Workshop on Party Coalition Building and Mergers between Parties
January 2018
Amman, Jordan

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INTRODUCTION

In cooperation with the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs (MoPPA), the "EU support to Jordanian Democratic Institutions & Development: EUJDID project" organized a two-day training workshop on party coalition building and mergers between parties. The training workshop was held in (29-30 January 2018) and attended by MoPPA staff, representatives of the Political Party Affairs Committee and representatives of research centers with relevant experience. The training workshop aimed at discussing the advantages and importance of building effective and solid political parties' coalition. The project hosted experts Dr. Saad Abu Dayyeh and Dr. Hussein Al Khazai to facilitate the training.

THE TRAINING WORKSHOP

The **Secretary General** of the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs and **head of the Political Party Affairs Committee**, **H.E Bakr Al Abaddi**, inaugurated the training workshop by welcoming the participants and thanking the EU support to the political party system. H.E Al Abaddi provided an overview on the party coalition status in Jordan. He mentioned that there are currently 47 political parties in Jordan, 28 of which are members of coalitions. He further added that there are four party coalitions, each including between four to ten parties. Al Abbadi said that such

aggrupation of like- minded parties started to intensify as of 2015, especially in light of the government's financial incentives to parties that form part of a coalition (Financial Bylaw No. 53 of 2016 and its amendments No. 111 of 2016). Al Abbadi indicated that three centrist parties have been recently merged in one party. He concluded that MoPPA aims to foster the establishment of coalitions and the merger of parties in order to enhance their performance and increase their effectiveness.

On the first day of the training workshop, expert **Saad Abu Dayyeh** provided the participants with an overview on the history of political parties in Jordan, outlining their different types, currents and ideologies. He also explained the principles of coalition building and mergers and outlined the legal, administrative and financial implications of entering into coalitions.

On the second day of the training workshop, **Dr. Hussein Al Khazai** generally discussed the concept of political parties and their functions. He also touched upon the concept of coalitions and listed the key factors in building a successful party coalition, many which were also relevant to civil society coalitions. Al Khazai provided the participants with best practices of successful political coalitions on the regional and international levels. He mainly focused on the experiences of Morocco, Tunisia, Germany, Britain, France, Japan and the United States. Moreover, he also presented techniques to encourage parties to enter into coalitions, such as communication, group targeting outreach, as well as electoral strategies. During the workshop, participants exchanged ideas and Dr. Khazai's presentation was tailored to incorporate their contributions and feedback.

By the end of the workshop, participants thanked MoPPA and the EU-funded project for the training workshop stating that "it has enlightened them with many useful ideas."