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## Joint European Union/Council of Europe Programme

### "Protecting human rights, rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme V)

<b>Programme Title:</b>	"Protecting human rights, rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean (South programme V)"
<b>Budget:</b>	Total: EUR 5,556,000.00 (100%) EU: EUR 5,000,000.00 (89.99%) CoE: EUR 556,000.00 (10.01%)
<b>Geographical scope:</b>	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine* and Tunisia
<b>Duration:</b>	1 September 2022 – 31 August 2025 (36 months)
<b>EuropeAid ID</b>	Fr-2008-CFX-0906302852

#### Short description:

Launched in 2012, the South Programme operationalises the close and long-standing tripartite partnership between the European Union, the Council of Europe and the partner authorities in the region based on common values. Building on its four successive phases<sup>2</sup>, South Programme V continues to support democratic reforms in the Southern Mediterranean through the establishment of a common legal space between Europe and this region.

The focus of the fifth phase is on action with regional dimension to address common interests and challenges, facilitate knowledge sharing and lessons learned on a range of topics. These include: fight against organised crime (corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing; trafficking in human beings), support for administrative and judicial reforms in the region; promotion of independence, efficiency and quality of justice; combating of violence against women and children; ensuring the rights to access to information, protection of personal data and freedom of expression; combating of drug abuse; empowering of civil society, in particular youth and women, through intercultural dialogue, global citizenship education and democratic governance.

The flexible and demand-driven approach of the programme enables to respond to the specific needs and requests for assistance of the programme partners, especially through the Quick Response Mechanism (QRM), which provides targeted legislative and policy advice to priority-related reforms.

The South Programme V is coordinated by the Council of Europe Regional Office in Tunis.

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*\*This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe and European Union member States on this issue.*

<sup>2</sup> The successive phases of the South Programme include: South Programme I (January 2012 - December 2014): "Strengthening democratic reform in the South Mediterranean region"; South Programme II (January 2015-February 2018): "Towards strengthened democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean"; South Programme III (March 2018-February 2020): "Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean"; and South Programme IV (March 2020-August 2022): "Regional Support to Reinforce Human rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean"

<b>South Programme V in brief</b>	
<b>Overall objective :</b>	To better protect human rights, rule of law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean region in line with European and international standards.
<b>Outcomes and outputs:</b>	<p>The South Programme V has three key components which aim to :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Facilitate the progressive creation of an enlarged common legal space between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region based on European and international standards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Output 1.1:</u> Partners participate in Council of Europe conventions and Partial Agreements, including in monitoring mechanisms as relevant;</li> <li>• <u>Output 1.2:</u> Partners revise legislation in core areas related to human rights, rule of law and democracy in accordance with European and international standards, including with the support of the QRM.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>2. Strengthen capacities to address global challenges through common tools and responses based on European and international standards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Output 2.1:</u> Strategies, tools and, mechanisms regarding global challenges to human rights, democracy and rule of law are developed;</li> <li>• <u>Output 2.2:</u> Capacities and awareness of representatives of relevant bodies, professionals and civil society are increased to jointly address global challenges, including through the CoE HELP Programme.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>3. Enhance co-operation and dialogue on human rights, rule of law and democracy within the Southern Mediterranean region and between the region and Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Output 3.1:</u> Existing networks of the Council of Europe are consolidated and expanded.</li> <li>• <u>Output 3.2:</u> New networks, including with civil society, are created to ensure sustained and structured co-operation and dialogue between the Southern Mediterranean partners and to improve practices.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Partners:</b>	<p>Governmental and public bodies at all levels and training institutions, notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Line Ministries (notably those in charge of foreign affairs; justice, human rights, good governance, social and family affairs, internal affairs, education and health);</li> <li>- Human rights and good governance independent bodies with specific responsibilities in relevant areas (such as anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, anti-trafficking, prevention of torture, media and freedom of expression, women and children’s rights);</li> <li>- Ombudspersons;</li> <li>- Constitutional Courts</li> <li>- The judiciary, including national courts and high judicial councils, legal professionals and judiciary supervisory bodies;</li> <li>- Training institutions, including schools of judges and prosecutors;</li> <li>- Bar associations;</li> <li>- Law enforcement authorities;</li> <li>- Schools of Political Studies;</li> <li>- Media self-regulatory bodies, journalists and their professional associations.</li> </ul>
<b>Final beneficiaries:</b>	Citizens of the Southern Neighbourhood region.

## South Programme V - main activities (2022-2025):

<p><b>1) Enlarged legal space between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation of regional events to raise awareness about European and international standards and to promote regional exchanges on best practices;</li> <li>- Provision of support for the participation of beneficiary authorities and professionals in relevant Council of Europe structures and networks.</li> <li>- Organisation of study visits to European bodies, such as the European Court of Human Rights, and relevant national bodies in Europe and/or in the Southern Mediterranean;</li> <li>- Provision of legislative expert advice through the QRM;</li> <li>- Provision of technical assistance for the assessment of existing legislative frameworks, preparation of gaps analysis and recommendations to harmonise national regulative framework with European and international standards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2) Strengthened capacities to address common challenges</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of technical assistance for the development of mechanisms and tools to address global challenges at country and regional level;</li> <li>- Provision of technical assistance for the review and development of public policies in the thematic priority areas of the programme;</li> <li>- Organisation of regional and country specific workshops and events to exchange experiences on the implementation of relevant standards, tools and mechanisms to address global challenges;</li> <li>- Carrying out training needs assessments on priority thematic areas identified jointly with beneficiaries;</li> <li>- Provision of specialised training for legal and other professionals, representatives of public authorities and civil society, including through the Council of Europe Human Rights Training for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme and training on relevant methodologies (e.g. tools developed by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ));</li> <li>- Provision of awareness raising, training and other capacity building measures on relevant standards and their effective application by relevant legal professionals, law enforcement officials, other professionals, and civil society.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3) Enhanced co-operation and dialogue on human rights, rule of law and democracy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation of regional awareness raising events in the framework of existing networks;</li> <li>- Setting-up of regional focus groups on potential responses to common challenges, led by European experts and experts from the region having made significant steps in advancing towards the protection of certain rights (e.g. Tunisia in the area of data protection, trafficking in human beings);</li> <li>- Provision of technical assistance for the preparation of assessment and expert papers concerning potential new networks and/or consolidating existing networks.</li> <li>- Organisation of meetings, workshops and/or other events with the objective of operationalising new networks and/or consolidating existing networks.</li> </ul>

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