

Newsletter

Ma'an

Together for an accountable and transparent public administration in Jordan

October 2023
December 2023
1st Edition

Introduction

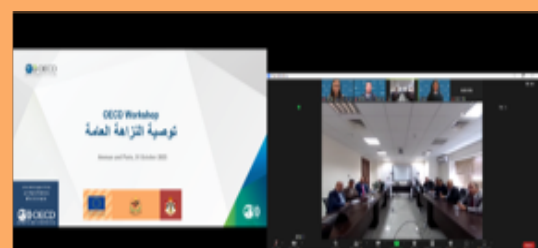
The project "*Ma'an: Together for an Accountable and Transparent Public Administration in Jordan*" is assisting the Jordanian government to enhance integrity in the public sector and build the capabilities of important oversight organizations to combat corruption. To address the risk of corruption and ensure that specific groups are not left out of policymaking, the project includes activities to raise awareness and engage civil society. Ultimately, the project aims to make reforms more effective, efficient, and transparent, while also increasing the public's trust in government institutions. It is funded by the European Union and is being implemented by the MENA-OECD Governance Programme of the OECD.

The project was launched in March 2023 in Amman in close collaboration with the EU and Jordanian Government Partners. In the last quarter (October to December 2023) a number of activities, have been carried out, to help frame the scope of the overall intervention. This has involved regular coordination meetings, workshops and, peer to peer dialogue opportunities with government interlocutors, non-state actors and international donors. Some activities conducted have also been in direct response to initial requests from Government authorities.

Main Achievements

During the period from October to December 2023

- **Virtual Workshop with Jordanian Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission (JIACC) Liaison officers (31 October 2023):** The workshop facilitated the knowledge transfer between JIACC liaison officers, giving them the opportunity to reflect on their experience working in the Jordanian public administration. The activity furthermore informed OECD key findings and recommendations on the Public Sector Integrity Review, whilst also enhancing awareness of the Liaison Officers and contributing towards strengthening the role of the JIACC in preventing corruption and promoting integrity.

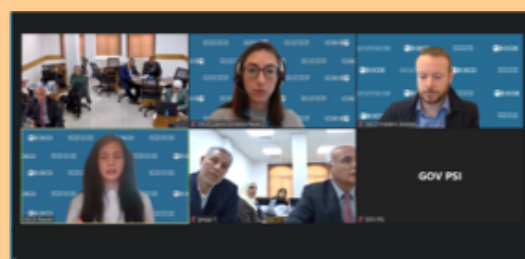


- **Meetings with high-level Government Officials (13-16 November 2023):** The meetings provided an opportunity to update key project stakeholders on project implementation, and some of the main preliminary findings of both the Public Sector Integrity Review (PSI) and Public Governance Review (PGR), that were informed by extensive consultation and engagement with Government counterparts.



Meeting with MOPIC Minister, HE Zeina Toucan

- **Virtual Workshop with Audit Bureau Liaison (AB) Officers (29 November 2023):** The workshop gave AB liaison officers the opportunity to exchange experiences of working in the Jordanian public administration, and share views on how control practices could be strengthened to improve adherence to integrity standards, rules and procedures. OECD staff were also able to share information about the OECD Recommendation on Public Sector Integrity, and the challenges of mainstreaming integrity principles into public administration and how these can be overcome.



Audit Bureau Liaison Officers and OECD staff during workshop



- **Working Sessions with public institutions and civil society actors (between 28-29 November 2023)** These sessions stimulated discussions on social accountability, transparency, access to information and opportunities for citizen engagement on policy change and ongoing Government reforms. Getting different perspectives to inform the Public Governance Review will allow for a holistic overview of where the challenges and opportunities lie, in Jordan's public administration.



Workshop held with civil society in Amman, July 2023

- **Focus Group discussion with young Sub-nationally Elected officials and young MPs (13-16 November 2023):** The discussions focused on barriers related to integrity and accountability that young candidates face, as well as existing initiatives and mechanisms to address such challenges at the subnational level, that could be scaled up. The interviews provided an opportunity to discuss more broadly what influences young people in Jordan to be active in political life, which in turn informed the analysis in the PGR chapter on government accountability towards young people.



Young Sub-nationally Elected Officials from the focus group

- **Platforms for exchange** and dialogue between the OECD and key project stakeholders took place in Amman and virtually, during this period. These discussions constituted an important step in the sharing of best practices and experiences. The engagements helped identify synergies between existing integrity, and accountability initiatives, and led to preliminary findings and recommendations being developed that informed the first draft of the public governance review and public sector integrity review.
- **Peer to peer learning:** A critical part of the project supports the participation of Jordanian counterparts in regional topical meetings, to share international good governance practices and standards. During this recent reporting period, representatives from JIACC, have participated in a number of MENA network and forum meetings, such as: the OECD Steering Group Meeting and Governance Forum; the Global Anticorruption and Integrity Forum (GACIF); a Conference on Promoting Integrity and Fighting Corruption in the MENA Region. These meetings provided valuable opportunities for networking, learning and engagement in policy dialogue.



Positive public sector administration developments identified by the OECD team during preliminary findings

Next steps

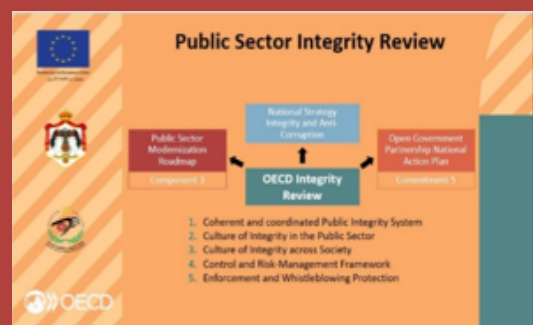
The upcoming activities will include discussions and consultations between the OECD and all key Government stakeholders on the first draft of the both the Public Governance Review (PGR) and Public Sector Integrity (PSI) Review. During this period agreements will be reached on the capacity building action plans that will be an integral part of the Reviews aimed to enhance public sector accountability and transparency in Jordan.

Policy dialogue sessions will continue in the next quarter, to inform project activities, whilst complementing ongoing Government reforms, and responding to needs identified by project counterparts.

The first Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) Meeting is due to take place in the next quarter, bringing together the EU delegation OECD, UNDP, AECID, as the main implementing partners of the EU project: “EU Support to improving integrity and accountability in Jordanian public administration at central and local levels”. The meeting that will also include Jordanian representatives from the civil service, will aim to enhance greater coordination amongst partners, and take stock of all activities implemented to date.



Main chapters of both the Public Governance and Public Sector Integrity Reviews



For further information or project-related inquiries please visit [MENA-OECD Governance Programme](#) or contact Mrs. Tonaina Ngororano via tonaina.ngororano@oecd.org for more information.



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