

## « INCREASING THE REPRESENTATION OF LEBANESE WOMEN IN THE LOCAL POLITICAL LIFE »

### PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY

Committee for the Follow-Up on Women's Issues – CFUWI

[www.cfuwi.org/](http://www.cfuwi.org/)

### COUNTRY

Lebanon

### TARGET REGION

Governorate of Mount Lebanon - Communities of Aley, Baabda, Metn, Chouf, Kesrouan and Jbeil (Byblos).

### PROJECT'S OVERVIEW

This project is framed within the initiative "Strengthening the capacities of actors working for gender equality" led by the IEMed, in partnership with CAWTAR, FLDDF, FFM, RUSEMEG and the French State. It is funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI) in the framework of the Axis 1 of the project "Women of the Future in the Mediterranean" which aims to promote the emancipation and access to power of women of the Southern shore of the Mediterranean.

This initiative sets up, each year, *local clusters of gender equality actors* in 7 countries (1 per country), made up of associations, research and education institutions, local and regional authorities, companies and syndicates and media working in favour of gender equality in a specific territory. Each local cluster elaborates a *diagnosis of the situation* at the local level on a topic of interest related to gender equality and formulate proposals for concrete actions to address the problems identified during the diagnosis in the form of the collective identification of a *field project*. Each cluster is structured around an association that leads all its actions. CFUWI coordinated the Lebanese local cluster in 2015 and led a *mobilization pilot action of gender equality actors at local level* consisting in the identification of the brakes to the inclusion of Lebanese women in the political life.

The research and the local actors' meetings highlighted the key elements that could enhance women's participation in politics and allow them reaching higher level positions. Among them: the modification of the electoral law and development of new policies; change in the patriarchal attitudes and values especially towards the stereotypical image of women; inclusion of the gender-equality concept in educational programs; increasing awareness on the importance of gender quotas.

### OBJECTIVES

- Contribute to enhance women's political participation in municipalities through the amendment of the municipal elections' law and the adoption of the quota system.
- Raise awareness among policy-makers, media and NGOs on the need to modify the elections' law in partnership with other civil society movements.

### ACTIVITIES

- Elaboration of an advocacy tool (paper or booklet) with arguments to support the amendment of the municipal election law.
- Advocacy sessions with the municipalities' members in Mount Lebanon.
- Participatory dialogues with the Parliament's members representing Mount Lebanon to lobby and advocate for the adoption of the draft law which is promoted by women's organizations and the civil society in the Parliament.
- Dissemination of the advocacy tool and the project's objectives among NGOs and the media.

The Axis 1 "Strengthening the capacity of the actors working for equality" is part of the project "Women of the future in the Mediterranean" funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, and the project "Developing women's empowerment" labelled by the Union of the Mediterranean

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