



Annual Report 2016-2017

ADVISORY PRACTICE FOR INNOVATION IN GOVERNANCE

elbarlament is an independent, nonpartisan and impartial organisation founded on the premise that civil society, parliaments, assemblies, governments, administrations and culture in transition require a specific and innovative quality of technical assistance and advisory service, taking into consideration political analysis, research and evaluation of assistance practices. The specific approach of elbarlament is to create sustainable links between politics and civil society by developing the potential of actors in all sectors concerned. elbarlament creates innovative pathways between societal and cultural activities to foster democracy and participatory governance. 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 multinational 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.

elbarlament was able to continue broadening its network by becoming a full member of the Facharbeitskreis Governance of the GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH). elbarlament continues to be an active part of the Community of Practice of the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD).

elbarlament has developed projects in the areas of advice and capacity building, research and training and contributed to the debate on democratization, the rule of law and accountability, women empowerment and equality as well as civilian conflict management and the developments in partner countries, European and international cooperation.

Since 2016 elbarlament has regularly produced content on its various activities for social media which can be found on <https://www.facebook.com/elbarlament/>. At the end of 2017 the board of elbarlament decided to develop the name of the organisation. From 2018 elbarlament will be *elbarlament - cultures of democracy*.

ADVICE & CAPACITY BUILDING

Institutional dimension

ASEAN InterParliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

elbarlament developed and implemented activities on networking and outreach with civil society for parliamentary staff from ASEAN countries. These workshops were carried out as part of the project „Capacity Development for the ASEAN InterParliamentary Assembly (AIPA)”. The Federal Republic of Germany and AIPA signed a cooperation agreement ‘to strengthen the parliamentary normative and control functions of ASEAN Member States’. In this context, AIPA and GIZ agreed on the joint implementation of the project, commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office , "Capacity Development for the ASEAN InterParliamentary Assembly (AIPA)", to which elbarlament started to contribute with workshops on parliament-civil society cooperation from 2015 until 2016.

Women think Iraq anew

In cooperation with the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V. (ifa) and financed by the German Federal Foreign Office, elbarlament carried out a series of capacity building and policy workshops for women leaders in Iraq. The project “Women think Iraq anew” gathers members of parliament, activists from civil society, women working in academia and other professional fields to develop a common vision for the Republic of Iraq across regional and other divisions. The first year of cooperation resulted in a memorandum that will form the basis of further work and advocacy for women participation in the democratic and political processes in Iraq during 2018 and in the run-up of the scheduled general elections. The draft memorandum was presented to a broader audience in Berlin during a study tour hosted by elbarlament in October 2017.

Bilateral issues in the Western Balkans

elbarlament was commissioned to provide training on bilateral issues and the dimensions of diplomatic means to address them for staff of the foreign ministries of the Western Balkans countries as part of a programme of the GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH) programme for the Western Balkans. The training took place in Tirana, Albania in May 2017.

Societal dimension

Tunisia Civil Society-Parliament relations

During the first half of 2016, elbarlament contributed with activities on civil society-parliament relations to the EPD-led project “Support to Civil Society / Programme d’Appui à la Société Civile” funded by the European Commission.

Supporting women activism in the Syria context

In March 2016, elbarlament organised another meeting of women activists from Syria which were part of a series started 2013. The workshop, which built the participants’ policy-making and consensus building capacities was carried out on behalf of the GIZ commissioned by the German Ministry of Economic Development Cooperation. The activity contributed to strengthening the network already established by earlier workshops as well as to add new women to this network. The activity also contributed to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in the Syria context.

Empowering female Iraqi authors

Commissioned by the German Foreign Office, cultural department, elbarlament organised the a series of workshops for women under the heading "Writing for Life". Since 2015, and even more intensively since 2016 and throughout 2017, Iraqi female writers and literature experts from other Arab-speaking countries as well as Germany cooperate in developing the voice and participation of women in public life, arts and literature in Iraq. In 2016 and 2017 study visits of participants were organised to Germany.

Democracy and leadership & Open Doors Open Minds

In 2016 elbarlament and the Europäische Akademie für Frauen e.V. Berlin (EAF) carried out a pilot project “Democracy and Leadership” for young Syrian people in Germany who have recently arrived as refugees. This pilot, commissioned by the German Federal Agency for Civic Education, was further developed with the partner EAF in to a full-scale empowerment programme focusing on young women with a refugees background into the German society, called “Open Doors, Open Minds”. The project for which elbarlament provides the civic education element and expertise, is funded from 2017-2019 by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and their programme “Demokratie leben”.

Talks on cultural policy

elbarlament was commissioned by ART Düsseldorf, a contemporary art fair, to conceptualise talks and outreach on cultural policy. The talks were hosted and moderated by elbarlament's Tobias Flessenkemper during the fair in November 2017 in Düsseldorf.

RESEARCH, EVALUATION & TRAINING

Women movements in Central and Eastern Europe

Commissioned by the Foundation Women in Europe (Stiftung Frauen in Europa) in Frankfurt (Germany) elbarlament produced an extensive study on the development of women organisations in Central and Eastern Europe with a focus on equality and participation (2016).

University module "Communication and Management"

The Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE) in Nice (France) contracted elbarlament's Tobias Flessenkemper to design and implement a training module in the area of "communication and management". The module is part of the Mediterranean branch of the Master in the Master in Advanced European and International Studies (MAEIS) funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission. The module enables students to develop a comprehensive understanding of international project management, intercultural communication and cooperation in democracy and governance projects in the Mediterranean region and took place in France and Tunisia.

Local governance programmes of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina commissioned a report for the fourth regional meeting of the OSCE local governance programmes in South Eastern Europe in Sarajevo 2017. The three areas under review - (i) local governance laws, (ii) gender mechanisms and (iii) oversight function of municipal assemblies - were analysed from various perspectives.

Evaluation "Support to EU approximation through regional cooperation"

The evaluation of the GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH) project "Support to EU approximation through regional cooperation", as part of the open regional fund for South Eastern Europe was awarded to elbarlament. The evaluation began 2017 and

will be presented in spring 2018, contributing to improved support of the Western Balkans' integration to the European Union.

DEBATE

On 7 December 2017 elbarlament hosted the public reading of Nedaa Mohsin Hasan, Suhad Abdulrazzaq Issa and Zainab Safi Alaeani at the Arab language library Baynetna in Berlin. The three Iraqi authors were part of the of the elbarlament project "Writing for Life" and presented their works as part of a study visit to Germany (Frankfurt and Berlin).

On 26 October 2017 elbarlament hosted the public debate of participants of the project "Women think Iraq anew" at the Heinrich Böll Stiftung in Berlin. The panelists Zainab Hasan Kadhim Alfrijat, activist from Basra; Sozan Khudeeda Khalaf Issa, lawyer of Yazidi women based in Dohuk; Amel Hussein Sajir Albudaiji, activist and lawyer from Baghdad and Rezan Dler Mustafa Mustafa, Member of Parliament from Sulaimaniya discussed with elbarlament's Dr Birgit Laubach and the audience about the perspectives for a peaceful Iraq and the situation of women in the country.

On 13 December 2016 elbarlament hosted a discussion and reading of text at the Literaturhaus Köln e.V. with authors from Iraq. Moderated by Larissa Bender, journalist and translator from Cologne the Iraqi authors of the project "Writing for Life" discussed with the German author Ulla Lenze and Najem Wali and author from Iraq. The event focussed on the tool of creating writing to empower women and contribute to more female participation in the difficult circumstances of Iraq.

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