



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP *071*
CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership Forum network is now independent! As a major step towards sustaining the PF network, the members have elected the Citizenship Forum from Morocco to host the forum. Find out more about the Citizenship Forum, and the proceedings of the PF Launch conference below.

Also in this month's newsletter, learn about upcoming RPCD events and grant activities. Don't forget to send us your updates for inclusion in the next newsletter!



The Citizenship Forum (FC) will be the new home of the Partnership Forum after the RPCD concludes its work in early 2014. FC is a non-governmental organization focused on institutionalizing democracy in Morocco. It provides a forum for civil society actors to communicate and cooperate on the development initiatives and programs, and strives to establish a culture of democratic citizenship and sustainable human development. To achieve its objectives, FC conducts trainings, seminars, and forums at the national and international level, as well as development projects, educational and awareness programs and research reports.

"It is a great honor to be chosen to host the Partnership Forum and it is also a huge responsibility. We look forward to working with all members over the next few months."

-Khadija Ramram, Citizenship Forum, Morocco

Power of One Conference Grants



Five innovative grant ideas received funding from UNDP Cyprus and RPCD during the Power of One conference held last October. These exciting projects, which link actors in Eastern Europe and the MENA region, are now underway:

Upcoming Events

Research into Action: Upcoming Series of National Workshops by RPCD

The workshop series will share practical knowledge on bridging the

Media Buffer Zone

Implemented by Partnership Forum members Near East Consulting in the West Bank and Qabila Media Productions in Egypt, in cooperation with the Cyprus Community Media Center and Why Not Organization in Bosnia, this project is designed to support civil society organizations to produce and disseminate professional, innovative and cost effective media messages. It will focus on media skills training and capacity building, as well as connect civil society organizations with media professionals to help support their role in social change.

Ambassadors for Cross-Cultural Dialogue

A partnership between 5 institutions including Partnership Forum member Citizenship Forum in Morocco; Youth Power, NGO Support Center and Kontea Heritage in Cyprus; and the Civic Resource Center in Romania, this project will seek to enhance cross-cultural dialogue among youth to challenge stereotypes and reduce prejudice and xenophobia by development a trainers' manual on cross-cultural facilitation. Through the facilitations, youth will engage in discussions on conflict management and reconciliation.

i-100

The Egypt Foundation for Youth and Development will work with the Cyprus Family Planning Organization on a project to promote youth volunteerism through an online portal. The portal will map the experiences of volunteers in and highlight volunteering opportunities within civil society organizations across the MENA region and Cyprus.

Inter-regional Networking for Citizen Participation

This project aims at fostering citizen participation and transferring best practices. It will establish innovative participatory models and set up an interregional network for the exchange of skills, knowledge and experience among NGOs and experts in MENA, Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus. It will be implemented by Partnership Forum members, Foundation for the Future in Jordan and the American University in Egypt, along with Kontea Heritage Foundation in Cyprus, Citizen Participation Forum and the Center for Non-for Profit Law in Bulgaria, and Partners for Democratic Change in Slovakia.

Integrating Anthropology Perspectives into Peace-building

To identify the main commonalities and convergences in approaches to peacebuilding, this project will integrate anthropological research methods and academic partnerships across institutions in Europe, Cyprus and the Middle East. Implementing partners include the Management Centre of the Mediterranean (Cyprus); Sarenj Organization (Iraq); Europe Haz (Budapest); Kurdistan Human Rights Watch (Iraq); and the Centre of Human Rights, Reconciliation and Public Policy (Iraq).

gap between evidence and policymaking to better utilize research results in development. The three workshops will be held in:

- Beirut, Lebanon: June 28
- Ramallah, West Bank: June 30-July
- Cairo, Egypt: July 1-2

Call for Papers

The "World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities" will be held in Qatar on 28-30 January 2014. The event aims to a) give universities an opportunity to share their work in sustainable development b) foster exchange of information and ideas c) integrate sustainability into university curricula and d) promote networking and cooperation among participants. [Click here](#) to learn more or submit an abstract!

RPCD Webinar

Dr. Muhand Al Azzeh from FHI360's Civil Society Program in Jordan will lead a webinar titled, "The Civil Society Report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Jordan: the Mirror of Reality and a Tool for Change." The webinar will take place on Tuesday June 25, 2013 at 1pm EET.

RPCD's "Launch of the Partnership Forum and the Way Forward" conference

The Launch of the independent PF was held in Amman, Jordan from 28 – 30 May. 52 PF members from Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and the West Bank attended the conference to set the institutional framework of the independent network and select the new host. The PF Launch resulted in the creation of the mission, vision and charter of the independent network as well as an initial activity plan and fundraising document. In the coming months, RPCD will hand over the management of the network to the Citizenship Forum, the newly elected host of the network. Keynote addresses were given by Bruce Currie-Alder, Director of the IDRC's Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa and Dr. Ramy Khoury, Director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut. On the third day of the Launch event, PF members shared their innovative and cutting-edge research findings during several "Research Lab" sessions. The labs, which focused on the three thematic areas of Democracy and Governance, Youth Engagement and Development, and Natural Resources Management, reflected the high-quality and diverse expertise that the PF members enjoy. Look for the presentations on the RPCD website soon!



"The concept of research networks has been critical for [IDRC] over time. It is first and foremost a way of being able to address regional issues as well as being able to learn through comparative illustration."

Bruce Currie-Alder
Director, IDRC Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa

Development Assistance Roadmap Portal in Egypt (DARPE)

Beit El-Karma Consulting is initiating a new knowledge-sharing portal on development in Egypt, entitled Development Assistance Roadmap Portal in Egypt (DARPE). The portal will serve as an independent "one-stop-shop" for development assistance efforts. DARPE is expected to increase development effectiveness, provide access to business development resources, enhance harmonization and reduce duplication amongst development projects, and build the capacity of NGOs in Egypt. To become a member or to get more information, email darpe@bk-eg.com.

RPCD Research into Action, Erbil

In May, 24 Partnership Forum members participated in RPCD's second Research Into Action workshop held in Erbil, Iraq. The workshop aimed to support building effective communications between researchers and decision-makers to better utilize research results in development. Participants reported the topic was useful and relevant to the work of research institutions in the region. The workshop was led by Dr. Ramy Lakkis, founder of Lebanese Organization of Studies & Training, in Baalbeck, Lebanon.

[Visit our website](#)

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WHAT WORKS: RUNNING EFFECTIVE CONFERENCES

Spring 2013

Conferences can be an indispensable way to share knowledge and forge connections. Improperly planned, they can miss objectives and waste money. In this What Works, RPCD shares tips to maximize the impact of your event.

6 Tips for Event Impact

1. Focus on actionable outcomes
2. Draw out the knowledge of all attendees
3. Inspire participants with a non-traditional environment
4. Follow new USG regulations
5. Amplify the event online
6. Follow up afterwards to multiply your achievements



Focus on Action: Project Design, Competition & Selection in 3 Days

One way to make sure your participants don't arrive home, put their conference binder on the shelf and forget the event is to give them concrete results.

If you have even a small amount for grants, consider Rapid Team Project Launch to bring participants together to get tangible outcomes and lasting alliances from events. It compresses the grants process into a few days, from notice to selection, maximizing participation and transparency. Use the RTPL when you're bringing together a diverse group who would benefit from collaboration.

Step 1 (Day 1). The whole group discusses the problem or issue at the

center of the conference.

Step 2. Breakout groups drill down to the underlying issues and report out.

Step 3 (Day 2). Organizers explain parameters for grants—maximum amounts, period of performance, etc.

Step 4. Each individual participant with a grant idea writes a 100-word summary submits it to the facilitator.

Step 5. After all ideas are quickly reviewed by organizers to make sure they fit the criteria, each author of an idea has 3 minutes to pitch it to the group.

Step 6. Each author gets a table in the Marketplace of Ideas, an open space where the other participants browse ideas, chat with authors and decide

which project to join. Each author has a sign-up sheet. You may want to require that each team has participants from at least two countries/organizations.

Step 7 (Day 3). The newly formed teams flesh out their ideas, and present a final pitch to the group as to why their project deserves funding.

Step 8. The whole group votes on the best projects. The winners will receive grants. It's even better if you can have a wider set of stakeholders vote.

Step 9. Winning teams develop full grants proposals, receive funds and later share results with all attendees.

If interested in more details on this method, contact us:

rpcdinfo@fhi360.org.

Follow-up after the event

As you plan your conference, lay out post-conference objectives to

Amplify your Event with Online Tools

- A conference is no longer bound by time and space. So-called "Amplified Events" make the most of IT to share and magnify the event experience:
- Live stream the event on your project website, and advertise the link; make the

build on the initial results. Webinars, social media, and online tools are useful and virtually free ways to bring your conference participants together post-event to continue the discussions and keep connected. Don't wait long after your event to carry out your follow-up plan. Reconnect people while ideas are still fresh in participants' minds.

video available after the conference concludes

- Use Storify to tell and share story of your event with text, photos and links
- Slideshare can share presentations with audiences and invite feedback
- Use Facebook during planning to ask participants to post their ideas for sessions, speakers or activities they'd like to see (use Mission or Bureau FB pages if available)
- Create a Twitter #hashtag and project the Twitter feed on a wall. Also let participants tweet real-time feedback and questions to speakers
- Use Youtube & Flickr channels where participants can take upload videos and pictures taken with their smart phones
- Make sure to dedicate staff time at the event to carry out all of the above!



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

What Works ★ Spring 2013

**REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON
CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Create Experiences with an Innovative Setting



When selecting the location for an international event, your first thought should be: Can my all of my participants get there, given any visa requirements and the time we have left?

But your very next thought should be: How can we inspire participants with an innovative setting that matches the theme of the event and gets them out of the usual "conference box"?

Hotel banquet halls and breakout rooms are functional, but they're also boring. These windowless rooms will remind participants of every previous conference they've been to, and may subtly lower their expectations of the opportunities for active participation

Central & Eastern Europe, and the Arab region was one of the goals of **USAID and UNDP's Power of One Conference** last October. By convening in the United Nations buffer zone in Nicosia, the conference took advantage of Cyprus's status as a historical, cultural and geographical crossroads between the regions. It also allowed participants to network and hold vibrant discussions in the buffer zone's unusual outdoor spaces.

Similarly, a recent **RPCD gathering of MENA water** experts took place at the Dead Sea Panoramic Complex in Jordan. Views of the famous body of water and the natural setting inspired participants

of the event were varied, creative and useful.

The next time you're picking a venue, remember: New spaces can help to breed new ideas.

they'll be given at your event.
Knowledge sharing between Cyprus,

as they planned for environmental
sustainability in the region. The outputs



Every Participant is an Expert: Knowledge Cafes

The most rewarding and effective events recognize the expertise of all attendees, and work to gather knowledge from everyone. One-way speeches have their place in opening and closing ceremonies, but the middle of the conference—the heart—should not only allow participants to contribute, but actively solicit their ideas and opinions. “Knowledge Cafes” are an increasingly popular tool for harvesting the expertise of a roomful of people who don’t know each other. It’s simple:

- Set up tables in the room with four chairs, a pad of paper, and water (and tea/coffee if possible) at each.
- Seat participants at the tables. Declare one person at each table the Host.
- Have a featured speaker give a 10-minute kick-off to the topic at hand, highlighting key issues, questions and challenges.

After the speaker finishes, each table discusses the issue and the Host records their thoughts, conclusions and recommendations for action. This can last 5 or 15 minutes, depending on the depth of engagement you want.

- A bell rings, and everyone but the Host moves to a new table. No two participants should sit together twice, if possible.
- The newly formed tables discuss a new aspect of the issue, and again the Host records the outputs of the discussion.
- Repeat as many times as desired. Feature new kick-off speeches as needed.
- Collect, collate, analyze and distribute the Hosts’ notes to all attendees. Use the most common recommendations from all participants as the basis for an action plan.

Dynamic and engaging, Knowledge Cafes offer a productive way to put your participants’ collective wisdom to work.