



Venice Commission

Initially conceived as an instrument of emergency constitutional engineering against a background of transition towards democracy, the Commission has gradually evolved into an internationally recognised independent legal think-tank. Although the Commission is mainly known for its legal opinions and transnational studies, it also helps to disseminate a common legal heritage based on the fundamental legal principles of Europe and beyond, including through its co-operation activities. It successfully conducted a training programme for officials in the Balkans for over ten years, thereby helping to improve the legal capacities of several thousand officials in a region in the throes of democratic transition.

Members of the Commission

Members – 61

Albania (1996), Algeria (2007), Andorra (2000), Armenia (2001), Austria (1990), Azerbaijan (2001), Belgium (1990), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2002), Brazil (2009), Bulgaria (1992), Chile (2005), Costa Rica (2016), Croatia (1997), Cyprus (1990), Czech Republic (1994), Denmark (1990), Estonia (1995), Finland (1990), France (1990), Georgia (1999), Germany (1990), Greece (1990), Hungary (1990), Iceland (1993), Ireland (1990), Israel (2008), Italy (1990), Kazakhstan (2011), Kirghizstan (2004), Kosovo (2014), Latvia (1995), Liechtenstein (1991), Lithuania (1994), Luxembourg (1990), Malta (1990), Mexico (2010), Moldova (1996), Monaco (2004), Montenegro (2006), Morocco (2007), Netherlands (1992), Norway (1990), Peru (2009), Poland (1992), Portugal (1990), Republic of Korea (2006), Romania (1994), Russian Federation (2002), San Marino (1990), Serbia (2003), Slovakia (1993), Slovenia (1994), Spain (1990), Sweden (1990), Switzerland (1990), "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (1996), Tunisia (2010), Turkey (1990), Ukraine (1997), United Kingdom (1999), United States (2013).

Associate member: Belarus (1994)

Observers: Argentina (1995), Canada (1991), Holy See (1992), Japan (1993), Uruguay (1995)

Participants: European Union, Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE (OSCE/ODIHR)

Special co-operation status: Palestine*, South Africa

* This designation should not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member states on this issue.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

VENICE COMMISSION

► DG-I, Council of Europe
67075 Strasbourg Cedex France
Tel.: +33 3 88 41 20 67
Fax: +33 3 88 41 37 38
E-mail: venice@coe.int

► All documents are available on the website of the Venice Commission:

www.venice.coe.int

PREMS 1 18218

GBR

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean

Funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe



Implemented by the Council of Europe



UniDem Campus
for the southern Mediterranean

VENICE COMMISSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Modernising public administration in the southern Mediterranean: a key means of ensuring good governance and state effectiveness

The quality and effectiveness of public administration and services are essential to ensure democratic stability. This presupposes that citizens and users of public services have confidence in the structures of the state, and in particular in the public administration which should operate in accordance with clearly stated rules and procedures while respecting the principle of the rule of law. In addition, public officials should enjoy appropriate legal status and working conditions; be aware not only of their rights, but also of their duties and their responsibilities towards users.

The consolidation of democratic institutions and improved public administration are priority reform areas which should follow on from constitutional and legislative changes. With this in mind, the Venice Commission's UniDem Med project seeks to build bridges between law and practice and is grounded in the Council of Europe's fundamental role: defending the values of human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

The UniDem Med Campus: ambitious and realistic goals

The UniDem (University for Democracy) Med Campus is a regional project bringing together senior public officials from both shores of the Mediterranean for the purpose of peer-to-peer pooling of experience and forging closer ties between the authorities in the participating countries. It seeks to help ensure good governance through the consolidation of institutions and the development of ever more effective public administrations which function in accordance with the principles of respect for human rights and the rule of law. Launched in September 2015 in co-operation with the Kingdom of Morocco's Ministry of Civil Service and Reform of the Administration, UniDem Med has become one of the flagship co-operation activities of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission in the south Mediterranean region.

The advantage of the UniDem Med project: linking the scientific approach to the practical exchange of experiences

The UniDem Campus seminars are about providing legal capacity-building sessions for senior public officials in areas related to good governance, the rule of law and fundamental rights. The team of trainers is made up of experts with practical experience in the relevant

fields, along with academics from various countries on both sides of the Mediterranean. The working languages are Arabic, English and French, with simultaneous interpretation provided throughout the seminar. The seminars are free of charge for the selected officials, who are given a certificate to confirm they have attended.

Topical issues selected at the request of partner countries to tie in with ongoing reforms

As a platform for exchanges between senior officials from both shores of the Mediterranean, the project has contributed to the strengthening of state institutions and the modernisation of the civil service by debating issues such as the transparency of public action, open government and the digitisation of services, the simplification of administrative procedures, and questions relating to equality, performance, integrity and ethics within the civil service. All these questions are dealt with from the point of view of the principles of human rights, the rule of law and democracy which the Venice Commission has championed and promoted ever since it was set up.

A participatory working method and meticulous selection of participants

A national co-ordinator in each partner country appoints two participants per country. Depending on the topic that has been chosen, experts from both shores of the Mediterranean and national delegations from the southern Mediterranean give presentations on the legal and constitutional advances that have been made and on best practices at national and international level. National delegations are asked to report on the specific situation in their respective countries, in relation to the theme of the seminar. Significant time is then set aside for discussion and an exchange of practical experiences between peers.

Participating partner countries

Between 50 and 60 senior officials take part in each seminar from the southern Mediterranean region including Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine* and Tunisia. More than 350 senior officials have been able to participate in the UniDem seminars, who today form a network of practitioners in the field of public administration reform.

Project co-ordination

The UniDem Med project is co-ordinated by national focal points who decide on the annual programme and themes of the seminars at an annual meeting. This meeting enables them, first, to take stock of the impact of the seminars at national level and, second, to discuss issues relating to the visibility and sustainability of the UniDem Med network.



Funding

For the period 2018-2020, the UniDem Med project is financed under the joint Council of Europe-European Union programme "Ensuring sustainable democratic governance and human rights in the southern Mediterranean", South Programme III.

This regional programme is designed to support democratic reforms in the southern Mediterranean in response to demand from the partners in the region. It has contributed to the establishment of a common legal area between Europe and the southern Mediterranean through activities covering legislative expertise, peer-to-peer exchanges and networks and enhancing the capacities of institutions.

Through the various Council of Europe networks, the South Programme III helps bring about better regional co-operation between Europe and its partners in the southern Mediterranean, and among the partner countries themselves, in areas related to human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

List of seminars

- There have been seven seminars in the period between September 2015 and August 2018:
 - ▶ Human Rights and Civil Service, 1st UniDem Med, 14-17 September 2015, Rabat, Morocco
 - ▶ Open government, 2nd UniDem Med, 4-7 April 2016, Rabat, Morocco
 - ▶ Reform of the General Statute of the Civil Service, 3rd UniDem Med, 31 October – 3 November 2016, Rabat, Morocco
 - ▶ Performance, Merit and Equality in the Civil Service, 4th UniDem Med, 27-30 March 2017, Tunis, Tunisia
 - ▶ Prevention of Corruption and Promotion of Integrity in the Civil Service: shared experiences, 5th UniDem Med, 25-25 September 2017, Skhirat, Morocco
 - ▶ Women and the Labour Market, 6th UniDem Med, 7-8 November 2017, Algiers, Algeria
 - ▶ Improving the Relation between the Administration and Citizens: a democratic imperative, 7th UniDem Med, 23-26 April 2018, Rabat, Morocco