



International Workshop

How Can Central European Civil Society Assist the Egyptian Transition?

Date: Monday, June 6, 2011
Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic,
Czernin Palace, Loretánské náměstí 5, Prague 1

Programme:

09.00 – 09.20 **Registration**

09.20 – 09.30 **Opening Remarks**

Janina Hřebíčková, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of the Department for Human Rights and Transition Policy and Vladimír Bartovic, DEMAS Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights / EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

09.30 – 11.00 Panel 1

Egyptian Civil Society and Its Needs

Chair: Sabina Dvořáková, DEMAS Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights

At the end of 2010 a call for political, economic and social changes appeared in Tunisia. After a short period of time other countries in the MENA region followed. One of the most effective movements grew into a people's revolution (ath-thawra ash-shaabea) in Egypt where the strong voice of civil society pushed the president Mubarak to his resignation.

Since the Czech Republic and other Central European countries also went through a political, economic and social transformation during last two decades, there have been both positive and negative experiences that can be shared.

- Are Egyptian NGOs involved in the current changes? What is their role in the frame of Egyptian society?
- What are the main issues and who are the main actors in the Egyptian NGO sector?
- What are the needs of Egyptian NGOs?
- Would the Central European transition experience be useful in Egypt or the MENA region? If so, which aspects might be relevant?

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15 – 13.00 Panel 2

Current Transition Activities of the Visegrad and EU Non-profit Organizations in Egypt

Chair: Jakub Klepal, Forum 2000 Foundation

The Visegrad countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary), as well as some other EU member countries (Germany, Spain, Portugal, et.) have significant historical experience with transitional processes from non-democratic, totalitarian or authoritarian regimes, to democratic systems based on the rule of law and functioning civil society. The aim of the session is for the EU civil society representatives to present their projects to share this experience, and to identify major strengths and weaknesses of these projects.

- What experience in forming the civil society do the EU representatives consider most important?
- What projects aimed at Egypt are the NGOs present at the workshop currently executing or preparing?
- What are the main challenges the present EU CS representatives are currently facing in preparing their Egypt-focused projects?
- What are the main benefits for the Egyptian civil society the present EU CS reps see in their projects?

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 Panel 3

Common Visions, Possibilities for Future Cooperation

Chair: Lucia Najšlová, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

- What kind of direct assistance does Egyptian civil society expect in the short term and mid-term horizon? (Trainings? Fellowships at the Czech NGOs?)
- What type of advocacy by Czech NGOs towards the EU institutions would be most appreciated by their Egyptian partners? (Should we focus on the EU's social and economic programs towards Egypt, or rather stick to the rule of law and human rights?)
- Are there opportunities of joint (e.g. Visegrad) NGO actions, or shall the process be conducted on a bilateral basis?
- Is there enough funding which is flexible and readily available to cover the needs of Egyptian civil society and its cooperation with Czech partners?
- Are there any thematic areas in which the Egyptian partners are the most interested in or is any kind of cooperation welcome?
- Which donors are the most likely to get involved in supporting Czech-Egyptian civil society cooperation?

16.00 – 16.15 **Closing Remarks**

The workshop is supported by:

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