



European Union

## Civil Society Forum Neighbourhood South



### MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS of the CIVIL SOCIETY SEMINARS 25-27 April 2017, Tunis

#### RESILIENCE AND SECURITY

1. Countering Violent Extremism: Root causes.
2. Countering Violent Extremism: Developing resilience.
3. The security sector.
4. The context: the space for CSOs to operate.

Call to the EU to reinforce its commitment to human rights in policies related to CVE/PVE.

- 1) Support the development of a better national methodological research framework to better understand root causes for PVE.
- 2) In order to strengthen resilience, create a platform for the positive narratives and success stories, learn from difficult cases, increase connectivity between CSOs, understand better the impact of initiatives, and develop dialogue between EU and the Southern Neighbourhood, especially among youth.
- 3) There is a need for improved networks of action between CS and the State regarding PVE policies and increased partnership on national plans of action. CS and the State need to work in closer partnership. The EU can assist to remove blockages for CS operations and build capacities further in pursuing PVE/CVE, and SSR.
- 4) EU to expand its commitments to the various streams of action regarding PVE/CVE, including reform of education; address inequalities, among others, and to strengthen State and civil society capacities in that regard.
- 5) Call on EU to cease arms supply to regimes and governments engaged in mass human rights abuses, reinforce EU code of conduct on arms export, in order to create a much better context to pursue CVE and PVE.

## MIGRATION

### **Session 1: *Facility of mobility and circulation***

Recommendation: Adopt mobility policy based on human rights, and in compliance with international conventions

Tool: Establish a mixed mechanism involving EU institutions/CSOs to ensure the implementation of the follow up regarding international conventions, and the mobility of workers.

N.B. : SAG can be enlarged and constitute the basis of the mechanism.

### **Session 2: *Political and institutional responses to the crisis***

Recommendation: Develop a joint evaluation (CSOs/EU institutions) of the various mechanisms and programmes adopted at the EU/African Union, EU/Turkey summits in migration governance in the Mediterranean region via the creation of an observatory.

Tool: A partnership between CSOs and EU institutions in developing this study, and a report that will be discussed during the next summits, in order to have an inclusive visibility.

### **Session 3: *The legal and humanitarian dimension***

Recommendation: Mobilize all necessary means in order to build the institutional capacities of CSOs, and allow them to implement programmes aiming at a better protection of immigrants and refugees, and a more efficient coordination of support and assistance programmes.

Tool: Set up an appropriate financial and technical mechanism, specific to civil society, beyond regular international mechanisms.

### **Session 4: *Preventing and fighting all forms of abuses and violence against migrants.***

Recommendation: Encourage alliances, partnerships and networking between the different CSOs of countries of origin, transit and reception, in order to build their capacities, and allow them to fulfill their missions regarding the protection of migrants against risks (violence of their rights, marginalization and discrimination), and sensitize local communities to initiate a stronger sense of solidarity with the migrants and the refugees.

Tool: Develop a governance strategy based on rights and adopt an integrated programme to support and assist migrants and refugees as well as create coalitions based on task forces “experts from north and south” in the light of all of the studies conducted.

## **REDUCING INEQUALITIES: Employability and Social Economy**

**Session 1: *Youth challenges and employability: youth access to decent life and work.***

Recommendation: Promote and enhance technical vocational and educational training TVET.

**Session 2: *Liaising business to social work: partnership agreements and identifying key issues on regional economic approach.***

Recommendations:

1. Collaboration between civil society and private sector to lobby for reformulation of policies and legislations at the government level.
2. Encourage the private sector to be more committed to help civil society through a defined fund.

**Session 3: *Increasing productivity to enhance employability discussions on strategies for inclusive and sustainable growth.***

Recommendation:

Enhance Civil Society Organizations roles to work on advocacy and be part of policy and decision makers.

**Session 4: *Economic development and job creation: liaising civil society to private sector: special focus on innovation, SMEs competitiveness and trade development.***

Recommendation:

Increase creations of global communities for technology entrepreneurs and startups – known as Tech Hub (including technical assistance and access to finance).

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE (1/2)

### **Session 1: *Human rights and democratic transition: What CS can do to build and strengthen democracy?***

#### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EU:

- Make more efforts to identify new actors and have a clear picture and update about CSOs after the Arab spring.
- Apply the human rights conditionality in all its association agreements; CSOs to monitor it closely.
- Include in its association agreements with partner countries a formal mechanism / structure composed of CSOs to ensure periodic monitoring.
- EU should include civil society organizations, including independent and autonomous ones in its dialogue mechanisms at national level.
- Continue organizing periodic regional forums on specific thematics to achieve exchange between civil society actors.
- Continue protecting human rights and human rights defenders.
- Work directly with grass roots organizations to avoid intermediates.

### **Session 2: *Are Human rights and counter terrorism tactics irreconcilable?***

#### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EU:

- Support the implementation of the Barcelona Plan of Action of the Euromed CS to prevent all forms of Violent Extremism; encourage CSOs to become members of the OPEV.
- Support all partner countries in the development of National Plans of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE), as recommended by the UN's Secretary General. The OSC should be involved in the elaboration and monitoring of these Plans of Action, to ensure Human Rights and Civil Liberties are respected.
- Governments should be urged to allow the space for CSOs to work and implement PVE related programs.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS TO CSOs:

- Ensure the role of CSOs in monitoring, reporting, and providing the relevant protection and capacity to conduct this role.
- Monitor media to avoid hate speech and prevent violence and extremism.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE (2/2)

### **Session 3: Violence against Women, and Women's rights protection**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EU:

- Invite partner countries' governments to ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention, and invite both governments and CSOs to use the mechanisms and tools provided by the Convention, regardless of the ratification status.
- Support partner countries in the elaboration of legislation regarding women, and encourage them to ratify and implement the CEDAW without reservations.
- Support all partner countries in the implementation of UN resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security.
- Continue supporting awareness campaigns on Women's rights.
- Protect female human rights defenders who are lobbying and advocating on issues regarding violence against women.

### **Session 4 : Protecting the rights of vulnerable groups and minorities, and preventing discrimination**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EU:

- Enhance and support Human Rights organizations from the region to document and report on violations and abuses targeting vulnerable groups, in particular religious, ethnic minorities and LGBT, and enhance Human Rights organizations to submit alternative reports to UN sub-committee on discriminations.
- Support awareness campaign, education, and training programmes for the Media in the field of non-discrimination, and respect to all kind of differences.
- Support the creation of spaces for dialogue between SCOs and national authorities on the question of discriminations.
- Support initiatives ensuring legal, medical, and psychological coverage of persons victims of all kinds of discriminations (and LGBT in particular).
- Organize a specific regional forum on all kinds of discriminations, dealing with legal, social, and psychological aspects, and distinguishing between HR protection and promotion.
- Create a regional/sub-regional pole of experts/specialists (lawyers, psychologists, medical professionals...) working on the question of LGBT.
- Call the governments of Partner Countries to abrogate legislation criminalizing sexual intercourse between consenting adults of same sex, and to forbid all kind of intrusive medical examinations disrespectful of the integrity and dignity of the person.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS TO CSOs:

- Use the national and international Human Rights tools and mechanisms to protect minorities and individuals victims of discriminations.