Election support

Electoral Assistance for Parliamentary Elections in Lebanon

A €4 million project to support the Ministry of Interior in reforms for the parliamentary elections 2009-2010

"Lebanon is proud of its many friendships. At the top of these is the solid friendship that binds it to the EU… The EU has constantly reinforced this friendship through its political stance in supporting the independence of Lebanon, its sovereignty, and by encouraging democracy."

Ziyad Baroud, Former Lebanese Minister of Interior (May 2009).

Context

Elections are at the core of democratisation in a country like Lebanon which still suffers from political instability. After the Doha Accord in 2008, Lebanon committed to electoral reforms, in particular in the area of campaign finance and media regulation. The project aimed at providing material and technical assistance to the newly-created Supervisory Commission on the Election Campaign in the conduct of the 2009 parliamentary elections.

Objectives

- Consolidate democratic governance in a context of political crisis.
- Assist Lebanese authorities in implementation of the electoral process in accordance with international standards.
- Enhance independence of democratic governance institutions through boosting public confidence in the work of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities.

Impact

- Successful implementation of the 2009 parliamentary elections, leading to the formation of a National Unity Government in Lebanon in October 2009.
- Credible implementation of the mandate of the Supervisory Commission on the Election Campaign.
- National and International acknowledgement of the professionalism of the Ministry of Interior in the conduct of the elections.

For more information: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/index_en.htm
Supervisory Commission on the Election Campaign

"I was employed as a media monitor in the Supervisory Commission on the Election Campaign (SCEC) between April to November 2009. We were given training in media monitoring by European experts to learn the new methodology in the conduct of elections.

"Then, I joined the team that was assessing the candidates' campaign finance, including by controlling their bank accounts, according to a methodology designed by experts recruited by the project to advise the Commission.

"I was among 20 members recruited by the SCEC to work on both the media monitoring and campaign finance sides of the Commission’s work. Thanks to the training we received, our work helped the Commission to enhance new means of regulations. In the end, being a media monitor made us an aware and active actor in the conduct of elections."

Sara, media monitor in the Supervisory Commission on the Election Campaign.