

# EuroMed Rights Annual Report 2021



EuroMed Rights  
EuroMed Droits  
الأورو-متوسطية للحقوق



**June 2022**

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**Bibliographic information**

**Title:** EuroMed Rights Annual Report 2021

**Author:** EuroMed Rights

**Date of initial publication:** June 2022

**Pages:** 20

**ISBN:** 978-87-92990-90-7

**Original Language:** English

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# Foreword

## Back on track in a troubled EuroMed region

In October 2021, EuroMed Rights held its 12th General Assembly. Although the pandemic forced us to go online, our members showed resolve and enthusiasm during three full days. We enjoyed the political debates, the reporting, and the online networking. Still, the key achievements of the General Assembly were the unanimous adoption of a new organisational strategy built around ten goals that we together will strive to reach over the coming six years, and the successful election of a new 12-member Executive Committee - with full respect for gender equality within it - including a directly elected President. Another important moment was the wholehearted welcome of six new members of the network. Consolidated and motivated, EuroMed Rights will face the troubles and challenges that 2022 will offer to our continued promotion and protection of human rights in North Africa, Europe and the Middle East with a will to test new ways of operating.

2021 also provided us with the second year of lockdowns, which in spite of the troubles it created also provided a prolonged opportunity to draw lessons from online work. In particular, we improved our online working group meetings and established new cross-thematic webinars carried by participants and speakers who may not have had the opportunity to participate in a physical seminar or conference. We also established smaller taskforce-based collaborations between members, and gave attention to build new partnerships with a broader range of actors - often reaching beyond civil society actors to engage representatives from public institutions and policy-makers in "co-creating" solutions to human rights and democracy issues.

Despite our efforts and those of likeminded organisations and governments, the situation in the Euro-Mediterranean region did not improve in 2021. The power grab by Tunisia's President Kais Saied on 25 July, and the subsequent concentration of power in the Presidency cast a dark shadow over Tunisian politics and the model that its transition away from autocracy had been for activists in the region in the aftermath of the 2011 revolution. Particularly worrying were the Tunisian President's will to limit the freedoms that civil society organisations had enjoyed prior to his arrival to power, and his decision to dissolve the troubled but democratically elected Tunisian Parliament. Outside Tunisia, the situation was,

sadly, not much better. In our General Assembly final declaration, for instance, we put the focus, together with our members, on the appalling continuation - and in some cases even increase - of racism and discrimination throughout the EuroMed region, from the North to the South. Recognising that racism is structurally rooted and endemic, we also recalled that this can and must change. And here, indeed, 2021 did offer a glimpse of hope: Throughout the region, we observed the emergence of a host of vibrant and multi-faceted anti-racist initiatives, combining local anti-racist activism with global calls for racial justice and an end to structural oppression, segregation and apartheid as in the case of Israel/Palestine.

So far, 2022 promises more trouble to come. Since February 2022, President Putin's military attack on Ukraine has caused massive human rights violations and forced millions to flee for safety. Diminished food exports and hiking prices on basic commodities are likely to increase the risk of domestic insecurity and subsequent government repression across the entire Southern Mediterranean shores.

As we, in EuroMed Rights, gear up to celebrate our first quarter century anniversary in the fall of 2022, we have taken stock of these and related developments. We remain committed to continue using our deep knowledge and experience as a member-driven network to push ahead with the struggle for human rights and democracy for another 25 years.

We cannot conclude this foreword without mentioning the passing of our friend, honorary president, Michel Tubiana, on 2 October 2021. Michel had for decades been a relentless activist who put his knowledge, practice of law, and determination into the fight for human rights, for dignity, and for international collaboration between civil society actors. He will be missed. And he will stand as a beacon of light in our continued struggle to promote and protect human rights and democracy across and within the borders of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

**Wadih Al-Asmar**  
President



**Rasmus Alenius Boserup**  
Executive Director



# A brand-new strategy for 2022-2027: Inspire and Advance

“Looking to the future, many challenges await us and together with you all, we will tackle them, guided by our vision to ensure that all have access to human rights and democracy in the Euro-Mediterranean region,” stated Wadih Al-Asmar, President of EuroMed Rights, at the opening of the October 2021 EuroMed Rights General Assembly. An ambitious strategy for 2022-2027, entitled ‘[Improve and Advance](#)’, was later adopted.

## Five political and five organisational goals

The strategy is structured around five political goals:

1. Reinforced migration and asylum rights
2. Advanced gender equality
3. Increased accountability, justice and space for civil society
4. Strengthened democracy and fundamental freedoms
5. Enhanced economic, social and cultural rights

Five organisational goals are also identified:

1. Energised member base
2. Increased visibility and impact
3. Reduced carbon footprint
4. Improved financial sustainability and diversification
5. Improved internal learning

In addition to the above-stated goals, EuroMed Rights will reserve funds dedicated to small-scale incubator activities aimed at responding to opportunities and threats to the promotion of human rights and democracy. Examples of possible themes include climate rights, youth, social movements and equality.

## Election of new leaders

On the last day of the General Assembly, a brand-new Executive Committee (see page 14-15) was elected for three years, chaired by Wadih Al-Asmar for his second term. The new committee shows perfect parity, both geographically and in terms of gender, and its role will be to lead the organisation in the concrete implementation of this new strategy.

This will take time and will require the mobilisation of internal and external resources, including action and follow up by member and partner organisations, as well as renewed financial support from donors. “I believe the organisation is fully prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead, and I look forward to doing so together with colleagues, members and partners,” added Rasmus Alenius Boserup, EuroMed Rights Executive Director.



# About EuroMed Rights

## A network bridging two shores

EuroMed Rights is a regional non-governmental organisation representing 68 human rights organisations active in 30 countries with the aim of promoting human rights and democracy for all on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea. It was founded in 1997, following the 1995 Barcelona Declaration, by civil society organisations dedicated to promoting a human rights-based Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.



*Training on women's rights for police and security officers in Tunisia, an example of co-creation*

## How we work

EuroMed Rights works through, for, and in collaboration with its members. We engage with hundreds of other civil society organisations and national and international state institutions operating in the field of human rights. We do so by combining the key work methods explained below.

**Analysis and monitoring:** EuroMed Rights monitors the development of the human rights and democracy situation in the Euro-Mediterranean region through desk-studies, field missions and other forms of data-collection. We also procure or produce fact-checked analyses of key trends and phenomena of relevance to our work. We use the results of the monitoring and analysis to strengthen the capacity and knowledge of our members on specific issues and processes. The results also serve as input and background for our political positioning and in the planning of our programme and advocacy and communication activities.

**Collaboration and co-creation:** EuroMed Rights facilitates collaboration and co-creation among its members and stakeholders. In our co-creation processes, we often reach beyond the civil society sector to engage and mobilise national and international state actors and institutions. Most of our work is implemented through the organisation of many working groups, in which our members meet with peers and other stakeholders to exchange ideas, receive training, make joint action plans, and take joint decisions.

**Advocacy and communication:** EuroMed Rights influences and reaches out to decision-makers, policymakers and the broader public through its advocacy and communication work. It does so in close collaboration with its members and partners. EuroMed Rights' advocacy activities are aimed at international bodies such as the EU, as well as regional and national governments including EU Member States and governments in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean.

**Mainstreaming:** EuroMed Rights uses mainstreaming to address issues and concerns that affect the entire organisation. The organisation systematically conducts gender mainstreaming throughout its work, ensuring that freedom of expression, freedom of association, the right to peaceful assembly and movement, and access to decision makers and funding for civil society are addressed in all its programmes.

# What did EuroMed Rights achieve in 2021?

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

### New forms of social movements at the heart of economic and social calls

In 2021, EuroMed Rights established a new work track focused on supporting social movements. This materialised through a collaboration with Action Aid to inform civil society through an online event how to best learn from and support social movements. This activity was followed up by a mapping of key actors and youth movements across the MENA region, which will be pursued in 2022.

This extension of activities led to a membership expansion as the Working Group on Economic and Social Rights was reinforced by the participation of two Jordanian organisations (Ahel and the Phenix Centre for Economics and Informatics Studies), who had expressed an interest in working with EuroMed Rights on grassroots and social movements.

Beyond these activities, the Working Group continued its networking and communication activities. This materialised through joint data collection exercises led by EuroMed Rights together with its members. One example is the work done with Turkish and Moroccan members together with EuroMed Rights on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October): members published a series of factsheets containing qualitative and quantitative data aimed at highlighting and denouncing the socio-economic discrepancies in their respective countries.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER JUSTICE

### United to tackle online gender-based violence

The COVID-19 induced lockdowns saw levels of cyber (as well as domestic) violence spiral. As women are 27 times more likely than men to be harassed online, EuroMed Rights consolidated its efforts to raise awareness about online gender-based violence in the MENA region.

EuroMed Rights' thorough research led to the publication of the report "Spaces of violence and resistance: Women's rights in the online world" in June 2021. The report is the result of extensive collaboration between members of EuroMed Rights' regional working group on Women's Rights and Gender Justice and contributed to opening a debate on the topic at national levels.

On 13 November 2021, a coalition of Moroccan women's rights organisations and activists (including members of EuroMed Rights and of the Regional Commissions of the National Council for Human Rights) met for the first time to discuss online gender-based violence and the lack of definitions surrounding this topic in the Moroccan legal framework. The organisations formulated a set of recommendations on combating online gender-based violence to be submitted to members of parliament, key institutions, civil society actors and the EU delegation in Morocco, representing the first step in a bigger advocacy project on online violence against women.

The report reverberated at the European level. The NGOs Oxfam IBIS and KVINFO invited EuroMed Rights to present the findings of its research at the 2021 edition of the Danish feminist "TalkTown" festival. EuroMed Rights also shared an overview of threats in online spaces faced by women human rights defenders in the MENA region.

In December 2021 EuroMed Rights launched an online tool to monitor backlashes to gender equality in the MENA region – referred to as the "Backlash map". This project precedes a collaboration with the Moroccan queer collective Nassawiyat for a podcast episode on backlashes to LGBTQI+ rights in Morocco. To date, the "Backlash map" has attracted the attention of international NGOs and potential partners, such as Oxfam Novib.

## MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

### Influencing agendas to protect migrant and refugee rights

In 2021, EuroMed Rights pursued its remote work with members of the Migration and Asylum Working Group despite difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Working Group collaborated on documentation, monitoring, networking, capacity-building and advocacy.

On advocacy, in April 2021 EuroMed Rights was invited by Renew Europe – a European Parliament political group whose position on Migration and Asylum does not always align with EuroMed Rights – to take part in the 7th shadow meeting on the Amended proposal for a Regulation establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union. EuroMed Rights used this opportunity to present recommendations to key actors on an important legislative aspect of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. In the same vein, in March and June representatives of the Spanish and Belgian parliaments held online meetings with EuroMed Rights and its Spanish and Belgian members respectively, to listen to our recommendations on the EU Pact.

EuroMed Rights and its members have advocated tirelessly with the EU and its member states to include an impact assessment to enhance the protection of migrant and refugee rights in the EU Pact. Absent the inclusion of such an impact assessment by the European Commission, in May EuroMed Rights published a report showing a simulation of the impact that the EU Pact would have on first-arrival countries such as Italy, Spain and Greece. On 12 August, the European Parliament published its Horizontal Substitute Impact Assessment of the European Commission's New Pact on Migration and Asylum, citing several passages of EuroMed Rights' report. The European Parliament's impact assessment came to the same conclusions as EuroMed Rights' analysis in terms of human rights violations, reduced access to rights, guarantees and access to asylum for migrants and refugees.

EuroMed Rights also brought its communication work on migration to a new level. Key European and Middle Eastern media requested interviews with EuroMed Rights as an expert source. Around 30 interviews were given in 2021, many of them live, covering the full range of media platforms (radio, TV, newspapers). The interviews enabled EuroMed Rights to enter the voices and positions of civil society organisations into the public debate, thus providing a human-rights based narrative on migration and asylum.



## Key civil society demands conclude years of intense dialogue



Between 2018 and 2021, EuroMed Rights led a project called 'Majalat', managed by a consortium of six civil society networks aimed at creating safe spaces for a constructive dialogue between the EU and CSOs, trade unions, social movements and academics from both shores of the Mediterranean.

The project ended in September 2021 following the annual Civil Society Forum, held online from 7 to 9 July 2021. EuroMed Rights' ability to mobilise civil society and EU actors was evidenced by the over 260 participants who attended and actively engaged in that event. The Forum was preceded by three national roundtables in June 2021 in Lebanon, Tunisia and Morocco.

In September, a series of meetings looked back at the 3,5 years of work and dialogue promoting reform in a region that has witnessed continued and renewed forms of authoritarianism, the erosion of fundamental freedoms and the devastating effects of corruption and economic degradation. To what extent has the Majalat project improved matters and influenced EU policy towards the region? This question was raised in meetings with Members of the European Parliament and French authorities, as France was about to take over the EU rotating presidency in January 2022, during which Majalat representatives conveyed demands made by CSOs.

Key demands included conditionality of aid to concrete and measurable efforts by countries in the region to tackle corruption, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and the adoption and commitment to climate targets and social justice policies. There is broader consensus today that the goals of protecting human rights and sustainable development are tightly interwoven, and that the fight to protect freedoms, justice, equality, climate and health are all part of a single battle for human rights. Calls directed at the EU included the establishment of a special framework for dialogue on trade and investment involving Southern-based CSOs, bolder plans for climate transition and climate justice, and renewed action to support youth and end violence against women and girls.

As Majalat offered a much-needed space of solidarity for human rights defenders and people advocating for change in the region, it is expected that the EU will keep supporting similar initiatives in the coming years, to which EuroMed Rights will definitely contribute.

## Consolidating results to increase visibility

In 2021, EuroMed Rights consolidated its position as an actor for change in Morocco. This is illustrated by several invitations from NGOs and institutional partners. For example, the Global Detention Project in Morocco invited EuroMed Rights to become a local partner in their Global Immigration Detention Observatory. The EU Delegation to Morocco also invited EuroMed Rights along with its Moroccan member, the Democratic Association for the Women of Morocco (ADFM), to the civil society consultation on Morocco's gender profile. This is particularly important as it will influence the country implementation plan of the new EU Gender Action Plan in Morocco.

The Moroccan Justice Reform Working Group pursued its advocacy and communication work in favour of human rights organisations and defenders. EuroMed Rights organised two workshops on the 'decriminalisation of minor offences', during which Moroccan civil society organisations entered into discussions with the National Council for Human Rights, the Public Prosecutor's Office the General Delegation for Prison Administration and Reintegration, and the Ministry of Justice to formulate recommendations that will be used as advocacy tools in 2022. The efforts featured on the evening news channel Al Aoula.

EuroMed Rights also extended its reach by including two emerging youth LGBTQ+ collectives in its Women's Rights and Gender Equality Working Group. This is part of an effort to ensure better intersectional and youth representation.



*Seminar on alternative sentences in Morocco to promote co-creation, networking and mutual training*

## ALGERIA

### Independent civil society actors speak with one voice

In 2021, EuroMed Rights continued its focus on increasing collaboration between members and relevant civil society actors in Algeria, as well as establishing working connections with other international NGOs.

In the framework of the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR), EuroMed Rights' Algerian members and partners collaborated in the preparation of a joint civil society report to be included in Algeria's 2022 UPR despite the government's increasing pressure on independent civil society organisations. Similarly, members of EuroMed Rights joined efforts with international NGOs to issue statements in support of individual human rights defenders at risk. In May, 82 civil society organisations sent a joint letter to UN member states ahead of the 47th UN Human Rights Council to address the human rights situation in Algeria.

Throughout the year and despite COVID-related restrictions, EuroMed Rights supported its Algerian members and partners to carry out advocacy activities towards European institutions. On 6 December 2021, the European External Action Service (EEAS) Algeria desk requested an online meeting with EuroMed Rights' Algerian members to receive first-hand information on the status of human rights and democracy in the country.

On 28 June, right after the Algerian legislative elections of 12 June, the Chair of the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights invited Algerian civil society organisations and diaspora-based Algerian activists for an online meeting on the situation of human rights in the country ahead of an online session of the Subcommittee that took place on 13 July.

## TUNISIA

### Always more engaged alongside civil society

The COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns and the overall political situation in Tunisia after the declaration of a state of emergency on 25 July 2021 limited the joint work of human rights organisations and defenders. Despite the above, EuroMed Rights engaged with civil society organisations to formulate policy requests while working with state institutions to influence their policy agendas.

One example of civil society cooperation was the event held on 12 October 2021 gathering more than 40 civil society organisations in Tunis, agreeing to work together to draft an alternative report for the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2022. It was the first time that such a large number of organisations were involved in this process in Tunisia.

EuroMed Rights' mediation bridging civil society policy requests and authorities was productive. For instance, on 12 March 2021 the Minister of Women, Family, Childhood and Seniors expressed her interest and support for the activities carried out by EuroMed Rights and its partners in support of the national strategy to combat violence against women. On 1 October 2021, this interest culminated in the signing of a partnership agreement with EuroMed Rights to establish a tripartite dialogue on the empowerment of women and the fight against economic violence. This agreement received financial implementation support from the Swedish and Swiss governments in late 2021.

Public recognition of the good relations established between EuroMed Rights and the Minister of Women, Family, Childhood and Seniors were illustrated by the selection of activities organised by EuroMed Rights and its partners ahead of the 16 Days of Activism on Fighting Violence against Women in Tunisia. These activities featured in the 2021 programme brochure edited by the Ministry.

EuroMed Rights also established solid relations with the National Observatory of the Fight against Violence against Women. This was illustrated by the creation, on 26 November 2021, of a space for dialogue between the authorities and associative care centres for women victims of violence. Here, organisations can discuss the difficulties they face in carrying out their mandate in Tunis. EuroMed Rights also worked with the regional coordinating instances to combat violence against women in Kasserine and Ben Arous, in order to develop a roadmap on access to justice for women.

EuroMed Rights pursued its advocacy work in Tunisia, culminating in the adoption on 7 April 2021 by the Tunisian government of the decree to establish a National Commission for Combating Racial Discrimination in Tunisia, which represents a

significant step in a years-long process that EuroMed Rights and its partners had advocated intensively for.

As regards the support provided to the national public authorities, as promised the National Authority for Access to Information (known by its French acronym INAI – Instance d'Accès à l'Information) initiated bilateral work with representatives of the sector during a meeting in Sfax. In addition, all national authorities agreed on elaborating communication strategies combatting violence against women, coordinated by EuroMed Rights.



## EGYPT

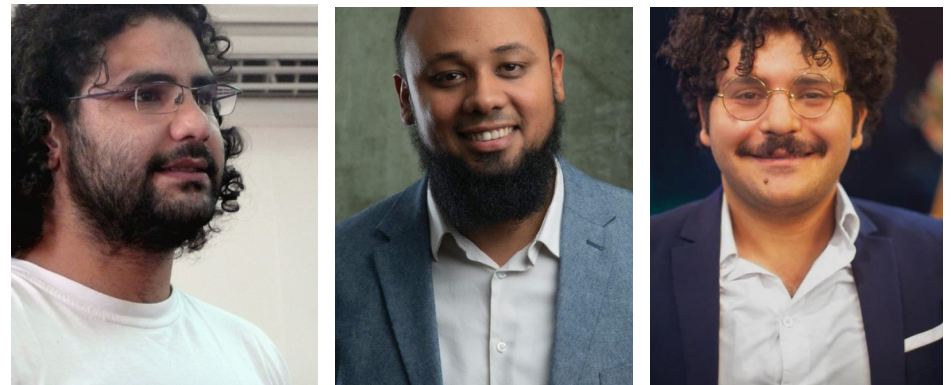
### Supporting human rights defenders at risk

Despite the pandemic, EuroMed Rights' work on Egypt continued to focus on human rights advocacy and on providing support and networking opportunities for Egyptian human rights defenders and organisations at risk.

A key result of this work was the co-organisation by EuroMed Rights, Global Focus, and Amnesty International Denmark, of a webinar entitled "Ten years after the revolution, the state of Denmark-Egypt relations" in March 2021. The webinar, attended by the Danish ambassador in Cairo, parliamentarians and experts, focused on the legacy of the Egyptian uprisings and discussed the way forward for Denmark's relations with Egypt.

Supporting and protecting human rights defenders remains a key priority for EuroMed Rights in Egypt, aimed at ensuring a continued active presence of the Egyptian human rights community. In July 2021, 38 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) signed a joint letter addressing EU High Representative, Josep Borrell, and President of the European Council, Charles Michel, urging them to push for the release of lawyer and human rights defender Mohamed El-Baqer. EuroMed Rights initiated the idea in the context of the "Free Baqer campaign" coordinated by various NGOs, drafting the letter, and ensuring widespread support among MEPs.

Similarly, on 28 September 2021, the European Parliament Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, Maria Arena, released a statement calling for the release of human rights defenders Mohamed El-Baqer, Alaa Abdel Fattah and Patrick Zaki, subsequent to EuroMed Rights and other groups calling attention to their situation. Conversely, EuroMed Rights continues to coordinate and support emergency relocation for Egyptian human rights defenders at risk.



*Human Rights Defenders Alaa Abdel Fattah, Mohamed El-Baqer and Patrick Zaki whose cases were monitored in 2021*

## PALESTINE, ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

### Small steps toward accountability amidst increasing Israeli human rights violations

EuroMed Rights has continued to convey the demands of the human rights community in Palestine to European audiences. This has not fallen on deaf ears among policymakers active in the foreign human rights arena.

On 3 March 2021, the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) opened an investigation into the situation in Palestine, a major milestone in the quest for accountability since 2014. EuroMed Rights, its members and partners, have relentlessly advocated towards the EU and its Member States, based on research and evidence-based advocacy, to support an ICC investigation. After the opening of the investigation, the EU Observer on 30 March 2021 published a EuroMed Rights Op-Ed on the role of the EU regarding the ICC investigation on the situation in Palestine.

However, despite these developments, Israel has increased its human rights violations against Palestinians across all the territories it controls. After the widespread bombings in Gaza, killings in the West Bank, and police brutality in Israel against Palestinians in May 2021, EuroMed Rights stepped up its efforts. On 10 June 2021, the UK-based Middle East Eye published an Op-ed signed by EuroMed Rights on the EU's lacking willingness to use its leverage over the Israeli offensive in Gaza.

Israeli authorities intensified their efforts to discriminate, oppress and criminalise human rights organisations in Palestine. On 22 October 2021, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz designated six Palestinian human rights and civil society organisations (CSOs) as 'terrorist organisations', including Al-Haq. With this official designation, the Israeli authorities took one step further in their strategy to close down the Palestinian human rights movement. EuroMed Rights has channelled efforts in Europe to criticise this unprecedented move. For instance, on 27 October 2021, the Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney released a statement criticising the Israeli decision. At the EU level, on 29 November 2021, eight MEPs from different political groups (Renew Europe, S&D, Greens/EFA and The Left), issued statements of support to the six CSOs during an exchange of views at the European Parliament.

## TURKEY

### International advocacy fuelled by local work

Local work undertaken by EuroMed Rights and its members in Turkey has garnered advocacy victories at both the EU and international level. In November 2021, the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights invited the Human Rights Association (IHD, a member of EuroMed Rights) co-chair from the Diyarbakir branch to an exchange of views. This invitation was the result of advocacy work carried out by EuroMed Rights in favour of its civil society members.

Similarly, in March 2021, EuroMed Rights was invited by the European Parliament's Committees on Justice/Home Affairs and Development to present its position on the Implementation report on the EU Trust Funds and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. The report was eventually adopted by the European Parliament in October 2021, and included several of EuroMed Rights' recommendations.

In July 2021, EuroMed Rights published a report by the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, addressing the withdrawal of Turkey from the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women. Such sharing of information contributed to increased visibility for EuroMed Rights and its members, and the protection of human rights defenders in Turkey.

This enhanced dialogue with the EU culminated in the invitation received by EuroMed Rights and its members to take part in an LGBTQI+ event in Ankara jointly organised by the Swedish and Danish Embassies. This event was particularly important given the ongoing repression faced by the LGBTQI+ community in Turkey. It followed intensive work carried out by EuroMed Rights to connect the two embassies with local LGBTQI+ activists.

EuroMed Rights also supported local members and partners. The arrest of the Human Rights Association co-chair Ozturk Turkdogan on 19 March 2021 triggered direct reactions from the EU and the Council of Europe following recommendations issued by EuroMed Rights. The work in Turkey contributed to reinforcing relations between local civil society and these international institutions, with better visibility, protection, and increased capacity for advocacy as a result.

## MAINSTREAMING

### Gender and 'shrinking space' approach across all programmes

In June 2021, EuroMed Rights conducted a gender audit to assess the advancement of its gender mainstreaming programme. The results were deemed satisfying despite the adverse impact of COVID-19.

The Migration and Asylum programme was among the first to start mainstreaming gender through its activities. Two sessions were organised with members to address gender issues in international migration and asylum systems. The first session, in June 2021, gathered experts and members to discuss the issue of women and girls in migration, while the second (held in November 2021) focused on the specific challenges and legal issues faced by LGBTQI+ persons when seeking and claiming asylum in European countries.

The cross-over taskforce between the Women's Rights/Gender Equality and Economic and Social Rights programmes continued its work on the protection and promotion of women's economic, social and cultural rights. An event was organised to assess the extent to which gender issues are included in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and to discuss the findings of the UN Special Rapporteur on Poverty from his Europe-wide visit (namely the specific impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women's incomes and working conditions).

The taskforce initiated a research project on access to Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and correlations with women's access to formal employment in the MENA region. The report is due to be published before the summer of 2022 and will inform a work track in the taskforce that reflects current European priorities in that field.

In 2021, the issue of shrinking spaces for civil society also continued to be mainstreamed across all programmes. EuroMed Rights and its members monitored and documented violations and restrictions on human rights in the whole region, as presented in the country-specific sections of this report. Concluding a process that started in 2020, a report on how government-organised NGOs (GoNGOs) spread alternative human rights narratives to support authoritarian governments was published in February 2021. The report focuses on some of the difficulties faced in Algeria, Egypt and Turkey, based on first-hand testimonies from independent activists as well as trade unionists, and is complemented by an analysis of the repressive legislative environment against civil society activism.

## OUTREACH

### A new approach for enhanced visibility and impact

Adopted in October 2021, EuroMed Rights' 2022-2027 strategy confirmed the importance of communication and advocacy through a dedicated goal on Increased Visibility and Impact. This goal concludes a process initiated in early 2021 by synchronising communication and advocacy under the umbrella concept of 'Outreach'. More than a merger, it is a cross-fertilising approach looking to build on similarities, identify mutual impact, and learn from one another.

More specifically, Outreach will seek to (1) establish EuroMed Rights as a regional civil society actor that speaks with a clear, unified, and authoritative voice, and (2) use the expertise of EuroMed Rights' members as a reliable first-hand source of information, analysis, and opinions for quality media. By broadening and diversifying its audience and providing convincing argumentation, EuroMed Rights aims to galvanise support for human rights, and render more accessible and relevant the issues it covers.

The aim is also to harmonise messaging to reach "the right people at the right time with the right message". In 2021, this took the shape of preparatory work for the future EuroMed Rights' visual identity, website and contact database.

In 2021, Outreach also pursued its work to streamline coordination with programmes. Regular coordination meetings were held to identify, plan and implement joint activities. These collaborations led to the reinforcement of new tools such as the podcast series "EuroMed Standing Watch" or an enhanced focus on visual content on social media. Outreach also supported several programmes with their media interview processes, and production of Op-Eds.



# Executive Committee

The General Assembly is the supreme body of EuroMed Rights; it meets every three years and elects the Executive Committee.

The 2021-2024 Executive Committee is composed of:

**Wadih Al-Asmar**, President

Secretary general of the movement SOLIDAR (support of Lebanese detained arbitrarily) and President of the Lebanese Centre for Human rights (CLDH). Wadih Al-Asmar is also one of the founders of the Lebanese social movement #youStink.



**Theodora Christou**, Vice President

Executive member of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales. Theodora Christou is a barrister and an academic teaching at the London School of Economics and at Queen Mary University of London. Her primary areas of expertise are human rights, international and comparative law.



**Moataz El Feghery**, Treasurer

Member of the board of directors for the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS). Moataz El-Feghery is also the MENA protection coordinator for Front Line Defenders, and co-founder and secretary general of the Egyptian Human Rights Forum.



**Lubna Dawany**, Gender Mainstreaming Referent

Secretary general of Jordanian association Mizan for Law. She is also a Legal Advisor and Board Member of the Family Development Association. Since the 1990s, she has co-founded a number of NGOs in Jordan to fight violence against women, human rights and women rights.



**Monia Ben Jemia**

Professor of law at the University of Carthage, she chaired the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women from 2016 to 2018. She participated in the first group of experts in charge of drafting a bill on the eradication of violence against women, adopted by the Tunisian parliament in 2017.



**Giorgio Caracciolo**

Lawyer by training, Giorgio joined the UNDP Arab regional programme for the prevention of HIV/AIDS. After some time working in the coordination of activities for the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims within MENA. He joined Dignity-Danish Institute Against Torture in 2012.



**Tony Daly**

Co-ordinator of the NGO 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World based in Ireland, programme manager of the developmenteducation.ie consortium and board member of Fairtrade Ireland. Tony teaches and supports popular education on human development, human rights and active citizenship.



**Dilyana Giteva**

An attorney at the "Center for Legal Aid – Voice in Bulgaria". She is actively engaged in counseling, litigation and representation of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in front of administrative authorities and courts in Bulgaria and Europe.



**Jamila Sayouri**

Lawyer and the President of the Moroccan association Adala – Justice for the right to a fair trial. Jamila Sayouri is also a member of the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights (OMDH) and the Moroccan National Council for Human Rights.

**Hamdi Shaqqura**

Deputy Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights for Program Affairs. His main area of expertise is democratic development, and civil and political rights.

**Franco Uda**

Member of the National Board of the Associazione Ricreativa e Culturale Italiana (ARCI) and Vice President of ARCS (ARCI's NGO). Franco is a member of the boards of the European Civic Forum and the Solidar International Cooperation Forum. He works mostly on human rights, peace and solidarity.

**Marie-Christine Vergiat**

Vice-President of the French Human Rights League in charge of economic and social rights and migration issues. She was a member of the European Parliament (GUE) from 2009 to 2019 and has been a member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, the Subcommittee on Human Rights and the EU/Maghreb Delegation.



# Members

## Regular members

**Algeria:** SNAPAP • Collectif des familles de disparu(e)s en Algérie • Ligue Algérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LADDH) **Belgium:** CNCD 11:11:11 **Bulgaria:** Center for Legal Aid - Voice of Bulgaria **Cyprus:** Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism (KISA) • Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies - MIGS **Croatia:** Center for Peace Studies (CPS) **Czech Republic:** People in Need **Denmark:** KVINFO • Dignity • Danish Institute for Human Rights **Egypt:** Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Non Violence Studies • Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance (CEWLA) • Egyptian Human Rights Forum (EHRF) • New Woman Foundation **Finland:** Tampere Peace Research Institute **France:** Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes • Ligue de l'Enseignement • Ligue des Droits de l'Homme (LDH) **Greece:** Greek Council for Refugees • Greek Committee for International Democratic Society (EEDDA) **Ireland:** 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World **Israel/OPT:** Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) • Al-Haq • Al Mezan Center for Human Rights • The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI) • ADALAH, The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel • B'Tselem • Kayan Feminist Organisation • Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) **Italy:** Italian Refugee Council (CIR) • ARCI - Associazione Ricreativa Culturale Italiana Jordan: Mizan for Law • Sisterhood is Global Institute/ Jordan (SIGI/J) • Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARRD - Legal Aid) **Lebanon:** ALEF - Act for human rights • Anti-Racism Movement Lebanon (ARM) • Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH) • Palestinian Human Rights Organisation in Lebanon (PHRO) **Morocco/Western Sahara:** Adala-Justice • Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains (OMDH) • Espace Associatif • Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH) • Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM) **Portugal:** Liga Portuguesa dos Direitos Humanos – Civitas **Spain:** Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado (CEAR) • Human Rights Institute of Catalonia • Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos • Internationalisme, Solidarité et Féminisme (SUDS) **Sweden:** Kvinna till Kvinna **Syria:** Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies • Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)

**Tunisia:** Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux (FTDES) • Comité pour le Respect des Libertés et des Droits de l'Homme en Tunisie (CRLDHT) • Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH) • Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates (ATFD) • Fédération des Tunisiens pour une Citoyenneté des Deux Rives (FTCR) **Turkey:** Citizens Assembly • Human Rights Association **United Kingdom:** Solicitors International Human Rights Group (SIHRG) • Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales | **Regional:** • Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) • Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) • African and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA) • European Association for the Defence of Human Rights (AEDH) • Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI) • Mediterranean Citizen's Assembly Foundation (MCAF)

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Amnesty International • Association for the Prevention of Torture • International Federation for Human Rights • Human Rights Watch • Norwegian Helsinki Committee • World Organisation Against Torture • Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

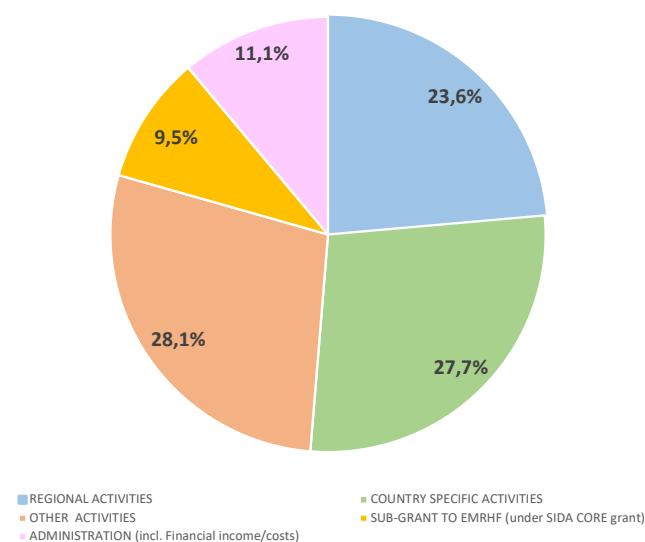
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# Financial Overview

Expenses 2021

<u>Thematic approaches</u>	EUR	%
Women's Rights and Gender Equality	196.424	5,3%
Shrinking Space/Majalat	283.997	7,7%
Migration	251.370	6,8%
Economic & Social Rights	135.730	3,7%
<b>TOTAL REGIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>867.521</b>	<b>23,6%</b>
<u>Country approaches</u>		
Tunisia	664.964	18,1%
Algeria	54.062	1,5%
Egypt	91.570	2,5%
Palestine, Israel & the Palestinians	126.991	3,5%
Morocco	72.532	2,0%
Turkey	7.500	0,2%
<b>TOTAL COUNTRY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>1.017.619</b>	<b>27,7%</b>
<u>Other activities</u>		
Advocacy & Training	240.371	6,5%
Project Monitoring & Evaluation	78.742	2,1%
Communication	262.667	7,1%
Executive Bodies	165.066	4,5%
Fundraising	173.812	4,7%
Human resources	113.479	3,1%
<b>TOTAL OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>1.034.137</b>	<b>28,1%</b>
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2.919.277</b>	<b>79,3%</b>
Administration (incl. Financial income/costs)	409.185	11,1%
Sub-grant to EMHRF (under SIDA CORE grant)	350.771	9,5%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>3.679.233</b>	<b>100,0%</b>



# Donors

EuroMed Rights would like to acknowledge and thank the following donors for their financial support:

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