

Annual Report 2023

September 2024

ABOUT ELBARLAMENT	3
PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY ELBARLAMENT E.V.	4
<u>Women Talking Peace (ongoing)</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Mosul Tells – Restoring Community Links Through Art and Oral History (ongoing)</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Towards enhancing the resilience of women human rights defenders in Yemen to advocate for women’s and children’s rights (ongoing)</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Democracy moves: Socio-political participation of refugee women from Ukraine (concluded)</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Creative expression through films</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Democracy needs civic education: a civic education platform in Iraq</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Women and Youth in Democracy (WYDE)</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Quality and Effectiveness in Dialogue and Participation in Iraq</u>	<u>10</u>
CONSULTANCIES IMPLEMENTED BY ELBARLAMENT GMBH & OUR EXPERTS	11
<u>Systematic review of dialogue experiences in Iraq</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Communication and Visibility of Dialogue and Participation in Iraq</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Fostering Diversity and Equality: Training Programme for Women’s Equal Participation Within Institutions in Iraq</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>EU4Youth IV</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Team Europe Democracy - phase II</u>	<u>13</u>

ABOUT ELBARLAMENT

Elbarlament¹ is a peacebuilding and democracy support organisation, with a special focus on empowering women and youth. We implement democracy support and peacebuilding projects in four thematic fields: Arts & Culture; Civic Education; Environment & Climate Change; Women, Peace and Security. We support parliaments, governments, civil society actors and international institutions, implementing projects and delivering consulting services in German, English, French and Arabic. Our international and multilingual team is based in Berlin, Cologne and Erbil (Iraq).

We believe in the transformative power of culture and the arts as well as inclusive dialogue, especially in contexts of state fragility. Through our work we aim to:

- Promote peaceful coexistence between all groups in society
- Foster democratic norms and practices
- Support dialogue between civil society and political decision makers
- Increase environmental awareness and contribute to mitigating climate change-related conflicts

We follow an integrated approach in supporting locally-owned reform agendas, combining arts-based tools for peacebuilding and civic education with more classical tools like technical assistance.

Our services:

- Training and events
 - Civic education and leadership training
 - Technical assistance for governments and parliaments
 - Multi-stakeholder dialogue
 - Conferences and panel discussions
 - Creative writing and filmmaking training
 - Study trips
- Research
 - Baseline studies
 - Policy papers
 - Research publications
- Consulting work
 - Programme design
 - Conceptual advice

¹ This report covers our two legal identities (elbarlament GmbH and elbarlament e.V.).

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY ELBARLAMENT E.V.

Women Talking Peace (ongoing)

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Duration of the project:** August 2020 to February 2024
- **Project objective:** For women to perform leading roles in organisations, institutions or peace processes in politics and society in Iraq, strengthen the role of women in reconstruction and in peace processes
- **Main activities in 2023:**
 - second training with the Iraqi Ministry of Justice on UNSCR 1325
 - ministerial Training on UNSCR 1325 with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA)
 - joint Ministerial Training Manual
 - joint Ministerial Training on UNSCR 1325 and the Iraqi National Action Plan.
 - publication of a ToT Manual for Iraqi women who aspire to become trainers (available in Arabic only)



Funded by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

More information:

- [Women Talking Peace platform](#)
- Social media channels: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (in Arabic)
- Perspectives on Peace (available in [English](#) and [Arabic](#))
- Success stories of the ToT-participants: [Sahar](#), [Haifaa](#), [Manaar](#), [Heleen](#)

Mosul Tells – Restoring Community Links Through Art and Oral History (ongoing)

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** September 2022 – August 2024
- **Project objective:** The project aims to contribute to the re-establishment of social cohesion through oral history and art and to make the cultural diversity of Mosul visible.
- **Main activities in 2023:**
 - six-day workshop for 16 Iraqi participants in Mosul on Oral History and Storytelling



- Mentoring of participants and story writing
 - Conversion of six stories for animation films and production
 - Conversion of eight stories for graphic novel and drawing of graphic novel
 - Two puppet theatre workshops on building puppets, puppet playing, and stage design in November and December in Sulimania and Erbil, with UK based puppet players Alison Duddle and Johnny Quick
- **Funded by:** German Federal Foreign Office and Art+



The project started in September 2022, with Paia Agency as our Iraqi project partner.

See more on the social media site: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Towards enhancing the resilience of women human rights defenders in Yemen to advocate for women's and children's rights (ongoing)



- **Country:** Yemen
- **Duration of the project:** March 2022 to February 2024
- **Project objective:** To contribute to enhancing the resilience of women human rights defenders in Yemen to defend human rights, in particular women's and children's rights
- **Main activities in 2023:**
 - A 1.2 - The project provided 2 protection grants for Yemeni HRDs to ensure living stability

- The project provided group online psychosocial sessions to members of the project core group of women HRDs focused on stress and trauma release as well as coping strategies.
 - In September 2023 the project team provided an Oral Statement During HRC49 in Geneva.
 - Training of Trainers (ToT) on Resilient Leadership, which saw the participation of ten individuals
 - Multidisciplinary Human Rights Training, in which 27 participants were involved.
 - A call of proposal has been published by PTI and the project received 14 project applications from 14 Yemeni women led CSOs. Six CSOs won the grants and are currently (In 2024) implementing their Human Rights Advocacy Projects.
 - A Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Yemeni women-led Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were updated. This revision involved extensive consultations with diverse stakeholders, organisations, and women, ensuring that the SOPs are contextually relevant and tailored to the specific needs of Yemen.
 - In-person meeting in Aman, Jordan, with other partners implementing development projects in Yemen funded by the EU
- **Official project partners:** Peace Track Initiative and To Be Foundation for Rights and Freedoms
 - **Funded by:** European Union

Democracy moves: Socio-political participation of refugee women from Ukraine (concluded)

- **Country:** Germany
- **Project duration:** September 2022 – March 2023
- **Project objective:** The project aimed for refugee women from Ukraine to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge about German democracy and its political and civil society structures.
- **Main activities in 2022:**
 - 20 women were offered internships at the German Green Party
 - Networking event in January 2023 for all three groups of women that participated in the project cycle.
- **Funded by:** Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (bpb)

The project provided a comprehensive civic education programme to prepare Ukrainian women residing in Germany for their effective socio-political engagement in Germany, Ukraine, or other countries. The programme was such a success that we are putting in place a follow-up programme in 2024.



Susanne Menge (MP) and Valentyna Puzikova (Project participant)

More information:

- [Project page](#) on the elbarlament website
- Social media channels of the project: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (Ukrainian & English)
- [Democracy moves! - Socio-Political Participation of Refugee Women From Ukraine](#) (video about the project)

Creative expression through films

- **Country:** Lebanon
- **Project duration:** February 2023 – December 2024
- **Project objective:** The project is a series of independent video/film workshops that aims to motivate people from all regions of Lebanon to express their ideas and desires in a creative way and thus participate in the public discourse on Lebanon’s political, social, cultural and economic development.
- **Main activities in 2023:**
 - Four filmmaking workshops in Choud, Beirut, Saida and the Dbayeh camp near Beirut respectively
- **Funded by:** German Foreign Office



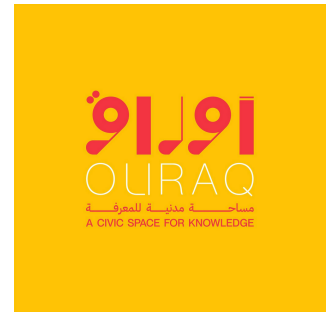
Creative expression through films is a socio-cultural project with a series of ten independent workshops in Lebanon. These workshops use film expression to transform education, equip people with the tools to communicate, think critically, auto-reflect or sometimes (re)build self-confidence by (re)connecting with their inner self. Selected video diaries produced in the workshops will be screened publicly in 2024.

More information:

- [Project page](#) on the elbarlament website
- Social media channels of the project: [Facebook](#)

Democracy needs civic education: a civic education platform in Iraq

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** February 2023 – February 2025
- **Project objective:** To contribute to a democratic, cohesive and peaceful Iraqi society through an increased social and political engagement of civil society, especially youth, at the local, regional and national level.
- **Main activities in 2023:**
 - First three civic education workshops in September and October (Najaf, Basrah and Nariyah)
 - Launch event in Erbil in October
 - Meetings with NGOs, IGOs, University, Think Tanks and Ministries
- **Funded by:** German Federal Foreign Office



Civic education is used to describe the democratic competencies of citizens to participate in social and political processes. It is crucial for consolidating the still-fragile transformation process of Iraq which in itself requires versatile measures. It is a way to promote peaceful nation-building and reconciliation, including dialogue between Iraqis of different tribes, religions, ethnicity, etc. The project's key component is the creation of a coherent political education offer in the form of a **digital civic education platform**. This will provide interested Iraqis access to a range of resources, including articles, videos, and interactive materials designed to facilitate learning and engagement. The platform will help increase the visibility of organisations active in the field of civic education.

More information:

- [Project page](#) on the elbarlament website
- Social media channels of the project: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X \(Twitter\)](#)

Women and Youth in Democracy (WYDE)

- **Country:** Sub-Saharan countries
- **Project duration:** January 2022 – December 2026
- **Project objective:** The overall objective of the WYDE project is to fund and implement national and transnational projects in support of youth civic engagement and participation in the decision-making processes across the Sub-Saharan Countries.
- **Main activities in 2023:**
 - Series of online training workshops and mentoring support for CSOs from Africa

- **Funded by:** European Union

From 2022 – 2026 elbarlament will be implementing activities within the EU funded WYDE Civic Engagement project as a member of the [EPD network](#). The Youth Participation in Public Affairs programme of the EU's **Women and Youth in Democracy Initiative (WYDE)** aims to improve the enfranchisement, empowerment, and inclusion of youth in all levels of democratic participation at the national, regional and global scales. WYDE Civic Engagement's approach is informed by the need for youth engagement and inclusion not only at national level, but beyond and above it. With half of the world's population being under 30, the continued survival of democracy is highly dependent on buy-in and support among its youth. The overall objective of the WYDE project is therefore to fund and implement national and transnational projects in support of youth civic engagement and participation in the decision-making processes across the Sub-Saharan Countries.

More information:

- [Project page](#) on the elbarlament website
- [EPD page](#) on the project

Quality and Effectiveness in Dialogue and Participation in Iraq

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** October 2023 – March 2024
- **Project objective:** To advance and improve the results and processes of previous and ongoing dialogues and to prepare future dialogue and participation (D&P) processes with enhanced governmental ownership in Iraq.
 - **Main activities in 2023:**
 - Ithraa Youth Camp in Sulaymaniyah in Iraq in November
 - Analysis with experts of past dialogue and participation processes in the fields of climate change and water management, complaints mechanisms, youth unemployment, vocational education and training, and youth participation
- **Funded by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Elbarlament contributes to Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH's PDP project with the project "Quality and Effectiveness in Dialogue and Participation in Iraq", with the aim to advance and improve the processes and results of existing and ongoing processes as well as prepare future dialogue and participation (D&P) processes with enhanced governmental ownership.

As part of the project it will commission five local civil society organisations (CSO) to prepare and ground participatory dialogue processes. One CSO will be asked in the framework of a sub-grant to go beyond this phase and to start implementing dialogues in selected governorates. The topics of all these processes will be in the area of climate change, empowerment of women, youth and minorities.

More information:

- [Project page](#) on the elbarlament website

CONSULTANCIES IMPLEMENTED BY ELBARLAMENT GMBH & OUR EXPERTS

Systematic review of dialogue experiences in Iraq

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** September 2022 – February 2023
- **Project objective:** The project aims to gather information on the documentation and systematisation of dialogue experiences in Iraq.
- **Main activities in 2023:**
 - Publication published
 - Participation in conference in March 2023, presenting the publication
- **Funded by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

The systematic review supported GIZ's Promoting Dialogue and Participation in Iraq (PDP) project which supports government efforts in Iraq to create conditions for an open and inclusive environment for dialogue and participation. The Iraqi Ministry of Planning (MoP) is acting as the political partner of the project. Elbarlament's support to GIZ consists of gathering information on, documenting and systematising dialogue experiences to highlight experiences of GIZ projects in this area and to share common challenges and lessons learned with other organisations and stakeholders. Our experts drafted a publication enriched through interviews with GIZ staff and representatives of other international or national organisations. The project was concluded in March 2023 following a conference during which the results of the research was presented in Baghdad.

Communication and Visibility of Dialogue and Participation in Iraq

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** November 2023 – March 2024
- **Project objective:** To support the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Promoting Dialogue and Participation in Iraq (PDP) project and its partners with strategic and practical measures to achieve increased impact and visibility of experiences on dialogue and participation in Iraq.
- **Main activities in 2023:**
 - Development of communication strategy
 - Creation of communication materials (videos, fact sheets)
- **Funded by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

More information:

- [Project page](#) on the elbarlament website

Fostering Diversity and Equality: Training Programme for Women's Equal Participation Within Institutions in Iraq

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** November 2023 – March 2024
- **Project objective:** To support the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)'s project „Strengthening the participation of women in the rehabilitation and peace process in Iraq (SPW)” with the implementation of a long-term training programme to foster diversity and equality within institutions and organisations and thereby improve women's participation in Iraq.
- **Main activities in 2023:**
 - Organisation of *in situ* and online training workshops
- **Funded by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

More information:

- [Project page](#) on the elbarlament website

EU4Youth IV

- **Country:** Iraq
- **Project duration:** December 2022 – June 2023
- **Project objective:** To support the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)'s project „Strengthening civil society in the Eastern Partnership” with drafting an application for co-funding by the European Union for the project EU4Youth IV.
- **Main activities in 2023:**
 - Drafting of project documents (Description of the Action, logframe) for submission to the European Union
- **Funded by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Team Europe Democracy - phase II

- **Country:** Global
- **Project duration:** March 2023 - December 2023
- **Project objective:** To support the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with drafting an application for co-funding by the European Union for the second phase of the project “Team Europe Democracy”.
- **Main activities in 2023:**
 - Drafting of project documents (Description of the Action, logframe) for submission to the European Union
- **Funded by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH