



Kempinski Hotel
Dead Sea, Jordan
4 - 6 December 2017



15th International Electoral
Affairs Symposium And
Awards Ceremony



EU-JDID

**EU SUPPORT TO JORDANIAN DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS & DEVELOPMENT**



This project is funded
by the European Union



The International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS¹) promotes effective policymaking and good governance through enhanced interactions between Parliaments, governments and other stakeholders in society. To this end, ICPS organises a range of training programmes, conferences and policy discussions to address current public policy issues on the international stage.

In this context, ICPS has held International Electoral Affairs Symposiums and International Electoral Awards ceremonies all over the world since 2010 – including in countries such as Malaysia, Mexico, Kenya, South Africa, Namibia, Jamaica, Mozambique and more. The last International Electoral Affairs Symposium was held from the 24th to the 26th of May 2017 in Sri Lanka. It was organised in cooperation with the Election Commission of Sri Lanka and included participants from over 35 countries.

This year, the 15th International Electoral Symposium and International Awards Ceremony will take place at the Kempinski Hotel on the Dead Sea in Jordan, on the 4th to the 6th of December 2017². This is the first time such an event will be held in the Middle East, thanks to the royal patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II and the partnership between the Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC³) and the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES⁴) in the framework of the Project “EU Support to Jordanian Democratic Institutions and Development, EU-JDID”⁵.

The event will bring together representatives from the electoral democracy community and election management bodies from the Middle East and around the world. It will provide the occasion to share best practices, assess new tools and technologies, and develop innovative strategies to be implemented by participants in their respective countries and regions



High-level public officials and leading international experts will also offer a variety of perspectives in relation to effective election management.

A series of interactive presentations, workshops, round-table discussions and case studies will take place over the course of the event. These activities will focus on the following topics:

- Long Term Capacity Development for Electoral Management Bodies' staff
- Use of ICTs tools in Elections
- Modernising the electoral processes with minimal disruption
- Improving accessibility for voters
- Engaging the Youth electorate and attracting First-Time Voters
- Ensuring EMBs are independent and free from interference
- Building transparency and accountability in elections



These topics are particularly relevant given the EU-JDID Project's key objectives of enhancing participation, especially of women and youth, in democratic processes and establishing the IEC Regional Electoral Training Centre in Amman. In the framework of the Project, the IEC training centre is to become a regional hub of excellence for studies, research and capacity building in the field of elections.

In addition to this, discussions on use of technology in elections and democratic processes are particularly pertinent in light of EU-JDID's support for the adoption of an E-voting and audio conference system in the Jordanian House of Representatives.

The crowning event of the conference, the International Electoral Awards Ceremony, will recognise the work of the international electoral community by honouring significant contributions to the development of the democratic process.



For information regarding participation, please contact
Martina Garbuglia, ECES Programme Coordination Advisor (martina.garbuglia@eces.eu)
Omar Alam, ECES Project Officer (omar.alam@eces.eu).

ECES Headquarters telephone: +32 (2) 325 55 58
www.eces.eu

¹ www.parlicentre.org

² www.electoralforum.org

³ www.iec.jo

⁴ www.eces.eu

⁵ EU-JDID Project aims at supporting Jordan's reform process towards consolidation of democracy and at promoting inclusiveness of national policy and decision-making processes. The Project also intends to enhance the inclusion of women and youth in the democratic process, and to foster a stronger democratic and tolerant political culture. EU-JDID Project is part of a broader Programme in support to democratic Governance in Jordan. The Programme is composed of four distinct but interconnected components (Parliamentary Support, Electoral Assistance, Support to the Political Party System and Civil Society). The first three components are implemented by the consortium-led by the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES), which includes the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) and French Agency for Media Cooperation (CFI). The fourth component "Support to Civil Society" is implemented by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, AECID (www.democracy-support.eu/jordan).