

Euromed Women in Economic Life Programme

First Partners Meeting

Cairo, Egypt, 26-29 June 2006



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1. The conference groundwork

The First Partners Meeting opened on 26 June with all participants briefly introducing themselves. In response to a request by one participant, who feared enactment of a Tunisian proverb about “preparing the prayer rugs before building the mosque”, these were later significantly expanded upon per non-governmental organization (NGO) consortium project. The expanded introductions acquainted participants with the work of others and provided relatively detailed information about their project goals and approaches, information that was further elaborated on during the individual project presentations given on 28 June.

In addition to questions about the projects and partners themselves, an issue was raised early on about the partnership of Israeli NGOs and their absence at the conference. It was explained that while there are good relations and shared projects with the Israeli partners, the tense political situation imposes certain limits that sometimes affect their role. It was clarified that Israeli organizations are part and parcel of the programme; currently small-scale meetings are being scheduled with them and everything is being taken step by step, always in close cooperative consultation with the partner Palestinian organizations. It was expressed that this is an important issue, and that it is good for it be openly on the table from the outset.

The objectives of the meeting were then outlined by Marguerite Appel as the following: establishing a common understanding of the aims, objectives and approach of the Euromed Women in Economic Life regional programme; clarifying the roles of the European Commission (EC) in Brussels, the EC delegation in Lebanon, and the Role of Women in Economic Life (RWEL) technical assistance team; introducing the framework for monitoring and reporting procedures; proposing a communication strategy and working to develop a common approach among partners; and encouraging cooperation in and the sharing of work practices. It was stressed that while all partners have their own specific projects, all are part of the larger programme aiming to enhance the economic role of women in the Mediterranean region, and thus have similar questions and issues to discuss together in person.

Following the conference activities on 28 June, a press conference was held to raise awareness of and promote the programme. A representative of the European Commission, Catherine Colomb-Nancy, two representatives of the RWEL technical assistance team, Fatma Khafagy and Marguerite Appel, and two representatives of partner NGOs, Omar Traboulsi and Maha Soliman Rashid Najjab, spoke at the press conference.

2. Overviews of the Euromed Women in Economic Life Programme

The conference was officially opened on 27 June by Leonidas Kioussis, Chief of Sector MEDA, EuropeAid Brussels; Joseph Piazzadolmo, Operational Manager, Lebanon Delegation of the European Commission; Catherine Colomb-Nancy, Euromed Operations Manager, EuropeAid Brussels; and Marguerite Appel, Team Leader, Role of Women in Economic Life, British Council Egypt.

Leonidas Kioussis noted that the Euromed Women in Economic Life Programme is complementary to other regional and national programmes and the follow-up to a number of initiatives. It is in line with other references in gender mainstreaming as well as with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The programme consists of eight projects, one of which is the British Council Role of Women in Economic Life (RWEL) Programme, which is managed by EC Brussels and has the mission of coordinating, providing technical assistance, monitoring, serving as a liaison with headquarters, and improving communication. The other seven projects are those of the NGO consortiums. They are managed by EC Lebanon and run parallel to the RWEL programme.

Leonidas Kioussis added that this First Partners Meeting would play an essential role in bringing the partners together face to face in order to coordinate activities to be in line with each other and to be well assisted. He further noted that the conference comes at an interesting and important time, as the first ministerial-level Euromed conference will be held in November in Istanbul with the goal of issuing a concrete action plan on gender equality. The Euromed Women in Economic Life Programme will feed into that process, and push forward the provisions of the Barcelona Process, which began in November 1995.

Joseph Piazzadolmo further noted that the success of the programme depends on the active engagement of all partners.

Catherine Colomb-Nancy gave an overview of the Euromed Enhancing the Opportunities of Women in Economic Life (EOWEL) Programme. It has a budget of 5 million euros and spans three years (2006-2008). Overall, the EOWEL programme aims to strengthen European-Mediterranean cooperation between national authorities, women's machineries, and NGOs in ten MEDA countries and the 25 Member States of the European Union through projects prioritizing training, capacity building, communication, and networking. Specifically, it seeks to improve the integration of women in the labour market; facilitate the creation and management of enterprises by women; provide better access to financial tools and mechanisms; and develop capacity building, education, and vocational training for civil servants and NGOs.

The mission of the EuropeAid headquarters is to coordinate a preparatory meeting to draft a gender action plan for the Euromed ministerial conference to be held in November 2006 and to ensure the successful provision of technical assistance to the EOWEL programme. Catherine stressed that the structure of technical assistance needs the input of partners, for the programme is truly theirs. She also provided the EuropeAid website address, which is: [www.http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/index_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/index_en.htm)

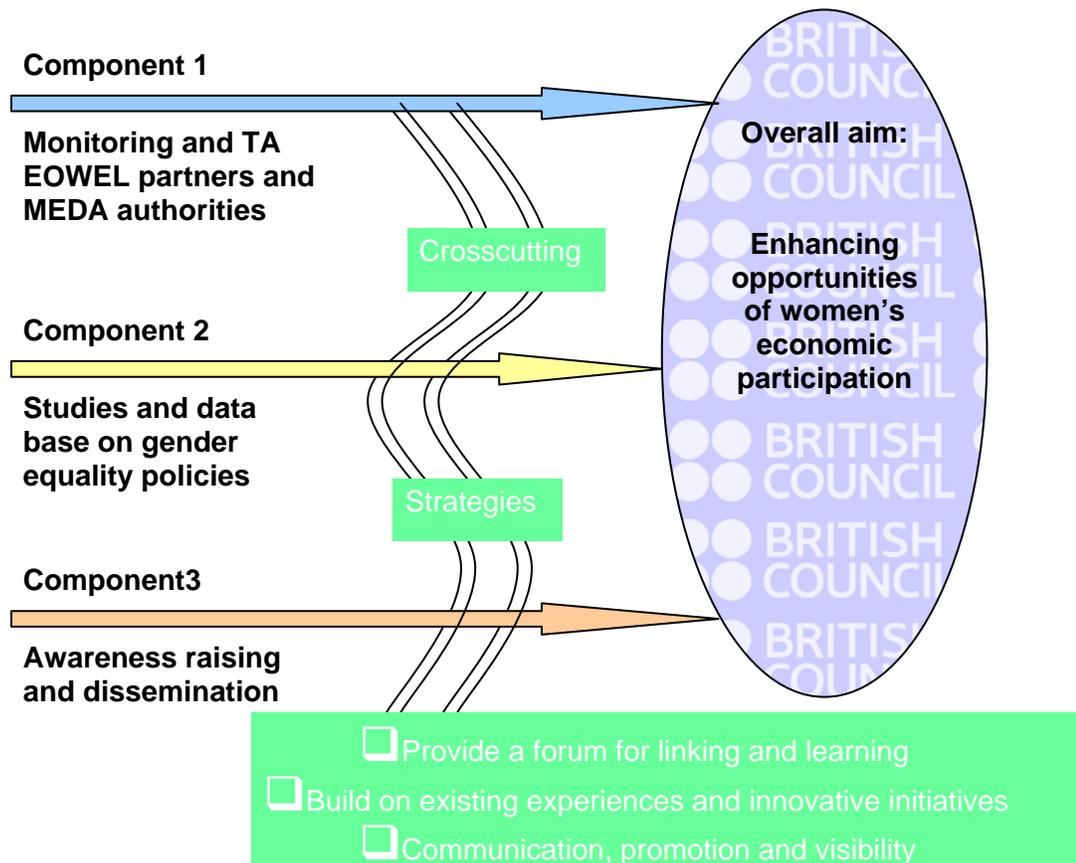
In the ensuing discussion, one participant raised concerns about the costs of implementing a communication strategy and that not being included in the projects' budgets. In response it was stressed that the contracts had been signed and finalized, and that the RWEL technical assistance team was available to help with coordination, cooperation, and determining the best forms of synergy in this regard. Another participant asked about the budget of the British Council RWEL project, which was determined at 1.7 million euros and which finances meetings such as this conference, logistics, and capacity and networking activities.

A question was also raised about the perceived focus on the administrative and visibility issues of the EC as opposed to the impoverished women of the region the programme aims to assist. In response it was noted that while the EC is by far the largest donor in the region this fact is not widely recognized, and that communication strengthens the project's effect through increasing its presence in the media, affecting policy makers, and generally reinforcing the work of the NGO consortiums. It was further noted that the projects will have better results if cooperation and management run smoothly, making it necessary to lay out the details of technical assistance now so that everyone can then get into the real business at hand.

Finally, clarification was made concerning the mistaken omission of Palestine as a partner country of one project as displayed on an EC power point presentation.

On 26 June, Marguerite Appel and Fatma Khafagy provided an overview of the Role of Women in Economic Life (RWEL) project. It is divided into three components seeking the same ultimate goal, as represented in the diagram below:

Key components and approach for project implementation



With regard to the first component, participants were reminded that the monitoring guidelines have been made available for reference in English, French and Arabic. Monitoring of projects will take place through the periodic observation of project implementation, using monitoring visits and meetings, questionnaires, data analysis, project fact sheets, and annual progress reports. Indicators will be developed to assess

progress in the achievement of project aims and these indicators will include the elements of capacity building and information sharing. Outside experts will act as consultants in the monitoring process. It was stressed that not all monitoring will be conducted through formal missions, but rather will be an ongoing process with the partial goal of sharing good practices and knowledge gained, learning how to improve, and collecting needs for studies and recommendations for policy change. It was further stressed that the quarterly updated fact sheets required by the EC should be substantial and interesting to read, providing analysis and information on good practices employed and constraints faced.

Some of the participants raised concerns over the perceived burden of these fact sheets, indicating that a quarterly basis was too often, that the fact sheets' required length (minimum of one page and maximum of three) was extravagant, or that they lacked the time and resources to produce them and could not commit to them on their current budgets. It was clarified that while the first fact sheet submitted was mainly descriptive, subsequent fact sheets should be more analytical, presenting findings and developments in the project. It was further stressed that the fact sheets are not reports but rather updates on where the projects are, work that should be done internally within the individual projects at any rate and a form of analysis that is valuable to the overall programme.

The second project component is based on the fact that the economic activity of women is influenced by a range of factors, including legal frameworks, gender-based violence, and women's position in the home, among others. The RWEL technical assistance team has identified and is in the process of reviewing most of the comparative regional studies available that relate to the economic role of women in the Mediterranean region, and is identifying research gaps to be filled. A total of ten studies have been commissioned on the economic situation of women and the roles of women's machineries in each of the participating countries. They are due in late summer and their findings will be synthesized. Attention is being given to legislative studies to be used as models, as well as best practices in order to identify what works in actuality and effectively empowers women. In addition, a gender equality database is being developed that will include a bibliography and research and data on gender studies, legal frameworks, and best practices. This component of the project will offer insight to the Mediterranean Reflection Group, which, once established, will provide a strong link to the EC in Brussels and contribute to discussions at the November Euromed ministerial conference being held to produce a five-year plan of action on gender equality in the Mediterranean region.

In the discussion that ensued, it was further clarified that the terms of reference for these studies are recent accounts of the position of women in the region vis-à-vis economic life. Researchers are asked for up-to-date statistics and need not rely on government figures that may be inaccurate. Studies will focus on the various factors that affect economic activity, including education, health and legal policies, as well as the relationship between economic activities and public life and politics. A goal of this is to draw up practical recommendations for women's machineries and government policies and services. It was argued that if work on the ground is not translated into policy, its impact remains limited.

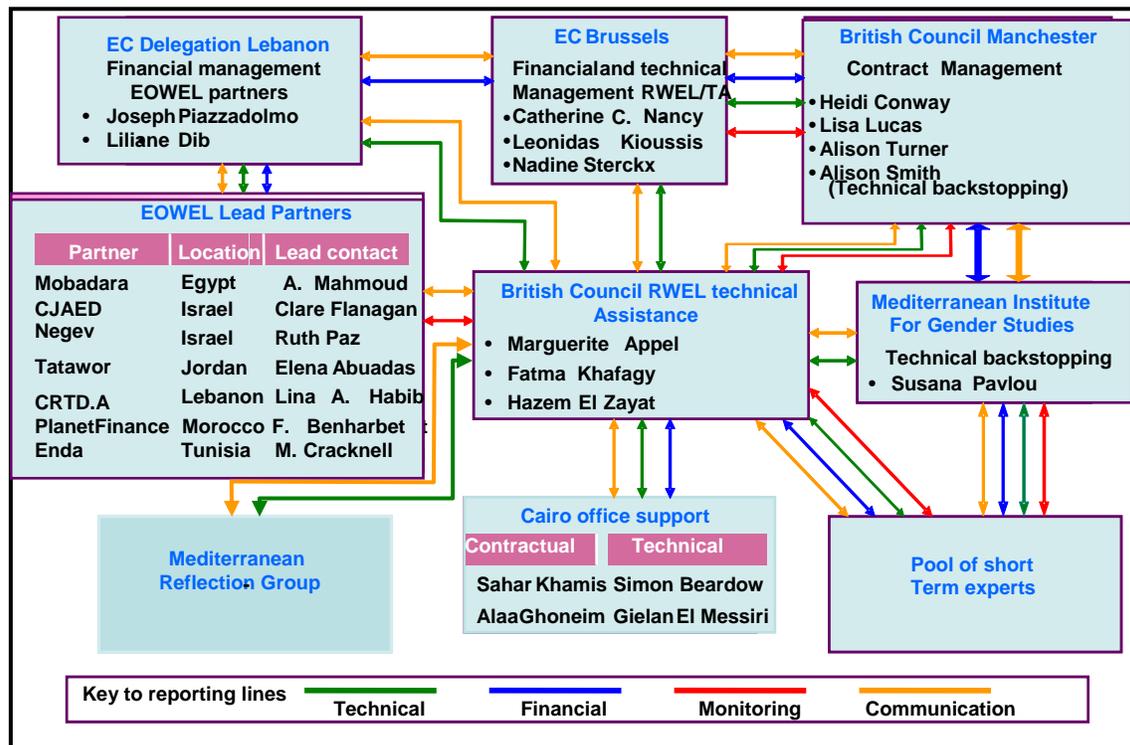
In response to a participant's question, it was explained that the RWEL website would serve as a mechanism for asking partners in other countries how they have dealt with particular situations. The database itself will also be publicly accessible online. It has not

yet been finalized, but is planned to be flexible and user friendly. Its purpose is to share information with as broad an audience as possible, although some materials may be restricted to the partner consortiums.

One participant noted that while the project groups are focusing on NGOs and relations on the ground, the research seems to be oriented top-down. Another participant proposed holding workshops in the relevant countries to discuss the study drafts, and this was supported as a good idea. It was also stressed that project consortiums should approach the RWEL technical assistance team with research needs that complement their work so that relevant policy issues and legislation can be effectively addressed.

Finally, the structure of management and coordination of the programme was outlined by the following chart:

Management and coordination structure



3. Financial matters

On 27 June, a presentation about the contractual and financial aspects of the EOWEL programme was given by Liliane Dib, Contracts and Finance Manager for the Lebanon EC Delegation. She announced that in February 2006 some forecasted contractual conditions in article seven of the contracts' special conditions were introduced. There are now standard forms for financial reporting, and a new expenditure verification report has replaced the model for audit certificates. Formal letters concerning these changes will be sent to the contracted parties soon.

The introduced model financial report can be accessed at the following website address: http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/tender/practical_guide_2006/annexes_grants_en.htm (Annex E3h_7). Information on expenditure verification can be found at the same website address, (Annex E3h_8).

The model is based on an excel spreadsheet and can be used for both interim and final reports, as well as rider requests. Only eligible costs are applicable to grants and must be necessary, incurred during the implementation period, recorded in the accounts of the beneficiary or its partners, identifiable and verifiable, backed up by original supporting documents, and paid for prior to final report verification. The form breaks expenditures into the following categories: human resources, travel, equipment and supplies, local office, and other costs and services.

With regard to human resources, all personnel who contribute to the project must be listed, including any part-time percentages and external experts. Per Diem rates include accommodation in hotels and the maximum allowed per country is available on the EuropeAid website. As for travel, the following must be specified: origin and destination, modalities for local transport, and whether unit rates are maximum or average.

All equipment and supplies must originate from eligible countries, meaning that tenders must certify that goods comply with the relevant requirements and present a Certificate of Origin before obtaining provisional acceptance. It is the responsibility of contracting authorities to assure compliance with this. Tender documents must be drafted in accordance with best international practice; EuropeAid models are available for use. Owned vehicles and supplies must be transferred to local partners or final recipients by the end of the project if the beneficiary's headquarters are not in the country in which the action is carried out, unless otherwise specified. For itemized purchase costs above 5,000 euros, copies of the proof of transfer must be attached to the final report. Office rent is only applicable to the costs of an actual office, not for part of an apartment already rented for living or other purposes.

The European Commission must be informed of any changes to the budget. Internal changes are permissible, but may not exceed 15% of the total original amount of the relevant budget categories. It is recommended to contact the financial officer to clarify if a rider is needed or if the flexibility rule is to be applied before making the desired changes.

In the discussion that followed this presentation, it was stressed that projects must have independent bank accounts in order to allow the tracing of costs. All invoices must show total expenditure because the budget as a whole is financed. All details in and documents attached to the report go to the auditor, who keeps them all; these documents are the property of the project. Invoices for multiple services must be itemized. Finally, the EuropeAid website has more information on these contractual and financial aspects of the programme, and Liliane Dib urges partners to contact her with any questions they have.

4. Technical aspects

On 27 June, Marguerite Appel and Fatma Khafagy gave a presentation on the technical aspects of the RWEL programme, including reporting procedures, technical monitoring

missions, the content and approach of the gender equality database and the project's research component, and awareness raising and dissemination.

Reporting will include technical assistance assessment of interim and final reports. Interim reports will be due in February 2007 and 2008, and the final reports will be due at the end of August 2007 and 2008 depending on the project duration. A draft model report has been developed and distributed, and will be made available on the RWEL website once it has been approved. Notification will be given three weeks ahead of the reports' submission dates – partners will be expected to submit a draft within one week, the technical assistance team will respond within another week, and then partners will submit their reports to the EC with a copy to the technical assistance team.

The technical monitoring missions will be timed around critical events with frequency linked to estimated risks. It was stressed that everyone must understand and feel comfortable with the monitoring process. The proposed monitoring schedule is for September-November of 2006 and 2007, with a possible third mission between May and June 2007. It was noted that the timing of fact sheet submissions is flexible and that they can in fact be updated at any time in accordance with important developments – meaning that they may be produced more often or less than on a quarterly basis.

As for the content of the gender equality database and research component of the project, a number of issues were raised that EOWEL should consider, many of which had been brought up by conference participants the previous day. These include obtainment of gender disaggregated data and statistics, research on the problems associated to women's access to credit, and issues related to skills and vocational training for women, including negotiation, mobility, job placement and incentives. Other issues proposed for consideration include best practices for networking, women's social security and pensions, women's reproductive roles, child care, the role of the media, and the issues of taxes and registration for small enterprises.

In terms of the overall objective of the empowerment of women, the research approach seeks to think outside the box. Essentially, there is no limit to empowerment; there are always additional aims to aspire to. The goal is to learn what works on the ground and translate that into policy recommendations, as well as to take empowerment further than simply having more money to spend on immediate family needs. As such, a wide array of factors have been suggested to be taken into consideration, including decision-making power, control over income, ownership of assets, organizing skills and the required absence of gender-based violence.

Finally, the awareness raising and dissemination component of the programme was outlined. The collection and dissemination of project results will take place through the communication strategy, the gender equality contact data base, the electronic archive of EOWEL projects, the quarterly Euromed gender equality newsletter, and the ad-hoc dissemination of project results. The exchange of information and networking will take place through the setting up of a regional MEDA network, networking events including partners meetings and web forum discussions, cross-regional cooperation, and the synthesis of key lessons for dissemination. The initial proposed schedule for the subsequent partners meetings was February and November of 2007. It is aimed to achieve promotion and visibility through regional seminars promoting study results, the programme mid-term and closing conferences, and the Mediterranean Reflection Group meetings.

In the discussion following this presentation, it was suggested that the first progress report be requested and submitted from November 2006 onwards to prevent the creation of a gap in the receiving of funds. It was agreed that a more flexible submission schedule would allow the RWEL technical assistance team more time to analyze each report and make recommendations.

A discussion was also held on the assessment and representation of results and impacts. It was noted that changing people's mentality regarding working women is difficult and takes time. One participant suggested that the objective of empowering women would not be observable until after the projects end, while another queried about how to insert the smile on a woman's face into a chart. It was suggested that films could be provided of the beneficiary women speaking about their experiences. It was also suggested that there are certain activities, such as training, that show progress and indicators that demonstrate that projects are on the right track. While impact is always long-term, direct results can be seen and must be presented to the European Commission.

In terms of transparency and participation, a participant suggested a consultative process for administration, meetings and technical assistance.

Finally, it was suggested that with regard to terminology, the programme address an "enabling environment for women in business," and that this approach be taken when addressing the Euromed ministerial meeting and when convincing governments that this would be a worthy investment.

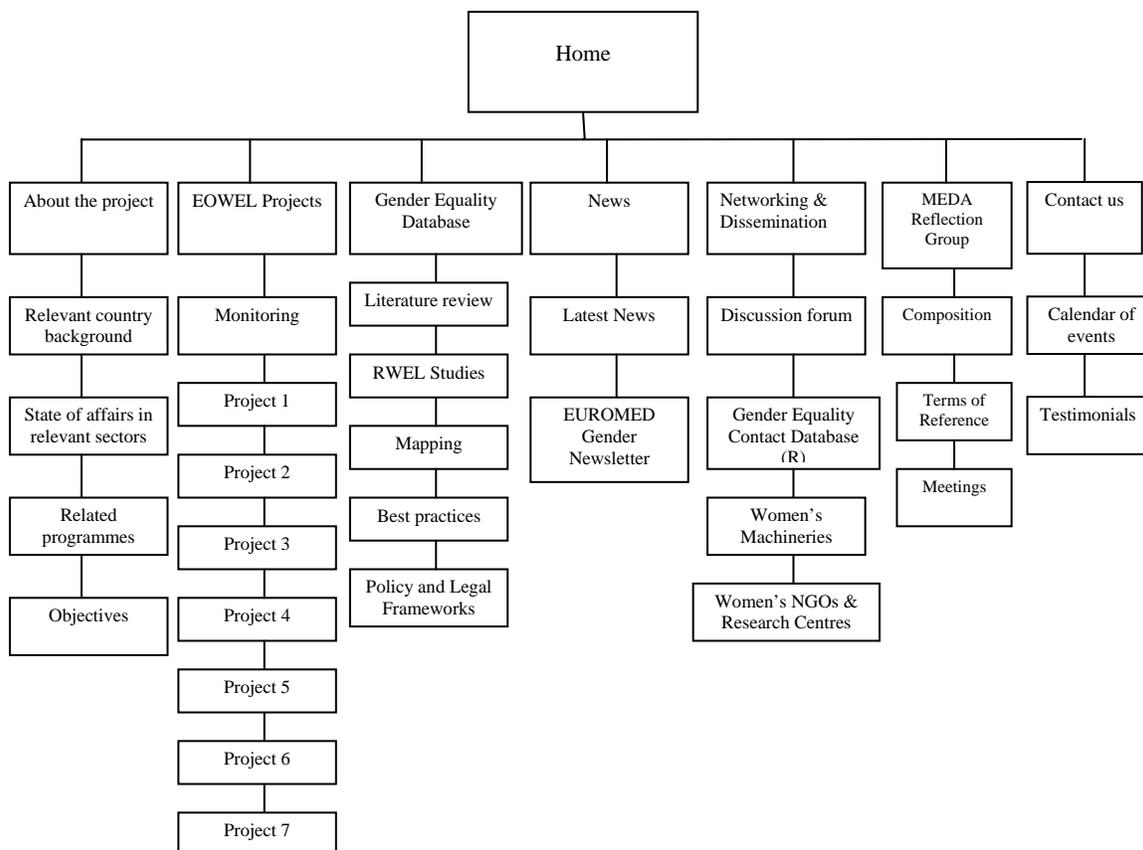
Hazem El Zayat, Website and Information Manager, RWEL Technical Assistance Team, gave a presentation on 27 June about the programme website management of information, as well as the EC visibility guidelines. The programme will have a website, gender equality database, gender equality contact database, documentation database, and consultant database. Currently there is a temporary website and a detailed website map (see diagram below), and the database structures are in place. The website will be up and running as soon as some software issues are resolved and the address will be: <http://www.roleofwomenineconomiclife.net>

It was stressed that project partners' input is desired for the gender equality database, which will be integrated into the website. It is proposed that the website includes a powerful search engine, and be able to track related files and usage, display popularity, and accept comments.

As for EC visibility guidelines for partner project websites, the EC and Euromed logos must appear on every page, as must a "last update" mention that suggests credibility. A link must be provided from project websites to that of the EuropeAid Cooperation Office Programmes page and vice versa. Its addresses are, in English, http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/index_en.htm, and, in French, http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/index_fr.htm. In addition, the following disclaimer must appear at the top of each page: "This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of <name of the author/contractor/implementing partner> and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union."

Finally, photographs placed on project websites should be relevant, not overload pages, and include captions and copyrights. It is preferred that they depict people in action.

Website map



In the discussion following this presentation, it was clarified that all of these visibility guidelines must be placed on every website page devoted to an EOWEL project, but do not have to be displayed on all the pages of a partner's organization website. If the project has its own website, however, the visibility guidelines must be adhered to on every page. It was suggested that convention dictates placing the EU logo on the left, the Euromed logo on the right, and a note stating whom the project is financed by at the bottom of the page.

One participant asked if a portal was being considered for putting up information, posting messages, and facilitating communication. This idea was supported by another participant, and it was suggested that it can in fact be considered. There will be a section on the RWEL website restricted to project partners. One partner requested a section for feedback and surveys.

As for targeting, it was suggested that websites that resemble magazines generally receive more hits and might be a strategy to consider. The RWEL website will be linked to the EC website and easily found on Google searches. Its languages will be English and French, with Arabic also being considered. A request was made for the disclaimer to

be translated into Arabic and for the website to also be in Arabic since Arabic speakers form a majority in the region.

5. Communication

On 26 and 27 June, Farag El Kamel, communication consultant to the RWEL, gave presentations on communication, dissemination, visibility and promotion. He outlined the communication strategy at the RWEL level as handling issues of common interest for all ten MEDA countries, focusing on regional media to create a supportive environment and promote achievements, and identifying and disseminating good practices. On the EOWEL level, it was defined as guiding EOWEL partners to use communication effectively and efficiently, and to provide technical assistance and ensure coherence and consistency. There are plans to produce a short documentary (10 minutes long) on the programme achievements at the close of its term.

It was stated that in order to promote an issue, an enabling environment needs to be created so that the message gets across. It was stressed that is necessary to start and end with targets, and that communication is the process in between. Both existent and desired knowledge, attitude, and practice need to be identified as a first step in behaviour change communication strategies.

Media was explained as essential for acknowledgment – “You’re not dead unless your obituary is in Al-Ahram newspaper”. Yet it is not enough to be in the media once – “Repetition teaches even a donkey”. Mediums need to be carefully considered, for they may bring a message of their own (e.g. the notion of mere newspaper talk), and must be appropriate to the goal (e.g. don’t use a machine gun to kill a fly). Sometimes popular personalities may be better deliverers of messages than public figures due to their higher credibility among the populace. Bad communication can be worse than no communication at all, and professionalism is important because there is an abundance of competition for attention. Finally, it was stressed that taste is not related to budget.

Participants were reminded that the EC visibility guidelines have been distributed to everyone. Electronic templates have been developed by the EC for each type of communication tool and can be downloaded from the following website:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/visibility/index_en.htm

On 26 June, a communication workshop was held that focused on the creation of a communication strategy. Partners worked in their project groups and gave presentations that outlined their own practices and raised issues for consideration. Some of the approaches they shared included the following: hiring observation officers to monitor the media, the market and the work of organizations; identifying aspects of the “culture of shame” and religious misconceptions; employing radio since people listen as they drive or work in the kitchen; exploiting the ripple effect of newsletters sent out to partners; monitoring the media’s representation of working women and identifying desired changes; holding exhibitions that also serve as a sales channel; inviting beneficiaries to be interviewed by the media; reaching geographically isolated rural women through district coordinators and direct meetings; communicating in Arabic, English and French due to regional linguistic needs; and delivering the message that community development needs both men and women. Assistance was requested in technical issues such as translation, newsletters, websites, logos, and communication methodologies.

Finally, a brief discussion was held on the quarterly newsletter. Much of its published material will be based on input from the partner NGOs and material is now being collected, preferably on events related to the project launch, for the first issue scheduled to come out in August. Later issues may be organized on a thematic basis, and will seek to raise interest rather than showcase. They will also seek to change views on the economic role of women, perhaps including interviews with the women beneficiaries.

The newsletter will consist of eight A4 pages, be visual, be in Arabic, English and French, and be distributed via email and 5,000 printed copies. It was questioned whether that was affordable and whether the newsletter really needed to be printed. It was also questioned whether the name should be changed to remove the word “gender” and focus instead on “women”, although other participants objected to this. It was then suggested that a training session on gender and women be held with the aim of developing a common understanding. A comment was made that while marketing is desirable, it also needs to be done well, in a “smart” manner. It was stated that NGOs should provide the RWEL technical assistance team with contact information for anyone they want to receive the newsletter.

6. Literature reviews

RWEL mapping of relevant literature has identified the following fields of research: women’s economic participation; family laws; women’s political participation; gender and citizenship; women and social security; women and the media; women and Islam; statistics; the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and other international legal frameworks on gender equality; gender country profiles; and institutional mechanisms (national women’s machineries).

Two literature reviews have been conducted thus far by the RWEL technical assistance team – one on the economic role of women and the other on family laws in the relevant program countries. Studies have been collected through the websites of major organizations, searches of the work of respected researchers, and visits to relevant institutions. On 26 June, Fatma Khafagy and Gielan El Messiri gave presentations on these two reviews.

The literature review on the economic role of women looked at the following: gender and poverty studies, gender and micro credit, the impact of international trade on gender equality, the impact of public sector downsizing on women’s work, globalization and gender, and the gender aspects of privatization.

Some of the important findings of these studies including the following: there are higher percentages of poor females than males; in neutral targeting men obtain more micro credits; women face numerous constraints in accessing micro credit; micro credit cannot empower women unless complemented by the addressing of gender inequality; without measures to address gender inequality micro-enterprises may increase women’s workload without also increasing their control over their income; feminization (or lack thereof) of the workforce depends on the labour sectors affected; there is a trend towards the feminization of unemployment in the Arab world due to economic restructuring, limited investments and social reasons; and the transformation of a micro-enterprise into a profitable business and from a housewife to a business manager is a

difficult step for many due to women's self perceptions, constraints in accessing credit, lack of collateral and knowledge of credit sources, and the small, humble scale of women's enterprises.

As for the literature review on family laws in the region, it looked at several regional and country studies addressing an array of related issues and also some opinion polls on contested points of family law. These studies included the following conclusions: disparities between women's civil and political rights and legal status under family laws must be reconciled; the rights granted to women by Islamic law are similar to and compatible with CEDAW; family laws are often based on patriarchal interpretations of religious texts; women must contribute to the formation of new Islamic perspectives through *ijtihad*, or interpretive jurisprudential effort; family laws needs to be developed and updated; there is a need for more enlightened members of the judiciary and also female judges in family courts; women must be enabled to link the rights granted to them by Islamic legislation to international instruments; the importance of civil society and the media supporting the implementation of new laws must be highlighted; and governments should provide services to enable women to balance careers with their family roles, combined with efforts to change the role and participation of Arab men in raising children.

It was commented that while some significant changes have been made to family laws in Tunisia and Morocco for example, such changes must be complemented by awareness raising and close monitoring in order to ensure both general acceptance and actual application.

In the discussion following these presentations, some participants objected to the focus on Islamic family law to the exclusion of that of other religions in the region, as well as the perceived equation of Arabs with Muslims. One participant urged more unified terminology, speaking of cultural areas rather than religion in order to keep the discussion open. It was stressed that there are many Islams, and that reference should thus be made to "tradition" rather than "Islam". It was further suggested that female Islamic preachers often hold negative attitudes towards women and that encouraging them to take part in *ijtihad* might bring negative results. Finally, one participant urged the RWEL technical assistance team to not take research results at face value and to approach the partner NGOs, who may provide data leading to different conclusions.

Participants were reminded that these literature reviews are simply that – reviews of existent literature conducted to ascertain what information is available and to identify gaps, and not representative of the views, positions, or policy recommendations of the RWEL technical assistance team.

7. Partner project presentations

The conference sessions of 28 June were largely dedicated to presentations of the partner projects. First, however, a presentation was given on the work of the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), a partner in the implementation of the EOWEL programme.

MIGS is a non-profit NGO that aims to act as a main contributor to the intellectual, political and socio-political life of the region with regard to gender issues. Among the projects it has worked on are a project to integrate women refugees in Cypriot society; a

project on gender, conflict and the media that culminated in the production of a policy handbook entitled *The Gender and Media Handbook*, which is available on the MIGS website; a project on gender-based violence; and a project on female migrant domestic workers. MIGS also works in key areas such as lobbying, advocacy, research, and the organization of conferences and training workshops. It established a media watch unit and provides gender analysis, critique and commentary to the Cypriot national action plans being drafted on a number of issues including social inclusion, employment, trafficking, and gender mainstreaming. It also works with other NGOs in drafting shadow reports to the Cyprus report for the CEDAW convention.

With regard to the Euromed Women in Economic Life Programme, MIGS provides technical assistance and backstopping through a variety of activities including participation in monitoring missions to partner organizations; co-facilitation of project meetings; networking and information exchange; identification and commissioning of experts to undertake specific studies; provision of technical assistance and feedback to project reports, studies and situation analysis; and contributions to both the communication strategy and the gender equality data base.

The MIGS presentation was followed by presentations and discussions of the EOWEL partner projects. These presentations proved to be timely and useful for participants as it allowed for the sharing of experiences and best practices as well for identifying the main areas requiring further technical assistance.

The first partner project presentation given was that of **Femmes Entrepreneuses en Méditerranée (FEM)**. This project, implemented by ENDA in collaboration with five partner organizations, was launched on 1 January 2006 and will have a total duration of 30 months. Its main objective is to improve the living standards of women micro-entrepreneurs in the Southern Mediterranean region (Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia), as well as to enhance their capacity to generate sustainable income. FEM focuses on under-privileged women in rural areas in each of the countries it works in, as well as the staff of organizations that serve them.

FEM enhances the capacities of staff in organizations serving the target population and informs women of new openings in the job market and provides them with necessary support in pursuing employment opportunities. FEM also organizes trade fairs for women, and these are considered a good opportunity for women to network, share information, and gain mobility. Last year FEM organized three travelling forums with specific themes that allowed ten women from each country to travel to another country represented in the FEM consortium.

The presentation was followed by discussions that focused on the main points raised and contributed information about participants' own experiences. Numerous issues were raised, including the fact that reducing government interventions in basic services sometimes has a detrimental effect on the success of micro-enterprises. It was stated that small and micro-enterprises often collapse when families face crisis situations such as chronic health problems because they are forced to spend all of their capital on treatment.

It was suggested to make use of examples of best practices in the microfinance field, including, for example, the Asian experience in setting up saving schemes for women whereby each contributes 1 USD and decisions are collectively made on spending

priorities. In Egypt, NGOs have lobbied to enact a law that would allow housewives and domestic workers to contribute to a social security scheme. It was highlighted that the Arab world is the fastest growing region in terms of micro credit, which took off in the region in the mid-1990s, and that the Sanabel network exists to serve microfinance institutions in the Arab world by examining these issues in depth and proposing recommendations for action. One participant suggested that it is more beneficial to learn from the partners' own experiences than by looking at the Asian or Latin American experiences since regional partners share similar cultural and legal frameworks. It was also pointed out that each country has its own legislation regarding saving schemes.

Next was the presentation of the **Sustainable Economic Opportunities for Women in the MENA Region (SEOW-MENA)** project. This two-year project, which commenced in March 2006, is a regional project led by the Collective for Research and Training on Development – Action (CRTD.A) in collaboration with two partners and covers Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Algeria and Morocco. Its main aim is to promote women's economic participation in the MENA region through building women's capacities and community awareness of structural and institutional obstacles to economic participation. Its target group includes local development NGOs and civil society organizations, women from local communities with a particular focus on rural women, international development organizations, employers (with a focus on those with demonstrable commitment to corporate social responsibility), and government institutions.

A question was raised on how CRTD.A will share its experiences with the other projects and it was explained that all research and information generated will be posted on the organization's websites. Information dissemination is part of CRTD.A's mandate and thus great attention is given to it. Another question was raised on whether the work carried out by CRTD.A is considered a replication of the RWEL technical assistance team's work, and it was explained that attention will be given to coordinating the various levels and means of dealing with similar research topics and that research can be commissioned in different or complementary areas. It was also noted the research areas of the two projects do not overlap but rather are considered complementary. For example CRTD.A alone is undertaking research on the assessment of micro credit schemes in the region. As micro credit is often successful in satisfying basic needs but does not always help beneficiaries accumulate capital for business development purposes, CRTD.A is researching how to move away from micro-financing for relief and welfare and towards business development. Finally, it was established that CRTD.A focuses on visibility because it supports its work in policy and advocacy and attracts media attention.

The third presentation given was that on the project entitled **Economic Empowerment for Palestinian Women: Turning Business Ideas into Reality**. This project is implemented by the Centre for Jewish-Arab Economic Development in partnership with the Palestinian Media and Development Institute and the Jerusalem Women's Association. The project's objectives are to develop an entrepreneurship training programme adapted to the unique needs of women and offering training, guidance and support in the start-up and initial fielding of enterprises in Ramallah, Hebron, Nablus and Bethlehem; and to promote cooperation and the sharing of information by creating women's networks in these areas and generally providing opportunities for networking between Palestinian women entrepreneurs.

In the discussion following this presentation, a question was raised regarding the sustainability of training trainers and whether they would subsequently find clients. It was noted that there is in fact a market demand for their acquired skills and that two organizations, the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) and the Small Business Centre in Ramallah, have already expressed interest in their services. It was also highlighted that all training material will be made available in English online. Regarding a question on the sensitivity of working with an Israeli partner, it was noted that due to the delicate political situation, publicizing this working relationship needs to be carefully evaluated.

The fourth presentation given was that of the **Economic Empowerment of Rural Palestinian Women** project, which is implemented by the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED) in partnership with Legacoop, Diesis Coop, and Young Entrepreneurs Palestine (YEP). The main objective of the project is the economic and social empowerment of rural Palestinian women, and its main approaches include the following: the design and implementation of an integrated program that combines personal empowerment, vocational training, and training in entrepreneurship and basic business skills; providing guidance and mentorship to participants in designing viable business plans, accessing start-up loans and credits, and establishing individual or cooperative micro-enterprises in their villages; providing ongoing professional mentoring and support of newly-established enterprises; providing networking opportunities; and promoting business contacts and joint ventures.

It was noted that the project faces numerous and challenging constraints due to the economic and political situation in the Palestinian territories. During the severe crisis suffered following the collapse of the Oslo peace process in 2000 and until 2002, rates of unemployment among Palestinians rose to 40% and statistics of Palestinian families under the poverty line shot up to 62%. Although these numbers subsequently evened out during a period of stabilization, since 2005 the situation both politically and on the ground has been highly tense and it is uncertain what the future holds. In purely practical terms, the Israeli construction of the separation wall on and continued occupation of Palestinian territories severely restrict the movement of people and goods. The policy of "closure" imposes restrictions on movement that seem to change on a daily basis and which form a major obstacle to the project. Despite these obstacles, however, it was noted that the project partners Palestinian and Israeli organizations, and that the relationship between stability and prosperity has been clearly felt in earlier, calmer periods.

In the discussion following the presentation, a question was raised on the choice of the bank used, given that it only has an office in Ramallah and is therefore inaccessible to rural women. It was noted that commercial credit officers are available in all areas to promote credit to women and that the project is working with them. Another question was raised about the protocols between banks and financial institutes, and it was explained that the project is approaching NGOs working on micro schemes although some have refused to work with the project due to its partnership with Israeli NGOs.

The fifth presentation given was that on the project entitled **Free to Work**. This project is implemented by the Tatawor Association for the Preparation of Youth in collaboration with the Jordan Chamber of Industry, the Arab Women Organization in Jordan, and Society Voice Association for Community and Civil Work. The project seeks to bridge the gap between employment supply and demand and to enhance women's skills to fit jobs.

It encourages the creation of new employment opportunities and seeks to increase their value and stability. The project holds workshops and the training of trainers in addition to job matching. It targets rural women of Amman and Gaza, women employed in the public sector, women entrepreneurs, farmers and owners of agricultural enterprises, public organizations, small and medium enterprises, and civil society associations and NGOs.

A question was raised regarding the choice of the Chamber of Industry as opposed to the Chamber of Commerce, and it was noted that the project does not intend to alienate other sectors but that due to its focus on the productivity of women the Chamber of Industry seemed to be the most strategic choice of a partner.

The sixth partner project presentation given was that of the project entitled **Gender Equality in Employment and Small Enterprises (GESE)**. This project is implemented by El Mobadara in collaboration with five partners from Jordan and Egypt. Its main aim is to improve the economic status of women in Jordan and Upper Egypt by encouraging and supporting the involvement of women in economic activities and paid employment. The specific objectives of the project include increasing women's access to micro credit loans and business development services, building the capacity of partner NGOs in gender mainstreaming, and enhancing the image of working women in the media. A question was raised regarding the financial scope of micro credit available, and it was explained that the maximum was originally 5,000 EGP but that given the gap noted concerning small enterprises, micro credit is now being offered at rates higher than that. Another question was raised on how to access this information, and it was explained that it will soon be available online.

The final partner project presentation given was that of the project entitled **Creating New Opportunities and Networking Facilities for Marginalized Home-Based Working Women**. This project is implemented by Planet Finance Morocco in collaboration with Hacettepe University and the Contemporary Women and Youth Foundation. The project fosters the creation of a grass-roots networking organization and the capacity building of local organizations based in Morocco and Turkey. Its specific objectives include strengthening home-based working women's participation in economic life through the development of measures that support the elimination of underlying structural obstacles and to establish a Mediterranean centre for the promotion and development of home-based working women's products. It was stressed that the project allows women to access new opportunities provided by the globalization process through the means of capacity building.

In the ensuing discussion a question was raised regarding the relationship between gender and loans. It was explained that in Morocco saving schemes are not legally authorized. Since they are only available through banks that are inaccessible to the rural population, NGOs accompany women to the banks. Another question was raised about participation in project trade fairs and it was clarified that they are not open to outside participants. A final question was raised regarding whether training has led to lower production costs and whether this is in fact an objective. It was explained that as the products are too expensive for the market, they have tried to simplify the work entailed but not necessarily lower the quality of materials used.

8. Working groups

In response to requests made by the participating partner NGOs, following the project presentations given on 27 June participants were divided into working groups with the aim of proposing specific activities requiring support and identifying the type of support needed. An ad-hoc preparatory group composed of partner representatives had met the previous evening and identified and proposed the topics to be discussed, and the working groups thus focused on the following themes: (1) market outlets/trade fairs, (2) networking, (3) communication, (4) lobbying, and (5) technical assistance and monitoring.

The working group on identifying **market outlets/trade fairs** highlighted the importance of organizing trade fairs to market women's products. It was noted that trade fairs are not only important for generating visibility and drawing attention to the project, but also for enhancing cooperation and the exchange of experiences among trade fair participants. Women's products gain greater exposure and women have the opportunity to directly share information with each another, enhance their marketing skills, and sell for cash.

It was suggested that two trade fairs be organized, one in a country of the Arab Gulf region and another in an EU country. A discussion ensued on the viability of e-commerce as a tool for developing cottage industries. The feasibility and logistical problems of trade fairs within the context of this programme were also highlighted.

Another suggestion made by this working group was to organize a training of trainers on marketing concepts and product design, as well as to explore potential markets for women's handicrafts (market research). The support needed was outlined as follows: (1) organizing the joint training, (2) coordinating among the participants, (3) technical assistance in organizing the trade fairs and undertaking market research, and (4) creating a joint website for marketing women's products (e-commerce).

The second group presentation highlighted the importance of **networking** to share experiences and best practices, broaden participants' existing networks, and build additional contacts with the overall aim of strengthened support, increased impact and greater visibility. The following tools were suggested to aid the establishment of a network: (1) creating a calendar of forthcoming events to be placed on the RWEL website, (2) sharing resources such as manuals and training tools and making them available on the RWEL website, (3) RWEL organizing meetings on a quarterly basis to measure progress to date, (4) organizing training workshops, (5) maximizing the network and inviting other contacts, (6) encouraging members to be proactive through the use of the website, newsletters and other communication tools, (7) finding channels of influence that include public, private and government bodies, (8) RWEL consulting with EOWEL partners to develop a media strategy, and (9) participating in other relevant events.

The working group on **communication** stressed that on a regional level the communication strategy should be clear with regard to the longevity of the project in order to be able to market it for sustainability once the project term ends. The communication strategy should also be clear on a country level so that NGOs in the same country are in close connection regardless of which project consortium they are a member of.

Another point was made regarding the importance of raising the visibility of the project beneficiaries through events including meetings of this kind. Creating a thematically organized documentary with portraits of the beneficiary women was suggested, and it was stressed that putting women's success stories on the web site speaks to donors.

A third point was raised on technical issues; the working group suggested that RWEL create a matrix of the projects' details in order to easily identify what resources are available and to facilitate determination of existing synergies. It was also suggested to have the newsletter and website made available in Arabic.

Regarding the working group on **lobbying**, the following was suggested: (1) to mobilize the EC in each country to facilitate communication with governments. It was also highlighted that the presence of the EC makes the project more newsworthy in the eyes of the media. (2) It was suggested to create a regional network in which EOWEL project partners would be members and in which social and economic organizations would be represented. Support is needed in setting up the network and in creating space and opportunities for discussion. (3) EC interventions should be long-term in order to guarantee the sustainability of this initiative. (4) As a network, EOWEL project partners should participate in regional and international conferences addressing the economic development of women.

It was stated that support is needed in providing information about events, as well as financial support for representatives to attend meetings. Another point raised was that advocacy and lobbying is an art and that not all NGOs have the experience needed to engage in it. It was suggested to benefit from the experiences of MIGS and CRTD.A with regard to advocacy and to maximize on each partner's strength.

The final working group presentation on **technical assistance and monitoring** suggested creating a reporting matrix divided by subject and region that would facilitate the mapping of information and highlight existent potential for synergy. The group also suggested developing a list of existent technical tools available in each NGO based on a questionnaire to be developed and distributed. The main point stressed was the need to adapt training and technical assistance to the needs of partner NGOs. Also highlighted was the need for technical assistance in designing logos.

9. Recommendations and proposals

Although not all participants were able to attend due to travel arrangements, the final session of the conference held on 29 June was devoted to discussing both follow-up suggestions and concrete action points and proposals. A brainstorming session was also held on issues to be addressed in the communication strategy.

In the communication brainstorming session, participants suggested and discussed some of the common cultural obstacles that women encounter in the region. These included inherent lack of self confidence, discriminatory family legislations and practices, female genital mutilation, religious interpretations and cultural practices that inhibit women's participation in the labour market, and discriminatory nationality laws. It was suggested that in addressing these issues, the communication strategy begin by recognizing and acknowledging women's existent roles. It was also suggested that in addition to using the success stories of women to influence public opinion, this approach

should be complemented by a realistic representation of the actual problems women face.

The recommendations made included the following:

- A suggestion was made to network with potential donors in order to ensure the sustainability of the project activities once the programme term ends.
- Participants shared their experiences with networking, and it was stated that networks do not function well without the presence of a mobilizing animator. It was also pointed out that networks are based on solid relations and cannot be maintained by electronic means only; they must also involve face to face meetings.
- It was suggested that a meeting be held as soon as possible to activate a network and determine its members, work plan, work mechanisms, etc. It was also suggested to form a subgroup within the network to draft a concrete proposal on its objectives, composition, and activities.
- Sustainability of this network was discussed with regard to whether it should be limited to the duration of the Euromed programme or continue as an independent entity. It was pointed out that the work being done is not limited to the framework of this project but is rather ongoing and being carried out in a larger context.
- The need to start the process of coordinating establishment of the network now was stressed with the aim of capitalizing on the support of the EC.
- A participant suggested that network members pay a fee to fund a position for a network coordinator and to ensure the sustainability of the network.
- A suggestion was also made to contact other EC funded programmes, for example broadcasting on civil society issues co-financed by the EC. It was suggested that those responsible for such programmes could be approached with requests to incorporate a focus on gender in a way that could increase the visibility of the network.
- It was also suggested that representatives of the Euromed network take part in international conferences such as the 2006 Global Microcredit Summit in Halifax, Canada in order to increase visibility.
- It was further suggested that two trade fairs be organized, one in a country of the Arab Gulf region and another in an EU country.
- Finally, it was suggested that with regard to terminology, the programme address an “enabling environment for women in business,” and that this approach be taken when addressing the Euromed ministerial meeting and when convincing governments that this would be a worthy investment.

The concrete action points and proposals made included the following:

- It was agreed that the conference report would be translated into Arabic and possibly French and disseminated among EOWEL partners and made available on the RWEL website.
- A closing conference will be held to present the results of the Euromed Women in Economic Life Programme. It was proposed to hold three technical meetings and working sessions with the partners instead of the mid-term conference.
- It was proposed that the first technical meeting be held in September/October of 2006. It was further proposed to hold the second technical meeting in conjunction with the Senabel microfinance network of Arab countries conference to be held in

Yemen in February 2007. It was suggested that this meeting would provide an opportunity for networking and building relations with over 350 participating institutions. The third technical meeting was proposed to be held in June 2007.

- Participants proposed organizing the working sessions at the technical meetings around the following themes: (1) discriminatory legislations and practices, (2) economic empowerment of women, (3) policy making and lobbying, and (4) communication, networking and information dissemination.
- Regarding the logistics of technical meetings, it was suggested that representatives of partner projects all attend the technical meetings and then split into working groups based on individual choice.
- It was also proposed to hold proposed workshops during the technical meetings in order to ensure their feasibility. The workshop topics suggested include approaches to gender issues, policy and lobbying, marketing channels for products, and mobilization strategies for women.
- A recommendation was made to hold additional seminars and workshops in the relevant countries to discuss research study drafts.
- It was noted that the timing of fact sheet submissions is flexible and that they can in fact be updated at any time in accordance with important developments – meaning that they may be produced more often or less than on a quarterly basis.
- It was recommended that the first progress report be requested and submitted in November to prevent the creation of a gap in the receiving of funds.
- It is proposed that the website include a powerful search engine, and be able to track related files and usage, display popularity, include user surveys, and accept feedback comments.
- Participants have urged the creation of a programme website portal for putting up information, posting messages, and facilitating communication.
- A request was made for the disclaimer to be translated into Arabic and for the website to also be in Arabic since Arabic speakers form a majority in the region.
- A number of requests were made for the newsletter to be organized on a thematic basis.
- It was recommended to create a reporting matrix divided by subject and region that would facilitate the mapping of information and highlight existent potential for synergy.
- It was proposed to create a calendar of forthcoming events to be placed on the RWEL website.
- It was recommended to share resources such as manuals and training tools and to make them available on the RWEL website.
- Assistance was requested in technical issues such as translation, newsletters, websites, logos, and communication methodologies.

Finally, the meeting concluded with a tentative agreement on the following steps needed to implement the recommendations and proposals. It was agreed that working groups will be organized around the following thematic areas and tentatively led by the following partner organizations:

1. Monitoring and technical assistance coordinated by Planet Finance - Morocco.
2. Economic empowerment of women coordinated by ENDA - Tunisia.
3. Policy and lobbying coordinated by CRTD.A - Lebanon.
4. Networking coordinated by El Mobadara - Egypt.
5. Communication coordinated by Tatawor - Jordan.

6. Gender tools coordinated by MIGS – Cyprus.

It was also tentatively agreed that Hacettepe University would coordinate the two workshops on identifying market outlets and mobilization strategies for women.

ANNEX I

FIRST PARTNERS MEETING
EUROMED WOMEN IN ECONOMIC LIFE
PROGRAMME

AT THE CONRAD HOTEL, CAIRO
JUNE 26 - 29, 2006

Sunday, June 25, 2006

Arrival of participants at the Conrad Hotel

Monday, June 26, 2006

09:00 - 09:30	Registration
09:30 - 10:15	Welcome and introductions Review of meeting's objectives and agenda Marguerite Appel, Team Leader Technical Assistance
10:15 - 11:00	Overview Role of Women in Economic life project Introduction British Council Technical Assistance Team
11:00 - 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 - 12:00	Presentation of literature review: working on women's economic empowerment in the MEDA region Fatma Khafagy, Policy and Legal expert Gielan Messiri, Programme Researcher
12:00 - 13:00	Reflections and implications for EOWEL actions Plenary discussion
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 - 15:30	Review of participants' preparations Marguerite Appel and Fatma Khafagy
15:30 - 16:00	<i>Break</i>
16:00 - 17:00	Finalisation of participants' preparations Marguerite Appel and Fatma Khafagy
17:00 - 18:00	EUROMED Gender Equality newsletter Discussion on first newsletter, Technical Assistance team

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

- 09:00 -09:30 **Official Opening**
Leonidas Kioussis, Chief of Sector MEDA, EuropeAid
Brussels
Joseph Piazzadolmo, Operational Manager, Delegation of
the European Commission, Lebanon
Marguerite Appel, Team Leader Technical Assistance
- 09:30 - 10:00 **Programme aims and management structure**
Function of EC Headquarters and EC Delegation Lebanon
Leonidas Kioussis and Joseph Piazzadolmo
- 10:00 - 10:30 *Break, media interviews*
- 10:30 -12:00 **Contractual and Financial aspects**
Presentation and discussion, Liliane Dib, Contracts and
Finance manager, EC Delegation Lebanon
- 12:00 - 13:00 **Technical aspects**
Presentation and discussion, Marguerite Appel and Fatma
Khafagy, Technical Assistance
- 13:00 -14:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00 - 15:30 **Communication, dissemination, visibility and promotion**
Introduction to communication strategy; making linkages and
developing a common approach: EOWEL partner's projects
and the Role of Women in Economic Life programme,
Farag Elkamel, Communication Expert
- 15:30 -16:00 *Break*
- 16:00 - 17:00 **Communication, dissemination, visibility and promotion**
Presentation and discussion of Euromed Gender Equality
website and EU visibility guidelines
Hazem El Zayat, Website and Information manager
- 17:00 -18:00 Plenary discussion and conclusions
- 19.30 *Welcome dinner*

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

- 09:00 - 09:30 Review of key issues emerging
- 09:30 - 11:00 **Presentation and discussion of partner's projects**
1) Femmes Entrepreneuses en Mediterranee, FEM, Tunisia

2) Sustainable Economic Opportunities for women in the MENA region, SEOW, Lebanon

11:00 -11:30

Break

11:30 - 13:00

Presentation and discussion of partner's projects cont.

3) Economic empowerment for Palestinian Women: turning business ideas into reality

4) Economic Empowerment of Rural Palestinian Women

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 16:00

Presentation and discussion of partner's projects cont.

5) Free to Work, Jordan

6) Creating new opportunities and networking facilities for marginalized home-based working women, Morocco

7) Gender Equality in employment and small enterprises GEESE, Egypt

15:30 - 16:00

Break

16:00 - 17:00

Conclusions and follow-up actions

18:00

Press conference

19.30

Dinner

Thursday, June 29, 2006

09:00 - 13:00

Bilateral meetings as required

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

Departure

ANNEX II

EUROMED Women in Economic Life

*Partners' Meeting EUROMED Women in Economic Life Programme
26-29 June 2006, Cairo*

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sustainable Economic Opportunities for Women in the MENA region (SEOW – MENA)

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Creating New Opportunities and Networking Facilities for Marginalised Home-Based working Women

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Free to Work

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Gender Equality in Employment and Small Enterprises (GEESE)

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Economic Empowerment for Palestinian Women: Turning Business Ideas into Reality

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ANNEX III

Available presentations

The power point presentations of all conference participants will be made available through the RWEL website at <http://www.roleofwomenineconomiclife.net>. They can also be emailed to you by request through Alaa Ghoneim, Administrative Officer for the RWEL technical assistance team. Please send your requests to Alaa at Alaa.ghoneim@britishcouncil.org.eg.

Index of power point presentations available on request:

Role of Women in Economic Life Technical Assistance Team presentations:

1. Meeting objectives and agenda
2. RWEL overview and approach
3. RWEL technical aspects: monitoring, assistance, database, and dissemination and communication
4. RWEL communication strategies
5. Literature review of family laws in Euromed countries
6. Literature review of studies on the economic role of women in Euromed countries
7. Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) overview

European Commission presentations:

1. EOWEL overview
2. EOWEL contracts and financial aspects

ANNEX IV

Partner project presentations (attached as a separate zip-file)

Index:

1. Sustainable Economic Opportunities for Women in the MENA Region (SEOW-MENA) – **(Collective for Research & Training on Development – Lebanon/ Forum for Women in Development – Egypt/ Women in Development Europe –Belgium)**
2. Femmes Entrepreneuses en Méditerranée (FEM) – **(ENDA Inter - Arabe Appui Aux Micro Entrepreneurs – Tunisia/ Egyptian Association for Comprehensive Development – Egypt/ Business Development Manager Al Majmoua – Lebanon/ Fondation Zakoura Micro Credit – Morocco/ Association BATIK – France/ Centre de Liaison pour L'Emploi et la Formation (CLEF) – France)**
3. Creating New Opportunities and Networking Facilities for Marginalized Home-Based Working Women **(Planet Finance – Morocco/ Hacettepe University (HUWRIC) – Turkey/ Contemporary Women and Youth Foundation (CWYF) – Turkey)**
4. Free to Work **(Tatawor Association for the Preparation of Youth – Jordan/ Jordan Chamber of Industry – Jordan/ Jordan Human Resources Management Association – Jordan/ Arab Women Organisation – Jordan/ Society Voice Association for Community and Civil Work – Palestinian Territories)**
5. Gender Equality in Employment and Small Enterprises (GEESE) **(The Community Develop. Association & Small Enterprises (El Mobadara) – Egypt/ Masar Centre for Studies and Researches – Jordan/ Community Capability Development & Environment Protection Association – Egypt/ Small Enterprise Development Association – Egypt/ Regional Association for development & Small Enterprise – Egypt/ El Nasr Association for Social Development – Egypt)**
6. Economic Empowerment for Palestinian Women: Turning Business Ideas into Reality **(THE CENTER FOR JEWISH-ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Israel/ Palestinian Media and Development Institute – Palestinian Territories/ Jerusalem Women's Association - Palestinian Territories)**
7. Economic Empowerment of Rural Palestinian Women **(NEGEV INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIES OF PEACE & DEVELOP. AT PARADISE – Lebanon/ Legacoop – Italy/ DIESIS COOP – Italy/ Young Entrepreneurs Palestine (YEP) - Palestinian Territories)**