

Introduction

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) are jointly organising a workshop on democratic governance for young leaders of the Middle East and North Africa Region.

The workshop, which takes place from 25 to 31 May 2008 in Venice-Lido at the EIUC seat, the Monastery of San Nicolò, is realised with funding from the Italian Government and the European Commission and with the organisational assistance of the Al Kawakibi Democracy Transition Centre. The Arab Democracy Foundation (ADF) further supports the organisation of the Workshop by sponsoring a number of participants.

Participants in the programme are advanced university students or young graduates, under 30 years of age, with varied educational background related to the workshop's topic as well as practical experience as activists and advocates of human rights and democracy in their countries of origin. Participants represent the following MENA countries: Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, Yemen, Palestine, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Iraq.

The language of the seminar is English.

The topics to be discussed during the workshop include constitution building, designing electoral systems, managing elections, political parties, women in politics, post-conflict democratic processes, human rights, democracy and development.

Facilitators are recruited from the organising institutions as well as from partner institutions in the MENA region.

All issues are tackled using a participatory methodology with the aim to establish a fruitful dialogue between the young leaders and the facilitators as well as to deepen the regional specificity of the topic.

Organisers



The European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC), identified by the EC Regulation N° 1889/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide, is the main European academic institution supported by the European Union to pursue the continued promotion of human rights and democratisation through education, specialised training, research cooperation, and an expanding range of other activities. It is committed to fostering a community of leaders with professional competence, problem-solving capacities and creativity to improve human rights implementation worldwide. EIUC is an interdisciplinary Centre formed by 41 European universities.



The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organisation that supports sustainable democracy worldwide. Its objective is to strengthen democratic institutions and processes. International IDEA acts as a catalyst for democracy building by providing knowledge resources, expertise and a platform for debate on democracy issues. It works together with policy makers, donor governments, UN organisations and agencies, regional organisations and other engaged in democracy building. International IDEA works worldwide. Based in Stockholm, Sweden, it has offices in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Venue

EIUC
Monastery of San Nicolò
Riviera San Nicolò 26 30126 Venice - Lido (Italy)
Tel. +39 041 2720911 Fax +39 041 2720914
secretariat@eiuc.org



with the organisational support of



EIUC/INTERNATIONAL IDEA WORKSHOP ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE FOR YOUNG LEADERS OF THE MENA REGION



Venice 25-31 May 2008

EIUC is supported by



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Sunday, 25 May 2008

Arrival of participants

20.30 Welcome cocktail and dinner at Restaurant of Hotel Villa Mabapa

Monday, 26 May 2008

09.00 *Inaugural session*

Addresses by representatives of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EIUC, International IDEA, KADEM Centre, Arab Democracy Foundation.

09.30 *Presentation of the seminar*

10.00 *Introduction by participants*

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 *Introductory discussion: What is democracy?*

(**Massimo Tommasoli**, Director IDEA UN Office; **Mohsen Marzouk**, Secretary General - Arab Democracy Foundation; **Saad Eddin Ibrahim**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ibn Kaldoun Center for Development Studies, and Professor of Political Sociology, American University in Cairo)

12.00 *Challenges of democracy in the MENA region*
(**Saad Eddin Ibrahim**; **Mohsen Marzouk**)

13.00 Lunch at Restaurant of Hotel Villa Mabapa

14.30 *The basic principles of democratic governance*
(**Massimo Tommasoli**; **Saad Eddin Ibrahim**)

20.30 Dinner in Venice - Restaurant / Pizzeria "Al Faro"

Tuesday, 27 May 2008

09.00 *Building democratic constitutions*
(**Massimo Tommasoli**)

10.45 Coffee break

11.15 *Democracy in a historical perspective; the waves of democracy*

(**Anja Mihr**, Programme Director - European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation – E.MA)

13.00 Lunch at Nicelli airport's restaurant

14.30 *Human rights and democracy*

(**George Ulrich**, EIUC Secretary General; **Antonio Papisca**, Interdepartmental Centre on Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples – University of Padua - Professor of International Relations)

16.00 *Public administration and democratic governance*
(**Antonio Papisca**)

17.30 *Intermediate assessment; participants' feedback to programme*

20.30 Dinner in Venice-Lido - Restaurant / Trattoria "Africa"

Wednesday, 28 May 2008

09.00 *Post-conflict societies: transitional justice and institution building*
(**Anja Mihr**)

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 *Plenary discussion: Development and democracy*
(**Marina Romualdi Vaccari**, Coordinator Arab World Project, International IDEA)

13.00 Lunch at Nicelli airport's restaurant

14.30 *Democratic elections*

(**Stina Larserud**, ACE Network Facilitator / Policy Specialist International IDEA)

17.30 Afternoon visit to Venice- Palazzo Ducale

20.00 Dinner in Venice - Restaurant / Pizzeria "Birreria – S.Polo"

Thursday, 29 May 2008

9.00 *Women and Democracy: obstacles and opportunities*

(**Soukeina Bouraoui**, Director of the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR); **Marina Romualdi Vaccari**; **Sanem Guner**, Program Officer for the Foreign Policy Program of the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation - TESEV)

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 *Women and Democracy* (continued)

13.00 Lunch at Nicelli airport's restaurant

14.30 *Political pluralism and the role of non-state actors*

(**Niccolò Figà-Talamanca**, Programme Director of No Peace Without Justice - NPWJ)

18.00 Afternoon visit to Arabic sites in Venice

20.30 Dinner in Venice - Restaurant / Pizzeria "Al Nono Risorto"

Friday, 30 May 2008

9.00 *Wrapping up*
(**Marina Romualdi Vaccari** / **George Ulrich** / **Elisabetta Noli**, EIUC Senior Project Manager)

13.00 Farewell lunch at Nicelli airport's restaurant

Afternoon free / (optional) meeting at University of Venice – Cà Foscari with students of Arabic
(18.00 – Cà Capello, Venice)

Saturday, 31 May 2008

Departures