IN FOCUS: Project extension sees new activities planned for the coming year

With the generous support of the European Union, we are pleased to announce the extension of the Support to Media in Jordan project for another year. Building on the success and achievements in the last three years, several new activities and partnerships are planned for the coming year. The next year will see a focus on strengthening media and information literacy (MIL) in the country, building on our successful pilot MIL club project and our work with universities on introducing MIL concepts. As well, we are focusing on targeted training for media outlets and universities, and the procurement of radio and studio equipment for selected beneficiaries. In addition, we will continue to provide mentorship and technical assistance to local radios, and support the development of an association of local community radios in Jordan, the first such association of its kind in the Kingdom.

What else happened?

UNESCO marked Global Media and Information Literacy Week
This year, we once again marked Global MIL week, which ran from Oct 25-Nov 1. A special campaign on social media highlighted the work that had been achieved as part of the project with our partner Jordan Media Institute (JMI). Read this piece to know more about our work on MIL:
Students in Jordan introduced to media and information literacy concepts for the first time.

Read the op ed in the Jordan Times.
Watch the new short videos on MIL produced by JMI.

UNESCO Internet Universality Indicators consultations organized in Amman
On Oct 24, UNESCO organized a series of consultations on the Internet Universality Indicators at Jordan Media Institute. The sessions were attended by over 20 Internet experts including government representatives, data protection advocates, privacy experts, academia and members of civil society and educational institutions. UNESCO Director for Freedom of Expression and Media Development Guy Berger presented UNESCO’s new project “Defining Internet Universality Indicators”. The initiative aims to develop indicators for governments and other stakeholders to measure Internet development at the national level and promote the norms and values based on the ROAM principles (which encourage the Internet governance to be based on human Rights, Openness, Accessibility, and Multi-stakeholder participation).
Guy Berger visits Yarmouk University to speak about world trends in freedom of expression

On 25 October, about 120 students at Yarmouk University in Irbid, had a taste of UNESCO’s forthcoming report on “World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development”. In a special lecture, Mr. Berger, asked where the world would be today “if the concept of Zero had been suppressed, Ghandi had been gagged, Copernicus was successfully censored, and poets, artists and musicians were silenced.” Turning to journalists’ use of freedom of expression, he highlighted the value to societies of a profession that proclaimed standards of “verifiable information and informed comment in the public interest”. Most journalism needs news institutions to survive, meaning that media development was needed, said Berger.

UNESCO celebrated International Day for the Universal Access to Information in TED-style event in Irbid

On 4 October, UNESCO Amman Office organized an outdoor event at the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST) in Irbid on the occasion of the 2nd International Day for the Universal Access to Information, which takes place on 28 September every year. The International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) hosted the second whole-day event “IPDCtalks: Powering Sustainable Development with Access to Information” in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. Modeling the ‘IPDCtalks’ that took place in Paris, the project supported the organization of a similar event to highlight and elaborate on the importance of Access to Information for all sustainable development efforts in Jordan.

HE Minister Momani attended closing event of UNESCO’s capacity building for local radios project component

In July, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Al Momani, Minister of State for Media Affairs, attended the closing event for the Capacity Building for Local Radios component of the Support to Media in Jordan project. The year-long project component was implemented by JMI and brought together 146 volunteers and staff members working in seven local and community radios representing various governorates in the Kingdom. The participating local radios were: Yarmouk FM, Jordan University Radio, Liqaa FM in Zarqa, Sawt Al Karak broadcasting from Mu’tah university, Al-Tafileh Technical University Radio, Sawt al Janoub broadcasting from Al-Husayn Bin Talal University, and Sawt Al-Aqaba operated by ASEZA. During the event, a basic framework was put forward to establish a collective organization by means of setting up an association for local and community radios designed to encourage networking and exchange of expertise.

“This program was so useful. We learned so much about radio presenting and reporting, how to interview people to get the most information from them, and how to carry our voice on the radio.”

– Safaa Barghash, radio presenter, Aqaba.
SPOTLIGHT: Safaa Barghash, young voices in media

This summer the project highlighted the work of one of the participants in the capacity building program for local radios, Safaa Barghash. As part of the JMI implemented project component on local radios, Safaa was one of approximately 140 radio staff and volunteers throughout the Kingdom who participated in an extensive capacity development program, targeting seven community and local radio stations. As part of the project, radio staff and volunteers produced radio packages and stories. Safaa worked on stories about tourism in Aqaba, local employment, and draft racing. Her favourite story was interviewing the draft racing personalities around Jordan, and getting to know people around the country. “I like that people don’t expect that someone who looks like me will be out on the street with a microphone, approaching strangers. Most of the time people are very open and willing to talk to me, so we have to keep doing this,” she said.

Survey: Tell us what you think

Tell us what you think of our products and visibility.
Please fill in the short survey here, it only takes 5 minutes: LINK TO SURVEY. Thank you!

Upcoming:

23 Nov – 2 Dec: European Union Film Festival, Amman
We will be screening our project videos and exhibiting a selection of new posters at the Haya Cultural Centre during the Festival. Be sure to check it out.

Stay up to date on our project news by visiting our Facebook page and website.

Contact: Ms. Lidija Sabados (Project Officer): l.sabados@unesco.org