of the Algerian civil society:** Solidarity within the human rights community remains weak due to the fragmentation of the civil society's landscape in Algeria. While it has been possible to ease the tensions existing among the members of the Algeria Solidarity Group and, hence, to limit their impact on the networking process, latent conflicts within the human rights community in Algeria have made it impossible to further enlarge the ASG membership until now. For this reason, EMHRN's action has been carefully implemented on the basis of an inclusive approach, which has been deemed the most efficient to overcome the tensions and frustrations which characterise the Algerian human rights community. It is clear that it is of utmost importance to continue this process, not at least now, that the EMHRN has gained the trust of the Algerian CSOs.

4.1.1.2. Syria

The **general objective** was to promote a vibrant human rights movement in Syria capable of influencing national human rights agendas and political transition.

The **short term objective** were to **(1)** protect human rights defenders (HRDs) at risk by mobilizing European and international actors in their support; **(2)** provide spaces for Syrian human rights organisations to develop coordination; **(3)** provide capacity building on documenting and reporting human rights violations.

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme:

- Assist HRDs in need and under attack.
- Alert decision makers and the public when HRDs are at risk.
- Support Syrian HRDs in their international advocacy work.
- Provide spaces where Syrian HR activists can interact, as well as strengthen their links to Euro-Med partners.
- Contribute to strengthening Syrian HRDs' work on documenting human rights violations.

Activities scheduled

- **Increased harassment of HRDs and impediments to their work:** Human rights defenders and activists faced increased harassment and restrictions in their work in Algeria. Despite the lifting of the State of Emergency and the adoption of new laws in 2011, freedom of association and freedom of assembly are severely restricted in Algeria. So far, the increased visibility of human rights defenders and organisations involved in EMHRN activities has proved to enhance their protection rather than increasing the risks. Anyway, EMHRN is fully aware that this may change, and consults regularly with its members to assess the risks of any activity.
- **Visa restrictions:** The Algerian authorities have put restrictions on the granting of entry visas making it difficult to send human rights delegations to Algeria, to schedule missions in advance, and even to organise and attend local meetings. To overcome this challenge, EMHRN implemented low profile missions and regularly highlighted this issue in its advocacy work, in cooperation with other human rights NGOs concerned.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of the European Commission, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DANIDA and SIDA to its work on Algeria in 2012.*

- Meetings of Syrian HR groups/organisations
- Advocacy visits (to the UN and the EU)
- Training workshops for Syrian HRDs on documentation of HR violations

Outputs

- ✓ 2 meetings of Syrian human rights groups in Geneva (17-18 March) and Cairo (6 December)
- ✓ 1 Conference with Syrian human rights groups from outside and inside Syria in Brussels (11-12 July)
- ✓ 2 advocacy visits to the UN in Geneva of Syrian HRDs (March and September)
- ✓ 1 advocacy visit to the EU institutions in Brussels of Syrian HRDs (July)
- ✓ 1 advocacy visit to the Arab League in Cairo (January)
- ✓ 2 training workshops for Syrian HRDs in Tunis (7-10 May) and in Cairo (5-9 December)

Activities carried out

Networking



- On 17 and 18 March 2012, the EMHRN organized a **group meeting in Geneva with the attendance of 7 Syrian human rights groups, as well as international experts from INGOs and the UNHCHR**. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss documentation of gross human rights violations in Syria, including opportunities for advocacy and trainings in this regard. It was agreed that the EMHRN would carry out a mapping of the Syrian human rights organisations (HRO) in order to better identify their needs and define appropriate strategies to build their capacities and foster collaboration amongst them.
- The EMHRN conducted a **series of (basic) mappings of Syrian HROs and HRDs**, however, it became clear that in the highly volatile and changing environment it would be impossible to keep such mapping up to date as people would shift from one organisation to another and new organisations would be established all the time. Instead, a “core group” of key human rights defenders were identified, who would be tasked with identifying people to involve in the networking process. This allowed for creating a flexible networking dynamic adapted to the needs on the ground, instead of establishing a ‘Solidarity Group with fixed membership’
- On 11 and 12 July 2012, the **EMHRN organized a conference in Brussels “Human Rights and Civil Society in Syria: Revealing the Truth, Preparing the Transition”**. It aimed at identifying and discussing challenges faced by human rights groups to tackle transitional justice and democratic transition in Syria. Hundred persons attended the conference, including more than 40 Syrian human rights activists (including persons traveling from inside Syria). A report on the conference was published in September in Arabic, French and English. The EMHRN benefited from the opportunity of the conference to organize side meetings on women’s rights in Syria, as well as further capacity building initiatives for human rights groups. On 6 December 2012, a **strategic meeting was organized in the margins of the Gender Working Group meeting** (see section on Gender Equality and Women’s Rights) with a group of Syrian women activists and members of the GWG. The meeting allowed for networking between Syrian women’s rights activists and representatives of key women’s rights organisations in the Euro-Med region. It also discussed how regional and international civil society, including the EMHRN, can support Syrian women's rights activists in their work on promotion of women's rights, documentation of gender based violence and rehabilitation of victims.

Advocacy

- On March 2012, the EMHRN organized an **advocacy visit for a delegation of 4 high profile Syrian HRDs on the occasion of the 19th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva**. The delegation met with the Secretariat of the UNOHCHR, in particular the MENA and Syria/Lebanon desks,

in addition to assistants of Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of assembly/association, torture, extra judiciary killings and independence of the judiciary, as well as several key state representatives. The delegation made two statements on behalf of the participating organisations, one on the report of the International Commission of Inquiry (COI) and the second on the Syrian Universal Periodical Review (UPR). A side event on the situation in Syria was also organized, which was co-sponsored by several INGOs namely CIHRS, EMHRN, CIVICUS, HRW, FIDH and ANND.

- In September 2012, the EMHRN conducted an **advocacy visit to Geneva (19-21 September) on the occasion of the XXI HRC session and the interactive debate on the report of the independent commission of inquiry on Syria (COI)**. A joint press release with the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies and Syrian Organization for Human Rights Sawasyah was issued on 17 September and delivered to the HRC. Meetings were held with the UNOHCHR desk for Syria and with the COI investigators to provide them with information on recent events in Syria, in particular killings in the Damascus suburbs.
- In July 2012, the EMHRN organized a **series of advocacy visits for a delegation of Syrian human rights activists to Brussels** before and in the margins of to the conference organised on 11-12 July. The EMHRN arranged a meeting for Radwan Ziadeh (DCHRS president) with the EU Council MAMA group (27 member states), and a delegation composed of five prominent activists (including activists that were still based inside Syria) held meetings with the EEAS Human Rights desk for Mashrek and the European Parliament president and its cabinet. During the meeting, Syrian activists criticized the lack of political will of the international community and the EU to solve the crisis in Syria and demanded that humanitarian corridors were put in place at the Syrian-Turkish border with a no fly zone to protect civilians from air bombings.
- In January 2012, the EMHRN **organised a series of meetings in Cairo with a number of Syrian activists and partner organizations (FIDH, Crisis Action, CIHRS)**, including on 12 January to discuss joint actions towards the League of Arab States, as a team of observers were in Syria and discussions on-going on whether the mandate of the mission should be prorogated. The meeting resulted in the publication of an open letter from 145 Arab HROs to the Arab League on 19 January “Withdraw the mission, call for UN action”. In June 2012, the EMHRN participated in a similar initiative demanding the League of Arab States to take the lead in increasing international pressure on the Syrian regime.

Capacity building

- From 7 to 10 May 2012, the EMHRN organised a **workshop on documentation of human rights’ violations in Tunis** for a group of 15 young activists, representing 10 different Syrian



HR groups. The aim of the training was to provide the participants with a basic training on documentation. It included topics such as international HR mechanisms; methodology of field research; preparing files for international criminal procedures; IT security (storing data and digital security). During the workshop, the former Secretary of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria held a meeting with the group in order to present the mandate and functioning of the COI, and to discuss achievements and gaps of Syrian HR groups in documentation.

- From 5 to 9 December 2012, the EMHRN organised a **4 days' workshop in Cairo with a group of Syrian women's rights activists**, a majority of who travelled directly from Syria. It included training by EMHRN member and partner organizations (Women Center for Legal Aid and Counselling in OPT; Al-Nedeem Center in Egypt and New Woman Foundation in Egypt) on gender-based violence, rehabilitation of victims and international mechanisms regarding women's rights.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- **The situation in Syria has developed into a wide scale human rights crisis during 2012.** The EMHRN has kept regular contact with as many different HR groups as possible in order to listen to their needs, show solidarity and support and to discuss where the EMHRN can best bring added value. In a crisis situation like this, it is, difficult to plan ahead, and it is important to remain flexible in order to stay relevant to the needs of the HRDs on the ground.
- After more than 18 months of crisis, **the EMHRN is identified by Syrian and international human rights group as a credible and efficient partner** in relation to supporting HR activists in Syria and reinforce their capacities to document human rights violations and advocate for respect of human rights. **In relation to mobilising European and international actors in support of Syrian HRDs**, the conference in Brussels in July which gathered 100 participants (40 from Syria, the rest including experts, European and international representatives of civil society and EU and UN institutions) was very successful in reaching this objective. It was further supported by the advocacy missions to the UN, EU and Arab League, which raised the awareness on the human rights situation in Syria and the challenges to HRDs.
- Secondly, **the EMHRN has contributed to the development of platforms for joint actions with key international partners.** In particular, the EMHRN has been systematically consulted and associated to initiatives undertaken by organizations such as Crisis Action (with the involvement of HRW, FIDH, CIHRS and other human rights groups). Also, the EMHRN has played a vital part in initiating a “core group” of organizations advocating on the case of the Syrian Centre for

Media and Freedom of Expression and its president Mazen Darwish (regular coordination meetings with Hivos, FIDH, RSF, Frontline, IMS, etc.).

- In relation to the objective of facilitating **increased coordination between Syrian human rights organisations**, the EMHRN has successfully initiated a dynamic of collaboration and exchange among a number of Syrian HR groups, international HR organizations and decision makers. As a whole, more than 60 Syrian HRDs from 15 Syrian HR groups have participated in activities undertaken or facilitated by the EMHRN. These efforts have effectively permitted Syrian groups to better exchange amongst themselves and thus to limit overlapping work and to facilitate cooperation on specific issues.
- In relation to the objective of **increased capacity of Syrian HRDs on documentation of HR violations**, the participants' evaluation of two training workshops built and enhanced their capacity to document human rights violations. During the evaluation of the training in Brussels in July 2012, several trainees indicated that the Tunis training has allowed them to develop more credibility in their documentation reports and therefore to have more impact upon media, international organisations and decision makers. Similarly, it is expected that the pilot training on rehabilitation and documentation of gender based violence will serve as a basis for the EMHRN to conduct further trainings and workshops for Syrian women's rights activists. Secondly, the advocacy missions not only facilitated access of Syrian HRDs to decision makers, they also built capacities of Syrian activists with regard to international HR mechanisms, communication skills, identification of targets for advocacy and efficient dissemination of information. Challenges related mostly to the **uncertainty of the political situation in Syria** and how it will develop. However, whether the regime is going to fall shortly or not, we believe that our approach of close consultation with a wide range of Syrian HRDs and activists from both inside and outside Syria and a focus on their needs, will be relevant both in a transition and if the current crisis situation will continue. Also, **we believe that our focus on capacity building will remain highly relevant in the future.** The EMHRN has decided – on the basis of assessments conducted and upon request from its Syrian partners - to broaden the initial scope of trainings (international law) to focus on different skills in relation to documentation. These skills are important not only to document on-going violations, but also, in case of a transition, to the work on transitional justice.
- **Facilitating and supporting coordination between the different CSOs group will remain highly relevant** as a platform for discussion on the transition and of ensuring that CSOs are involved in all the important issues related to transitional justice in the future is essential.



- **Mobilising support of international actors through mainly advocacy will also remain relevant** – both in the current crisis to ensure support to a solution to the crisis and solidarity with HRDs as well as in a transition as much support and solidarity will be need to rebuild the country.

➤ *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of the European Commission, DANIDA and SIDA to its work on Syria in 2012.*

4.1.1.3. Tunisia

Due to the process of revamping the EMHRN mission in Tunisia, the reporting format of EMHRN Tunisia activities differ from the other chapters as the activities were carried out through rolling plans and not following the original plans set-up in the beginning of the year.

4.1.2. EMHRN Mission in Tunisia

*The **human rights framework** is the international human rights norms and standards, international law and international humanitarian law.*

*The **general objective** was the promotion of a vibrant civil society in all regions of Tunisia capable of influencing national human rights agendas and act on the international level.*

*The **short term objectives** were (1) to facilitate capacity building of Tunisian human rights organisations and networking among these, (2) to monitor the human rights situation in the country; and (3) to establish working links between these and regional and international organisations.*

A. Implementation of activities

Context and changes to EMHRN Mission

- The EMHRN's Mission in Tunisia was established in April 2011 in the midst of the turmoil following the fall of Ben Ali with the main aim of accompanying the growth of a new civil society in particular outside the capital and the coastal regions, with a focus on women and youth, and with the aim of facilitating networking nationally and regionally.
- The Mission achieved positive results in the course of 2011 and managed to become, in a short period of time, a recognised partner for local organisations in Tunisia and an important interface between these and international actors (see our Activity report 2011).
- These **results were achieved despite considerable challenges in establishing a functioning team in Tunisia**. Regretfully the director did not comply with the contract and job description we had agreed upon and his employment had to be terminated in March 2012. Since the coordinator simultaneously decided to go back to Europe at the end of his one-year employment, it was decided to establish a new team in Tunisia while taking the necessary time to identify relevant profiles for the positions at the EMHRN mission.

Accordingly, the EMHRN former President, Kamel Jendoubi, took over the post of director of the mission on an interim and voluntary basis, and the mission's daily activities were managed by the EMHRN regional team manager. We regret the temporary decrease in the activities carried out by the Mission. In particular, the international work of the Tunisia mission was delayed due to the need to recast the staff of the mission. However, the mission was able to maintain a high level of capacity building activities in Tunisia, as shown below.

Outputs

- ✓ 8 conferences and public events
- ✓ 2 regional civil society forums
- ✓ 1 national civil society forum
- ✓ 6 training sessions
- ✓ 2 field missions/visits
- ✓ 3 cultural events
- ✓ 2 press conferences
- ✓ 6 statements and press releases

Activities carried out

Networking and partnerships

- The work on **migration and freedom** of movement in the Mediterranean region was one of the priorities for 2012. In this framework, a conference co-organised with the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights (FTDES) was held on 28 November 2012 in Tunis to draw attention to the most recent shipwreck, which took place on 6-7 September 2012 off the Italian coast and in which several young Tunisians lost their lives. Government ministers, activists, academics and families of the disappeared took part in this round table. The discussions dealt with migration policies, emergency assistance and control systems in the Strait of Sicily, and the legal, social and economic context of irregular migratory



flows in Tunisia, especially in the wake of the revolution. On 11-12 October 2012, the mission organised with the Tunis Centre for Migration and Asylum (CeTuMa) a conference on "*Tunisia's migration policy: Issues and challenges*". The event brought together private and public actors, civil society representatives, local and national institutions as well as researchers and academics. A number of issues were discussed at the conference, including mobility partnerships between Tunisia and the EU, the legal reforms and protection mechanisms for migrants in Tunisia as well as the main recommendations in favour of a new law on asylum in the country.

- In order to respond to the main issues of the civil society in the country, especially in the marginalized regions, the EMHRN focused its efforts on **socio-economic rights**. In this context the EMHRN mission organised with the FTDES the first Mining Basin Forum, which provided an opportunity to bring together activists, trade unionists, association members and residents of the mining basin in south-western Tunisia. The participants discussed the main problems in the region as well as practical steps and proposals to be submitted to the authorities. The mission also organised a conference in Kairouan on 17 November 2012 to discuss a variety of issues that are important for the region and related mainly to development, employment and the environment.
- As **transitional justice** is one of the main topics related to the post-revolutionary period in Tunisia, the EMHRN mission tried to support the local civil society in order to be able to take the lead of this process. A seminar on "*the post-revolution justice system*" organised by EMHRN and the Independent National Coalition for Transitional Justice (CNIJT) in cooperation with a number of national and international organisations took place on 1-2 November in Tunis. The event was inaugurated by the country's president, Moncef Marzouki. On 14-15 December, the mission with its partners organised a national conference that brought together civil-society actors and government officials to discuss the proposed legislation on transitional justice in Tunisia.
- The EMHRN tried as well **new methodologies to promote human rights via cultural events**. As a result, a film festival took place in Tunis on 6-9 December under the title "*Human Screen Festival*" ("*Festival International du film des droits de l'Homme*"), in partnership with the EMHRN. A large number of films dealing with topics such as migration, women's rights and freedom of expression were shown and a variety of issues were raised in public discussions during the festival. The mission also contributed to the organisation of a 10-days long cultural event in cooperation with the El Teatro Cultural Centre, under the topic "*Being Black in the Green*" ("*Etre noir-e dans la verte*"). This initiative sought to draw attention to the issue of racism and discrimination in Tunisia.
- As part of its efforts in the promotion of HR and individual freedoms, the EMHRN organised in Hammamet on 2 November 2012, jointly with the Averroes Foundation, a **seminar on the situation of freedoms in the current Tunisian political context**. It was attended by a large number of Tunisian politicians and members of the constituent assembly. Besides, the EMHRN supported several events organised by the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH) on 7-9 December to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Cultural activities and public discussions took place, with organisers taking advantage of these activities to raise the public's awareness of the need to include references to the Declaration in the next constitution in order to protect the rights of individuals in accordance with international standards.
- As part of early-warning activities focused on the situation of rights and freedoms in Tunisia, the EMHRN Mission organised, in partnership with the LTDH and the FIDH, a **conference on political violence**. This event was held in the wake of a rise in political violence in the country, which presented a growing threat to individual and collective freedoms. The conference brought together some 100 activists and journalists who were able to discuss with experts, sociologists, psychologists and legal experts on the sources of political violence, its impact on the rights and freedoms of Tunisians and the best way to bring it to an end. A special focus was put on the violence practiced by extremist groups, the "institutionalised" violence carried out by the so-called "leagues for the protection of the revolution," and on violence against women. The EMHRN also took part in the organisation of a cultural event against political violence. This event was held in the main street of Tunis, with several cultural activities performed by artists against political violence.
- A one-day event was held on 7 December 2012 under the aegis of LTDH in cooperation with EMHRN to highlight the importance, from a human rights perspective, of accepting Palestine as an observer state at the United Nations. A number of activists and union leaders as well as the ambassador of Palestine to Tunisia took part in this initiative. Speakers pointed out that Palestine would now be able to adopt and ratify international human rights treaties and would also be able to launch war crimes proceedings against different actors in the conflict between Israel and Palestine.
- **The EMHRN co-organised the Tunisian Civil-Society Forum which was attended by over 200 NGOs and more than 700 participants from all regions**. The goal of the gathering was to achieve consensus on a vision and a social governance project that summarises the proposals of civil society actors in different areas such as human rights, politics, education, health care, culture, employment, investment, economic system, etc. This event was deemed very successful and the organisers arranged a meeting with the 15 conference



workshop coordinators to agree on a common assessment and future steps (regional conferences in all regions of Tunisia).

Capacity Building

- On January 28-29, the **capacity building training cycle** (January-March 2012) was launched after analysing the needs of new Tunisian civil society organizations through several field missions and the elaboration of a detailed study on this issue. The first two governorates to benefit from these trainings have been Tataouine and Gafsa. On February 11-12, further training was organised in the governorate of Jendouba. The participants were trained on the new legal framework governing the work of associations, on the structuring of an association and on leadership within associations.
- As part of the project on strengthening women's leadership in civil society, the League of Tunisian Women Voters (LET), with support from the EMHRN Mission in Tunisia, conducted a **training session on "interpersonal communication" in the Kelibia region** on 22-23 September 2012. The training session used an interactive and participative approach based on learning through practice and action, and was attended by 26 women from the region. The goal was to familiarise the participants with verbal and nonverbal communication through role-playing, simulations and case studies.
- On 15-18 October, the Menzel Bouzayene Citizenship and Digital Culture Association (@CCUN) held a third round of training sessions, organised in partnership with EMHRN, which took place at the Menzel Bouzayene Cultural Centre in the Sidi Bouzid area (central Tunisia). The attention was focused on the techniques for detecting HR violations, the identification of sources of information, and the fact-finding and documentation tasks related to violations.
- The EMHRN conducted a three-day training on 2-4 November for 18 of its partners on communication and visibility to strengthen their capacities in relation to communication techniques and strategies.

Reports and studies

- A report on the outcomes of the Tunisia Civil Society Forum gathering 750 participants in Monatir on 21-24 December, will be published in 2013

Field missions

- An EMHRF-EMHRN joint field visit to Gafsa, Mdhilla, Redeyef and Om Al Arais took place on 23-24 June 2012.
- A field visit to the mining basin was conducted on 13-14 October 2012 with representatives of the EMHRN and EMHRF. These two visits allowed the Mission to meet with

local civil society and to assess their needs in terms of networking and capacity building.

Advocacy

- The EMHRN EU Coordinator joined the Tunis team for a month and a half in November in order to provide support to the Mission and its partners in their advocacy activities, and to facilitate EMHRN build-up of regional networking. With the involvement of EMHRN members and partners, the Mission was able to re-launch its advocacy activities at the national and European levels.
- EMHRN also worked to heighten the profile of Tunisian civil society in Europe through meetings with EU officials in Brussels and Tunis, and to promote the main recommendations made and concerns expressed by its members and partners.

Media

- Following the decision by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to close the Choucha refugee camp on the border between Tunisia and Libya, EMHRN, in cooperation with FTDES and the FIDH, held a press conference in Tunis on 6 November 2012, to draw the attention of the different stakeholders to the fate of the refugees after the closure of the camp.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- After a phase of restructuring and strategic planning, the EMHRN Mission was able to re-launch its activities and resume its role as a leading international organisation in Tunisia. **The EMHRN Tunis Mission was able to become a recognized driving force of local civil society** by playing its role of a capacity building and networking platform.
- Thanks to its efforts to establish contacts with and reinforce the capacities of new Tunisian civil society groups, and to promote networks on local, regional and national level, **the EMHRN Mission has acquired a good visibility in the Tunisian media**. During 2012 more than 120 articles in local and international newspapers as well as several interventions in the radios and TV channels of the staff members were dedicated to cover EMHRN activities.
- The situation in Tunisia after the revolution was marked by a rapid change of the situation in the country which limited the possibilities of long term planning and imposed an ad hoc rhythm of work, based essentially on emergency responses, with a parallel work on capacity building and more strategic actions.
 - *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA, SIDA, EU and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the implementation of its Tunisia Mission.*

4.2. Training

The **human rights framework** for was the international human rights standards and, to some extent, international humanitarian law.

The **general objective** was the existence of necessary training tools and courses fulfilling the need of the civil society organisations in the Euro-Med region.

The **short term objective** was to maintain and develop a series of EMHRN training courses filling-in gaps in existing offers.

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- Assess with its members whether the EMHRN can bring added value to their work by conducting training courses on organisational skills.
- Implement training and advocacy activities on the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy.
- Conduct training course with member organisations on gender mainstreaming.
- Facilitate members' access to other members' courses.

Activities scheduled

- 4 training courses to be organised, with approximately 20 participants each
- Conducting assessment of members' needs regarding training on organisational skills
- Establish tentatively a budget for a training course on organisational skills

Outputs

- ✓ 2 training documents on EU advocacy for civil society
- ✓ A test training session with relevant EMHRN staff and two EMHRN members from Egypt and Palestine in order to improve the draft of the training guide and the planning of training sessions
- ✓ Work sessions with EMHRN Tunisian members and one roundtable with EMHRN Tunisian partners on EU Tunisia privileged partnership and EU human rights mechanisms in Tunis
- ✓ Training of members from Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon and Syria participating to EU advocacy missions in Brussels (cf. section on Advocacy below)
- ✓ A series of trainings in capacity building of respectively Syrian and Tunisian human rights activists (see under Syria and Tunisia)

- ✓
- ✓ A series of training activities carried out under the framework of ENHRN Working Groups (cf. respective sections above)

Activities carried out

- **Two training documents were elaborated on EU advocacy**, tailored for civil society and adapted to their needs: 1) a [Training Guide](#): "Promoting Human Rights in North Africa and in the Middle East: Navigating the EU institutional maze and its relations with the Southern Neighbourhood" and 2) an [Advocacy Toolkit](#): "EU and its Neighbours: What scope for Human Rights NGOs?". The two documents are available in English, French and Arabic as electronic document. The Training Guide has also been printed in the three languages. The electronic versions of the documents have been sent to EMHRN members and other partners from the civil society. Each EMHRN office has received hard copies of the Training Guide in order for the materials to be given to EMHRN members and local NGOs.
- On 28 March, a **test training session was organised by the EMHRN Brussels office** with relevant EMHRN staff and two EMHRN members in order to improve the on-going draft of the training guide and the planning of training sessions. The outcomes helped to develop the two training documents on EU advocacy and will be used to improve future EMHRN Training sessions.
- In addition, numerous representatives of various EMHRN member organisations from Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon and Syria participated in **advocacy missions towards the EU institutions in Brussels**; hence, they had the opportunity to practice their advocacy skills and to deepen their knowledge of the European institutions. Advocacy missions included an introduction meeting organised by the Brussels office for the members of the delegations in order to brief them on the EU-Mediterranean countries relations before their direct encounters with EU officials.
- A **first roundtable with 10 of the EMHRN's Tunisian partners** was organised on 7 December to raise awareness on EU-Tunisia relations, build capacities of local NGOs to advocate within this framework and develop an advocacy strategy and activities in this regard. In addition individual NGOs were coached on EU advocacy and supported in including an EU dimension to their activities. Approximately 30 meetings took place in November-December 2012. As a positive feedback, Tunisian partners asked to develop training activities concerning the EU in 2013 and a training has been scheduled for early 2013.
- Other training activities were carried out in the framework of EMHRN's various Working Groups, with the aim to train



EMHRN member organisations on specific issues related to each Working Group. These training activities are described under the relevant chapters above, in particular under Freedom of Association, Gender and Women's Rights and Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- The general objective of issuing training tools was met with the release of the Training Guide and Advocacy Toolkit. The guide aims at helping human rights NGO, including those working on women's rights and gender equality, to understand the functioning of the EU following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and to be able to use the EU and European Neighbourhood Policy mechanisms. These training materials will be used to achieve the general objective of fulfilling the need of the civil society organisations in the EuroMed region building capacities to advocate on EU human rights mechanisms and within bilateral relations between the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries. Based on this training materials, EMHRN will develop its training programs in 2013 for NGOs in countries where EU advocacy is a priority including Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria.
 - Concerning Tunisia, EMHRN will continue working with individual organisations to strengthen their capacities to interact with the EU officials at local level as asked by partners' organisations. In relation to advocacy towards the EU institutions, the capacity of EMHRN member organisations was also increased through participation in advocacy missions in Brussels. In addition to specific training courses, many of EMHRN's other activities, including the regular meetings of EMHRN Working Groups, had training sessions on specific matters related to the topic of each Working Group (see for instance under the sections on Freedom of Association, Women's Rights and Gender, Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians above).
 - By focusing on issues that are not covered elsewhere – not least advocacy towards the EU institutions - the activities implemented by the EMHRN in 2012 contributed to the project's general objective which is to ensure the existence of the necessary training tools and courses fulfilling the need of civil society organisations in the EuroMed region.
- *The EMHRN wishes to thank SIDA and DANIDA for their support to its 2012 training activities.*

5. Advocacy and dialogue

The **human rights framework** was the international human rights standards and, where relevant, international humanitarian law.

The **general objective** was to efficiently communicate EMHRN and members' policies and recommendations to the relevant human rights instruments and mechanisms of the EU and other international & intergovernmental agencies, and contribute to the development of these. It was also to ensure that EMHRN members are aware of these, and benefit from them in their human rights work.

The **short term objective** were to **(1) Maintain the EMHRN's role as a key interface between its members and partners and the EU, ENP and UfM institutions in Brussels;** **(2) Strengthen its work on human rights instruments in bi-lateral relations between the EU and South Mediterranean Partners;** **(3) Identify activities addressing other international bodies such as the UN and the Arab League bringing added value to the EMHRN and its members' work and;** **(4) Advocate on the EMHRN's main thematic issues.**

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- **To provide a solid interface role vis-à-vis EU institutions :** Maintain an interface between the EU and its members through its office in Brussels, including organising visits of members to Brussels; continuing promoting EMHRN general policies and recommendations vis-à-vis the EU, the UfM and partner governments; Drafting letters and press releases to the EU institutions; disseminate reports and policy papers produced by EMHRN Working Groups and mission teams and promote their recommendations; diffusing information on the website and in news letters about key issues of the human rights dimension of the EMP.
- **The capacity of EMHRN members to deal with EU advocacy is increased:** Conduct training courses in the region on the human rights instruments in the EU, ENP and UfM aimed at strengthening civil society capacity to deal critically with these as well as South Mediterranean countries' human rights policies. Update EMHRN training materials in this regard.
- **Efficient advocacy towards the EU institutions:** Expand its advocacy and lobby activities in relation to the bi-lateral human rights instruments of the ENP, including drafting monitoring reports and statements, and organising missions in relation to association council meetings, human rights sub committees, etc.

- **The EMHRN cooperates efficiently with Brussels-based organisations:** Continue close cooperation with other Brussels based NGOs.
- Investigate the added value the EMHRN could bring to its members' work by addressing the UN and Arab League bodies systematically.

Activities scheduled

- Monitoring report, statements, missions in relation to association council meetings, human rights sub committees, etc.: Draft statements, press releases and letters in relation to relevant meetings
- Disseminate reports, recommendations, policy papers and publish material on the website
- 4 national training seminars on the EU, ENP and the UfM
- Update EMHRN training material on the EU, ENP and the UfM in three languages
- Organise and support members' visits to Brussels; Receive members in Brussels or in member States for specific lobbying activities
- Build relations with new members of EU Parliament
- Develop relations with Commission, Member States and Mediterranean countries
- Inform media about EMHRN policies and recommendations
- Cooperate with other Brussels based organisations, through regular contacts with international NGOs, joint statements, letter and press releases (at least 15 per year)
- Support advocacy on thematic issues

Outputs

- ✓ Approximately 500 officials of the European institutions met through direct encounters.
- ✓ Participation in about 30 seminars gathering EU officials and civil society representatives on human rights and democracy issues in Brussels.
- ✓ Participation in consultation/debriefing meetings with EU officials before meetings between the EU and Southern Mediterranean partners
- ✓ EMHRN joint open letters and press releases or briefing notes with other NGOs were sent out before most meetings between the EU and Mediterranean countries (notably Subcommittees on Human Rights Association Councils and negotiations of new ENP Action Plans).
- ✓ 2 EMHRN position documents on the Renewed European Neighbourhood Policy and the new EU Human Rights package were issued and used as a basis for advocacy.



- ✓ Many high level meetings in the EU institutions on the new Partnership between the EU and south Mediterranean countries and the Renewed European Neighbourhood Policy were organised e.g. with members of the Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), European Parliament and EU member states representations in Brussels.
- ✓ Delegations of human rights defenders from Israel, Palestine, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon and Syria went to Brussels to do advocacy.
- ✓ High level advocacy mission in December
- ✓ High level seminar on Syria with high level EU officials participating and met during side events
- ✓ Successful lobbying with European Parliament with numerous invitations to speak at EP meetings (notably on Tunisia, Syria, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Israel, Palestine and gender equality).
- ✓ Successful cooperation with other NGOs in Brussels e.g. through participation in the NGO Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) and joint advocacy efforts, especially with an HRDN ad hoc working group on the MENA region in relation to the "renewed ENP" (publication of joint documents and high level joint advocacy meetings).

Activities carried out

General and thematic advocacy with EU institutions

EU human rights policies

- Meeting with EU Special Representation for HR on 26 September to convey EMHRN concerns on the coherence between EU global human rights policies and the ENP, the IHL, the lack of implementation of the ENP "more for more" approach and the gender and freedom of association. Egypt and especially the draft laws on association became one of EUSR Lambrinidis priorities in the end of 2012.
- Participating in civil society meeting 19 October organised by the EEAS on the EU guidelines on freedom of religion or belief which are currently under preparation by the EU.
- Participation in the EU Human Rights Forum 6-7 December, where EMHRN president spoke on freedom of religion.
- EMHRN advocated throughout 2012 for the inclusion of freedom of association, women's rights, justice reform and migrants and refugees' rights to be included in the future EU country human rights strategies

EU financial programs/EIDHR/consultation with civil society

- Participation in the EU seminar on evaluation of the EIDHR on 16 February following meetings with the EU Commission consultant drafting the evaluation study. Participation by the

EMHRN and members from Algeria, Palestine and Egypt in an EIDHR Forum with Brussels and local CSO representatives organised by the Commission in Brussels 7-8 May.

European Neighbourhood Policy

- Advocacy to include human rights concerns in the ENP Progress Reports notably Freedom of association in Algeria and Egypt. EMHRN concerns were taken into account in the case of Egypt but not in relation to Algeria, to which SPRING funds were allocated (this was raised in EMHRN letter to EU officials in September 2012).
- Advocacy to include women's rights as an indicative benchmark for the "more for more approach" with Ashton and ENP Commissioner Füle.
- Intervention at the EU Economic and Social Committee in view of an ECOSOC report on EU and South Mediterranean countries relations on 20 March.
- Intervention at a conference on the ENP organised by development NGOs on 18 September, pointing out the lack of implementation of EU commitments in its 2011 "revised ENP" and linked it with the recently adopted global EU human rights strategy package.
- Advocacy in relation to the implementation of the ENP, the 2013 ENP Progress reports and the new ENP financial instrument (ENI) and participation in the EEAS civil society annual consultation meeting on 3 December, EMHRN concerns and recommendations.
- Advocacy with high level meetings in relation to the lack of implementation of the "revised ENP" with a focus on Algeria, Israel, Egypt and Gender in Brussels 6-7 December. The delegation met with EU SR Bernardino León, EU SR Stavros Lambrinidis and EU Commissioner Stefan Füle. Commissioner Füle agreed to write a letter to the Heads of the EU Delegations in order to involve more systematically the CSOs in the implementation of the new ENP, what he did in January 2013.
- Statement and advocacy on the (lack of) implementation of the "revised ENP" and link with the more general EU human rights package adopted in June 2012 on December 10 and at high level meetings (see above) The EU Commissioner Füle thanked the EMHRN for the document as it included concrete recommendations.

Gender Equality

- Participation in a meeting between the EU and Tunisian women organised by the European Women's Lobby, Heinrich Böll Foundation and Simone Süsskind on 21 March..
- Recommendations to the EP delegation going to Tunisia on 29-31 October to ensure that relevant meetings were set up with human rights NGOs, women activists, journalists and academics. As a follow up, the EP prepared a report on

gender in North Africa to be published on 8 March, 2013 the International Women Day.

Migration and Asylum

- Advocacy meetings with EEAS Tunisia, Morocco and Human Rights desks as well as a representative of the Justice, Freedom and Security Directorate General of the Commission to discuss the Mobility Partnerships between the EU and South Mediterranean countries on 9-10 March.
- Statement and advocacy on Mobility Partnerships between the EU and Tunisia/Morocco in June.
- Statement and advocacy jointly with other organisations (AEDH, Migreurop, FIDH, centre de Tunis pour la migration et l'asile (CeTuMA), FTDES) ahead the first round of negotiations of the EU-Tunisia Mobility Partnerships 5 December. Following press coverage by Tunisian papers, EMHRN was invited for consultation on the Mobility Partnership by the Tunisian Ministry and by the EU officials. The EU negotiations of these documents with Tunisia and Morocco are still on going. EMHRN is mobilised to advocate on migrants and refugees' rights within this framework in 2013.

Country-specific advocacy with EU institutions

Morocco

- Mission to Morocco 14 to 18 February, following the adoption of a new Constitution to look into the process for adoption of future organic laws (e.g. on justice, equality, etc.) as well as meeting civil society to discuss the mobilisation around this process. Meetings were organised with EMHRN members, human rights NGOs, judges associations, youth organisations, journalists as well as Moroccan officials and the EU Delegation in Rabat. Advocacy in relation to the hearing on Morocco of the EP subcommittee on human rights and Maghreb delegation on 20 March. The EMHRN president presented mission outcomes in relation to constitutional reform and also met with EEAS to emphasize the need for the EU to remain vigilant on the reform process in Morocco.
- Statement in view of the EU-Morocco Association Council held on 23 April in Brussels reiterating the need for the EU to remain vigilant on the reform process in Morocco.
- Coordination meetings with Humanitarian Advocacy Officer of "Oxfam Solidarity", the Belgian section of Oxfam to discuss advocacy regarding Morocco and the Western Sahara.
- Advocacy and facilitating civil society participation in relation to the CSO consultations in Brussels and Rabat (25 September) ahead of the EU Morocco Human rights subcommittee meeting which took place on 16 and 17 October. EMHRN forwarded recommendations from its National Meeting on gender in Morocco (see gender section), its report on Independence of the Judiciary in the Wake of

the Arab Spring, as well as an update on migration and on freedom of assembly.

- EU diplomats agreed to raise EMHRN issues in the subcommittee.

Algeria

- In 2012, EMHRN advocacy priorities on Algeria were to obtain a reaction from the EU on the adoption of five new repressive laws, especially on association (see Algeria Solidarity Project section), the issue of disappearances, the repression faced by HRDs and the access to the territory for internal observers. In particular, EMHRN is working to strengthen and develop contact between Algerian NGOs and EU officials at the national level. Two main EU advocacy hooks were used in 2012: the EU Election Observatory Mission sent to Algeria in May 2012 and the opening of the EU-Algeria ENP Action Plan negotiation. With this aim, our activities included the following:
 - Advocacy mission with EMHRN Algerian partners (LADDH, CFDA, SNAPAP) on 24-25 January about the new repressive laws and in particular the law on associations. As requested by the EMHRN, a hearing in the human rights subcommittee of the European Parliament was set up. Following a hearing in the EP Human Rights Sub-committee, the Chair of the subcommittee committed to obtain an EP resolution on Algeria, which unfortunately did not happen in 2012.
 - Briefing note to Commissioner Füle's cabinet and to the EEAS ahead of his visit to Algeria to discuss the future negotiation of the EU-Algeria ENP Action Plan 19 and 20 March expressing EMHRN concerns regarding the new law on association. In the declaration following his visit, the importance of respecting freedom of expression and association in Algeria was mentioned as well discussions of the new law on associations with Algerian peers.
 - Advocacy mission with EMHRN Algerian partners (CFDA and SNAPAP) to raise the awareness of MEPs participating in the EU Election Observatory Mission to the Algerian legislative elections on the repressive human rights situation. As successful outcomes, the limitations of the law on association are mentioned the EP report on the elections and the work restrictions faced by EMHRN local partners.
 - Convening of closed informal workshop on Algeria and funding to Algerian HRDs in the framework of the EIDHR Forum organized by the European Commission on 7-8 May to advocate for local organisations to apply for EU funds.
 - Advocacy to ensure the involvement of civil society in the negotiations of the EU –Algeria. This included, drafting and collecting signatures for a joint letter and briefing (EMHRN, FIDH, LADDH, SNAPAP, CFDA, ACDA, RADDH) regarding negotiations of the Action Plan. During this process, the EU committed, through a written letter, to organise a tripartite

meeting with EU, Algerian authorities and Algerian CSOs as requested by the EMHRN.

- Participation in the NGO consultation on 10 October in Brussels in view of the first round of the negotiation of the EU-Algeria Action Plan and of the EU-Algeria subcommittee on Political Dialogue, Security and Human Rights. EMHRN concerns on freedom of association were raised by European officials during the negotiations.
- Distribution of a EMHRN note on the human rights situation from October the European Parliament Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries (DMAG) at their meeting with Algerian parliamentarians on 27 November in the context of the XIth Inter-parliamentary meeting between EU and Algeria. MEPs committed to follow up on these issues.
- Advocacy on Algeria during the EMHRN high level mission to Brussels on 7 December, resulting in commitment from EUSR Lambrinidis to work on and visit Algeria in 2013. EU Commissioner Füle committed to try to find a solution to the refusal of visas to international NGOs to access Algeria and to have a better evaluation of the human rights situation in Algeria in the ENP Communication of March 2013.

Tunisia

- EMHRN worked to increase the mobilization of Tunisian human rights NGOs in relation to the EU-Tunisia Action plan and involvement of civil society on human rights issues around EU-Tunisia relations on the longer term. EMHRN paid particular attention to negotiations of mobility partnership (cf. migration section). Our activities included:
- Participation of honorary EMHRN president Kamel Jendoubi in a conference on Tunisia organised on 20-21 March in Brussels by MEPs. Meetings with EEAS High level officials and with the Belgian Ministry of foreign affairs were organised.
- Briefing of an EP delegation to Tunisia on gender issues on 29-31 October, and recommendations to organise meetings with human rights NGOs, women activists, etc.
- Advocacy in relation to the negotiations of a new EU-Tunisia ENP Action Plan, including meetings with EU officials in charge of Tunisia 23 September, raising concerns in relation to women' rights and the consultation with Tunisian NGOs in this process. EMHRN also ensured that EMHRN members participated in an information meeting organised in Tunis.
- Awareness-raising on EU-Tunisia relations with Tunisian civil society, including meetings with partners to formulate a common vision and identify priorities.
- Meetings with the EU delegation in Tunisia to discuss the human rights situation in Tunisia and the EU role in supporting the democratic transition in the region; a first roundtable with EMHRN Tunisian partners on 7 December to raise awareness on EU-Tunisia relations, build capacities of

local NGOs to advocate within this framework and develop an advocacy strategy and activities in this regard.

- Statement in relation to the EU-Tunisia Mobility Partnership (see under the section of Advocacy and Dialogue on migration)
- Advocacy on the inclusion of human rights in the Tunisian constitutions at a meeting on 5 December in Brussels between Maya Jribi, a leading member of the Tunisian constitutional assembly, and the human rights NGOs in Facilitation of meeting between representatives of Tunisian civil society and Martin Schulz, the President of the European Parliament, 19 December in Tunis. Following this meeting, the EP president issued a declaration on the anniversary of the Tunisian revolution, mentioned human rights concerns, and inclusion of civil society.

Libya

- See migrants and refugees' rights chapter

Egypt

- In 2012, advocacy activities on Egypt aimed to obtain a stronger political stand from the high level of EU, Member States and the European Parliament on the human rights situation, with an emphasis on freedom of association and gender, in line with the implementation of the new European Neighbourhood Policy.
- In particular, EMHRN advocated for concrete support to local NGOs in Egypt as part of the EU human rights Guidelines (e.g. EU missions should send observers to trial of NGOs in Egypt accused of receiving illegal funding or military trials of civilians). EMHRN facilitated EMHRN members and local partners to communicate their messages to key EU officials and facilitated meetings between Egyptian NGOs and EU officials in Cairo and Brussels.
- Moreover EMHRN called for its thematic priorities (freedom of association, women's rights, migrants and refugees' rights, justice) to be included in the future EU human rights strategy on Egypt.
- Hearing on FOA in Egypt on 9 February, organised by the EP Foreign Affairs Committee and the Mashrek delegation, where ENHRN Egyptian members spoke. This visit was also the occasion to advocate EEAS high level officials on concerns on freedom of association and EU financial support to Egypt. As a follow up, on 16 February, the EP adopted a strong resolution on the current human rights violations in Egypt, calling for charges against NGOs to be dropped. The EEAS also agreed to push for further EU demarches on FoA with Egyptian authorities.
- Advocacy with HRW on 25-26 April urging the EU for strong and concerted positions regarding the law on association currently being redrafted and allowing foreign funding for

CSOs, including briefing the MEPs members of the EP delegation that went to Egypt from 30 April to 4 May and facilitating meetings with human rights organisations in Egypt. As a result, three meetings were organized with human rights NGOs, women's rights NGOs and with civil society on digital freedoms.

- Advocacy on respect for human rights in Egypt with EMHRN members Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Anti-violence at the EIDHR Forum organised by the European Commission on 7-8 May, followed by meetings with the EEAS and the EP President Cabinet.
- Press release ahead of Egyptian President, Morsi's visit to the EU, 13 September, following EMHRN letter to Morsi in July, stressing dialogue with civil society, women's rights, religious rights, freedom of association.
- Advocacy to ensure participation of Egyptian NGOs in and human rights on the agenda of the EU-Egypt task force meeting held in Cairo on 13-14 November, including a non-public EMHRN advocacy letter and briefing note on the human rights situation in Egypt jointly signed with the EMHRN's Egyptian members. However, invitations to Egyptian HR NGOs to a civil society roundtable with the EU and the Egyptian authorities ahead of the task force were cancelled. The EMHRN and FIDH reacted with a press release to support Egyptian NGOs, stressing that the exclusion of civil society was worrying for the development of a new EU-Egypt partnership. Despite this negative outcome, the conclusions of the EU-Egypt task force included commitments for a liberal NGO law, women's rights and a constitution respecting rights and freedoms. Furthermore, the EUSR at a de-briefing regarding the EU-Egypt task force meeting on 19 November committed to meeting Egyptian NGOs in their offices when in Egypt and sent a letter confirming EU's commitment to human rights. EMHRN positions received good media coverage in Egypt. Members were able to meet with EU officials in side events, during which they raised their worries on the setbacks of democratisation.
- High level mission to Egypt on 20-22 November, followed by a public statement and meetings with EU ambassadors to raise concerns especially in relation to freedom of assembly and association and women's rights.
- Coordination meetings with Amnesty International EU office and HRW throughout 2012 to discuss how INGOs can support the work of local NGOs and how to coordinate INGOs advocacy work on Egypt.

Israel & Palestine

- See section on Israel, Palestine and the Palestinians above.

Jordan

- Information on EU-Jordan relations provided to Jordanian members in order for them to advocate the EU and obtain concrete achievements in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. In particular, members' attention was raised on the First EU-Jordan Task Force held in Amman on 22 February.
- Briefing note to the EP, Green party, in March ahead of the visit of King Abdullah to the EP.
- Advocacy on consultation of Jordan civil society in relation to the new EU-Jordan ENP Action Plan. This included participation on 26 April, in the EEAS CSO consultation in view of the EU-Jordan subcommittee on Human Rights and raising the situation of refugees and migrants in Jordan. While EMHRN issues were raised in the Subcommittee, including migrants, the EU and Jordan did not negotiate a new Action Plan and the one adopted in 2010 was finally published without modification in October 2012.
- Facilitation of the participation of EMHRN partners in Jordan to meetings ahead of the EU-Jordan subcommittee on Human Rights on 23 May in Amman. They were able to present and discuss their recommendations with EU and Jordanian authorities.

Lebanon

- Facilitation of the participation of NGOs in meetings in relation to the EU-Lebanon Subcommittee on human rights and on migration on 6-7 February in Beirut.
- Facilitation of advocacy mission for EMHRN member, Frontiers to Brussels on 23-26 April, raising awareness on the situation of migrants and stateless persons in Lebanon in the context of the new EU-Lebanon Action Plan. To date the new Action Plan is not public yet.
- Participation in the EEAS consultation in view of the EU-Lebanon Association Council and negotiations on a new ENP action plan on 13 June in Brussels. EMHRN and its members lobbied the EU for inclusion of references to justice, Palestinians' rights, migrants and refugees' rights, Women's rights, HRDs and freedom of expression and the disappeared. Following this consultation meeting, EMHRN sent briefing documents to EU officials in charge of the consultation. EMHRN priorities were raised and EEAS officials ensured that Lebanon included human rights priorities raised by the EU.

Syria

- As the crisis escalated in Syria, EMHRN ensured that EU authorities were informed about the situation of human rights organisations within and outside Syria and facilitated contact to provide EU funding to Syrian NGOs.
- Facilitation of participation of high level EU officials to the Civil Society Seminar on Syria in Brussels 11-12 July (see under solidarity section). Organisation of advocacy meetings

with the EP president, the MaMa group and EEAS human rights unit.

Turkey

- Advocacy in relation to the arrest of EMHRN Executive Committee member imprisoned, including raising awareness of EU officials, resulting in Commissioner Füle's spokesperson made a statement and his case was raised by the EP chair of the delegation with Turkey.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- The **short term objective** were to **(1)** Maintain the EMHRN's role as a key interface between its members and partners and the EU, ENP and UfM institutions in Brussels; **(2)** Strengthen its work on human rights instruments in bi-lateral relations between the EU and South Mediterranean Partners; **(3)** Identify activities addressing other international bodies such as the UN and the Arab League bringing added value to the EMHRN and its members' work and; **(4)** Advocate on the EMHRN's main thematic issues.
- In 2012, stated change of EU policies towards the Arab world and the new EU human rights Policy were opportunities for the EMHRN to lobby on the lack of implementation of the revised ENP. The EU Human Rights Strategy adopted in June and the opening of the EU Special Representative for Human Rights position constituted new advocacy opportunities. The EUSR first focus on the region was Egypt and freedom of association. Following EMHRN advocacy work, the EUSR met with Egyptian human rights NGOs and raised the issue of freedom of association in Egypt with Egyptian authorities.
- Over 2012, EMHRN focused its EU advocacy work on three countries in order to pool resources and achieve better impact. These countries were chosen in relation to where progress may be achieved (Tunisia) and where risks of setback of human rights respect were feared (Egypt). Algeria was also kept as a priority in order to avoid a weakening of the EU position in the current momentum of resuming EU-Algeria relations, especially to keep the attention on the latest adoption of repressive laws.
- Generally, EMHRN achieved greater impact from its EU advocacy in 2012, as its concerns were taken into account by the EU in human rights dialogues (Human rights subcommittee meetings) or in private diplomacy (démarches on freedom of association in Egypt). EMHRN expanded its high level contacts with key EU officials in Brussels and at the local level, notably in Tunis and Cairo. Furthermore, EMHRN was systematically consulted ahead of official visits of EU leaders to the region.
- EMHRN played a crucial role in ensuring contacts between local organisations and senior policy makers. However,

despite EU's new commitments to human rights and support to civil society following the Arab Spring, EMHRN's concerns are rarely raised in public diplomacy as the EU leadership is reluctant to use this tool with the Arab world. In addition, EU's interests with regional powers such as Egypt or Algeria prevent the implementation of the EU human rights agenda. As a consequence, EMHRN will develop its work targeting influential actors in EU foreign policy in order to achieve more at the EU level. Priority will be given in 2013 on developing work within EU member States in order to influence joint EU policies in line with the new EMHRN strategy.

Egypt

- In the context of a deepening political crisis and worsening of the human rights' situation, EMHRN gave priority to EU advocacy focusing on freedom of association and women's rights. Considering the lack of EU joint political will to take a stronger stand, EMHRN developed high level advocacy within the EEAS, targeted EU Member states representations in Cairo, and raised publicly its concerns within the European Parliament.
- As a result, EU ambassadors in Cairo agreed on 6 human rights messages to be raised with Egyptian authorities whenever possible: Women's rights, Freedom of religion, military trials, human trafficking, freedom of association and torture. EU raised freedom of association on numerous occasions with Egyptian authorities. Moreover, the European Parliament adopted a strong resolution on freedom of association in Egypt.
- However, since the Egyptian revolution, EU general policy on Egypt is focusing on engaging and developing relations with the new authorities. While the EU is concerned with the political polarization and human rights issues, Egypt is perceived as a major regional player and key in the relations with Israel. Thus priority was given on maintaining dialogue and stability. EU general public position on Egypt is to affirm its support to democratic transition and human rights, to call for inclusive dialogue and to stress that the road towards democracy will take time. EU also emphasized the important role of civil society in that regard. However the EU did not show strong political will to make sure independent NGOs were invited around the EU-Egypt Task Force, delivering a negative signal to HR organisations.
- Despite the "new ENP" commitments and the new EU human rights strategic framework, the EU strategy with Egypt is still one of extreme prudence and quiet diplomacy when it comes to human rights violations: Any public action would be seen as counter-productive and could backfire with the Egyptian authorities and the population. However, some non-public actions were taken: issues were raised by EU officials during their visit to Cairo, notably on freedom of religion, of speech, violence against women, security sector reform, association

law and the death penalty. Although these positions are supported by most EU member states, the usual divisions still exist between those willing to act strongly, those resisting stronger pressure on local authorities and those “in between”. Most Member States are unwilling to apply the “more for more” approach in Egypt because of its regional role and some Member States’ own economic interests.

- In 2013, the EU is expected to relaunch official bilateral meetings and start negotiations on a new Action plan within the European Neighbourhood Policy, a Mobility Partnership and a Deep Free Trade Agreement. EU officials argue that resuming formal cooperation will allow the EU to raise HR concerns with Egyptian officials and resume meetings of the EU-Egypt Sub-committee on HR. The EU undertook to provide nearly 5 billion euros (750 million from EU contribution) in the form of loans and grants for 2012-2013. Egypt’s eligibility to SPRING financial support (90 million) is currently being evaluated.
- As requested by its Egyptian members, EMHRN will continue to give priority to Egypt in 2013.

Tunisia

- EMHRN focused its advocacy on increased political and religious-based violence, violations of women’s rights, the debate around the Constitution (primacy of HR, universality, equality and non-discrimination), the lack of reforms of the judiciary, media, security sectors as well as migrants and refugees rights. In the framework of the new EU-Tunisia Privileged Partnership, EMHRN called on the EU to have a clear public position on human rights, in line with its new ENP and human rights policy. EMHRN called the EU to involve more consistently civil society in the development of EU-Tunisia relations. EMHRN called for a clearer link between the EU financial, technical and political support, and progresses in human rights. EMHRN also developed specific messages regarding negotiations on a “mobility partnership”.
- EU officials mentioned human rights issues and support to civil society during the Association Council. EMHRN concerns

are likely to be included in the Action plan according to some sources. However the EU considers Tunisia as “the good example” of the Arab Spring and thus is reluctant to voice public criticism of the human rights records of the current authorities.

Algeria

Advocacy was developed in relation to the opening of the negotiations on the EU-Algeria Action Plan. EMHRN succeeded in increasing the visibility of its local member organisations and developed direct contacts between them and EU officials, in Algiers and Brussels. EMHRN concerns were raised during the first round of negotiations: according to official sources, EMHRN was specifically mentioned by Algerian authorities to EU officials as “*not a reliable source of information*” and “*not representing the view of the majority of civil society organisations in Algeria*”. The EU was also criticized for funding EMHRN. Due to the negative attitude of the Algerian officials and their opposition to discuss HR issues, negotiations are currently on hold. However given EU’s interest in developing economic relations with Algeria, EMHRN will remain vigilant in 2013 about EU’s position on the human rights situation in Algeria.

- In general, the role of the EMHRN as an interface between its member organisations and partners and the EU institutions was further strengthened in the course of 2012 in line with its first short term objective. This was demonstrated by the high number of visits and missions organised by the Brussels office for its members organisations in 2012, the increasing number of EMHRN members requesting assistance when interacting with the EU institutions, and the fact that the EMHRN is increasingly asked by the EU institutions to provide input and contacts when it comes to human rights in relations with the South Mediterranean countries.

➤ *The EMHRN wishes to thank DANIDA and SIDA for their support to its advocacy work in 2012.*



6. Partnerships

The **human rights framework** is the international human rights standards.

The **general objective** was to contribute to the development of platforms and coalitions of civil society groups rooted in human rights values that can impact positively on the human rights situation in the EuroMed region.

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

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- Continue to support and host the EMHRF
- Maintain and strengthen relations with international human rights organisations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the FIDH, OMCT, etc., Continue active membership of the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) in Brussels
- Continue support to the drafting of a National Human Rights Plan in Morocco
- Encourage activities of a coalition monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Action Plan in the Role of Women in Society
- Encourage networking around urgent alert missions regarding the rights of migrants and refugees
- Continue developing partnerships with trade unions, private and political foundations, and religious based organisations
- Continue to reach out to organisations outside the capital in Tunis, and to women's rights and youth groups
- Develop relations to other forums for dialogue on human rights values and standards, such as social forums and political platforms

Activities scheduled

- Co-organise the EMHRN General Assembly and the Consultation of the Council of Representatives of the EMHRF
- Continue to provide accommodation and services (financial supervision) to the EMHRF
- Organise regular meetings with international HROs
- Participation in the work and activities of the HRDN
- Mission to Morocco to highlight CS input to the National Human Rights Plan in Morocco

- Renewal of the EMHRN Working Groups, including more resource persons from non-member organisations to strengthen partnerships and cooperation
- Convening meetings of the GWG, inviting other networks to strengthen networking around gender equality and women's rights in the Euro-Med region
- Supporting cooperation on rights of migrants, refugee and asylum seekers in the Euro-med region
- Support coordination and alliance building of European organisations to work on a right based approach to the Israel-Palestine conflict
- Supporting meetings between HROs and trade unions, private and political foundations and religious bases organisations
- Supporting meetings between HROs, women's rights and youth groups in the regions of Tunisia
- Participation in the European Social Forum in Florence
- Participation in the Steering Group of the Danish MENA Network and contribution to its newsletter
- Participation in meetings of the Fundamental Rights Agency Civil Society Platform continued;

Outputs

- ✓ Several hundred NGOs and civil society representatives directly linked up to the EMHRN and its human rights activities in the EuroMed region;
- ✓ Relations maintained or consolidated with the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Protection of Human Right Defenders (EMHRF); the Danish NGO MENA Network; the Brussels Human Rights and Democracy Network and Brussels based international civil society organisations; other EuroMed networks and initiatives as well as other international human rights organisations;
- ✓ Strengthened cooperation on gender equality and women's rights in the Euro-med region
- ✓ Strengthened CS cooperation in relation to the effects of EU migration policies by deciding to participate in the FrontExit campaign
- ✓ Strengthened European joint advocacy in relation to Israel-Palestine
- ✓ Strengthened partnership with trade unions in relation to the human right situation in Algeria and Turkey
- ✓ Strengthened civil society cooperation in regions outside Tunis in Tunisia
- ✓ The EMHRN initiated the process of applying for eco-soc consultative status with the UN.

Activities carried out



- In relation to the EMHRN General Assembly 31.5-2.6 in Copenhagen, the Consultation of the Council of Representatives of the EMHRF took place on June 2, where the actions undertaken as well as actions envisaged for the future were discussed. Many EMHRN members benefit from support from the EMHRF and the close links between the two organisations were stressed as being very beneficial
- The EMHRN took the initiative to organise meetings with AI, HRW, and well as the FIDH to share analysis of the challenges in the region and work plans and to discuss coordination during 2012
- Throughout 2012 the EMHRN participated in the meetings of the HRDN in Brussels consisting of human rights and development NGO to coordinate and strengthen cooperation with Brussels-based NGOs. The meetings took place every six weeks.
- Mission to Morocco on 14-18 February consisting of the EMHRN president, executive director and EU advocacy officer to raise CS concern in relation to the lack of progress in drafting the national human rights plan
- Renewal of the EMHRN WG on justice; freedom of association and assembly; on gender equality and women's rights; on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians. The renewal gave the opportunity to new EMHRN members to adhere to the WGs. It was decided to include resource persons from non-member organisations to the EMHRN WGs, strengthening partnerships with organisations working in the thematic fields of the EMHRN
- As the EMHRN evaluated that the Istanbul-Marrakesh Process is no longer the most political relevant process to advocate for gender equality and women's rights in the Euro-Med region, it decided to invite women's rights networks, such as WIDE, Salma, European Women's Lobby to the meeting of the EMHRN Gender WG, to discuss challenges to gender equality and women's rights and discussing common strategies. The meetings, especially the meeting in Cyprus in April (see section on gender), allowed for networking and building alliances.
- In June, the EMHRN participated in an event in Cecina, Italy where Migreurop took the initiative to create the FrontExit campaign to raise awareness on the effects of European migration policies, and especially the effects on human rights of the Frontex agency and its actions. Later in the year, the EMHRN joined the campaign, which consists of 18 organisations. The campaign allows the EMHRN to reach out to other initiatives and organisations as well as to engage in joint actions. The EMHRN also organised a mission to Libya 8-12 September to meet with Libyan civil society organisations (see Migration, Refugee and Asylum seeker section)
- The EMHRN has through its work on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (kindly see this section) reached out to many organisations in Europe, especially through its EU advocacy training in June. It has also throughout 2012 increased its work in EU member states reaching out to the HR community, development organisations, solidarity groups and church based organisations. Missions were organised to Denmark, Sweden and Germany.
- EMHRN Executive Committee member, Osman Isci was arrested on June 25 because of his trade union and human rights activities. EMHRN shared information and coordinated joint letters with the European trade unions, and met with KESK, the Kurdish trade union for teachers, during a mission to Turkey in December (for the mission to Turkey, see FOA chapter). EMHRN also reached out to trade unions in Italy and the UK (see Algeria chapter) and organised meetings with SNAPAP, the independent Algerian trade union, to mobilise them in support of human rights, including worker's rights in Algeria.
- The EMHRN organised many activities in the regions of Tunisia with women's rights and youth organisations – allowing for the integration of new organisations in the human rights movement. Kindly see the Tunisia mission section for detailed information.
- The EMHRN participated together with several of its Algerian members in the European Social forum which took place in Florence 9-10 November and gathered several thousand participants from civil society in Europe. This was an opportunity to network and especially the raise the awareness in relation to the appalling human right situation in Algeria (see Algeria solidarity section)
- The EMHRN was in 2011 elected to the Steering Group of the Danish MENA Network, which gathers about 30 Danish NGOs working in or on the Middle East and North Africa. The Steering Groups meets around four times a year to coordinate and plan activities. It is an opportunity for the EMHRN to reach out to the Danish NGO community as well as to jointly strategize in relation to events and challenges in the region.
- A member of the EMHRN Executive Committee participated in the Civil Society Forum of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and reported back to the EMHRN of the activities and discussions in relation to the FRA.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- One of the trade-marks of the EMHRN has become the large number of organisations with whom it cooperates, coordinates and exchanges – which is materialised through joint missions and statements; and the organisation of workshops, seminars and training sessions. The EMHRN



believes it has achieved its general objective of contributing to the development of platforms and coalitions of civil society groups rooted in human rights values that can impact positively on the human rights situation in the EuroMed region by its sustained work over the years. Its Working Groups have become fora for sharing of information, joint strategizing and advocacy as well as capacity building of the participating organisations.

- In relation to its short term objectives, namely to actively develop and increase EMHRN partnerships within and beyond the human rights community working in the region, the EMHRN has definitely been successful in increasing partnerships within the human rights community not only through its WGs, but also through its concerted work in Tunis to reach out to organisations outside the capital. In relation to developing and increasing partnerships beyond the human

7. Executive Bodies and Memberships

The human rights framework was to ensure that the EMHRN's activities, structure and resources reflect the human rights values upon which it was founded.

The general objectives were to (1) implement the statutes and by-laws of the EMHRN in a transparent and democratic way, and (2) ensure the participation of members in delivering the EMHRN's agenda

The short term objectives were to (1) Maintain the work of EMHRN executive bodies at its current level, (2) hold a General Assembly, (3) elect a new Executive Committee, (4) draft a strategy 2012-18 for the Network, (5) further develop internal communication practices to ensure transparency and ownership to decision making.

A. Implementation of activities

Work Programme

- Hold a General Assembly and EuroMed seminar in 2012
- Elect a new Executive Committee at the General Assembly
- Discuss and adopt the EMHRN Strategy 2012-2018 at the General Assembly
- Hold 3 annual Executive Committee meetings
- Hold 3 annual steering group (Quartet) meetings aimed at supervising the daily management of the secretariat and assisting the President in his/her role
- Hold an annual meeting of conveners, political referents and coordinators of EMHRN working groups
- Proactive approach to new memberships in order to reach 100 members

rights community, the EMHRN in 2012 succeeded in this objective, both through its outreach to development organisations in Brussels, to church based organisations through the PIP project, and to trade unions through its Algeria and freedom of association and assembly projects. This can however, still be developed further, and will be pursued in 2013. The EMHRN is convinced that theist networking approach remains the most apt to intensify civil society organisation partnerships in the region.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support by and cooperation with the many partners listed above in 2012.*

Activities scheduled

- General Assembly and EuroMed seminar
- 3 Executive Committee meetings (including one expanded meeting) each year
- 3 steering group (Quartet) meetings each year

Outputs

- ✓ General Assembly and EuroMed seminar (Copenhagen)
- ✓ Election of a new Executive Committee
- ✓ Adoption of the Strategy 2012-2018, and consequently, launch of the implementation of structural adjustments
- ✓ Adoption of the Work programme 2012-15, Activity report 2009-11 and Financial reports
- ✓ 3 Executive Committee meetings (Tunis, Barcelona, Copenhagen)
- ✓ 3 Steering group (Quartet) meetings (Copenhagen)
- ✓ Approval of 9 new EMHRN members by the Executive Committee

Activities carried out

General Assembly and EuroMed seminar

- On 1-3 June 2012, the EMHRN convened its 9th General Assembly in Copenhagen on the occasion of its 15th anniversary. All the regular, associate and honorary members of the Network were invited as well as external observers such as partner NGOs, researchers, journalists or EMHRN donors, thus more than 120 participants gathered to attend the event.



- During the General Assembly, the EMHRN members adopted the Strategy 2012-2018, Work programme 2012-15, Activity report 2009-11 and financial reports. In addition, they elected a new Executive Committee presided by Michel Tubiana, as well as ratified the new members recommended to them by the former Executive Committee.
- Following the adoption of the Strategy 2012-2018, the EMHRN commissioned an expert in organisational management to make a study on the structural adjustments needed by the EMHRN to implement its strategy. The structural adjustments are currently being implemented.
- The General Assembly was preceded by a EuroMed seminar on the challenges faced by the human rights movement, organised by the EMHRN and held on 31 May and 1 June 2012. The seminar gathered around 120 representatives of key human rights organisations in Europe and the South and East Mediterranean region, who discussed regional cooperation, the position and role of human rights NGOs following the revolutions in the South, as well as the crisis in Europe and the European institutions.

Executive Committee and Steering group

- In 2012, the EMHRN's Executive Committee (EC) convened a first meeting in Tunis on 24-26 February 2012. Discussions focused on the recent developments in the region, the agenda of the EuroMed seminar on the challenges faced by the human rights movement, preparations for the General Assembly – including the new Strategy 2012-18 – and the organizational restructuring of the Network as a result of the implementation of the Strategy.
- Coinciding with the meeting, an EC delegation, along with the President of the Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates (ATFD), met the President of Tunisia, the President of the Constituent Assembly and the Minister of the Interior on 23-24 February 2012. On 25 February 2012, the delegation, this time accompanied by the Secretary-General of the Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH), visited the Ouardiyya holding centre near Tunis where foreign nationals in irregular situation are detained.
- The Executive Committee met in Barcelona on 31 March to prepare the EuroMed Seminar and the General Assembly, including the future Work programme and the new Strategy. In the margins of this meeting, an EC delegation met with IEMed's Deputy Director Josep Ferré, with the Human Rights Institute in Catalonia (IDHC) President David Bondia Garcia, and with SODEPAU President Josep María Navarro, whose organisations had been recommended for EMHRN membership by the EC in February 2012.
- Finally, on 28-30 September 2012, the newly elected Executive Committee held its first meeting in Copenhagen after the General Assembly in June 2012. Discussions focused on the assessment of the General Assembly and the Strategy

2012-2018; the role and responsibilities of the EC members, as well as on the membership applications to the Network. Finally, the EC appointed the Vice-president of the Network as well as the political referents of the various working groups and other themes.

- All EC meetings were occasions for the EMHRN to set up meetings with its 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 statements on key issues regarding the human rights situation in the region following its meetings.

Steering group (Quartet)

- In-between the EC meetings, i.e. on 30 January, 25 April and 17 December, the steering group (Quartet) meetings were held in Copenhagen in order to facilitate the management of the EMHRN. The Quartet is currently composed of EMHRN President Michel Tubiana, Vice President Nassera Dutour, Treasurer Moataz El Fegiery, and the EC member in charge of gender mainstreaming, Alya Cherif Chammari.

Membership

- At their meetings in 2012, the EC looked into the new applications for EMHRN membership and approved 9 of them, the membership thus reaching the total number of 99 (including honorary members) by the end of 2012. The EC also launched a review of the current membership procedures with the aim of ensuring that the EMHRN members cover and actively contribute to the current focus areas of the EMHRN. In addition, the EC initiated a discussion of how to proactively approach potential and renew memberships.

B. Evaluation – achievement of objectives, challenges and shortcomings

- The objectives were met as the General Assembly, the meetings of the Executive Committee and the steering group (Quartet) took place as scheduled. Due to the preparations of the GA and the EuroMed seminar in June, the EMHRN did however not succeed in setting up the annual meeting of conveners, political referents and WG coordinators but it is foreseen to take place in 2013. Prior to the GA and following a consultation process with its members, other key actors and staff, the EMHRN drafted a new Strategy 2012-2018 that was adopted by its members at the General Assembly. The EMHRN is currently looking into the changes to its organisational structure that arose from the new strategy and that will be implemented in 2013. Finally, the EMHRN meet with other NGOs to be considered for membership: since the last GA in 2008, 14 membership applications were thus submitted by the EC for formal approval by the EMHRN

General Assembly in June 2012, among which 3 women's rights organisations. Consequently, the EMHRN got very close to the aim of having 100 members by the end of 2012.

- *The EMHRN is grateful for the support of DANIDA and SIDA to its activities in 2012.*

8. Administration

The human rights framework was to ensure that the administration of the EMHRN's activities, structure and resources reflect the human rights values upon which it was founded.

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

The short term objective was to set up the necessary structures to implement the work programme of the EMHRN

Work Programme:

- Organisational structure of the Network adapted to the new strategy.
- Staff policies are adopted and implemented.
- Funding situation is improved.

Activities scheduled

- Finalise the design and start implementing a revised structure for the secretariat
- Fund raising activities (missions, applications, etc.)
- Meetings and consultations with staff, staff development and training activities, Staff Days

Outputs

- ✓ Plan and time schedule for the restructuring of the Secretariat adopted.
- ✓ Implementation of the new structure started: consultation with staff, Rabat office closed.
- ✓ Secretariat reinforced with additional staff including a Freedom of Association Coordinator and Administrative Assistant in Paris and a Migration Project Officer in Copenhagen, and a process for the set-up of a new team in the Tunis Mission (process further implemented in 2013)
- ✓ Annual talks with staff, individual talks on training (leading to individual training plans to be communicated in 2013), annual staff Development Days
- ✓ Fund raising activities were successfully developed with new grants and new donors

Activities carried out

- The major initiative carried out in 2012 was the restructuring process of the Secretariat. The process was

launched with the help of a report prepared by Peter Jensen Marinus, a consultant hired to assist the Secretariat and the EC in defining new organisational structures for the Network. The draft report was submitted to the EC and the Quartet in January 2012, after which the consultant prepared a final version which was discussed at the EC meeting in February. The principles for the restructuration were eventually approved by the EC and later presented to the staff for consultation. The restructuration's main features include a reduction of the number of offices, the establishment of two larger sub-regional offices for the Mashrek (location to be decided in 2013) and the Maghreb (Tunis), the set-up of an respectively a Communication Department and an Administration, Human Resource and Finance Department, a redistribution of tasks amongst specific positions (Executive Director, Programme Director, Heads of sub-regional offices, etc.) and, in a longer term, the establishment of a training unit. The implementation of the new structure started gradually after the General Assembly in June 2012 and is expected to last for a period of 2-3 years. The path and the extent of the full implementation will depend on the availability of funds as some decisions require that additional funding is secured.

- Throughout 2012, following main changes in EMHRN secretariat staff took place:
- A new Freedom of Association Coordinator and a new Administrative Officer were hired in the Paris office.
- Following the resignation of the Coordinator of the EMHRN Tunis Mission early 2012, it was decided not to renew the contracts of the Head of Mission, the Administrative Assistant and the Communication Officer and to gradually build a whole new team in the Tunis Mission. A new Administrative Assistant (who however stopped in November) and a new Communication and Project Officer were hired. By the end of 2012, plans were ready for the recruitment of new staff as from 2013.
- A Migration Project Officer was hired in Copenhagen as well as, for an interim period of a few months, a Justice Coordinator, both based in Copenhagen.
- Both the Rabat and Cairo offices lost staff during 2012: in Rabat, following the resignation of the Migration Project Assistant it was decided to stop having staff present in Morocco and thus to close our office in Rabat. In Cairo, it was decided not to renew the contract of the Humans Rights Education Coordinator (both for reasons linked to the project and the difficulty of implementing the program from Cairo)



and the webmaster resigned after a few months due to her wish to reorient her career. At the end of 2012, EMHRN presence in Cairo was restricted to its Communication Officer for the Arab World.

- At 31 December 2012, EMHRN staff (without interns) was as follows:

Management

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

Coordinators and Officers

- Project Coordinator for European Neighbourhood Policy, Emilie Dromzee, MA in European Community Law, Brussels (with the EMHRN since 2005)
- Project Officer Migration, Shadia El Dardiry, MA Political Science, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since January 2012)
- Project Coordinator for Freedom of Association, Bérénice Michard, Masters in Political Science and International Cooperation and Project Management, Paris (with the EMHRN since January 2012)
- Director of Gender projects, Lina Al Qurah, Gender specialist, Amman (with the EMHRN since 2007)
- 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), on maternity leave
- Acting coordinator for Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians (PIP), Nicole Lambert (with the EMHRN since May 2011, formerly PIP project assistant)
- Project coordinator for Solidarity Programme, Syria, 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)
- Project coordinator for Solidarity Programme, Algeria, Marta Semplici, MA2 in European Affairs, Paris (with the EMHRN since 2009)

- Communication and Project Officer, EMHRN Tunis Mission, Ramy Khouili, (with the EMHRN since August 2012)
- Communication Officer, Hayet Zeghiche, Journalist, Brussels (with the EMHRN since August 2011)
- Media and Communication Officer, Shaimaa Abou Al Khei Sulima, Journalist, Cairo (with the EMHRN since 2008)

Executive staff and project assistants

- Executive Secretary, Maibritt Damgaard Jensen, MA (LSP) in French, BA in English, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2002)
- Project assistant for the Gender project, Susanna Fridlund, BA in Political Science, Economics and Human Geography (with the EMHRN since January 2011)
- Communication Tunis Mission, Anouar Moalla, Journalist (with the EMHRN since June 2011)

Administrative staff

- Financial and Administrative Assistant, Migena Jakobsen, MA in business administration, Copenhagen (with the EMHRN since 2008)
- Administrative assistant, Marie Picalausa, Brussels (with the EMHRN since 2009)
- Administrative assistant, Gender project, Amman, Sarah Tal (with the EMHRN since March 2011)
- Administrative assistant, Ana Borojevic, Amman (with the EMHRN since February 2012)

- EMHRN continued its efforts to implement a coherent staff policy. Regular meetings were organised between the management and two staff representatives to address relevant staff issues, and the minutes of these meetings were circulated to the staff. Staff issues were taken up at all meetings of the management group. Individual talks were organised between each employee and their respective supervisor in August-September and a 3-day Staff Development Days were held in Lisbon in October 2012. These Staff Development Days were mostly dedicated to discussing the restructuring process within the Secretariat. Individual talks were also organised in relation to the training needs of each staff in 2012. Finally, a process of revisiting EMHRN internal wage scales and staff regulations was launched in the course of 2012, although at a slow path due to limited HR resources in the secretariat. Concrete outcomes are expected later in 2013.

Fundraising

- In 2012 EMHRN was able to both increase its overall funding and further diversify its funding sources, thanks partially to



- the half-time position of fundraiser established already at the end 2010. Following new grants were secured in 2012:
- A one-year grant of €243.000 from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in support to EMHRN Solidarity project (Algeria and Tunisia).
 - A €11.340 grant from Church of Sweden in support to the Palestine Israel and the Palestinians project.
 - A \$75.000 grant from Open Society Institute in support to a regional seminar held by the EMHRN just before its General Assembly in June-July 2012
 - A second grant of OSI of an amount of \$700.000 to support EMHRN communication and advocacy work in 2013 and 2014
 - A €134.621 grant from the EU Commission to finance a conference on "The Role of Civil Society Organisations in the Transitional Process in Syria" organised in July in Brussels.

9. Acknowledgments

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

- SIDA
- DANIDA
- EU Commission,
- Spanish International Development Cooperation
- Church of Sweden
- Open Society Institute
- Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs

10. List of annexes

- ANNEX 1: Publications and Statements
- ANNEX 2: Meetings and missions organised by the EMHRN in 2012

Marc Schade-Poulsen
Copenhagen