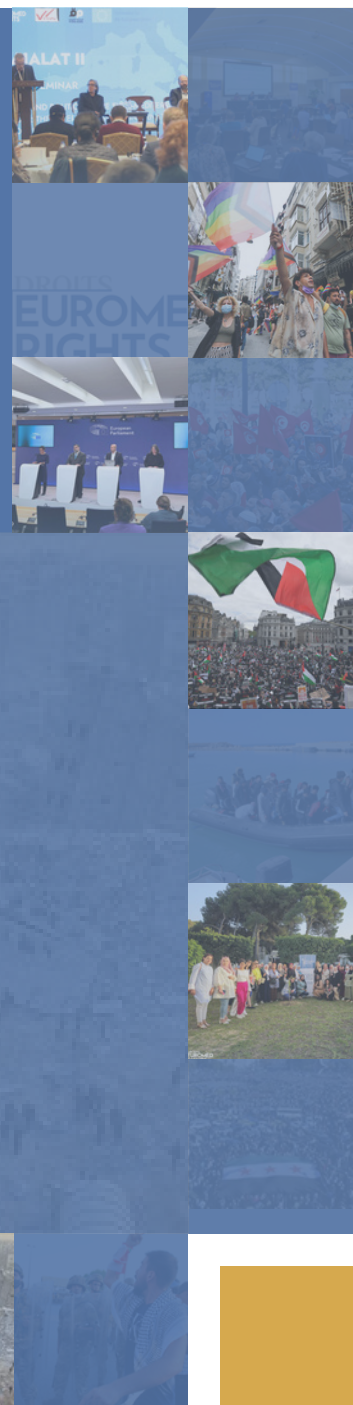


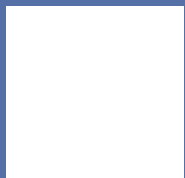
ANNUAL REPORT

2025



JUNE 2026





JUNE 2026

EuroMed Rights
Vestergade 16, 2nd floor
DK-1456 Copenhagen K
Denmark

Tel: +45 32 64 17 00
information@euromedrights.net
www.euromedrights.org

Bibliographic Information

Title: EuroMed Rights Annual Report 2025
Author: EuroMed Rights
Date of initial publication: June 2026
Pages: 36
ISBN: EAN 9988792990979
Original Language: English

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
CONTEXT OF OUR WORK IN 2025	6
REINFORCING MIGRATION AND ASYLUM RIGHTS ACROSS A FRAGMENTED YEAR	9
A YEAR OF RESILIENCE AND RESISTANCE IN ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY	13
STRENGTHENED JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY	16
SAFEGUARDED FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY	20
ENHANCED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS	23
GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND YOUTH MAINSTREAMING	24
GEOPOLITICAL FOCUS	27
ENERGISED MEMBER BASE	28
INCREASED VISIBILITY AND IMPACT	29
REDUCED CARBON FOOTPRINT	31
IMPROVED FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND DIVERSIFICATION	32
IMPROVED INTERNAL LEARNING	33
CONCLUSION	34
MEMBERS	35
ACCOUNTS AND FINANCES	38
DONORS	39

DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN AN EVER SO CHALLENGING CONTEXT.

FOREWORD

2025 was a challenging yet inspiring year for EuroMed Rights.

The growing influence of the European far right and the MAGA (Make America Great Again) movement in the United States of America, exerted immense pressure on human rights movement both in Europe and globally. Past political openings were closed. Funding for human rights work disappeared. And state-orchestrated harassment and repression of defenders mounted.

In the Middle East, warfare, genocide and ethnic cleansing continued to claim thousands of lives. Meanwhile, authoritarian regimes in North Africa maintained tight control the political, social and cultural scenes.

Despite these immense challenges, as this annual report demonstrates, EuroMed Rights remained steadfast in mobilising human rights defenders in the Middle East, North African and Europe . Guided by an adjusted strategy that prioritises protection over promotion of human rights, the network's Executive Committee and secretariat worked hand-in-hand with our hundreds of member and partner organisations and human rights defenders to coordinate joint actions human in defence for human rights.

We wish you a fruitful reading.

MONIA BEN JEMIA - PRESIDENT
RASMUS ALENIUS BOSERUP - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2025 was a defining year for human rights across the Euro-Mediterranean region and beyond. In this context, and as one of the largest and most active regional networks of human rights organisations (HROs) in the Euro-Mediterranean region, EuroMed Rights strived to mobilise its 72 members and to coordinate with more than 163 partner organisations from across 26 countries.

The objective in 2025 was to contribute to strengthen a credible, united and resilient human rights movement, capable of protecting and promoting the rights of the most vulnerable populations and those most exposed to discrimination and injustice. By uniting over 286 human rights defenders (HRDs) and civil society actors (CSOs) together, the Network was able to facilitate dialogue, strengthen capacities of organisations and influence policies, together, on pressing issues such as conflict, migration and civic freedoms.

More importantly, EuroMed Rights provided space and resources to encourage and amplify the impactful work of its members, enabling them to continue their vital efforts.

CONTEXT OF OUR WORK IN 2025

2025 was deeply marked by the escalation of armed conflicts, occupation, and authoritarianism, and international accountability mechanisms were increasingly tested. Amid these crises, civil society demonstrated resilience, solidarity, and strategic adaptation in the face of mounting repression. EuroMed Rights continued to serve as a vital regional network, uniting human rights organisations and defenders to promote universal rights, rule of law, social justice, and democratic accountability across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

In several countries in North Africa, civil society organisations faced increasingly restrictive environments, which undermined their ability to defend the rights of the most vulnerable populations, who are generally the most exposed to violations. In Morocco, debates on equality and social rights coexisted with challenges of youth inclusion and legal and political restrictions, as well as limited resources for CSOs, exacerbated by budget cuts from some international donors. In Algeria, the tense political context and restrictions severely limited the room for manoeuvre of human rights defenders. Tunisia experienced a marked slide towards authoritarianism, characterised by harsh sentencing of political opposition figures and civil society, and the systematic silencing of independent media which complicate the preservation of civic space and the protection of the fundamental rights. Conflicts persisted in Libya, accentuating the vulnerability of migrant populations.

The situation in the Middle East continued to deteriorate in 2025. In Palestine, the ongoing genocide, the unlawful occupation of the Palestinian territory and the intensified repression of Palestinians restricted the operating space for civil society. Human rights defenders faced arrests, limits of freedom of expression, and increasing international pressure, including sanctions from the United States of America targeting Palestinian human rights organisations. In Syria, the fall of the Assad regime opened a window for transitional justice, yet the transition has been marked by persistent violence and instability, particularly in the coastal, southern and northeastern regions, further exposing civilians and internally displaced people to serious protection risks.



The economic and political crisis in Lebanon is weakening structures for the promotion of human rights, and in Jordan, CSOs faced increasing legal and financial constraints. In Egypt, restrictions on local organisations and human rights defenders create an environment where the very survival of civil society initiatives is a major challenge and where repression and intimidation of human rights defenders is extended to those working in the diaspora. Finally, in Türkiye, restrictions on freedom of expression and association significantly limited civil society action.

In Europe, the rise of far-right movements and increasing pressure on civic space are putting not only the rights of migrants, refugees and minorities at risk across Europe and beyond.

EuroMed Rights was not exempt from the fundraising crisis affecting the civil society sector in 2025. Shifting donor priorities, reduced institutional funding and increasingly competitive funding environments placed strain on operational capacity and required organisations to prioritise areas of work. These challenges compelled us to reassess strategies and prioritise activities in a rapidly changing environment for civil society.

Some of our highlights in 2025

This year, EuroMed Rights...



Mobilised **+286 human rights defenders** from across **+235 human rights organisations** to cooperate and advocate to uphold human rights through **13 dynamic national, regional and solidarity Working Groups**.



Strengthened the capacities of **+1009 civil society actors** on human rights issues, resource mobilisation and advocacy through **20 workshops, 16 trainings, and 24 subgrants**.



Engaged with **4157 civil society actors**, including **48% of women** and **41% of youth** through **107 activities** and reached **4900 people** through webinars.



Engaged with **+300 decision-makers** and effectively influenced **+30 policies**.



Reached **+250 worldwide-recognised media** through **+2000 media mentions**.



300% increase in the Network's Instagram audience and **48%** increase in interactions on Facebook.

REINFORCING MIGRATION AND ASYLUM RIGHTS ACROSS A FRAGMENTED YEAR

Monitoring and Analysing EU Legislation on Migration and Asylum

Within its advocacy work, EuroMed Rights followed the main legislative reforms under negotiation through coalitions of international organisations and engagement with key stakeholders. These included the Return Regulation, the implementation plans of the Pact of the Mediterranean, and the reopening of files such as the EU list of safe countries of origin and the concept of a safe third country. EuroMed Rights provided its members and partners with a detailed analysis of the discussions on these issues within the European institutions. EuroMed Rights sparked critical debate at both national and European levels, raising awareness about the risks inherent to designating certain countries as “safe” without adequate human rights assessments, and reinforcing the urgency of rethinking current EU migration policies. EuroMed Rights’ declaration, directly challenging the dominant political narrative by shedding light on the potential consequences for asylum seekers, was picked up by more than 250 media outlets in April 2025 including BBC, France 24, and Le Monde, reinforcing EuroMed Rights’ position as a key actor for civil society and in the field of migration and human rights.

Documenting Increased Numbers of People gone Missing or Deceased during Migratory Journeys

100 human rights activists and stakeholders engaged on enforced disappearance in a webinar to launch the new report ‘Legal Framework Concerning Missing and Deceased Migrants Travelling from Africa to South-Western Europe’, organised by EuroMed Rights, together with the Equipo Argentino de Antropología Forense (EAAF) ahead of International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearance. The study brings to light gaps and inconsistencies in the implementation of the legal framework at the international, regional and national levels. It urges States and international institutions to centre their focus on the countless families who, for over two decades and still today, have remained without information on their loved ones who disappeared during migration.

A Coalition to Advance Fundamental Rights of Migrants and Asylum Seekers

In 2025, a new regional Migration and Economic and Social Rights Working Group was formed, bringing together 24 human rights organisations and organisations promoting the rights of migrants and refugees in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This new setup of the Working Group comprises three commissions focusing on border violence, intersectional violence and economic and social rights. During an in-person meeting, a workplan for the Migration and Asylum Programme (2025-2027) was developed with the new Working Group members to collectively define targets, methods and direction of work. Capacity-building efforts focused on reinforcing the Working Group’s skills to advocate for fundamental rights compliance in the EU and national migration and asylum policies and to advocate on issues related to people gone missing or deceased during their migratory journey.

“Migrants can be an added value to our communities, they can enrich our societies, and it’s within this spirit of solidarity that we work here at EuroMed Rights” Spyros Vlad Oikonomou, member of the Executive Committee and of the regional Migration and Asylum Working Group.

Moroccan Civil Society Unite Collective Advocacy Efforts on Migration Policies

In Morocco, as a result of sustained mobilisation and cooperation amongst civil society working on migration through EuroMed Rights' National Working Group, 25 Moroccan civil society organisations adopted a unified advocacy position on two key migration policy issues: identification at the borders and non-accompanied minors. Regional cooperation between Moroccan civil society organisations working on migration with counterparts in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East progressed on addressing the identification of missing and deceased migrants in the Euro-Mediterranean region with the organisation of a sub-regional workshop bringing together CSOs, journalists, activists and media.

From Recommendations to Policies

EuroMed Rights has long advocated to ensure that human rights safeguards become an integral and operational component of EU external funding policies. Over recent years, persistent reporting by civil society and investigative media has exposed serious human rights abuses linked to EU-supported training and cooperation with third-country authorities, including coast guards in Libya, Lebanon, Türkiye and Tunisia. Without effective due diligence and accountability mechanisms, EU externalisation policies will perpetuate human rights violations and erode the credibility of the Union's foundational values. Key recommendations concerning the use of EU external funds for migration purposes in the Southern Neighbourhood were put forward in 2024 by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and the European Ombudsman (specifically on Libya and Tunisia). Through input from civil society organisations, including EuroMed Rights, in June 2025, the European Commission "formalised an internal procedure to handle human rights complaints in EU-funded projects, [...] and developed a document to guide staff in applying the human rights-based approach to migration and forced displacement". See ECA report Ombudsman report

EuroMed Rights' Network's Recommendations are Reflected in Policy Agendas

As a result of its dialogue efforts, EuroMed Rights' recommendations were integrated with several key stakeholders. The Spanish Deputy Ombudsperson engaged on discussions regarding the issue of missing migrants and expressed strong interest in EuroMed Rights' recommendations from the legal report on Spain. Similarly, the OHCHR Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants on "Externalisation of migration governance and its effect on the human rights of migrants" and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights' Report "Externalised asylum and migration policies and human rights law" cited EuroMed Rights. Moreover, the Network engaged in important meetings of the Network of National Focal Points on Missing Migrants in the framework of the Rabat Process 1 to bring the voice of CSOs from the region.

By the end of the year, the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI) and the Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània (IEMed) invited EuroMed Rights to present findings from the Backlash Map.

CASE STORY: AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF FAMILIES OF MISSING MIGRANTS

For many families across Africa and Europe, migration has ended in uncertainty and grief. When a loved one disappears during a migration journey, families are often left without answers about what happened, where their relatives are, or how to seek justice and accountability. Despite being the most directly affected by the issue of missing migrants, these families have historically had little opportunity to speak directly to policymakers shaping migration policies. Discussions between states and international organisations rarely included the lived experiences and demands of families searching for missing relatives.

EuroMed Rights has long advocated for the meaningful participation of civil society and families of missing migrants in policy discussions. The organisation believes that sustainable policies addressing missing migrants must be informed by those most affected by the issue.

On 26 November 2025, an important step toward this goal took place during the fourth online session of the Rabat Process on Missing Migrants, coordinated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). For the first time in this framework, a representative of families who have lost loved ones during migration was invited to address African and European state focal points participating in the meeting.

EuroMed Rights played a key role in enabling this participation. The organisation identified and recommended a family representative to speak on behalf of relatives searching for missing loved ones. It worked closely with her to prepare the intervention, ensuring that the concerns, experiences, and demands of families were clearly communicated. EuroMed Rights also liaised with the meeting's organisers — the ICRC and the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs — throughout the process to ensure the participation of the family representative until her speech was successfully delivered.

During the session, the representative shared the perspective of families living with the uncertainty of missing relatives, highlighting their need for information, support, and greater involvement in policy responses. Her testimony brought a human dimension to the discussions and allowed policymakers to hear directly from those affected by the consequences of migration policies.

This moment represented a significant shift. For the first time within the Rabat Process consultations on missing migrants, the voices of families were heard directly by policymakers responsible for shaping regional responses. Their participation alongside states and international organisations marked an important step toward more inclusive and sustainable policymaking on the issue of missing migrants.

By facilitating this intervention, EuroMed Rights helped ensure that families are no longer only the subjects of policy discussions but also active contributors to them. The inclusion of families' perspectives in such policy spaces contributes to greater recognition of their rights, needs, and expertise, and helps promote policies that are more responsive to the realities faced by those searching for missing loved ones.



335 human rights defenders and civil society actors reached in the field of migration and asylum rights, including **141** women and **110** youth.

26 active human rights defenders in Regional Working Group

2 regional Working Group meetings

3 commission meetings

1 seminar

2 advocacy missions on challenges of missing migrants and border externalisation in Senegal and Spain

2 studies

2 Working Group meetings in Morocco

2 webinars launching a report on technology in border externalisation/missing migrants with +500 participants

2 trainings on advocacy for missing migrants and strategic litigation



A YEAR OF RESILIENCE AND RESISTANCE IN ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY

In 2025, EuroMed Rights advanced gender equality through research, coalition-building, and policy advocacy addressing legal discrimination, gender-based violence, and barriers to women's political and economic participation. Special attention was given to the protection of women human rights defenders, building cross-regional advocacy momentum on femicide recognition in the Maghreb, and leveraging EU-level legal momentum..

Monitoring Developments on Gender Equality

EuroMed Rights continued its efforts to monitor and analyse trends and developments regarding women's rights, gender-based violence and gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region to expand knowledge-sharing spaces, with academic uptake of analysis and feminist engagement around legal reform in Lebanon. EuroMed Rights strengthened its monitoring capacity, with more civil society actors and researchers engaged with the Backlash Map to document, monitor and report anti-gender incidents in France, Tunisia, the UK, Lebanon/Syria, Algeria, and Türkiye. The map now documents attacks on feminist spaces, legal regression, and hate speech, making these visible and searchable for advocacy purposes. EuroMed Rights strengthened feminist counter-narratives, equipping Maghreb-based actors with tools to push back against anti-gender discourse.

United Against Femicide in Maghreb

EuroMed Rights' Maghreb dynamic has given public visibility to combating femicide by strengthening joint best practices, advocacy and communication campaigns. In March 2025, EuroMed Rights mobilised 58 feminist and women's rights organisations from across the Euro-Mediterranean region to unite and issue

a historic joint position paper calling for the legal recognition of femicide. The statement was firmly grounded in feminist principles and international human rights standards. Later in 2025, in December, 30 organisations from Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco co-signed a public statement drafted in Tunis by members of the “Maghreb Without Femicide” dynamic to sound the alarm regarding this phenomena in the three countries. These initiatives gained media attention, for instance in Morocco, where Enass Medias published an article titled “Feminicides in the Maghreb: The Urgency of Collective Action”, highlighting and relaying the key findings and demands of EuroMed Rights’ joint position paper on feminicides in the Maghreb. Although institutional resistance remains, these issues are now more visible in the media and on the political scene.

Consolidating a Regional Feminist Ecosystem in the Euro-Mediterranean

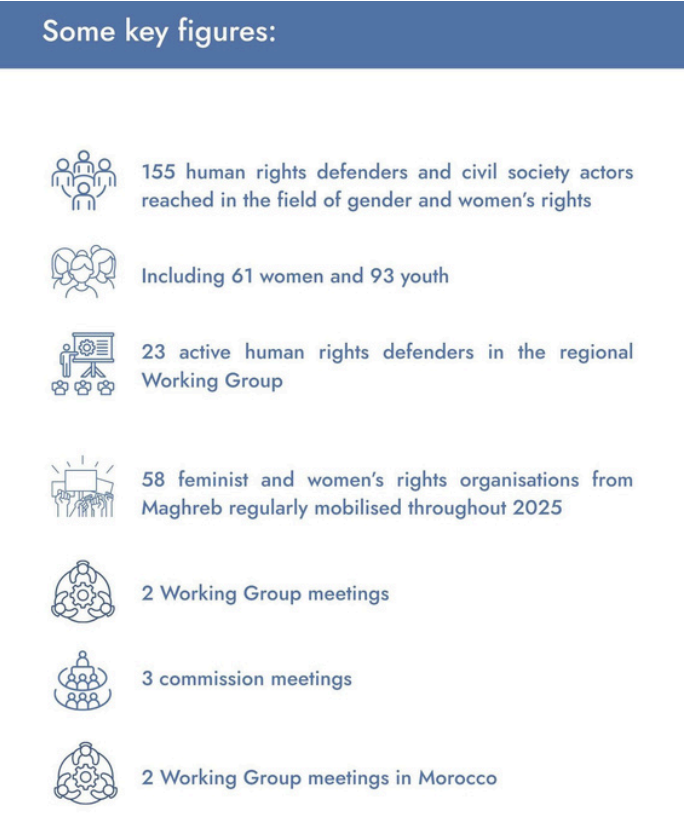
A defining dimension of this year was the consolidation of a regional feminist ecosystem through the Gender, Rights and Freedoms Working Group and its thematic commissions addressing gender-based violence, economic and social inequalities, LGBTQIA+ rights, and resistance to anti-gender backlash. The structure strengthens women’s collective agenda by setting power, reinforces intersectional approaches, and promotes inclusive policies grounded in the lived realities of women across the Euro-Mediterranean region. Work on gender-based violence has led to the development of a means of coordination between the various parties involved in the fight against gender-based violence. The Network also continued to operate its national Working Group focusing on women’s rights, gender-based violence and gender equality in Morocco. EuroMed Rights’ work mainly focused on advocating for a reform of the Moroccan Family Code (Moudawana) aligned with gender equality and international human rights standards. EuroMed Rights convened dialogue initiatives with civil society, legal experts and young activists, including youth dialogue meetings and a meeting of its Working Group on Justice and Gender Equality in Rabat. These initiatives aimed to strengthen youth engagement in gender-sensitive legal reforms and to advance discussions on key issues such as child marriage, women’s rights within the family, and the elimination of legal and social barriers to equality.

Feminist and Human Rights Organisations’ Positions are Reflected in EU (European Union) Debates

Throughout 2025, dialogue with EU stakeholders on matters of gender equality and the promotion of women’s rights were well-received and inserted the Network’s priorities into high-level debates. EuroMed Rights advocated for the promotion and respect of LGBTIQ+ persons’ human rights towards EU institutions, the UN, EU Member States, and national governments. New MEPs and commissioners acknowledged the need to safeguard the rights of women and LGBTIQ+ against rollbacks. After writing to commissioners to stir action around the ban of the Budapest Pride taken by the Hungarian Parliament, a commissioner visited Budapest to join the EU delegation of policy makers that attended Budapest Pride. On this occasion, meetings were also organised with Hungarian and regional CSOs active in the defence of LGBTIQ+ rights in Hungary and to discuss with the Hungarian government about the 2021 Act LXXIX enacted by the Hungarian Parliament.

Engaging LGBTQ+ Voices in the Work of the Network

In 2025, active participation was ensured for LGBTQ+ collectives and three emerging youth civil society organisations in all three National Working Groups in Morocco, with over 100 young people engaged in Gender Justice, Migration, and Justice Reform Working Groups in Morocco. In EuroMed Rights’ programmes in Tunisia, LGBTIQ+ rights are taken into account in public and political discourse, largely through sustained advocacy efforts led by civil society organisations. Engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), has provided an important platform to highlight issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity and to bring them into broader human rights discussions.



Collaboration amongst Tunisian civil society organisations was strengthened through joint analysis and coordinated actions to foster dialogue and influence public debates on women’s and LGBTIQ+ rights. LGBTQ+ voices have also been included in EuroMed Rights’ work in the Middle East. In October 2025, more than 25 human rights advocates and academics from Egypt, Lebanon and Türkiye gathered during the international conference on “Accountability and International Obligations in the Context of Gender Equality” that was held in Ankara. The conference was a shared space for activists from the three countries who shared their insights about the ongoing violations against women and LGBTQ+ individuals, the repressive governmental actions and the recommended actions that must be taken by relevant stakeholders and the EU.

A Standardised Procedural Guide for Centres for Women Survivors of Violence in Tunisia and Guide for Educators on Combating Violence Against Women in Tunisia

Amidst challenging contexts, EuroMed Rights continued to support the strengthening of civil society and institutional practices in Tunisia. The Network supported the national network of centres for women survivors of violence to adopt a standardised guide on internal management and financial administration. This guide equips centres, which provide essential psychological, social, and legal support, with unified procedures for budgeting, financial reporting, and organisational management, enhancing operational efficiency and accountability. Developed collaboratively with public institutions and civil society actors, the guide builds on training sessions led by EuroMed Rights on financial planning, internal management, and compliance with national regulations. By harmonising management practices across the network, this initiative ensures that centres can deliver high-quality support to women survivors of violence consistently and sustainably. Separately, educators at youth and cultural centres have officially approved a guide on combating violence against women, enabling them to share knowledge and best practices with their peers and strengthen prevention and response strategies within their communities.



STRENGTHENED JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Documenting Violations in Palestine to Drive EU Accountability

Throughout the year, EuroMed Rights monitored and exposed systemic human rights violations in the Euro-Mediterranean region. In Palestine, the Network's actions provided essential support to Palestinian civil society and media organisations in Gaza to sustain the documentation of human rights violations, preserve testimonies and evidence for accountability processes, and protect freedom of expression under conflict conditions. In 2025, partners collectively recorded and verified over 1,590 incidents of military attacks, documented 1,192 victims, and produced 357 documentation reports contributing to international accountability pathways. This evidence was translated into policy and public visibility through project-linked recommendations that were reflected in publicly disclosed outputs by three institutions, including a European Parliament resolution adopted in September 2025.

Coordinated Actions and Solidarity for Accountability and Justice

Solidarity and Regional Working Groups focusing on justice and accountability in the Euro-Mediterranean region continued to operate throughout 2025, creating safe spaces for dialogue. At least 20 Palestinian, Israeli, and European CSOs coordinated actions to counter a smear campaign against Palestinians HROs and HRDs in Europe and to create a safe space for civil society organisations, meeting both online and in-person. In Morocco, civil society organisations from the National Working Group on justice have proved results in yielding justice reform on alternative sentencing, as a key justice reform priority. Moroccan civil society organisations have established collaborative partnerships with counterparts in countries known for

advanced practices in alternative sentencing, including Norway, Tunisia, and Jordan.

In Tunisia, the solidarity working group has been working on the independence of the judiciary, particularly with regard to calls for the release of political prisoners and the lack of fair and impartial trials. In February 2025, following a meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Tunisian authorities released an activist who had been in arbitrary detention for 202 days. This came about following Tunisian civil society organisations coordinated their efforts with various international and regional accountability bodies and with international public opinion. Notably, a strategic meeting was held in Tunis between a delegation made up of EuroMed Rights, several local and international organisations and the representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Tunisia. This meeting led to the drafting of an official communication to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights which highlighted the alarming deterioration of the human rights situation in Tunisia.

Strengthening Protection Mechanisms for Human Rights Defenders at Risk in Egypt

Efforts continued to engage in dialogue with EU institutions and Member States on the issue of justice and accountability in the Euro-Mediterranean region. In June 2025, three MEPs mobilised to send a formal joint letter to the German authorities calling for the immediate relocation and protection of an exiled Egyptian journalist and woman human rights defender. This was the result of a coordinated advocacy mission organised by EuroMed Rights in partnership with several Egyptian civil society organisations during a mission that took place in Brussels. Decision-makers at the EU and Member States level took action thanks to being regularly briefed on the situation of human rights and human rights defenders in Egypt. A training for European diplomats in Egypt provided a comprehensive overview of the key security risks faced by human rights defenders and diplomats in Egypt, focusing on digital attacks, censorship, and surveillance.

Accountability Measures are Adopted in the Context of the Genocide in Palestine

Some EU Member States have implemented justice and accountability measures in tandem with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the occupation of Palestine. Spain, Ireland, Belgium and Slovenia publicly committed to align national policies with the ICJ findings and to act on International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants if the individuals enter their territory. EuroMed Rights has consistently advocated for increased international accountability and legal action against Israel for violations of international law. Through its advocacy efforts, including legal briefings and coordination with partner organisations, EuroMed Rights has emphasised the importance of the ICJ's involvement in addressing genocide allegations. The EU has also moved the debate from labelling to banning imports and exports of illegal Israeli settlement goods and services, and a majority of EU states call for suspension of the trade component. Since May 2025, four EU countries started legislative processes to ban settlement trade, including Ireland, Belgium, Spain and Slovenia adopting bans. This followed EuroMed Rights joining a coalition of 163 organisations in February 2025, asking the EU to ban trade and business with illegal settlements.

Members of the European Parliament Mobilise for Fundamental Freedoms in Türkiye

Under EuroMed Rights' Türkiye programme, international advocacy was boosted through missions to Brussels and Strasbourg, joint statements, and participation in high-level forums, ensuring CSO voices reached EU and UN mechanisms. On 30 April 2025, a letter on violations of fundamental freedoms and human rights in Türkiye was published, signed by 32 MEPs. The initiative had been suggested during the Strasbourg mission, after which an MEP had requested EuroMed Rights' support in drafting and coordinating inputs, leading to its publication and wide endorsement.



Mobilising Civil Society in Syria

EuroMed Rights made a significant leap forward in structuring and operationalising its work and advancing its engagement in Syria. In February 2025, the Syria Reflection Meeting in Istanbul gathered 26 Syrian civil society actors to develop joint strategies on accountability and transitional justice, producing recommendations that have since guided the Network's advocacy. These were consolidated into exchanges during a mission to Brussels ahead of the Brussels Conference on Syria. EuroMed Rights issued five joint statements, including one endorsed by 18 organisations, and co-organised a press conference at the European Parliament. Three hybrid coordination meetings ensured follow-up and refinement of priorities. In September 2025, EuroMed Rights conducted a mission to Damascus, holding 15 consultations to strengthen relationships, assess the operating environment and explore creating a Syrian Working Group. In December 2025, EuroMed Rights kicked off its first Syria National WG meeting in Athens gathering 22 Syrian and international organisations to agree on the roadmap of 2026.



195 human rights defenders and civil society strengthened their capacities on human rights, advocacy on human rights and funding instruments

- Including **100** women and **85** youth
- Temporary release or release of at least **+16** human rights defenders following coordinated advocacy
- **+116** active human rights defenders in the **4** National Working Groups working on justice reform and accountability in Morocco, Tunisia, Syria and Türkiye, and **2** Regional Working Groups on Palestine, Israel and Palestinians; and Democracy, Justice and Civic Space

SAFEGUARDED FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

As part of EuroMed Rights' commitments to deepening its efforts to counter shrinking civil space, EuroMed Rights engaged in capacity-building and awareness raising initiatives, as well as coordinating civil society's and Working Groups' recommendations and positions to the European Union, its Member States and UN institutions through coordinated actions and dialogue. This included direct financial and technical support to 13 civil society organisations across 8 southern Neighbourhood countries through the Majalat II sub granting programme.

Some key highlights:

In 2025, at a time when support is needed more than ever, EuroMed Rights led numerous solidarity initiatives to mobilise human rights defenders and strengthen organisations, ensuring they can continue their vital work. The Network's work this past year closely monitored and analysed developments in freedom, democracy and space for civil society in the Euro-Mediterranean region. 3 Solidarity Working Groups in Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia have been particularly effective in strengthening monitoring, documentation, and engaging with UN mechanisms to mobilise civil society to provide concrete support and visibility to victims of human rights violations. These Working Groups ensure that violations against human rights are systematically recorded, that there is accountability in international actions, and that a collaborative network of actors is in place to drive change.

Authorities' Procedures and Practices in Tunisia Reflect EuroMed Rights' Inputs

The Tunisia Solidarity Group (TSG) evolved from a collective watchdog into a structured strategic platform, combining the production of evidence, public awareness raising and protective assistance. In 2025, the Network documented 412 cases of violations. By mobilising solidarity inside Tunisia and in Europe for Tunisian human rights defenders and democracy uniting members of civil society, intellectuals, representatives of the Tunisian diaspora and journalists, strategic partnerships and a secure dialogue space have been established with influential players. In November 2025, a Tunisian lawyer and journalist was released after a resolution was adopted by the European Parliament. This adoption came in the wake of the event that EuroMed Rights organised in early November 2025 at the European Parliament, to address the human rights situation in Tunisia and the 30th anniversary of the EU-Tunisia Association Agreement. In response to coordinated advocacy, the European Parliament called for the immediate and unconditional release, as well as the release of all those detained. A few hours after the adoption of this resolution, the lawyer and journalist was released in Tunisia, illustrating the scope of the advocacy carried out.

Broadening Alliances of Civil Society in Algeria

The Algeria Solidarity Group (ASG), bringing together over 30 Algerian and diaspora associations as well as human rights activists, strengthened its strategic role in defending human rights in 2025. They ensured that violations against human rights in Algeria were systematically recorded documenting over 240 political and opinion detainees. They organised a side event in Geneva with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, submitted the intermediate UPR report, and conducted webinars and communications with UN mechanisms. A recent coordination initiative with the TSG included a joint advocacy workshop for the African Union and a webinar for Human Rights Day, showcasing the group's ability to mobilise civil society, influence international bodies, and provide tangible solidarity to victims, making it a key force for advancing human rights in the region. As the visibility of the Working Groups grow, so does interest from other CSOs, expanding the Network and deepening collective action.

The ASG saw new national and international members join, as well as human rights experts and activists. In May 2025, the ASG participated in a joint initiative denouncing the rise in harassment and repression



targeting human rights defenders, including journalists and artists. On World Press Freedom Day, in partnership with AlternaTV, the group organised an international webinar entitled "Breaking the media silence, defending the right to information" bringing together speakers for a joint look at the state of press freedom in Algeria and around the world. The webinar highlighted the numerous threats facing journalists and independent media, raising awareness to over 4200 viewers about the crucial issues surrounding freedom of expression.

Mobilising Human Rights Efforts in Egypt

The Egypt Solidarity Group (ESG) serves as a key platform for coordination and strategic dialogue. In 2025, the ESG held two meetings, bringing together around 35 participants from civil society organisations working on human rights and freedoms in Egypt, both inside the country and in exile. The meetings focused on analysing the political and human rights context in Egypt, assessing regional and international dynamics, and discussing key issues such as shrinking of civic spaces, restrictions on civil society, gender quality and the rights of minorities. These meetings strengthened collaboration between the organisations inside Egypt and in the diaspora, identifying joint advocacy priorities and agreeing on practical steps for collective effort. Moreover, the ESG enabled at least 10 representatives from independent Egyptian media outlets and international organisations supporting press freedom to meet and coordinate strategies to mitigate the impact of government-sponsored curbs on freedom of speech and press in Egypt. The Freedom and Media Seminar, co-organised with the Egyptian Human Rights Forum included a pre-event training on journalism and AI, followed by a mission involving representatives of local media.

Palestinian Civil Society's Recommendations are Reflected in EU Policy

International stakeholders incorporated the documentation and recommendations of Palestinian human rights organisations into their policies and practices to protect human rights in Gaza. The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Gaza in September 2025 which, inter alia, demanded the unimpeded and large-scale provision of humanitarian assistance and opposed the “current” aid distribution system in Gaza, and “calls for the mandate and funding of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to be reinstated in full, with strong oversight and accountability.” Moreover, the documentation and legal analysis of several of the Network’s Palestinian members were directly reflected in 24 publications, including two major European media outlets: El País in Spain and Le Monde in France, reporting referencing legal findings. EuroMed Rights facilitated media connection with the op-ed of three members in these two papers.

Ensuring Generational Continuity by Mainstreaming Youth

Throughout 2025, EuroMed Rights organised capacity building initiatives for civil society representatives, members and staff of public independent institutions in the Euro-Mediterranean region on freedom, democracy and space for civil society as well as on advocacy and communication. In Tunisia, awareness-raising meetings by youth for youth took place through the Next Generation initiative to discuss challenges related to freedom of expression, association, and assembly, with the participation of local decision-makers. The youth themselves were the drivers of their initiatives: they designed, planned, and implemented concrete actions, including digital awareness campaigns on gender-based violence, following up on femicide cases, and participating in the 16 Days of Activism to combat violence against women. Additionally, 25 young students from the Faculty of Legal, Political, and Social Sciences and CSOs belonging to the civil coalition observing the UPR finalised 11 thematic sheets for the UPR mid-term report.

Strengthened Cooperation and Dialogue on Freedom of Expression

Through the Majalat II programme, EuroMed Rights further strengthened regional cooperation on freedom of expression by convening 84 civil society actors from across the Euro-Mediterranean region at the Istanbul South Seminar, producing the Istanbul Declaration on shrinking freedoms in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Civil Society against shrinking freedoms in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, and publishing a thematic note on Freedom of Association and Expression (developed by members of the Governance Working Group) Freedom of Association and Expression and Policy recommendations for a Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Based on Rights, Justice, and Democratic Resilience with concrete policy recommendations addressed to the EU. In addition, the sub-granting programme supported an NGO in producing a bilingual legal and human rights journal covering freedom of expression and fundamental rights, reaching audiences across Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, France and beyond. An advocacy mission to Brussels in June 2025 brought the consortium’s recommendations directly to the European Commission, advancing structured dialogue on civil society participation in the Pact for the Mediterranean framework. Additionally, a high-level advocacy mission to Madrid in September 2025 further advanced this work, securing 11 concrete commitments from Spanish governmental and parliamentary interlocutors, including the Spanish Ambassador for the Mediterranean committing to relay CSO positions on the Pact at the level of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the European Union Member States.

CASE STORY: RELOCATING A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER IN DANGER IN EGYPT

In November 2025, an Egyptian human rights defender residing in Lebanon obtained asylum in France and was granted a 10-year residency card, enabling him to safely relocate and secure long-term legal protection after a prolonged period of uncertainty.

The human rights defender had been defending human rights in Egypt for several years. Over time, his efforts began to draw attention, not only from those he sought to help, but also from those who felt threatened by his work. In fact, he is being pursued by security forces in Egypt, and his name has been included in a high-level state security case due to his human rights activism. He is currently being tried in absentia before the terrorism court on charges that could carry a sentence of up to 15 years of hard labor in case number 1233 of 2023.

EuroMed Rights followed up on the defender’s case for more than a year and organised and facilitated coordination calls with several international organisations, which provided emergency financial assistance to cover the defender’s living expenses in Lebanon while he awaited the outcome of his relocation and asylum applications.

« The relocation experience was without doubt rich and highly beneficial for me, and it represents one of the most important milestones in my professional career in the field of human rights, which began in 2013. From the very beginning, I was warmly welcomed at the Euromed Rights office in Brussels. All members of the team treated me with great respect and openness, facilitated my access to information, and fully integrated me as a member of the working team. This welcoming environment enabled close collaboration with colleagues across the organisation and encouraged me to contribute as much as possible to the Egypt team, particularly by sharing my experience and knowledge of Egyptian affairs. At the same time, I gained significant experience through working with colleagues on human rights issues that were new to me, especially given my primarily legal and academic background. Throughout my stay in Brussels, the team demonstrated a high level of professionalism and commitment by continuously supporting me, helping to overcome challenges, and providing guidance, follow-up, and professional mentorship. In addition to these professional benefits, the fellowship provided me with a strong sense of safety and stability during a particularly difficult period in my life. Shortly before the start of the fellowship, my case had been referred to the Terrorism Court in Egypt, where I am being tried in absentia. Remaining in Brussels during the fellowship period gave me an invaluable sense of psychological safety, which I had lacked since leaving Egypt in June 2023 to escape security persecution. This experience gave me a renewed sense of strength and psychological readiness to continue my work in the defence of human rights.»

The human rights defender repeatedly expressed how safe he felt in Brussels and with the support of the team. His relocation to Belgium provided him a safe space to conduct his human rights work without fear. While he initially moved to Tunisia, the situation there still posed some risks, making Belgium a more secure environment for his activities. He was able to continue several tasks and activities related to his previous human rights work in Egypt while being part of a safe community and facing no threats. The granting of asylum and long-term residency significantly improved the defender’s safety, legal status, and stability after facing prolonged unstable situation in Lebanon. This provided durable protection and access to rights, allowing him to plan for long-term integration and continue his academic and professional plans, especially that he was trying to apply for a Master’s degree.

ENHANCED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Despite the reduced scope for work on economic and social rights in 2025, EuroMed Rights focused on monitoring the socio-economic impacts of EU partnership agreements with Southern Mediterranean countries and supporting civil society advocacy on labour rights, access to services, and the rights of migrants and local communities. Through meetings, research and exchanges among members, EuroMed Rights also reinforced capacities to promote transparency, accountability and human rights conditionality in EU cooperation frameworks.

Launching a Regional Commission on Economic and Social Rights

In November 2025, the meeting of the Commission on Economic and Social Rights within the Migration, Asylum and Economic & Social Rights Working Group, marked the relaunch of structured collaboration on socio-economic justice in the Euro-Mediterranean region. During its first meeting, members agreed on the strategic direction and priorities of the Commission, focusing on monitoring EU partnership agreements and financial frameworks with Southern Mediterranean countries and their impact on the economic and social rights of local populations and migrants. The Commission also identified key areas of collective work, including strengthening civil society capacity to monitor EU policies, promoting accountability of international financial institutions, and developing joint advocacy initiatives addressing labour rights, access to social protection, and the well-being of migrants and human rights defenders.

Strengthening Capacities of Tunisian Civil Society on Economic and Social Rights

In Tunisia, capacities of civil society to monitor compliance with Tunisian state obligations in terms of economic and social rights were strengthened. Violations of economic and social rights were documented by Tunisian civil society and are the subject of advocacy. Fact sheets were developed to highlight and analyse the issue of economic violence against women, providing data and insights to inform advocacy efforts. Communication and awareness campaigns were developed and implemented to increase public understanding and combat economic violence against women.

Launching a Report on Labour Violations Against Workers in Jordan

In Jordan, EuroMed Rights' member, Tamkeen, launched a report which documented labour violations against workers in the garment industry. The report documents complaints related to non-payment of wages and calls for systematic change to improve complaint mechanisms and align national laws and regulations with international standards. consistent approach across all program areas, underpinned by robust gender-disaggregated data systems and improved reporting practices. Enhancing GM capacities within working groups and ensuring gender is woven into all programmatic cycles remain key priorities. The audit's recommendations provide a concrete roadmap for progress: from clarifying responsibilities and strengthening internal accountability mechanisms to investing in data systems and fostering cross-team collaboration. The vivid discussion by the General Assembly not only signals broad institutional support, but also reinforces gender mainstreaming as a collective priority for the years ahead. With continued political will and strategic resource allocation, EuroMed Rights is well-positioned to deepen its feminist commitments and meet the diverse needs of its members—both within the organisation and across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND YOUTH MAINSTREAMING

Throughout 2025, EuroMed Rights continued to work towards mainstreaming gender and youth. A political referent for Youth Mainstreaming and Gender Mainstreaming was appointed.

Based on the recommendations of the 2024 Gender Audit, a Gender Mainstreaming Roadmap was developed towards the end of the year. EuroMed Rights ensured the meaningful participation of women in all events, actively amplifying their voices and contributions. Women constitute the majority of participants in EuroMed Rights' Working Groups, and its activities consistently engage and benefit a significant number of women. 48% of participants across all activities implemented in 2025 were women.

Mechanisms to engage with more youth throughout the work of the Network has been significant this year. In 2025, 41% of participants who engaged in activities were youth. Beyond participation itself, in several activities implemented in 2025, young people were not only beneficiaries or participants, but also played an active role in the design, facilitation, and implementation of the initiatives. EuroMed Rights expanded youth engagement initiatives to ensure long-term sustainability of the regional human rights movement.

The New Gen Activists initiative helped mobilise in Tunisia a network of around 80 young people engaged in defending human rights and protecting civic space. Through trainings, public debates, digital campaigns, and initiatives directly led by the young participants themselves, this experience has contributed to strengthening their capacities in advocacy, media content production, and civic engagement.

This was reflected in particular through content production, the facilitation of public debates, and the development of local or digital actions around themes related to human rights and civic space. In 2025, several members of the network began transforming their advocacy priorities into more structured initiatives, some of which even succeeded in securing external funding to support their actions. Young participants also played an active role in producing human rights-related content, particularly through the online show Al Jil Ejey Plus, and took part in civil society mobilisation and advocacy spaces, including in the follow-up of international mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review, with the participation of some members of the New Gen Activists network in this initiative together with the Support to Tunisian Civil Society Programme.

The experience of the New Gen Activists youth network concretely illustrates how youth mainstreaming approaches can be translated into practice. EuroMed Rights supports the emergence of a new generation of human rights actors, promotes their effective participation, and strengthens the sustainability of the movement through a more inclusive and intergenerational approach.



CASE STORY: FINDING HER VOICE: A YOUNG MEMBER OF THE NEWGEN ACTIVISTS NETWORK STEPS INTO PUBLIC HUMAN RIGHTS

A young public law researcher from Mourouj in Tunisia has been engaged as a member of the NewGen Activists network for over a year and a half. She is now part of its Youth Council and actively engaged in issues related to democracy, freedom of expression, and youth participation in civic space.

Before joining the network, the young human rights defender was deeply committed to her academic path. Passionate about human rights, she mainly contributed through research and documentation work, often carried out behind the scenes. Her engagement remained largely invisible, and she did not always feel comfortable speaking publicly or participating in collective advocacy spaces. As

a naturally introverted person, she struggled to find her place in activist environments and lacked opportunities to develop new skills or connect with like-minded peers.

The “Youth Save Democracy and Human Rights” project, implemented by EuroMed Rights, provided the kind of space the young human rights defender had been looking for. Through the NewGen Activists network, she joined a collaborative and horizontal platform where young people are encouraged to co-create, experiment, and lead initiatives. She initially became involved in the research and documentation committee, building on her academic strengths, but gradually expanded her role thanks to the opportunities offered by the network and the technical, logistical, and financial support provided by EuroMed Rights.

Several key moments marked turning points in her journey. Her participation in the “Al-Jeel Ejey” project, in collaboration with Munathara, allowed her to speak publicly for the first time, first as a participant and later as a moderator. In parallel, the young human rights defender strengthened her capacities through a series of trainings on advocacy, digital communication, human rights, and cybersecurity.

Her engagement deepened through concrete initiatives. She organised and moderated a film screening and debate on sexual and reproductive rights as part of the “Ramadan Rights” initiative, coordinated a digital campaign on Decree-Law No. 54 concerning freedom of expression, and contributed to the development of a successful funding proposal for a national forum on digital freedom of expression. At the regional level, her participation in the Majalat programme, including meetings in Istanbul and Beirut, enabled her to engage with activists from across the region and present recommendations to institutional stakeholders.

Today, the young human rights defender demonstrates a significant transformation. She has gained confidence, particularly in public speaking and in her ability to lead initiatives. She has developed skills in advocacy, facilitation, digital communication, and event organisation. Her engagement has also increased her visibility within Tunisian civil society. She now works as a project coordinator at the Tunisian Association for Rights and Freedoms, continuing her commitment to human rights.

“Before joining the network, I thought my role was limited to research and analysis. Today, I feel capable of speaking up, defending my ideas, and leading concrete initiatives. The network gave me a space where I could grow at my own pace, build my confidence, and most importantly, feel legitimate as a young human rights advocate.”



GEOPOLITICAL FOCUS

EuroMed Rights has, throughout 2025, consolidated its work in the Middle East by resuming its work on Syria with Syrian CSOs following the fall of Assad regime. EuroMed Rights gathered key Syrian HRDs in Istanbul in early 2025 and has, over the course of the year, strengthened this work, leading to several joint statements and advocacy initiatives. This work was further strengthened through the Majalat II sub-granting programme, which supported a Syrian CSO in producing a report on the human rights situation in Northwest Syria and the potential roles of civil society organisations in promoting and protecting human rights in the region. This was the first structured analysis of human rights conditions and CSO capacities in the region, providing a critical evidence base for future programming.

With specific EU funded projects on Egypt, Palestine and Israel, and Türkiye, mobilisation and joint advocacy have been strengthened as well as cross-border learning.

EuroMed Rights Executive Committee also started more concerted work on Europe by developing a reflection paper on how EuroMed Rights could work on Europe and strengthen its European membership and created a task force consisting of the European members of the executive committee. 29 national, regional, and international media sources—further amplifying the network’s visibility and the relevance of its analysis.

ENERGISED MEMBER BASE

In 2025, EuroMed Rights broadened its outreach to human rights defenders and organisations thanks to the implementation of more than 107 activities mobilising civil society on both sides of the Mediterranean. These activities involved more than 4,157 people from more than 30 countries and took place in 15 countries, including Algeria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Norway, Palestine, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia and Türkiye.

The EuroMed Rights Network has strongly sustained the mobilisation of its 13 national, regional and Solidarity Working Groups, organising more than 42 meetings, online and in-person, this year. These spaces function as interconnected platforms for analysis, advocacy, and solidarity rather than isolated initiatives in order to increase the effectiveness of results. Each working group is composed of 20 to 30 organisations, meeting at least twice a year, once online and once in person. In 2025, member organisations of its Regional Working Groups reported that the greatest benefit of the Working Groups came from gaining new contacts, collaborations and partnerships, new knowledge, and the space favours peer learning and experience sharing. Throughout 2025, the mobilisation of human rights defenders and organisations focused on rapid response, coordinated dialogue, shared protection mechanisms, and strategic alignment to defend fundamental freedoms, promote justice and combat impunity.

In 2025, the Network reviewed its ways of working together regionally across the Network. EuroMed Rights strengthened the Regional Working groups by introducing thematic commissions to address specific dimensions and needs expressed by members. This structure strengthens human rights organisations' collective agenda-setting power, reinforces intersectional approaches, and promotes inclusive policies. This model allows members of the Network to contribute expertise while benefiting from regional solidarity and strategic coherence. A concrete example of this sustainability approach is the continuity of the Governance Working Group, developed through the Majalat II project, into the "Democracy, Justice and Civic Space Working Group". Carrying forward the momentum built under Majalat II, it continues to unite civil society actors from both shores of the Mediterranean around shared priorities on civic space, fundamental freedoms and human rights conditionality in EU partnerships, reflecting both the depth of the regional dialogue created and EuroMed Rights' commitment to sustaining these spaces at a moment when shrinking civic space across the Euro-Mediterranean region makes them more vital than ever.

As a member-led network, EuroMed Rights relies primarily on strong partnerships between its member organisations, which form the foundation of its mission. In 2025, EuroMed Rights strengthened cooperation between CSOs in Europe and the MENA region on various issues in line with its revised strategic framework 2025-2027, inter alia through the strengthened conceptual frameworks of its working groups (with focus on description of types of working groups, mandate, members, main objectives, political targets) and the renewal of membership in the regional working groups. It also reached out and coordinated with other CSOs, as well as consolidated multi-stakeholder partnerships bringing together human rights organisations, specialised organisations, migrant family networks, academics and technical experts. This has enabled the development of complementary approaches to complex issues such as missing migrants. At the same time, and within the framework of its co-creation spaces or those for dialogue with decision-makers, the network maintained regular exchanges with international, regional and local institutional actors. In Morocco, for example, these actions include parliamentary groups, the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, the National Human Rights Council, as well as several ministries and their regional directorates.



INCREASED VISIBILITY AND IMPACT

Strengthening dialogue with stakeholders

EuroMed Rights' programmes strengthened dialogue and policy impact. The Network carried out 18 dialogue missions with international institutions, notably with the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the European Commission, the European Parliament, Council of Europe and Member States. Collective dialogue actions with decision-makers bring together several member and partner organisations to promote common positions and strengthen the impact of exchanges with national, regional and international decision-makers.

In 2025, the Network ensured consistent rights-based advocacy grounded in international law by convening with its members to draft issued statements and legal analyses and coordinating messaging across national and regional levels. The Network's recommendations focused mainly on the protection of civic space and human rights conditionality in Palestine, but also in Tunisia and Türkiye. EuroMed Rights also carried out several missions, including one in Spain on border externalisation, technology and migrants missing in the Mediterranean.

Changes have also been observed in terms of recognition of the credibility of the actions carried out by the EuroMed Rights Network. Following a dialogue mission to Brussels in December 2024 and the organisation of a dozen activities in Türkiye in 2025, an MEP contacted EuroMed Rights to ask us to facilitate a meeting with civil society organisations in Türkiye in February 2025. This initiative reflects the recognition of EuroMed Rights as a key facilitator in advancing human rights and creating platforms for constructive exchanges between European institutions and local civil society.

Pact for the Mediterranean

Since the announcement in late 2024 of the Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG MENA)'s plan to produce a new foreign policy framework strategy for the region, the Pact for the Mediterranean, EuroMed Rights has engaged with CSOs, EU institutions and EU Member States with the objective of safeguarding a space of dialogue and cooperation with civil society driven by its commitment to democracy, rule of law and human rights in the different pillars of the political proposed framework. Through constant engagement with DG MENA and other institutional partners, EuroMed Rights successfully contributed to the official consultation in Brussels. This came in parallel with the publication of a report together with the energy and climate Network MATTCCh, delving into the vicissitudes of the new energy and climate objectives of the EU in the region and calling for a human rights approach to it. The report was published in June 2025 and presented to the public after the summer recess. These actions came to strengthen dialogue efforts in Brussels, but also in EU capitals, through which EuroMed Rights got the formal commitment by a number of EU Member States, notably Spain, to include civil society organisations as a key implementing actor in the Pact for the Mediterranean, but also in the Union for the Mediterranean Vision Statement 2025.

In parallel, EuroMed Rights worked to strengthen dialogue with the European Parliament on this issue by organising a press conference inside the Parliament itself, where the report produced with MATTCCh was presented. EuroMed Rights also participated in a public event on the future of the Mediterranean organised by the S&D Group at the European Parliament. Following the announcement that the AFET Committee would publish a report on the Pact for Mediterranean, EuroMed Rights drafted key recommendations in order to reinforce dialogue with the rapporteur and the shadow rapporteurs. This work contributed to the integration of references to both the role of civil society and the importance of human rights in the document on the Pact proposed by the European Commission in October 2025. EuroMed Rights will continue its engagement to ensure that this dimension becomes even more visible and better reflected in both the Implementation Plan and the report of the European Parliament.



REDUCED CARBON FOOTPRINT

EuroMed Rights has continued to sustain its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint by embedding sustainable actions across its operations and programming. Over the past year, EuroMed Rights has taken deliberate steps to minimise emissions by transitioning to energy-efficient office practices, such as limiting paper consumption by distributing digital formats of studies, training materials and guides. The office in Morocco is fully paperless.

Staff are encouraged to use low-carbon transport options. Events, training sessions, monitoring and evaluation are planned in such a way as to minimise physical travel and associated emissions. Some activities, such as financial monitoring, are carried out online. Participants in discussion forums, symposiums and round tables are encouraged to use public transport and carpooling. initiative reflects the recognition of EuroMed Rights as a key facilitator in advancing human rights and creating platforms for constructive exchanges between European institutions and local civil society.

IMPROVED FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND DIVERSIFICATION

The implementation of EuroMed Rights' 2022-2027 strategy continues to guide the Network's efforts to expand and diversify its funding sources. In 2025, the organisation maintained a multi pillar approach: consolidating strategic partnerships with current donors, while proactively engaging new institutional and private funders to secure flexible and long-term financial support by continuously submitting proposals and scouting funding opportunities.

However, the current funding environment has become very challenging. Political and financial interest in human rights as well as in the Middle East and North Africa continue to decline, competition among civil society organisations is becoming more intense, and governmental donor priorities, especially in Europe, continue to shift towards Ukraine and national defence build-up further influencing the funding landscape. In response to these dynamics, EuroMed Rights conducted an updated mapping of potential donors in 2025. This action expands the Network's outreach to include new categories of potential donors (private foundations, private sector partnerships ...) while promoting more proactive and strategic donor's engagement approaches.

In light of the changed external funding environment, EuroMed Rights has reduced the financial risk tolerance and taken a more conservative approach to budgeting.

In 2025, despite the above challenges, EuroMed Rights made significant progress in strengthening its funding base. A core funding was secured through the renewal of an existing grant for 2025-2027, and discussions regarding potential extension of current agreements are ongoing. However, one previous core fund could not be renewed for 2026, highlighting the need for further diversity and proactive engagement. A major core funding request has also been submitted.

Efforts to address funding gaps and expand programme funding also advanced: a new advocacy project was awarded, and a migration project was renewed. EuroMed Right was also invited to join a consortium for a project on the West-Bank/Palestine, and a small grant supported part of its gender work.

Relationships with existing donors were significantly reinforced through dedicated missions to Norway, Sweden, Spain and France, enhancing engagement with both core and multi-programme partners. The objective of securing at least two new funding opportunities was fully achieved, with two new grants obtained to support work on Palestine and on gender in the Maghreb, alongside two renewed grants enabling continued engagement on missing migrants and artificial intelligence.

IMPROVED INTERNAL LEARNING

Over the past year, EuroMed Rights continued strengthening its Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL) system and its impact by fostering a culture of continuous internal learning and reflection. EuroMed Rights has made considerable efforts to improve knowledge sharing across teams by establishing quarterly learning sessions. These spaces allow staff to reflect on successes and challenges, exchange practical insights, and adapt approaches based on evidence and experience. The integration of baselines for the Network's regional programmes Working Groups is another example of its efforts to strengthen its internal learning. They create a shared reference point for reflection among members and encourage regular monitoring, to capture lessons learning.

In addition, EuroMed Rights has improved the regularity and ways it coordinates. Cross-team collaboration has been encouraged to break down silos and promote a more integrated approach to programming. The Network has developed internal accountability and organisational guidelines to reinforce management ownership and skills related to planning, monitoring and learning. The initiatives



to improve coordination, cooperation, and accountability have improved the Network's ability to learn, adapt, and continuously improve the quality and effectiveness of its work.

In 2025, the Network introduced bi-annual sense-making workshops. These online workshops create a structured opportunity for collective reflection and analysis, from an organisational level, of the concrete outcomes occurred over time. Staff are able to interpret changes occurred at different levels across programmes. This helps break down silos and ensures that insights from one programme informs another.

These feedback loops support adaptive management, where teams use insights to refine roadmaps. EuroMed Rights' learning curve has been supported by examples of innovation in its ways of working, based on approaches that are both innovative and replicable. In 2025, various methods such as staging, film screenings and other forms of expression served as the basis for the Network's activities to spark debate on topics that are not always easy to address. For example, in Tunisia, a mock trial was organised as part of an activity called 'A fair trial is a guarantee of discovering the truth' to raise awareness among students and young professionals about the principles of fair trial guarantees and the role of judicial proceedings in defending justice and human rights.

CONCLUSION

EuroMed Rights' Network showed resilience and solidarity in 2025.

Despite inherently difficult environments, EuroMed Rights continued to broaden its outreach and mobilise civil society. In 2025, the Network strengthened its cooperation with migrants' communities, migrant activists and families of missing or deceased migrants in the region to mainstream the voice of people on the move with key stakeholders and the wider public. EuroMed Rights also engaged in coordination with other and new partners, such as academia. Throughout 2025, it has also been increasingly engaged in high-level advocacy actions and important institutional fora to represent the voice of CSOs from the Mediterranean region.

However, progress in the protection and promotion of human rights remains uneven and, in many contexts, fragile. While there have been notable advances, driven by courageous human rights organisations and defenders, these gains are too often undermined by persistent violations, shrinking civic space, and insufficient accountability. The evidence presented throughout this report highlights a clear and urgent need for sustained commitment from governments, international bodies, and civil society. Legal frameworks must be strengthened and, more importantly, effectively implemented in 2026 and beyond. Human rights defenders must be protected, not persecuted. At the same time, this year has reaffirmed the power of collective action. Across regions, individuals and communities have mobilised to demand dignity, justice, and equality. Their resilience serves as a reminder that lasting change is possible but only through collective action and solidarity.

Given increasingly hostile operating environments, EuroMed Rights anticipates the need to adapt how it works. Heightened security risks to staff and members, alongside funding constraints, require us to be both flexible and strategic. EuroMed Rights will continue to strengthen its ways of working, diversify resources, and refine its advocacy approaches to ensure they remain effective, responsive, and resilient in the face of evolving challenges.

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 · Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms (ECRF)

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 · IRIDIA · Novact · Solidarité et Féminisme (SUDS) **Sweden:** Kvinna till Kvinna **Syria:** Al-Marsad — Arab Human Rights Centre in the Golan Heights · 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 des 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 · Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR).

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 CHAMMARI · GEORGES ASSAF · ANNA BOZZO-CURTI · MAYSA ZOROB

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

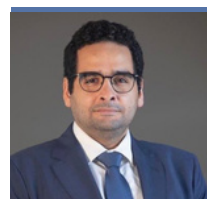
The General Assembly is the supreme body of EuroMed Rights; it meets every three years and elects the Executive Committee.

The 2024-2027 Executive Committee is composed of:



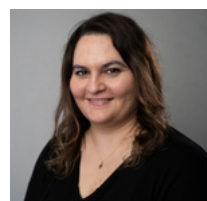
MONIA BEN JEMIA, President

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.



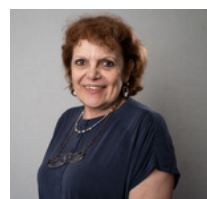
MOATAZ EL FEGIER, Vice President

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.



THEODORA CHRISTOU, Treasurer

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.



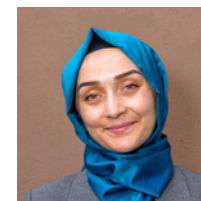
MARIE-CHRISTINE VERGIAT, Gender Mainstreaming Referent

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.



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



RÜMEYSA DENİZ KAYA,

Law student at the Universities of Marmara and Limoges. She has been a registered lawyer at the Batman Bar Association for 9 years. Rumeysa is Vice-President of the Human Rights Association of Turkey (IHD) and President of the Association's Batman Branch.



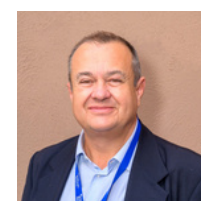
SPYROS-VLAD OIKONOMOU,

Advocacy and Communications Officer at the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR), focusing on research, advocacy, and more recently, communications. He has contributed to numerous reports, studies, and op-eds, often in collaboration with civil society organisations and UN bodies, and has worked on submissions to UN and EU human rights monitoring bodies.



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 MENGZZI,

Architect, member of the presidency and head of international solidarity networks for ARCI, president of ARCS (ARCI's NGO), and board member of the Italian Third Sector Forum. He works on defending civil, social, and cultural rights and in international development cooperation. He also researches the protection of historical and monumental heritage in war zones.



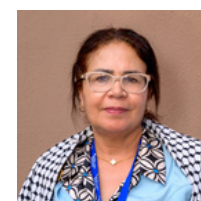
TONY DALY,

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.



MAZEN DARWISH,

Syrian lawyer and human rights defender who heads the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression. He has documented rights violations and promoted justice, earning global recognition. Imprisoned for his activism, he was named one of Time's 100 most influential people.



KHADIJA AINANI,

Human rights activist and Vice-President of the Moroccan Association for Human Rights (AMDH).

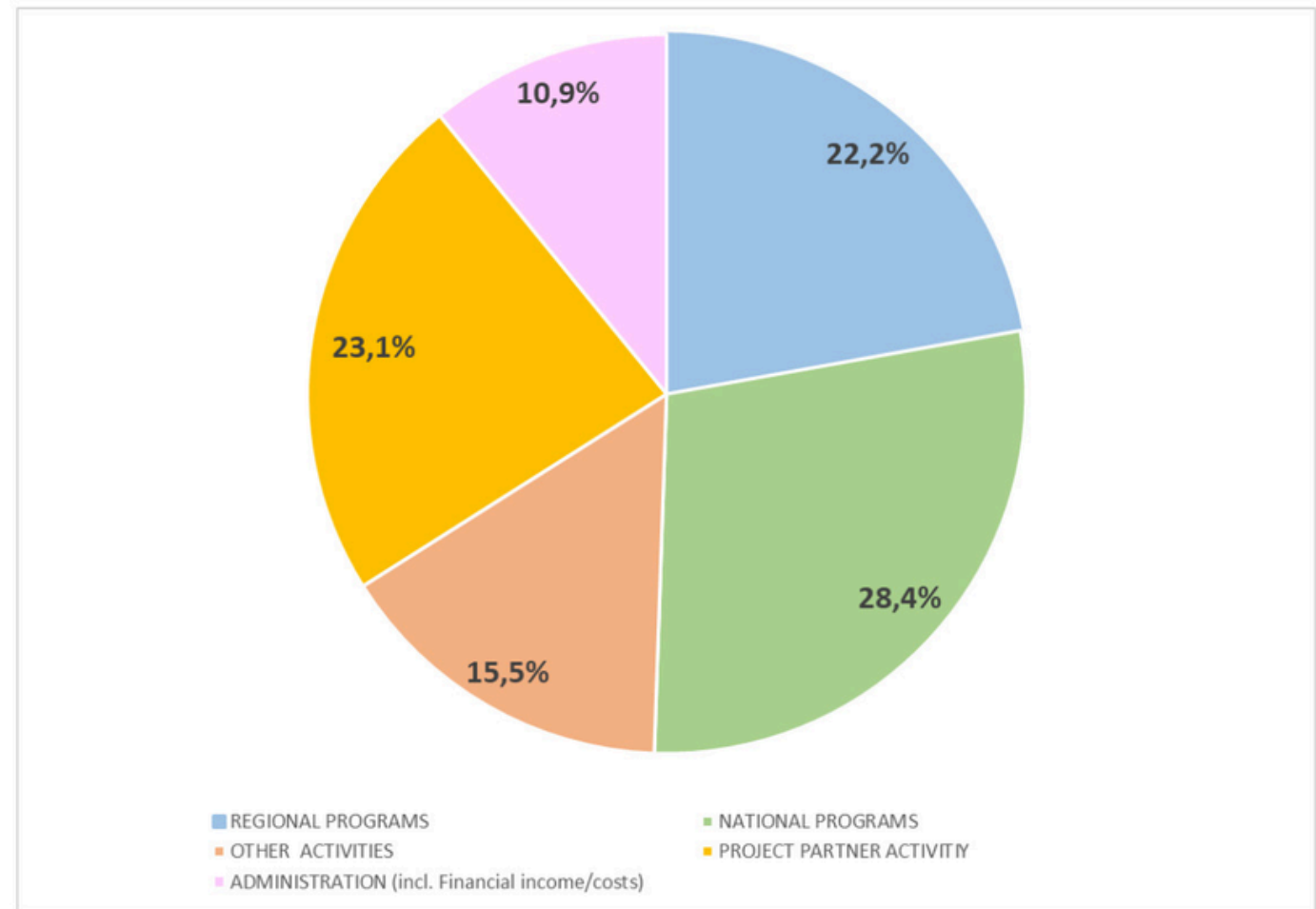
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

Expenses 20225

<u>Regional programs</u>	EUR	%
Women's Rights and Gender Equality	103.728	2,0%
Shrinking Spaces	0	0,0%
Migration	312.287	6,2%
Economic & Social Rights	13.641	0,3%
Dialogue	693.914	13,7%
TOTAL REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	1.123.570	22,2%
<u>National programs</u>		
Tunisia	252.406	5,0%
Algeria	64.490	1,3%
Egypt	348.589	6,9%
Palestine, Israel & the Palestinians	105.144	2,1%
Lebanon	87.022	1,7%
Morocco	253.330	5,0%
Syria	86.622	1,7%
Turkey	242.543	4,8%
TOTAL COUNTRY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	1.440.146	28,4%
<u>Other activities</u>		
Advocacy & Training	382.926	7,6%
Project Monitoring & Evaluation	29.857	0,6%
Communication	158.900	3,1%
Executive Bodies	131.049	2,6%
Fundraising	69.512	1,4%
Human resources	11.613	0,2%
TOTAL OTHER ACTIVITIES	783.857	15,5%
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	3.347.573	66,0%
Administration (incl. Financial income/costs)	550.826	10,9%
Project Partner Activity	1.169.856	23,1%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	5.068.255	100,0%

Accounts and Finances



LIST OF DONORS

THE SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)

THE NORWEGIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (NORAD)

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS (OSF)

THE SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SDC)

THE DANISH ARAB PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (DAPP)

EUROPEAN UNION, FFPA, AS WELL AS THE EU DELEGATION IN CAIRO, THE EU DELEGATION IN JERUSALEM AND THE EU DELEGATION IN ANKARA

FONDATION DE FRANCE

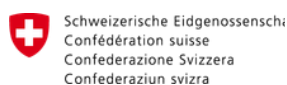
ACT CHURCH OF SWEDEN

THE NETWORK OF EUROPEAN FOUNDATIONS

DORIA FEMINIST FUND



Network of
European
Foundations



Vestergade 16, 2nd floor DK-1456 Copenhagen
K Denmark

Tel : +45 32 64 17 00
Mail : information@euromedrights.net
Website: www.euromedrights.org