

Who is ANND and what are the objectives?



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

ANND is a regional CS network aiming at enhancing the advocacy role of civil society on social and economic policies;

Advocacy is an important ANND Strategy, mainly at the level of the European and International Financial Institutions.

Since 2011 people's uprisings ANND has been organizing (direct) advocacy visits to European institutions

Advocacy
- targeting policy making processes
- opening channels of influence for civil society in the Arab region.

EU is one of the most significant partners of the Arab region

- ▶ Since “Barcelona Process” ANND has engaged in monitoring the impacts of EU policies implemented in the region. *(including free trade and development)*
- ▶ Since “2011”, ANND’s advocacy strategy became systematic, focusing on:
 - ▶ Social, economic and political challenges,
 - ▶ The quest of peoples of the region on social justice, freedom and dignity moved beyond their borders;
 - ▶ The Call to revise and question partnerships including with the EU



Post-Arab Spring

- ▶ The demands from the southern perspective were seeking an **in-depth redefinition of the regional and international partnerships** reflecting the common interests, based on the principles of mutual accountability, rooted in peoples' rights and ensuring their national ownership.
- ▶ From the EU perspective, the first response to the Arab spring: A Revision of the European Neighborhood Policy in 2011,
 - ▶ *Due to various factors the goals were not met*
- ▶ The second was the revision of the ENP issued on 2015.
 - ▶ *This policy priorities security and the promotion of investments and the role of the private sector*
- ▶ As a reaction to these policies, ANND organized yearly (sometimes bi-annual) Advocacy weeks to the EU institutions to engage directly with the EU officials and explain CSO perspectives

Quotations reflecting personal assessments

Samir Aita

2016 ANND EU advocacy delegation member

(Président du Cercle des Economistes

Arabes et Président de l'association

"Démocratie et Entraide en Syrie, Ghosn
Zeitoun)

- ▶ The advocacy process with the EC for the Mediterranean countries should **be more than formal consultation processes; it should include close follow-up**. This necessitates addressing **lack of clarity** on the general EC policies and objectives; **lack of transparency and exhaustivity** on the effective projects that the EC is supporting. This is particularly the case for Syria, but also valid for other countries.



Firas Jaber-
Palestine- Al Marsad

2015 ANND EU advocacy delegation
member

- ▶ The ANND advocacy week is important to **introduce the Arab civil society leaders and the issues to the policy decision makers in the EU, and to be able to interact directly with them.** This engagement is vital to **equip the civil society activists** with deep understanding about how policies particularly ENP are being negotiated and implemented. As a Palestinian activist, it's important to **represent a grassroots prospective** about the occupation, and de-development. Saying that, this shows the gap in advocacy and lobbying efforts, **more efforts needed, and more tools must be developed if we want to change how the EU is handling our countries interests.**



**Ahmad Awad-Jordan-Phenix Center for Economic
and Informatics Studies**

2015 ANND EU advocacy delegation member

- ▶ *In light of the complex transformations of the southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, especially in Jordan, and to face the non-democratic actors who are using terrorism and violence as a pretext to prevent democratic transformation, we must emphasize the centrality of **the promotion and the respect of the human rights standards and principles** in the various Euro-Mediterranean conventions and policies.*



How Advocacy can be successful?

Lessons learned

- ▶ **Advocacy is a process; it is not ad hoc initiatives.** It should be associated to a **long-term monitoring, research and analysis.**
 - ▶ The advocacy weeks organized in Brussels, are complementary step to the monitoring efforts at the national and regional levels. *(conduct debate with the EU delegations and among multi-stakeholder dialogue forums at regional level, before elaborated further at EU).*
- ▶ Advocacy should be **owned by the actors**,
 - ▶ The comprehensive policy position should reflect their perspectives.
 - ▶ Ownership secures a **follow up work afterwards.**
 - ▶ The policy position should be elaborated based on the needs at various levels; local, national and regional.
 - ▶ This inclusive process helps in building te consensus on recommendations with a new paradigm.
- ▶ Advocacy should be **timely, well planned**—considering various factors,
 - ▶ **Bureaucratic and logistical challenges** (visa, appointments for bilateral meetings with EU officials, etc...
 - ▶ The best timing (when the Parliamentarians are in Brussels)
 - ▶ The Committee works (particularly that of AFET, DEVE, INTA and Subcommittee on HR)
 - ▶ Collaboration with European CSO partners to identify exact weeks-for more efficiency.
- ▶ Advocacy week, included a **close-scrutiny of EU discourse on the region: because there is a need to know whom to meet**
 - ▶ **Declarations, communications, statements**

- ▶ The selection of the delegation members;
 - ▶ Sub-Regional and thematic representation (youth and gender as well)
- ▶ Early Preparations with the members of the delegation,
 - ▶ Identify the priorities, prepare the agenda of the different meetings and who will say what
- ▶ Advocacy focused on the need to adopt a new development paradigm, this later should be mainstreamed in the EU -Arab relations framework:
 - ▶ enhancing productive sectors'
 - ▶ addressing development challenges including poverty, unemployment, and inequalities,
 - ▶ Re-designing trade and investment policies
 - ▶ Enhancing The role of civil society within the partnership by promoting the structured dialogue with civil society as development partners

Success of advocacy: Follow up

- ▶ Ensure raising civil society concerns at all spaces available, **take a proactive role in follow up** at national level, regional level
 - Send out letters to officials** met (thank you, policy position issued)
 - Engage **actively to online consultations** on similar themes (development, trade, role of civil society : calls on **policy coherence**)
- ▶ Monitor ENP implementation: **yearly progress reports** (was possible at previous ENP process)
- ▶ Monitor **accountability of EU** as a global actor and partner (development effectiveness, SDGs, humanitarian aid..etc.)
- ▶ Engage in the Structured dialogue with CSO south; including the active participation in the CSO forums south and the consultation process
- ▶ Participate in the global partnership forum and the European Development Days

Impact and challenges

- ▶ **The ultimate aim is to influence EU policies and reform inadequate and unfair structures.**
 - ▶ some positive developments related to the civil society role within the partnership, but this still need a lot of efforts (shrinking space for CSO)
 - ▶ **There is a clear increase in civil society groups interested in the EU policies at regional and national levels** (ENP implementation, trade and investment agreements and increase of groups that interact with EU Delegations and participate in consultations on social and economic policy-issues. This equally means we have more groups working on significant topics like :social protection, taxation, investment and trade agreements impacts, the role of private sector, employment and informal economy...and so on which is much needed, in order to ensure a shift in development paradigm.
- ▶ The main **challenges** are mainly related to the **shrinking space for CSOs at country levels**. EU advocacy is an opportunity to raise these challenges, the promotion of private sector without classification and binding human rights standards
- ▶ **There is a need to outreach resources: both human and financial resources**
 - ▶ Human resources with a deep knowledge of the various Policy frameworks (be it migration, trade, aid...etc)
 - ▶ **Financial resources—as supporting advocacy is not as popular as ‘capacity-building-trainings’ for many donors.**

What next?

- ▶ After the organization of six advocacy weeks ANND remains committed to meeting EU officials to raise civil society concerns. And to meet our partners by organizing a **civil society forum**, to **enhance solidarity and networking opportunities**,
- ▶ As civil society from both shores of the Mediterranean we raised **similar concerns particularly with respect to promotion of human rights, migration deals, pursuing rights-based development policies and respecting policy coherence for development** in EU external relations.
- ▶ Finally, advocacy is a continuous process, it gets results when followed-up closely.
 - ▶ The follow-up is key to turn advocacy into a tool for enhancing mutual accountability, that EU commits as well within the new ENP.
 - ▶ It is a key within the new Agenda 2030 framework

Thank you!!!

For more information on ANND

www.annd.org

Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/www.annd.org>



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية