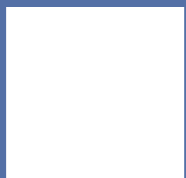


ANNUAL REPORT

2023



JUNE 2024



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Bibliographic Information

Title: EuroMed Rights Annual Report 2023
Author: EuroMed Rights
Date of initial publication: June 2024
Pages: 36
ISBN: EAN 9788792990996
Original Language: English

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FOREWORD

BY THE PRESIDENT
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Until the fall of 2023, it looked as if the geopolitical trends that over the past decades had created a new normalcy in Euro-Mediterranean would continue: Authoritarian governments in the Middle East had crushed the aspirations born in the Arab Spring a decade earlier. Ushered in by the US and wealthy Gulf monarchies, governments throughout the region had begun normalizing their relations with Israel – a move that observers agreed undermined what was left of regional push for delivering justice to the Palestinians. The never-ending proxy-wars, which had grown out of the rivalry between growing middle powers in the Persian Gulf, also seemed to dry out as Iran and Saudi-Arabia looked for a new entente. Finally, the EU and major European powers kept increasing their pragmatic collaboration with the authoritarian governments in the South in a quest to deliver on populist promises of immigration-stop politics and to focus their attention and resources on boosting defense capabilities to withstand an expected further Russian onslaught. As illustrated by Tunisia’s slow but persistent slide into authoritarianism and the devastating humanitarian catastrophe provoked by the civil war in Sudan, this new normalcy promised little hope for human right defenders and pro-democracy activists.

The massive war crimes committed by the Israeli military in Gaza after Hamas’ deadly attacks on October 7 – war crimes that the world’s highest court, ICJ, later estimated were likely to meet the threshold of the worst of all crimes, genocide – would already in late 2023 hammer cracks into the new geopolitical order of the Euro-Mediterranean region. As the war in Gaza kept grinding, as civilian death



tolls kept rising, and man-made starvation and human suffering leapt deeper into the abyss as weeks of suffering turned to months, the question of justice for Palestine came to dominate the foreign policy agenda, not just in the region but globally. The political effects of the reemergence of the Palestinian question are enormous. For starters, normalization with Israel has been put on hold – for now at least. Iran’s partners and proxies have taken up arms again –initially at a limited scale. And an unprecedented popular mobilization for justice in Palestine has swept through the Euro-Mediterranean region and beyond.

It is still early days to characterize how a new regional order will work. But a few features seem clear enough. First, the EU and several of its core member states have – momentarily, at least - lost their credibility as beacons for the struggle for human rights and democracy. The prompt diplomatic, material and moral support given to Israel and its warfare by EU and key member states in late 2023 despite compelling evidence of massive war crimes squandered the fruits of year-long partnerships and relation-building in the South. Rebuilding will require time and resources. Authoritarian governments in the MENA region have, for the first time in a long while, found a cause that provides them with national leverage. Authoritarian elites have kicked in open doors and mobilized unseen popular support by posing as defenders of the rights of the Palestinians against Israel and its international allies. Despite decades of negligence of the Palestinian question, they have successfully capitalized on the popular moral indignation and rage generated by Israel’s unsanctioned war crimes in Gaza, on the West Bank, and in 1948 Israel. Finally, an increasingly unsafe Europe, threatened by great power warfare, is closing in on itself. Increasingly guided by nationalist parties that only a few years ago would have been denied access to political decision-making, Europe is fortifying its borders, and strengthening its security alliances on the expense of everything else – from migrants and refugees to past allies in the human rights movement. If we believe that the previous geopolitical order looked difficult for human rights defenders and pro-democracy activists, the new one promises lots of fighting and a few, hard wins.

In such times, however, our mission as defenders of human rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region stand out clearer than ever. We might be protecting more than promoting. But we know why.

As this annual report testifies, we did our part during 2023 to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among defenders, to push hard on decision-makers, and to mobilize support outside the narrow circle of friends and allies. Looking towards 2024, we know that there will be no sanctuary. But there will be lots of opportunities to stand firm, to raise the bar, and to fight to defend our common values.

Luckily, 2024 is the year that we for the first time in 6 years gather all our members and key stakeholders at the Network’s General Assembly, which will be held in mid-October Rome. We’re looking forward to taking part in electing a new Executive Committee and a new President, and to confirm our common will to prevail.

WADIH EL ASMAR
President

RASMUS ALENIUS BOSERUP
Executive Director

ABOUT EUROMED RIGHTS

EuroMed Rights is one of the largest and most active networks of human rights organisations in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Founded in 1997, EuroMed Rights encompasses 68 organisations from 30 countries. Its work is aimed at promoting and protecting human rights and democracy in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean regions and at influencing the policies of major European actors towards these areas.

OUR VISION AND MISSION

EuroMed Rights' vision is human rights and democracy for all in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Its mission is to strengthen the collaboration between human rights organisations from the South, the East and the North of the Mediterranean, and to increase their influence at home and abroad. This mission is achieved by facilitating the creation of joint strategies and action plans between members, and by conveying their shared analyses and views to decision-makers and to the public. In its 2022-2027 strategy, alongside its regular work on Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, EuroMed Rights identifies five key political goals:

- Reinforced Migration and Asylum Rights
- Advanced Gender Equality
- Increased Accountability, Justice and Space for Civil Society
- Strengthened Democracy and Fundamental Freedoms
- Enhanced Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

In parallel, EuroMed Rights strives to achieve five organisational goals:

- Energising its Member Base
- Increasing its Visibility and Impact
- Reducing its Carbon Footprint
- Improving its Financial Sustainability and Diversification
- Improving Internal Learning

OUR WORKING METHODS

EuroMed Rights works through, for and in collaboration with its members. Besides, we engage with hundreds of other civil society organisations and with 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 for our work. We use the results of the monitoring and analysis to strengthen the capacities and understanding of our members on specific issues and processes. We also use them 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 a broad number of working groups, in which our members meet with their peers and with 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 our members and partners. Our advocacy actions target international bodies such as the EU, as well as both regional and national governments including the 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. We systematically conduct gender mainstreaming throughout our work and ensure 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 our programmes

POLITICAL GOALS

INTRODUCTION

As in the previous two years, the political results achieved by EuroMed Rights in 2023 reflect the strategic goals and objectives stipulated in the Network's six years strategy document adopted by its General Assembly in 2021 as well as ad hoc strategic decisions taken by the Network's 12-members Executive Committee. The Network's ability to deliver up against these goals, objectives and priorities is, however, constrained both by the resources available and by the ever-changing dynamics of Euro-Mediterranean politics. As spelled out in the introduction of this report, the overall trends in 2023, were worrying for organizations like EuroMed Rights who work to promote and protect the universality and indivisibility of human right as well as the promotion of liberal democratic governance. In Europe and in the Middle East and North Africa, freedoms and rights continued a decade-long decline. With the lockdowns of the Covid19 Pandemic well behind us, with the war with Russia contained to Russia, and with skyrocketing inflation showing promises of flattening, 2023 initially looked as if it would be the first year with a return to a true well known "normal". Hence, most of the results reported here relate how EMR throughout 2023 continued its decade-long struggle to stem the tide of violent authoritarian restoration in the Middle East and North Africa while fighting back against the equally enduring spread of right-wing populism in Europe. The brutal attacks by Hamas on Israeli soldiers and civilians on October 7 and the horrifying ensuing Israeli war on Gaza that from its early start set out to violate all established international treaties and conventions had already by November 2023 made it clear that nothing would be as in the past. Although the conflict only took off in the last quarter of 2023, its impact on the activities of the Network can be read in the results reporting – and in the challenges that the Network faced for its work by the end of the year. While these troubling effects are likely to grow even bigger in 2024, they also reconfirm for us and for our members and partners that rarely has there been a time in the EuroMed region where the work to protect and if possible one day promote human rights and liberal democratic government remains acutely important.

POLITICAL GOAL 1: REINFORCED MIGRATION AND ASYLUM RIGHTS

EuroMed Rights' primarily addresses the lack rights for migrants and Asylum seekers through its regional and thematic program on Migration and Asylum Rights, as to a lesser degree through its Morocco program.

Renewed donor support and new actors included.

On 20 - 21 October, the Association des Medecins Legistes from Morocco and the LABANOF Institute from Italy, two medical CSOs, took part for the first time in the EuroMed Rights' 'Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Identification and Search Procedures for Missing Migrants in the Maghreb' held in Rabat, Morocco. On this occasion links between professional organizations and different civil societies at the regional level, which face similar difficulties in identifying the remains of migrants at sea and on land, were created and reinforced. EuroMed Rights furthermore renewed its commitment to work on the issue for the coming two years by renewing a grant agreement with a donor.



Political decisionmakers reach out: EMR's expertise on migration acknowledged.

On several occasions, the Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) of the European Parliament invited EuroMed Rights to intervene as civil society representative in hearings on the external dimension of the rescue at sea in the Mediterranean and externalisation policies. Through these interventions EuroMed Rights reconfirmed its position as an actor with qualitative and authoritative messaging on these issues. In recent years, EuroMed Rights has commented extensively on migration issues in the Central Mediterranean, including on the aspect of Search and Rescue, missing migrants and cooperation with third countries such as Tunisia and Libya. EuroMed Rights has also published several analyses on these topics, and issued press releases, joint statements and delivered interviews to media outlets.

On 29 November, members of the European Commission (DG NEAR) and of the European Parliament, during the launch of EuroMed Rights' report "Beyond borders, beyond boundaries - a critical analysis of EU financial support for border control in Tunisia and Libya"¹, intervened as speakers, answered questions based on the report's findings and engaged in dialogue with civil society demanding more transparency of the use of EU funds for migration. The outcome contributes to the Migration and Asylum Program's mid-term objectives 2024, of improved cooperation between civil society representatives and Members of the European Parliament on monitoring the use of funds in projects related to the implementation of border control externalization policies, as well as Strengthened role and awareness by the European Parliament on the need for transparency and accountability of the European budget dedicated to the external dimension of its migration policies and border management.

Artificial Intelligence Act: Safeguards suggested by CS included.

On 8 December, EU negotiators included civil society recommendations during the final political agreement on the AI Act held in Brussels. The outcome reveals that in a context of shrinking space for migrants' rights and increasing militarisation of EU's external borders, negotiators from the EU Parliament were responsive to civil society, including EuroMed Rights', demands and included important safeguards in the Artificial Intelligence Act in the field of migration and law enforcement that had not initially been included. The coalition of civil society organizations including EuroMed Rights, Access Now, EDRi, PICUM, Statewatch and others² also influenced the position of EU negotiators through advocacy and communication activities especially targeting the EU Parliament. EuroMed Rights contributed to this by following the advocacy actions of the #ProtectNotSurveil coalition.

On 14 June, the European Parliament adopted the Artificial Intelligence Act and in its final positions, it accepted a number of amendments proposed by the civil society coalition #ProtectNotSurveil, which EuroMed Rights is part of.

Media request acknowledging our expertise on migration.

On 9 March, the Italian media channel Rainews24 invited EuroMed Rights to its TV studio and live program "SpotLive" on the situation in Tunisia. It is the first time that EuroMed Rights has been invited for an interview by one of the main televised media channels in Italy (Rainews24). EuroMed Rights is recognized as an important actor in the field of migration related to Tunisia. The interview was topical given the recent crackdown on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in

¹ <https://www.greens-efa.eu/en/article/study/beyond-borders-beyond-boundaries>
² see coalition's webpage: <https://protectnotsurveil.eu/>

Tunisia, also following the President's racist declaration against Sub-Saharan African migrants on 21 February. Over the last years, the Migration Programme of EuroMed Rights has developed a strong network among journalists, both within the EU and outside by giving interviews, pitching articles and conducting media outreach. On several occasions, when news break in the field of migration, EuroMed Rights is contacted to give interviews.

On 15 and 16 June, three Italian media (Rai Radio3, Radio In Blu and Redattore Sociale) and two French media (Mediapart and France24) interviewed EuroMed Rights following a shipwreck off Greece on 14 June. Rai Radio 3 and Radio in Blu are important Italian outlets, and France24 is a leading televised news agency in France. Mediapart and Redattore Sociale are also important media at the EU level, with a broad audience of Italian- and French-speaking followers. EuroMed Rights is considered as an important actor in the migration field to comment and react on migration-related topical news and events. This shipwreck off Greece was one of the biggest shipwrecks that has happened in the Mediterranean Sea in the past years, where more than 600 people lost their lives or gone missing, due to the omission of rescue policies of Greece, Italy and Malta. The boat had departed from Eastern Libya, which is a recent route that saw an increase in departures.

Monitoring the EU use of its budget on migration: EMR and partners as important actors

On 11 April, the Greens/EFA political group in the European Parliament granted a tender for a study to Profundo, ActionAid, ARCI and EuroMed Rights. The study will focus on increasing transparency and accountability on the use of the EU financial instrument, Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe), for the external dimension of migration. This contributes to objectives of EuroMed Rights' Migration Program strategy to monitor the use of the EU budget for migration and to advocate for increasing transparency and accountability. This



study is the first of its kind and it comes at a topical moment, ahead of the mid-term review of the NDICI-Global Europe funding instrument in mid-2024. EuroMed Rights has facilitated the contact between the Greens/EFA political group in the European Parliament and its members and partners Profundo, ActionAid and ARCI, through regular physical and online meetings and exchanges.

POLITICAL GOAL 2: ADVANCED GENDER EQUALITY

EuroMed Rights' primarily addresses the lack of gender equality and the continuity of gender-based violence through its regional thematic programs on women's rights and Gender Justice as well as through its Tunisia program. In 2023, the Network also created a taskforce to facilitate the Network's work on LGBTQI+++ issues. As part of its gender mainstreaming efforts the Network also launched a gender language glossary.

EU's recognition of EMR and partners' work in relation to the GAP and the Istanbul Convention to combat violence against women

EuroMed Rights has provided interviews and participated in a CSO consultation related to the Mid-term review of the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III, organised by the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA). ConCord, the European confederation of NGO working on sustainable development and international cooperation agreed to incorporate a case study on the implementation of GAP III in Morocco in their parallel report on GAP III³. On 1 June, the EU acceded to The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. This accession has been an important and long-standing objective of international

³ The report was launched on the 21st June 2023 from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU at Rue Ducale 93, 1000 Bruxelles, and online

women's rights and feminist movements in Europe since 2017, and the European Coalition against VAW, to which EuroMed belongs, has been doing proactive advocacy on this issue. EuroMed Rights also had an OP-ed published in the EU Observer, who had otherwise been silent on the issue. It comes at an important moment when anti-gender movements are gaining ground. Although six member countries have not yet ratified the convention, as it is a legally binding instrument, all EU member states will have to report on it.

Combatting femicide through an inter-generational approach

On 8-9 December, feminist organizations from Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco set up a joint action plan to improve inter-generational efforts to combat feminicides. This outcome reflects a comprehensive and collaborative approach to address violence against women in the Maghreb region. It acknowledges the interconnectedness of the issue, emphasizes cultural sensitivity, and seeks to create lasting change by uniting feminist organizations across borders. Furthermore, focusing on violence across generations underscores the long-lasting impact of gender-based violence on individuals and communities. By addressing the issue comprehensively, the joint action plan aims to break the cycle of violence and create a more equitable and just society for present and future generations.

Co-creation to combat violence against women in Tunisia and protect women from economic violence

On 16 February, the Tunisian National Observatory for the Fight against violence against women⁴ requested EuroMed Rights to support its actions on the national and regional levels. EuroMed Rights has developed an expertise in capacity building of regional coordination to fight against violence against women in the regions and has developed a toolbox for their functioning.

On 21 November, representatives of the Tunisian ministries of youth and culture invited EuroMed Rights to set up a follow-up mechanism to regularly monitor how resources are being used to train educators in the fight against gender-based violence to assess its efficiency. This ensures that educators acquire the skills needed to fulfill their missions in the fields of youth and culture in relation to combatting Gender based violence.

On 2 March, the Tunisian Ministry of Women's Affairs committed to including EuroMed Droits in the steering committee for the implementation of Law 37, which pertains to the organization of domestic work. This committee is composed of representatives of several Ministries, and only includes two civil society organisations. This enables cooperation between government entities and civil society organizations to raise awareness and provide training to targeted women on a framework aimed at protecting women from economic violence.

Integration of LGTBIQ++ rights

During EuroMed Rights' Executive Committee (EC) meeting on 8-10 June, members agreed to create a dedicated taskforce to seek ways to enhance the Network's work on LGBTQI+ issues. The taskforce will comprise three members of the EC, three representatives of member organisations, and three members of secretariat. It will be tasked to work transversally across the Network.

On 6 May, on the occasion of the Mashrek-Maghreb Seminar on Gender Discriminating Laws, two

⁴ It's the Tunisian public institution in charge of implementing, monitoring the national strategy against GBV and coordinating the regional bodies



LGBTQ+ oriented civil society organizations (Kasbah Tal Fin, Groupe des Jeunes Femmes pour la Démocratie) joined the discussion. For more information on integration of LGBTIQ organisations in our work, see the different programs.

Gender-inclusive language tools

EuroMed Rights produced a glossary and a handbook, providing EuroMed Rights and its service providers with resources to communicate in a gender-inclusive manner in the three official languages of the Network.⁵

Networking around Anti-gender narratives: Need for a strong united civil society to propose an alternative

On 23 November, 20 young people contributed to the creation of new narratives to counter anti-gender discourses in the framework of the festival Talk Town, in Copenhagen. The aim of the event organised in collaboration with LGBTQ DK was to analyse the current state of play of anti-gender movements and far-right extremism in the EuroMed region and to build new narratives to counter hate discourses. It was a networking opportunity providing cross regional synergies between representative of CSO across the Euro-Mediterranean region and gathering activists and experts on anti-gender movements from the ground as well as activists from Turkey (Women for Women's Human Rights), Tunisia (Mawjoudin) and Spain (L'associació dels Drets Sexuals i Reproductius).

⁵ The products are available in Arabic, English and French.



POLITICAL GOAL 3: INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY, JUSTICE AND SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

EuroMed Rights' primarily addresses the lack of accountability, rule of law, impunity and the shrinking space for civil society through its national programs on Turkey, Morocco, Egypt and through its program on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians.



TURKEY

In the framework of its current Turkey Project, EuroMed Rights facilitated two Coordination Group meeting among representatives of Turkish civil society with expertise in the field of impunity and accountability. These meetings have allowed for representatives to meet, exchange ideas and best practices and to team up to carry out joint work. A case in point was the encounter that took place on 17 June in the framework of the Coordination Group meeting in Istanbul. Here two members⁶ of the Coordination Group (CG) agreed to join forces with EuroMed Rights (EMR) and work on a joint special report on the politicisation of the judiciary and patterns of promotion and appointments of public prosecutors and judges. The report should analyse publicly available documents and data

⁶ MLSA and Amnesty Turkey



published by the ministry of justice. The politicization of the judiciary represents a major obstacle to accountability in Turkey. Any legal procedure must first obtain the authorisation of authorities to be initiated, and lack of impartiality and appointment of politically charged figures as public prosecutors are common practice. As cases of human rights violations are usually politically sensitive and members of the judiciary at various level frequently take political interest in these, this represents a powerful tool to obstruct justice and shield perpetrators. In this was it contributes to the erosion of rule of law in the country and undermines the trust in democratic institutions and values in Turkey. To rebuild a human rights-based system EMR Turkey program ensures monitoring and documentation of the human rights situation in Turkey including in particular judicial proceedings. EMR has initiated the decision to draft the report and will coordinate the input from the other participants.

On 17 June, in the Framework of the Coordination Group meeting in Istanbul, EuroMed Rights (EMR) and ÜniKuir, an organisation working on LGBTQI+ university students agreed on working together on a mapping study on LGBTQI+ organisations in Turkey. Two years after the withdrawal of Turkey from the Istanbul convention, LGBTQI+ persons continue to face harassment, including from the national authorities. The Anti-LGBT sentiment has been on the rise for the past years and has resulted in the systematic banning of Pride marches, arbitrary detention of pro-LGBTQI+ activists and closure of LGBTQI+ associations. In his first discourse after re-election in May 2023, President Erdoğan targeted queer and trans people, seemingly positioning the troubling stance of the new government on LGBTQI+ rights. In this climate of intolerance, mapping the violations against the basic rights of LGBTQI+ activists and organisation is essential for preparing evidence-based data for advocacy and accountability initiatives.

On 27 November, the EU Delegation in Ankara (EUD) and EuroMed Rights (EMR) signed the contract for a new three years grant under the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy to the consortium formed by EMR, Human Rights Organisation - İHD and Human Rights Joint Platform -KAGED/İHOP on fighting impunity in Turkey. The strengthening of the authoritarian rule and the politicisation of the judicial system in Turkey have resulted in the progressive erosion of fundamental rights and freedoms in every aspect of life. Persecution of CSOs and individual Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), human rights abuses, judicial arbitrariness and poor law enforcement have become common praxes in Turkey. Reversing this trend requires effective cooperation and a comprehensive approach to move towards the re-establishment of a rule of law system that ensures fundamental rights and freedoms for all, and to promote effective accountability mechanisms at the national and international level. EMR is the lead applicant to the call. It carried out a series of scoping missions in the months previous to the application, in order to find the most suitable partners to implement the different parts of the project and submitted the application to EUD. EMR was the main actor drafting the project proposal and budget and the contact point for EUD for the signature of the contract.

EGYPT

EuroMed Rights pursued its advocacy and communication work to shed light on the ongoing human rights violations in Egypt. The Network also facilitated the gathering of key human rights organisations from inside and outside Egypt and INGOs in an Egypt Solidarity Group.

On 20 February, the Belgian Chamber of Representatives adopted a resolution aiming to defend human rights in Egypt. This is the first time that an EU national parliament adopts a resolution that denounces human rights violations in Egypt, calling on the Egyptian government to respect human rights and release all political prisoners. It is important as it creates a precedent for other national parliaments and contributes to raise awareness about the current situation in Egypt which is not well known in Belgium. This led to a Belgian diplomate, ahead of assuming her new position at the Belgian Embassy in Cairo reaching out to EuroMed Rights for a briefing. In addition, the resolution lays the ground for further advocacy work before the Belgian authorities to lead a joint statement on the situation of human rights in Egypt at one of the UNHRC sessions in light of the decline of many countries to support such initiative.

On 5 October, the European Parliament (EP) adopted a resolution on the sentencing of activist Hisham Kassem ahead of the Presidential Elections of December 2023. The resolution focuses on the case of the activist and the pre-elections restrictive environment witnessing an increased crackdown on all critical voices and harassment of potential presidential candidates. This is the second resolution adopted by the EP on the situation of human rights in Egypt in less than a year and the fourth one in the past five years (2019, 2020, 2022, 2023) keeping the human rights crisis in Egypt on the EP's agenda. EuroMed Rights has been active on the case of Hisham Kassem joining an international campaign calling his release and contacting Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to mobilise on the issue including a Green MEP, who was behind the motion for this resolution.



The network also provided support to relocated human rights defenders. For instance, on 5 June, an Egyptian human rights defender (HRD) who temporarily relocated to Lebanon, obtained a humanitarian visa for France and managed to travel to France on 9 June. EuroMed Rights has been following his case since the defender managed to relocate to Lebanon from Egypt in November 2022. The case was discussed extensively with other partners in the framework of EMR-led monthly relocation coordination call for supporting HRDs. EuroMed Rights has been supporting the application process by providing the defender with a reference letter and by helping the defender to find a host organisation in France. On the day of the defender's arrest in Beirut, EuroMed Rights contributed to mounting the international pressure on the case with a member of the European Parliament (MEP) who agreed to support the case by contacting the French Embassy in Beirut. The international pressure that followed the arrest helped to speed up the verification of a humanitarian visa for the defender enabling the defender to relocate to France shortly after.

On 19 September, the Egyptian authorities released the father of Human Rights defender Ahmed Gamal Ziada after arresting him in August 2023 due to his son's human rights and journalistic work. On 19 October 2023, the HRD Fajr El-Adly's father has been released after being arrested in August 2023 due to his daughter's activism. Following the arrest, EuroMed Rights joined the advocacy efforts highlighting the cases for EU officials and the EU Delegation in Egypt.



ISRAEL, PALESTINE AND THE PALESTINIANS

The EuroMed Rights Working Group on Israel, Palestine and the Palestinians (PIP) has focused its work on shrinking space, accountability and self-determination both before and during Hamas' October 7 attack and Israel's ensuing and ongoing war on Gaza.

On 22 March, Middle East Monitor (MEMO) invited EuroMed Rights for a 45-minute podcast on the EU and its relationship with Palestine. In the interview EuroMed Rights stressed that in the light of the openly pro-annexation positions of the new Israeli government, international powers and donors such as the EU should firmly oppose any attempt for Israel to ignore its obligations under international law. It also stressed that making good use of its vast array of economic and political

tools to redress Israel's behaviour. On 20 February, EuroMed Rights and its PIP Working Group published an op-ed on similar topics on MEMO's webpage. Following the interest brought up by this article, EuroMed Rights was directly invited by MEMO for an interview. MEMO is a known media source in the MENA region dealing with Middle Eastern politics.

On 27 May, the Likud ruling party in Israel shelved a law proposal that would result in heavy taxation of foreign financial contributions to Israeli CSOs (up to 60%), possibly ending their capacity to operate. Currently, foreign contributions to Israeli CSOs are not taxed by the Israeli state, allowing them to operate at their best capacity. EuroMed Rights program on Palestine Israel and the Palestinians engaged in advocacy with the EU representatives in Tel Aviv and representatives of the French and Danish consulate as part of a coalition of CSOs in requesting pressure from foreign governments in requesting the Israeli government to shelve this proposal.

On 12 July 2023, the European Parliament (EP) adopted a series of recommendations to the Council, the European Commission (EC) and the Commission Vice President/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on Relations with the Palestinian Authority. The adopted text contains a number of recommendations⁷. EuroMed Rights contributed to oral discussions in preparation of these recommendations, upon the invitation of the report's rapporteur on 18 November 2022. One of EuroMed Right's recommendations was to include references to all power asymmetry between the Israeli authorities and the Palestinian Authority. Then, in January 2024, EuroMed Rights was asked by Greens/EFA advisor to propose amendments to the draft report and provided its input in writing. One suggested amendment is reflected in the adopted text.⁸

On 9 December, the governments of Belgium, Malta, Spain and Ireland collectively called for a ceasefire in Gaza and expressed their concerns of possible violations of international law taking place during the Israeli attacks against Gaza. Furthermore, the 4 countries expressed their interest in a letter addressed to EU Council President Charles Michel in calling for an EU peace summit to discuss the necessity of a humanitarian ceasefire for Gaza. More than two months after 7 October, Israel's indiscriminate retaliation on Gaza continued to claim horrifying numbers of casualties amongst the Palestinian population in Gaza and other parts of the occupied Palestinian territories. The Israeli government had established a tightened siege in Gaza, cutting access to food, water, fuel and medicine. It also employed other unlawful means and methods that could amount to collective punishment⁹. The Israeli warfare on Gaza in all likelihood transgresses international law and contravenes the United Nations Charter, multiple resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the Geneva Conventions.

On 16 November, UN experts said that the "grave violations committed by Israel against Palestinians in the aftermath of 7 October, particularly in Gaza, point to a genocide in the making". This credibility of the risk is supported by the dehumanizing rhetoric employed by high-ranking Israeli government officials who have publicly and repeatedly characterized their retaliation against Hamas as a conflict

⁷ Such as: including: * call for targeted EU measures against Israeli settlements * strong support for ICC investigation * call on Israel to withdraw terrorist designations of Palestinian NGOs and threat to cut & redirect EU funds for PA Interior Ministry over PA's human rights abuses * support for "in principle" recognition of Palestinian statehood * request for EU legal opinion on Israeli transfer of powers over West Bank to Smotrich * demand compensation for destruction of EU-funded projects * insists that Israel pays for needs of Palestinians under its occupation rather than leaving the burden to int'l donors * notes that Israel hasn't reciprocated Palestinian recognition of Israel and Pal. calls for peace talks & 2 States solution * notes reports on systemic oppression & discrimination against Palestinians and different laws for settlers & Palestinian

⁸ EuroMed Rights suggested to include "whereas the viability of the two-state solution is more threatened than ever by these developments". This was partially reflected in the final adopted text in para (y), highlighting that the recent developments (settlement expansion, family evictions and house demolitions) are a major impediment to the viability of the two state solution. The original draft prepared by MEP Incir and sent to EuroMed Rights in January 2023 included one recommendation to "continue to underline that Israeli settlements in the oPt are illegal; call for an end to all actions that undermine the viability of the two-state solution on the ground". Despite attempt from right-wing MEPs to dilute the text, most of their proposals were not accepted.

⁹ including [forcible] (https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/21896.html) population transfers, [starvation] (https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/21830.html), and the use of [white phosphorus in densely populated areas] (https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/12/israel-white-phosphorus-used-gaza-lebanon)

pitting and referred to Palestinians as “[human animals]. On the very same day, the UN Security Council adopted [resolution 2712], finally calling for “urgent and extended” humanitarian pauses in Gaza. Any effort pushing towards a ceasefire is of utmost importance. Such announcement comes after a constant and systematic strategy of advocacy from EuroMed Right’s program on Palestine, Israel and the Palestinians in collaboration with a wide group of likeminded CSOs. Since the 7 of October, EuroMed Rights contacted relevant policymakers in the European Union and member states, ahead of important discussions such as the extraordinary European Council meeting of 17 October 2023 and the European Council of 26 October and VP/HR debate in the European Parliament of 22 November, urging them to agree on a ceasefire. EuroMed Rights also conducted a joint advocacy mission in Brussels with CIDSE, Al Mezan and PHRO, from 23 to 27 October 2023, calling, among other things, for an immediate ceasefire.

POLITICAL GOAL 4: STRENGTHENED DEMOCRACY AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

EuroMed Rights’ primarily addresses the lack of democracy and fundamental freedoms in the EuroMed Region through its regional coalition – the Majalat program, as well as through its national programs in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

MAJALAT II: EU STRUCTURED DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

On 3 November, 5 of the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) for 2023-2026 signed by the DG Near, published a joint statement on the importance of maintaining a political dialogue between the EU institutions and civil society in the region, based on common values and universalities of rights. In a context where the formal dialogue with the European institutions is becoming more technical and less political the statement insisted on putting politics first. On 15 November 2023, the European Commission (EC) approved the new proposal by the 5 FPAs related to the 2024 roadmap for the structured regional dialogue in Brussels. The FPAs defined a roadmap for a more effective regional dialogue that does not focus solely on the exercise of organising a big one-off event but insists on putting in place a real and meaningful dialogue on sensitive issues in a more context-specific format, through informal and closed-door meetings. Against the background of upcoming parliamentary elections and changes in the Commission, the regional dialogue moves towards a diversification of advocacy targets beyond the Commission for greater impact.



TUNISIA: DEFENDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND RULE OF LAW

On 17 January, the Civil Committee for the Independence of the Judiciary joined forces with the Coalition of International Organizations for the Reform of the Judiciary to set up a common dynamic. In the face of regressions of the achievements of the rule of law and the necessary guarantees for the separation of powers, the international coalition has been formed to defend these guarantees. In parallel, the civil committee for the independence of justice was formed during the dismissal of 57 judges and the arbitrary dissolution of the High Judiciary Council. Euromed Rights organized an advocacy mission on the independence of the judiciary with the civil committee and the international coalition as well as two workshops to elaborate the concept note and the program of the international seminar on 20 May.

On February 14, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights called on Tunisia to respect rights and freedoms in Tunisia. A week later, on February 22, 2023, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell called on the Tunisian government to open up to the Tunisian democratic forces. On March 22, 2023, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers Margaret Satterthwaite agreed to speak at the conference on

the independence of the judiciary. In September two members of the European Parliament issued a statement regarding the situation of rights and freedoms. These actions all contributed to the advocacy efforts undertaken by EuroMed Rights.

On 20 May 2022, 37 national and international CSOs, human rights defenders and actors for the independence of the judiciary united for the conference and called for the respect of the rule of law and democracy in Tunisia. 10 EU embassies, including those of Canada and UK, showed their support by sharing the event on their social media platforms. 40 international and national media and press outlets covered and communicated on the event.

EuroMed Rights continued its effort supporting the independent public oversight institutions (henceforth referred to as “instances”) in Tunisia. On 9 March 2023, the national library and the national archive agreed on a research work with the national independent instance for torture prevention in Tunisia.

On 14 March, the independent public instances on access to information, for protection of personal data, for torture prevention, and for fighting human trafficking in the regions of Tunisia, agreed with local CSOs, that these CSOs will act as focal points for citizen’s access to these instances in the regions, despite the fact that the instances have no legal rights to a presence in the regions. The efforts support EuroMed Rights’ goal of promoting decentralisation of democracy and freedoms. EuroMed Rights committed a mapping of civil society organizations relevant to national independent instances’ work. The mapped organisations committed to be focal points for the national independent instances in the regions. The culture of the rights defended by the said institutions will be disseminated by regional organizations. In addition, this enhances the access of citizens in the regions to know their rights through these focal points.

On 28 July, the national independent instance for the protection of personal data launched an operational website facilitating the communication and online presence. The website enhances the visibility and influence of the aforementioned entity. This is the first time that the national personal data protection body has had a fully operational website.

On August 23, a journalist from the 8 p.m. news on national television asked EuroMed Rights for technical support in the production of 2 reports on bread shortage in Tunisia and falsified school and/or university diplomas from a human rights perspective. This is an outcome of the trainers’ training session held on 23 June on accountability for journalistic work, followed by tailored assistance offered to these journalists.

ALGERIA

In 2023, EuroMed Rights continued to facilitate spaces for Algerian civil society organisations to meet and engage in joint advocacy.

On 25 January, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association published a joint declaration on the decision of dissolution of Rassemblement Action Jeunesse (RAJ). Prior to this declaration, EuroMed Rights had published a statement on the situation of RAJ. EuroMed Rights also conducted several communication initiatives in this regard.

On 11 May, the European Parliament released a resolution on the human right situation in Algeria, with a focus on the case of the journalist Ihsane Al Kadi. This resolution was released following Mr. Said Salhi’s (member of the dissolved Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights and member of EuroMed Rights) intervention at the European Parliament human rights sub-commission session that took place on 21 March 2023. The event signalled that the EP took position on the increasingly alarming human rights situation in Algeria.

On 14 September, 15 national and international organizations published a joint press release coinciding with the visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association to Algeria 16-25 September. The joint statement served as a reminder of the current situation in the country and an urging message to the Algerian authorities to adhere to the recommendations often voiced by the civil society, and brought together civil society actors in Algeria and the diaspora as well as several international organizations that rarely collaborate jointly on the Algeria situation of human rights. Being addressed collectively to a UN mechanism, it has proven to be a strong initiative for leverage.

In November, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Mary Lawlor adopted the report submitted by EuroMed Rights and 11 national and international organizations prior to a visit to Algeria that took place on 25 November 2023. This joint initiative provided an opportunity to mobilise solidarity among Algeria members of EuroMed Rights’ Algeria Solidarity Group and it showcased the quality of its work as it was incorporated into the respective report of the special rapporteur. Furthermore, on 4 December, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, Mrs. Mary Lawlor accompanied the activists Kaddour Chouicha, his wife Jamila Loukil and Said Boudour to their trial, during her country visit to Algeria. The three activists have long been facing fallacious accusations based on their human-rights-related work and EMR has raised awareness on their cases. All three activists were finally acquitted after this trial.



MOROCCO

CO-CREATION IN RELATION TO THE BILL ON ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING

On 8 June, the Government Council adopted the 43.22 bill on alternative sentencing presented by the Minister of Justice in Rabat, to, among other things, address the overcrowding in prisons. The adoption of the bill was a result of combined consultations between CSOs and other national authorities. EuroMed Rights held 2 sessions of its Justice Reform Working Group on Alternative sentencing, gathering CSOs from the Maghreb region to formulate recommendations on the issue. Following up on this, EuroMed Rights and its member Adala Association elaborated a Study on “Investments Allotted to Social Budgets in Morocco, pertaining to the Issue of Petty Offences”, as well as a memorandum on “Alternative Sentencing” with recommendation on alternative sentencing. The publications as well as the memorandum were presented to the National Council for Human Rights, the Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights, the Legislation & Human Rights Commission within the Parliament and the Socialist Union for Popular Forces’ Parliamentary Group. All these actions took place as part of the Pan African Campaign to Decriminalize Petty Offences. As a follow up, on 15-16 December 2023, the Ministry of Justice accepted to co-finance a training workshop in Marrakech on the law 43.22 on “Alternative Sentencing”, bringing together over a 100 Moroccan, Kuwaiti, Bahraini and Saudi Arabian judges and prosecutors.



POLITICAL GOAL 5: ENHANCED ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

EuroMed Rights’ addresses the lack of economic, social and cultural rights in numerous country and regional programs. The core of its work on the issue in 2023 took place, however, under the thematic ESCR program that was set-up a few years ago.

Long term work on holding military enterprises in Egypt accountable yield results

On 10 January, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released a report detailing the commitments made by the Egyptian government including the commitment to end the special status of military-owned companies which have benefited from more extensive tax exemptions than other state companies and agencies. Work done in 2022, including a joint statement by EuroMed Rights, Human Rights Watch, Civil Rights Defenders, The Freedom Initiative, The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP), Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED) and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) demanding the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to ensure that any new loan program with Egypt expands social protection, strengthens judicial independence, and addresses corruption and the need for transparency, including for military-owned businesses, have contributed to this result.

Reaching out to new actors: The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank

On 13-15 October, 7 members from the ESCR working group (Espace Associatif, Phenix, CLDH, ADFM, CNCD, CEWLA, SJP) took part in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank’s Annual Meetings, held in Marrakech. EuroMed Rights Capitalized on the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings held in Marrakech, which is the main avenue for civil society and other stakeholders to engage with these international bodies. It was the first time such meetings were held in North Africa. Members reached a new platform to convey their message on economic and social rights. This was key for EuroMed Right’s attempt to reach the ESCR programme’s mid-term objective that CSOs in the Euro-Mediterranean region have increased their capacity to monitor and engage with international financial institutions.

On 9 October, member organisations participated in a cross-regional exchange session on human rights and fiscal policy with Latin American organisations DeJusticia, Center for Economic and Social Rights and Centro de Estudios Sociales y Legales, organised during the WG Meeting in Casablanca. The Latin American CSOs coalition¹⁰ is widely recognised as a leading civil society movement that was able to achieve changes in fiscal policy making in Latin America to advance a human rights agenda. The exchange between their representatives and the members of the ESCR WG provided an opportunity to discuss what strategies could be applied in the MENA region and what are the geographically specific challenges that need to be taken into account - including, for instance, lack of democratic systems and shrinking civic space. As a follow up, on 10 October 2023, Social Justice Platform and the Lebanese Center for Human Rights shared recommendations to Spanish delegation in a meeting held during the venue of the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings, in Marrakech to discuss how to ensure human rights compliance in the International Financial Institutions’ policy conditionality.

¹⁰ (<https://www.cesr.org/principles-human-rights-fiscal-policy/>)

Co-creation in relation to economic empowerment of women in Tunisia

On February 11, 19 representatives from local authorities and 9 local associations in Tozeur jointly formulated a framework to define economic violence in the Tozeur region, thus emphasizing the importance of combating gender-based violence. The regional authorities and local civil society have identified the types of economic violence against women in the Tozeur region, agreeing that female agricultural workers as the most affected by these violence. The conceptual framework, discussed and formulated by all relevant regional departments (social affairs, women's affairs, health, the Tunisian agency for vocational training and employment), as well as local civil society, highlights various forms of exploitation, discrimination, and violence. They have also emphasized the need to establish measures to combat violence against women at the workplace. 15 fifteen national and local print and radio media outlets covered the regional roundtable in Tozeur on the topic of "economic violence against women in oasis areas: between reality and legislation."

On December 8, on the occasion of the days of activism against Gender based violence, the Swiss Cooperation in Tunisia released a video to highlight the impactful change in the lives of women who are victims of violence targeted by the project 'Support for the Fight Against Violence Against Women.' The focus of the project is on economic empowerment.

Mainstreaming

EuroMed Rights adopted in 2022 a gender mainstreaming strategy and roadmap for its implementation. In 2023, gender focal point of the different working groups met, trainings were organised, and accountability for gender mainstreaming included in our PMEL system.

Discussions on how to ensure youth mainstreaming are underway. Meanwhile, in relation to ensuring the integration of youth, the following were achieved: From October 20 to 22, the New Generation Dialogue network elected the two final (2 out of 8) representatives of the "Youth Council" during the meeting in Hammamat, Tunisia. From June - December, 80 members of the New Gen Dialogue network, aged 18 to 30, attended about 15 online meetings in which they identified issues related to gender, migration, and freedom of association and assembly related to youth. Through an ongoing process of reflection and online follow-up to the regional meetings they turned these issues into concrete initiatives outlined in a Roadmap.

On 18 March, a group of young people presented a study guide that was elaborated by 6 young people identifying the problems and difficulties related to the right of residence in Tunisia. This study was the starting point for the 18 young people present to reflect on these issues and to draft recommendations to improve the legal framework of the right to residence.

On May 6, 20% of 55 participants in the Mashrek-Maghreb seminar on gender discriminating laws in Rabat were CSOs representatives younger than 35.

On 18 March 2023, for the first time, 10 young members of the association Voluntary Bouaarada became listener in their legal clinic of women victims of violence.



Geo-political focus

EuroMed Rights strategy foresees to uphold the Network's position in North Africa, expand its position in the Middle East, and uphold its ability to influence European and other foreign policies towards the two regions (i.e. MENA) in the period from 2022 to 2024. In 2023, we maintained our position in Tunisia (both in terms of impact, activities and staff), and expanded our presence in Morocco adding a thematic program coordinator to our team placed there. Following a decision by the EC to establish a physical presence in Lebanon, a new head of the Network's Middle East programs was recruited and located in Beirut. More recruitments are planned for 2024. Our staff are currently administratively serving as project staff hosted at the offices of member/partner organisation.

ORGANISATIONAL GOALS

INTRODUCTION

EuroMed Rights' political success depends on our ability to bring civil society organisations together, enhance their advocacy capacities and allow them to reach positive changes. The Network's organisational goals listed below aims at improving EuroMed Rights' ability to deliver these programmatic outcomes and run the necessary processes.

Identified as part of the 2022-2027 strategy, the five organisational goals described below enable us to ensure increased efficiency and secure the long-term human, financial and environmental viability of the Network. The results below present key organisational achievements for 2023.

ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 1: ENERGISED MEMBER BASE

In 2023, EuroMed Rights finished a comprehensive mapping of the Network's membership base. The mapping and study was well received by the Network's members who actively engaged with it. A general takeaway from the study was that the members priorities and work are currently well-aligned with EuroMed Rights strategy and priorities. Another key point was that the Network's members in general are willing and eager to contribute to EuroMed Right's activities. The study provided operational recommendations especially related to the Network's onboarding processes and to the communication with its members. However, the study fell short of identifying clear recommendations as to how to the Network should manage a growth of it member base. Following recommendation from the Network's Executive Committee (EC), a membership taskforce was created and re-tasked to develop such recommendations. These recommendations will be included in the revised/amended strategy for 2025-2027 which will be presented at the Network's general Assembly meeting in October 2024. It is the plan that this shall give way to the development of a concrete action plan for membership expansion after the tenure of the GA.

EuroMed Rights also engaged in 2023 to increase the presence and engagement of youth in its activities. During 2023 it was ensured that each oof the Network's working groups have a minimum of two young persons and a youth mainstreaming strategy is in the making. EuroMed Right's PMEL system is also set up to measuring youth participation in the Network's activities. Furthermore, the Network launched a youth pilot project in 2023 - "Youth Save Democracy" which has been successfully engaging Tunisian youth in activism for human rights and democracy.

ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 2: INCREASED VISIBILITY AND IMPACT

In 2023, EuroMed Rights has fully adopted and implemented its new visual identity, website, and contact database that were developed the year before. Throughout the first three quarters of 2023, the advocacy department has helped programmes achieve their key milestones for the year to a good extent. At the same time, the advocacy department key milestones for 2023 have been achieved to a good extent, with political voices representing EuroMed Rights intervening as panellists in at least 7 events, including at the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee. In parallel, staff have been trained in different aspects of the advocacy practice, including in the design and implementation of advocacy missions or institutions-specific advocacy on International Financial Institutions.

The capacity to spell out actionable plans from the key milestones identified, a varied and structured workforce in the department and an increasingly robust network of partners inside and around the target institutions have led to progress towards the programme objectives



ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 3: REDUCED CARBON FOOTPRINT

A baseline for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been developed. Rolling out and testing a new procurement policy which includes carbon footprint reduction considerations, was postponed from late 2023 to 2024 as administrative and programmatic resource were tied up handling the fallout of the war in Gaza. A climate task force will be reestablished in 2024 and a survey among members on their carbon reduction initiatives is scheduled for 2024/2025.



ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 4: IMPROVED FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND DIVERSIFICATION

The foundation for EuroMed Rights Fundraising Architecture is in place, including documents, manuals, tools etc., but roll-out and strengthened dialogue is needed between fundraising and in particular programs. 60 % of funding for the 2025-2027 budget has been secured. Audit reports have seen no comments from auditors. The Resource Mobilization Strategy has not yet been approved, but the drafting is in progress. A Project Proposal Pipeline has been established with a solid pipeline up till 2027. The proposal pipeline has recently been integrated into our PMEL system for strengthened integration with programme implementation, grants, and overall financial management. However, we have not been able to secure new core grants. Furthermore, the Executive Committee decided to spend substantial parts of its equity in 2023 to shield staff from rising cost of living, inflation and to handle unfavourable currency exchange rate fluctuations. For more details see the section on financial results below.

ORGANISATIONAL GOAL 5: IMPROVED INTERNAL LEARNING

EuroMed Right's activity plans (the so-called "roadmap" for how to implement its strategy) was further developed in 2023 and fully integrated into the Network's PMEL system allowing for more coherent evaluation and reporting.

The PMEL monitoring software was upgraded and was used for the PMEAL phases by almost all staff including budgeted planning. The identification of results/outcomes have been improved, and 'sense-makings' conducted to analyse how and why results were achieved, in order to use this learning for planning.

In early 2023, a number of staff followed a project management training, which the aim of ensuring a coherent and standardized understanding and implementation of project management through EuroMed Rights.

LIST OF 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).

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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

HONORARY MEMBERS

Michel Tubiana (1951-2021 Honorary President) · Kamel Jendoubi (Honorary President) · Marie Lavrentiadou · Emrah Seyhanlioglu · Lone Lindholt · Eva Norström · Iain Byrne · Theocharis Papamargaris · Driss El-Yazami · Bahey El-Din Hassan · Annette Jünemann · Samira Trad · Christina M. Merkel · Madjid Benchikh · Khemaïs Chamhari · Georges Assaf · Anna Bozzo-Curti · Maysa Zorob

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee members are elected by the General Assembly at its triennial meetings. It is composed of twelve individuals representing the Network's regular member organisations, including the President.

The EC is NorthSouth/East-balanced and aims at being gender-balanced. The members of the EC serve until the next regular General Assembly.

The 2021-2024 Executive Committee is composed of:



WADIH EL-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



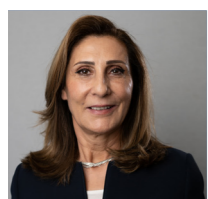
THEODORA CHRISTOU, Vice President

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 FEGIER, Treasurer

Member of the board of directors for the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS). Moataz El-Fegier 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.



GIORGIO CARACCILO,

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.



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.



MARIE-CHRISTINE VERGIAT,

Vice-President 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.



DILYANA GITEVA,

Dilyana Giteva is 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.



GIANLUCA MENGOSZI,

Architect, member of the presidency and head of international solidarity networks for ARCI (Italian Cultural Recreational Association), president of ARCS (ARCI Culture Solidali, the ARCI's NGO), board member of the Italian Third Sector Forum. He works in the defence of civil, social and cultural rights, international development cooperation. He conducts research on the protection of historical and monumental heritage in war zones.



TONY DALI,

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.



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.

THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat is managed and organised by the Executive Director. It derives its decision-making powers from the mandate given to the Executive Director by the General Assembly as stipulated in the Network's statutes.

The staff of the Secretariat (hereafter "the Secretariat") is tasked by the Executive Director to put the political, financial and organisational decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee into practice, and especially the one voted by the GA strategy.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

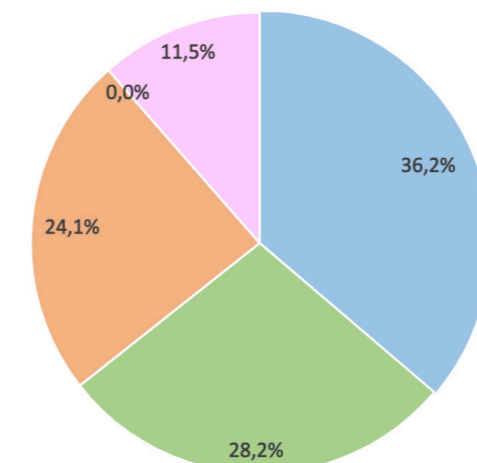
<u>Thematic approaches</u>	EUR	%
Women's Rights and Gender Equality	247.743	5,4%
Shrinking Spaces	0	0,0%
Migration	418.513	9,1%
Economic & Social Rights	171.027	3,7%
Dialogue	830.329	18,0%
TOTAL REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	1.667.612	36,2%

<u>Country approaches</u>	EUR	%
Tunisia	590.669	12,8%
Algeria	24.589	0,5%
Egypt	245.248	5,3%
Palestine, Israel & the Palestinians	101.979	2,2%
Morocco	53.367	1,2%
Turkey	284.173	6,2%
TOTAL COUNTRY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	1.300.025	28,2%

<u>Other activities</u>	EUR	%
Advocacy & Training	300.198	6,5%
Project Monitoring & Evaluation	44.079	1,0%
Communication	368.260	8,0%
Executive Bodies	197.580	4,3%
Fundraising	175.686	3,8%
Human resources	24.128	0,5%
TOTAL OTHER ACTIVITIES	1.109.931	24,1%
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	4.077.568	88,5%
Administration (incl. Financial income/costs)	532.070	11,5%
Sub-grant to EMHRF (under SIDA CORE grant)	0	0,0%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	4.609.638	100,0%

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	36,2%
COUNTRY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	28,2%
OTHER ACTIVITIES	24,1%
SUB-GRANT TO EMRHF (under SIDA CORE grant)	0,0%
ADMINISTRATION (incl. Financial income/costs)	11,5%

- REGIONAL ACTIVITIES
- OTHER ACTIVITIES
- ADMINISTRATION (incl. Financial income/costs)
- COUNTRY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES
- SUB-GRANT TO EMRHF (under SIDA CORE grant)



LIST OF DONORS

ACT Church of Sweden

European Artificial Intelligence Fund / Network of European Foundations

European Union

Danish-Arab Partnership Programme – Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Fondation de France

Heinrich Böll Foundation

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Open Society Foundations

Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)

Sigrid Rausing Trust

Swiss Confederation





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