



Annual Report 2014

PROFILE

elbarlament is an independent, non-partisan and impartial organisation founded on the premise that parliaments, assemblies, governments, administrations and civil society in transition require a specific and innovative quality of technical assistance and consulting service, taking into consideration political analysis, research and evaluation of assistance practices. elbarlament supports partners and beneficiaries in developing their potential to contribute to good governance, the rule of law and the prosperity of the people they serve and represent through strong, open and effective administrative, operational and decision-making processes and structures.

elbarlament draws expertise from a wide range of partnerships and a multi-national pool of experts covering areas from democratisation, rule of law, public administration reform issues to sectoral policies such as budgets and planning, security sector oversight, human rights, youth and women participation. In 2014, the network of consultants was further enlarged and Anna Fleischer and Friederike Hemker joined the staff. You can follow elbarlament's activities on www.linkedin.com/company/elbarlament.

PROJECTS

Egypt

2014 saw a continuation of the parliament support project in the framework of the transformation partnership of the German Federal Foreign Office. This project builds the capacity of the staff of the Egyptian parliament. In interactive workshops, international experts share their experience and knowledge with the Egyptian partners. Despite no members of parliament being present, the project continued in cooperation with the *El Sadat Association for Social Development and Welfare*. Due to challenges brought on by the continuous delay of parliamentary elections, activities had to be suspended at the end of the year. The resumption of activities is foreseen after the parliamentary elections scheduled for March 2015.

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elbarlament experts prepared and contributed to two conferences organized by the *German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ)* and the *Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement (EACPE)*. The conferences compared German and Egyptian perspectives on family law, violence against women and women's political participation. In November, elbarlament assisted IRZ in preparing an Egyptian women's rights delegation to Berlin. On the basis of these experiences, elbarlament together with *EACPE* and the *European Academy for Women (EAF Berlin)* designed a project developing women's capacities and activation on the local and community level. This project will enhance women's participation in the political, economic and civil sphere and shall be launched in 2015.

Iraq

elbarlament further developed its parliament support project for the Iraqi context as a contribution to civilian crisis management. The project conceived and developed since 2013 aims to support the Iraqi Parliament and the Kurdistan Parliament Iraq (KPI). The focus will be training and capacity building of staff with activities to be carried out in Erbil and other venues. The project was repeatedly welcomed by domestic and international stake-holders and activities should be launched during 2015 not least to complement other support to Iraq with tangible democratisation activities.

Libya

Experts of elbarlament continued on behalf of the European Union, contracted by the *International Management Group (IMG)*, to provide expertise to the former Libyan General National Council (GNC) until June 2014. elbarlament participated in three workshops, the first two focussing on Rules of Procedure of the then GNC, while the third involved discussions on the constitution as the experts met with members of the elected committee for the new constitution. In addition, a publication with contributions of elbarlament's experts together with UNDP and IMG was prepared for the members of the former GNC. In November, elbarlament hosted a Libyan Cross Culture Plus intern of *ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V.)*.

Myanmar

Following intensive consultations during 2014, the parliamentary support project commenced in January 2015. Four capacity-building workshops, targeting the staff of all three chambers of the Union Parliament are foreseen. Experts working in the administration of the German Bundestag will contribute to the activities organised by elbarlament. The project complements the activities of the *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* and the *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)* in Myanmar. A continuation and further development of activities will be discussed with incoming Parliamentary authorities after the elections scheduled for September 2015.

Syria

On behalf of the *Secretariat of the Working Group on Economic Recovery of the Group of Friends of the Syrian People*, elbarlament carried out a series of capacity-building activities for representatives of the Syrian Interim Government (SIG) focusing on enhancing the organisational effectiveness of the SIG located in Gaziantep, Turkey. In May 2014, as part of the GIZ Syria programme, elbarlament organised a second meeting of women activists from Syria. Anna Lührmann, former member of the German Bundestag, facilitated the workshop, which built the participants' policy-making and consensus-building capacities.

DEBATE

elbarlament contributed to the debate on democratization, the rule of law and accountability as well as civilian conflict management and the developments in partner countries, European and international cooperation. Throughout 2014, elbarlament engaged in dialogue on the political situation in Eastern and South Eastern Europe.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Dr Birgit Laubach contributed to a panel discussion on women's rights after the Arab Spring with participants from Libya, Tunisia and Egypt during the conference *Women's rights in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya* organised by *Female Lawyers without Borders* in Freiburg, Germany.

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In April, Tobias Flessenkemper contributed to the *Forum Alpbach / Re:think Parlament - Ein politisches Innovationslabor* hosted by Franz Fischler and Caspar Einem. Selected Austrian Members of Parliament of all political groups and 20 experts and stakeholders from academia, economy, culture and civil society from the German-speaking area discussed new perspectives of parliamentarianism beyond the usual professional and ideological limits. elbarlament presented its innovative approach to parliamentary support.

In July, elbarlament hosted the first of two *Werkstattgespräche* in 2014, on *Egypt after the Presidential and before the Parliamentary Elections; Chances and Opportunities for Dialogue and Cooperation*. Anwar El Sadat, President of the *El Sadat Association for Social Development and Welfare*, and Dr Juan Diaz, Berlin representative of *mediatEUr* and senior consultant within the elbarlament network, discussed the perspectives for multi-party political dialogue with an audience of experts and partners.

In October, the speakers of the second *Werkstattgespräch* investigated the subject *Democratization in the wake of the Islamic State?* The in-depth expertise and experience of the panellists Martin Weiss, former foreign policy advisor in the German Bundestag, Dr Huda Zein, University of Cologne, and Alexander Bühler, journalist and Middle East reporter, sparked an insightful discussion with representatives of embassies, German Federal Ministries and other stakeholders about the developments particularly in Iraq and Syria.

In December, elbarlament contributed to a conference on *Germany and the Arabellion: How can Germany support the societal transformation in Northern Africa?* organised by the *Evangelische Akademie Loccum*. Discussions centred around the achievements and the future of the transformation partnership programme in view of the challenging developments in the region. elbarlament shared experiences of the parliamentary support project in Egypt, which was carried out within the transformation partnership of the German Federal Foreign Office.

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