

## « THE TRANSFORMER EFFECT OF WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP OF MONASTIR AND SOUSSE »

### PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY

Voix de la Femme à Jemmel – VFJ

### COUNTRY

Tunisia

### TARGET REGION

Governorates of Monastir and Sousse

### 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 (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) – 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 of gender equality actors<sup>©</sup> 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. **VFJ coordinated the Tunisian local cluster in 2015** and **led a mobilization pilot action of gender equality actors at local level** on women's political participation at the local level in Sousse and Monastir. Previously, the VFJ collected data on the reality of women's political participation. The data showed that women do not refuse by choice to participate in the political and public life rather, the conditions do not allow nor encourage women's participation in politics.

**The obstacles of women's participation in politics** which emerged from the pilot action are: the female domestic tasks and the education of kids; the lack of women's self-confidence; the lack of family support; the current customs stating that politics is an activity reserved to men only and the weak presence of women in the public spaces in the Tunisian inland regions; the sexual harassment.

### PROJECT'S OBJECTIVE

Strengthen women's capacities and competences to participate in public life and in politics, especially those who have the potential to become leaders.

### PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES

1. Raising awareness of the local media on the participation and representation of women in public life, and the role of the media in strengthening women's political participation.
2. Training leader women on electoral laws, leadership, human rights and communication.
3. Raising the general public's awareness on the importance of women's participation to political life through a radio advertising in the context of the municipal elections forecasted to take place in 2017.
4. Realization of an exchange meeting between local activist women and young women leaders.

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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