

## 7<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean university on youth and global citizenship (MedUni)

### Youth Participation in Public Life: Local Youth Councils

10-13 June 2019, Hammamet, Tunisia



In the framework of the [7th Mediterranean University on Youth and Citizenship](#) (MedUni) which took place in Hammamet from 10 to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the OECD organised a workshop on how local youth councils can reinforce youth participation in public life. The workshop was organised in partnership with the Tunisian observatory of youth (ONJ) and the Tunisian Institute for Democracy and Development (ITDD) and gathered young representatives of the five pilot local youth councils in **Tunisia** (*Testour, Kasserine, Ben Guerdane, Omrane Sup* and *Le Kef*), local youth councils of **Morocco** (*Assilah* and *El-Jedida*) as well as representatives of CSOs engaged for youth participation at the local level in **Jordan** (*Ruwad for development* and *Motivators for training*) and local youth council of **Portugal** (*Gaia*).





Featuring interactive and dynamic sessions, the workshop allowed participants to exchange and learn about tools and mechanisms to maximise their participation through local youth councils. The OECD presented findings from the [Youth Stocktaking report: Empowering Youth across the OECD – How to bridge the governance gap?](#) and the [Seven Key Findings from the MENA Youth Governance Survey](#) along with good practices from OECD local youth councils.

The ITDD provided simulations on key issues for local youth councils such as: public decision making at local level, project management and conflict resolution. In particular, participants were invited to take part in a simulation of a municipal council vote on a youth projects they developed in teams. Two sessions were also dedicated to training on external and internal communication with the participation of a Tunisian expert in public speaking and intercultural communication. Based on findings from the OECD guides *Young people in Open Government* and [Communicating Open Government](#), recommendations were made to youth councils to improve how they communicate on their work and projects with public decision makers at the local level.

In connection with the theme of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the MedUni and UN SDG 16: “Peace, Justice and strong institutions”, the workshop highlighted the importance of youth participation at the local level to ensure that public services meet the specific needs of young people.

This workshop was organised in the framework of the projects [Youth in Public Life: Towards Open and Inclusive Youth Engagement](#), funded by the MENA Transition Fund of the G7 Deauville Partnership, and [Citizen’s Voice](#), financed by the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany.

### Next steps

Country reviews on youth engagement and empowerment in Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan will be presented at the upcoming Youth regional conference in fall 2019 in Jordan. A scan on communication at the local level for Tunisian municipalities will be also developed and will include a focus on how municipalities communicate specifically with youth.

