



Annual Report 2015

ADVISORY PRACTICE FOR INNOVATION IN GOVERNANCE

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 advisory 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 2015, elbarlament was able to broaden its network by joining the Community of Practice of the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD). EPD supports democracy worldwide. Located in Brussels, it has established itself as a key player on EU democracy support, both vis-à-vis the EU Institutions and the member states, as well as the wider democracy support community. elbarlament is the first member of the Community of Practice to concentrate specifically on parliaments and parliamentary processes.

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 as well as civilian conflict management and the developments in partner countries, European and international cooperation.

ADVICE & CAPACITY BUILDING

Institutional dimension

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

elbarlament developed and implemented activities on networking and outreach with civil society for parliamentary staff from ASEAN countries. This workshop was carried out as part of the project „Capacity Development for the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary 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’ and hence support the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015. In this context, AIPA and GIZ agreed on the joint implementation of the project, commissioned by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, "Capacity Development for the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)", to which elbarlament started to contribute in 2015.

Energy Community

elbarlament provided training and advice to the Energy Community Secretariat in Vienna (www.energy-community.org). The training and the advisory activities were provided on behalf of the Open Regional Fund South East Europe – Energy Efficiency (ORF-EE) of the GIZ. The aim of elbarlament’s assignment was the raising of awareness and the increase of knowledge and comprehension of parliamentary processes, about the role of international parliamentary assemblies and of the functioning and tasks of parliamentary administrations and secretariats in policy and legislation processes. Target groups were the leadership and staff of the secretariat of the Energy Community and the staff of the parliamentary administrations and members of parliament of the countries of the ORF EE.

Myanmar Parliament

elbarlament continued the parliamentary support project commenced in 2013 with several workshops, a study tour to Germany and several adjacent activities. The project was

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commissioned by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. Together with several other organisations, in particular *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* and the *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*, elbarlament supported capacity training for the staff of three houses of the Myanmar Parliament (Hluttaw). Focus of the 2015 project was to provide advice and practice in parliamentary communication. Staff from all three houses of Hluttaw dealing with public information have participated in a training programme and familiarised themselves with cutting edge public information trends. The project was carried out in the run up to the elections in November 2015. The project is planned to be continued throughout 2016 based on a renewed invitation from the Myanmar authorities.

Friends of the Syrian People

On behalf of the *Secretariat of the Working Group on Economic Recovery of the Group of Friends of the Syrian People* (<http://fsg-econ.org>), elbarlament carried out a concluding capacity-building activity for representatives of the Syrian Interim Government (SIG) focusing on enhancing the organisational effectiveness of the SIG located in Gaziantep, Turkey. The results of the workshop series and the consultancy on the Rules of Procedure and a Labor Code for the Interim government were presented to the Prime Minister of the SIG in summer 2015.

Societal dimension

Supporting women activism in the Syria-context

In March 2015, elbarlament organised a third meeting of women activists from Syria. 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 Iraqi Authors

Together with the *Felsberg Institut für Bildung und Wissenschaft e.V.* elbarlament organised the conference "Writing for Life" with Iraqi female writers and German author Ulla Lenze in December in Basra, Iraq. Supported by the *Goethe Institut e.V. Irak*, this event brought together female writers and the interested public at the Cultural House in Basra. Participants discussed the situation of female authors and writers. Iraqi women recited poetry and read from their own prose and Lenze read from her novel "The Endless City". This event aimed to highlight the power of creative writing for empowering women and establish an exchange between Germany and Iraq.

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Civil society participation in law-making in the OSCE region

The Tajikistan office of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commissioned elbarlament's Birgit Laubach to for a research providing an *overview of OSCE best practices in civil society participation in law-making*. This study will be used to encourage parliamentarians in Tajikistan to reflect the role of civil society in the legislation process by highlighting examples of best practice.

Women movements in Central and Eastern Europe

The Foundation Women in Europe (Stiftung Frauen in Europa) in Frankfurt (Germany) commissioned elbarlament to produce an overview on the development of women organisations in Central and Eastern Europe with a focus on equality and participation.

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

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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.

DEBATE

On 14 April, elbarlament hosted the first of three *Werkstattgespräche* in 2015, with a presentation of the book *An Elusive Hope? - State Reform in Syria during the 2000s* by Amer Ghawri. His book focuses on state reform in Syria in the 2000s and how those developments influence the current situation. Petra Becker, Syria expert at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) commented on his contribution and led the discussion.

On 18 May, Sebastian Bloching in the second *Werkstattgespräch* in 2015 presented the **INSPIRED** study and the new approaches for democracy support developed within it. Afterwards the audience discussed challenges and opportunities in democracy promotion in the current climate.

On 18 September, Tobias Flessenkemper was a panelist and expert representing elbarlament and the advisory sector at the conference *Peace Policy in troubled times - Green answers on foreign policy*. He spoke on instruments for successful crisis prevention in the context of **security sector reform and the role of parliaments**. The conference was organised in the German Bundestag by the parliamentary group of the Green Party.

On 6 October, the third *Werkstattgespräch* investigated the subject *Myanmar before the elections*. Speakers were Lindsey Morrison heads the Yangon Film School and showed a short film on the role of education in the transformation process; Jasmin Lorch who is a

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researcher at the GIGA Institute in Hamburg and Managing Director Tobias Flessenkemper who shared the experiences from the ongoing Myanmar project.

Managing Director Tobias Flessenkemper was one of the invited foreign and security policy experts at the sixth Genshagen Forum for Franco-German Dialogue from 26-27 November on the topic of *How prepared is European Security Policy for the Challenges of the Future?* The Forum took place under the auspices of the President of the German Bundestag, Norbert Lammert, and gathered distinguished some 80 parliamentarians, diplomats and experts from France, Poland and Germany.

Together with the members of the European Partnership for Democracy, elbarlament contributed to the event *Myanmar after the parliamentary elections: Perspectives for democracy support* on 9 December in Brussels. Speakers included MEP Ana Gomes and Colin Steinbach of the EU Delegation Myanmar.

Birgit Laubach published two research papers on *NGO action field – is freedom of association under trouble?* and *Marital rape: why “no” does not always mean no. Women’s struggle to reform the German Criminal Code* to the publication *EU-Russia Legal Dialogue – Voices from Civil Society* edited by the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum.

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