

Mock elections: Youth engagement and decentralisation in practice

23 May 2017, Madaba Governorate

Government of Jordan and OECD: Partnering for youth engagement in public life

The project “*Youth in Public Life: Towards open and inclusive youth engagement*”, implemented by the [MENA-OECD Governance Programme](#), supports Jordan in the delivery of youth policy and services and in creating new opportunities for youth to shape decision-making processes. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth (MoY) and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC), line ministries, parliament, local authorities, NGOs and foundations, universities, civil society and youth associations and funded by the MENA Transition Fund of the G7 Deauville Partnership.

The project leverages momentum created by the [decentralisation reform](#) and the 3rd [OGP Action Plan](#) as well as Jordan’s ambition to [empower women in policy making](#) – an agenda the OECD is assisting through dedicated projects with the financial support of the [MENA Transition Fund](#).

Mock elections in Madaba: 23 candidates, 2251 voters

The mock elections provided an opportunity to **23 young men and women, aged 18-24**, to simulate the first local elections to be held under the 2015 Decentralisation Law and Municipality Law which are scheduled to take place on 15 August 2017. In collaboration with the RASED Programme of Al Hayat Center for Civil Society Development, the French Embassy, an elected official from Paris and the OECD shared good practices to support the candidates in campaigning and discussed the implications of the decentralisation reform. The Election Day mobilised **2251 voters to cast their ballot** under the supervision of the Independent Election Commission (IEC). **French Ambassador**, H.E. David Bertolotti and the **Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs**, H.E. Eng. Musa Maaytah, visited the site and encouraged the candidates to engage in shaping the development of their community.



The mock elections provided an excellent opportunity to **encourage young people to run as candidates and address traditional perceptions** that youth lack the experience to run as serious contenders. Moreover, the event proved to be a **useful test for the IEC** and all authorities involved ahead of actual elections.

Please access a video of the mock elections [here](#).

For more information please consult our [website](#), contact moritz.ader@oecd.org and use [#shabab4MENA](#) to follow our activities on twitter.