



Annual Plan 2019

Introduction

As per usual, the Foundation for International Christian Democratic Development (FICDD) wants to provide our sister-parties and – organisations abroad with education and training. By doing so, we believe that we can constructively contribute to their development and thereby the strengthening of democratic states in predominantly (South) Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region as well as some partners in other regions.

This annual plan gives an overview of the projects FICDD plans to execute with its partners in the fore mentioned regions. To do so we will use the funds that are provided by the Law on Financing of Political Parties (the “Wet Financiering Politieke Partijen”, hereafter WFPP). We will also be using the two programs under the Dutch Fund of Regional Partnerships (“Nederlands Fonds Regionale Partnerschappen”, hereafter NFRP); the Matra- and the Shiraka-program.

FICDD’s objective is to stimulate political engagement amongst Christians and to further develop political sister-parties and – organizations that are based on biblically inspired politics and Christian social thinking. Our partners are political parties and civil organizations that advocate Christian democratic values in their countries. Besides these partners we also value our cooperation with the European Christian Political Movement (ECPM), their youth movement the European Christian Political Youth (ECPYouth) and its think-tank Sallux. We have a good and longstanding cooperation and can use the speakers network of these organizations.

Principals

Based on Christian social principals FICDDD advocates a Christian ethic of freedom, responsibility, transparency, fairness, justice and sustainability. These six principals are key when we envision a properly functioning democratic, constitutional state.

In 2019 our trainings, events and communication will also be geared towards these principals. Next to that in its projects, FICDD will focus on policy-making, rule of law, public administration, communication, the fight against corruption and human trafficking.

Just as in previous years, our partner's needs for specific training or advice are indicative for the level of FICDD involvement. Our local partners know best what their needs are and what level of training they require. We invite them to apply by designing a project proposal as soon as we send out a call for proposals. This annual plan and budget are based on the call we sent in August 2018.

Just as we did in 2018, in 2019 we want to focus on training youth and enhance their political engagement. We will also be addressing newly established political parties that seek our advice. Such advice is usually centered on issues such as party management, the development of the party structure and trainings about Christian social thinking for political candidates.

Matra

The Matra program is aimed at further develop the pre-accession countries of the Eastern Partnership by offering capacity- and network-building. These efforts are all meant to contribute to the further democratisation of these countries. For years, we have had reliable partners in Ukraine, Serbia and Georgia. This year we will start a new project with a partner that previously cooperated with Sallux. This year our only new project within our Matra program is the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives Assistance (FfDIA) in Ukraine. Due to budgetary reasons in 2018, their project was postponed. Elaborate descriptions of the projects can be found further along in this document.

Shiraka

The Shiraka program is aimed to offer some perspective on stability in the MENA-region, which is also known as the 'ring of instability' around Europe'. It certainly is a challenge to cooperate with Christian sister-parties and – organisations in the Arab region; this region is not known for its liberal, democratic, safe and tolerant stance toward Christians. Besides this challenge, the Shiraka program also offers a great opportunity as we can be especially of service to our sister-parties and – organisations in this region.

Christian minorities within the Arab region are being oppressed and civic space, if at all present, can really use our support. Freedom of religion in this region is not self-evident nor are diversity and freedom with the civic society.

We have partners in Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia and we are looking forward to working with them in 2019. From 2017 on forward we have cooperated with Christian women's empowerment organisations and we noticed that Christian Arab women need extra support. That is exactly why we want to contribute again to these organisations and help to enhance the position of these women in the MENA-region.

The Eduardo Frei Foundation (EFS) of the CDA party has started a pilot project and together with D66, VVD, GroenLinks and PvdA we will start a project in Morocco. This 'school of politics' will run for three years and FICDD is allowed to decide how much year we want to contribute. FICDD can participate in the pilot without many risks as we are granted the flexibility to decide per year if we want to participate. We expect to give a training on Christian social thinking. This particular pilot project is the only new project for FICDD within the Shiraka program in 2019.

The projects

WFPP

This year FICDD will continue to work with Plataforma C in Central-America. This longstanding partner is very reliable and produces projects with good outcomes. They deliver online courses and organize masterclasses for young professionals that have political ambitions. They will organize an Economic Diplomacy and Integrity (EDI) conference again and this time participants from El Salvador will most likely be present. EDI will also be available online. We believe that a Christian ethic of freedom, responsibility, transparency, fairness and justice will help the participants of EDI to contribute positively in their society.

The schooling of the future of our sister parties is key for FICDD and therefore we will sponsor ECPYouth again in 2019. ECPYouth is the youth organisation of ECPM and they hope to organize their summer school 2019 in Georgia. The funds for this particular summer school will be derived from the Matra program. Next to that, ECPYouth will also receive funds from the Shiraka program to organize a youth conference in Jordan.

This year we will also sponsor the Christian Mind Institute (CMI). Due to good previous experiences, we can help them expand their activities by means of the Shiraka program. During their summer school, students are trained in topics such as ethics, debating skills, social justice and the basics of Christian politics. This year the target group is different from

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last years; we will train young professionals instead of students. The current political situation in Egypt leads us to believe that it is important for young professionals to stay engaged with politics and society. We like to encourage them and hand them tools so they can help develop their communities in a positive way.

We also want to continue to support new and young sister parties by offering our advice when needed. By means of Skype talks, we also hope to contribute to their development without having to pay for travel and lodging expenses. In 2019, we want to be available for such parties in Surinam, Aruba, Curacao and Saint-Martin.

Matra

In Moldova, we will cooperate with the Academy for Integrity in Leadership (AfIL). This local partner wants to empower Christians to be a source for change in society and to engage in public debate. Addressing corruption is a perfect example of contributing to the wellbeing of society. AfIL wants to train young professionals to be able to participate in such debates in a constructive manner.

Our Georgian sister party, CDPP, is a loyal and stable partner with whom we have a longstanding good relationship. Anticipating general elections in 2020 CDPP wants to train many of its local politicians in 2019. These trainings are focused on the basics of Christian politics. As elections in 2016 did not work out very well there has been a split in the party. Since then there have been many efforts in trying to bring the different factions back together again. The two conferences that will be organized in 2019 will be instrumental in both mending these factions and building up their policy strategies. Conferences will take place in both East- and West-Georgia and are aimed at fifty local CDPP politicians.

We are looking forward to working with the Ukrainian Student Association (USA) again. This Christian student union has been active for years trying to raise political awareness and promote social activism amongst students. They train students that want to become socially active and they challenge them to do so in an active way. Just as in 2018 they will organize four trainings, in which they teach them how 'to navigate through political ideologies', titled "Conscious Elections". Two of these trainings will focus on the Presidential elections and two of them will be focused on the Parliamentary elections. By doing so they hope to inspire participant to turn out to go and vote.

The International Federation of Evangelical Students (IFES) in Serbia had been organizing an awareness project on human trafficking for four years. In 2018 we co-sponsored this

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project with ECPM. IFES is a reliable partner and has found a good method to introduce this theme to students. They have been able to invite such renowned speakers that law students of the local faculty can actually receive credits for participating in the conference. We hope that this arrangement will also be possible in 2019.

This year we will work with the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives Assistance (FfDIA) in Ukraine for the first time. Although we know the contact person through the network of Sallux we have not sponsored any projects of FfDIA yet. This foundation wants to organize seminars for regional and political leaders. The expected themes are the fights against corruption, Christian democratic principles and “European Values for Ukraine and Robert Schuman.”.

Shiraka

We are especially happy to work with our partner in Jordan again, Arab Women Today (AWT). The objective of this Christian women’s organisation is to promote the emancipation of Christian Arab women in the MENA region. They do so by producing tv programs that are broadcasted within the whole Arab region via the Sat 7 channel. Besides those productions, they also provide women empowerment trainings and participate in the empowerment lobby in Jordan. We especially look forward to their conference about Christians in politics, quite a controversial topic considering the region. Next to the conference, we will also fund their regional network conference where participant of previous trainings in the Arab region will come together. As mentioned earlier, ECPYouth will also receive funds to organize a youth conference together with AWT.

We really believe in working with AWT because they are very professional and efficient despite the challenges they face in their region. They have both women and youth as their target groups and their Christian values are recognizable in all their efforts.

In Tunisia, we will work with the Bright Women Association of Today (BWAoT). This nogo was established by a Tunisian woman who enrolled in several AWT trainings. It is encouraging to see how her ngo now works as a spinoff of the AWT efforts.

Unfortunately, we notice that due to security reasons as a Christian political party we have to keep a low profile in the MENA region. Therefore, we are careful in our communication about some of these projects.

In 2019, we will work with our full-fledged security protocol for the first time. This protocol was finalized in 2018 and gives guidance in both the preparation and during the execution of

our projects. Possible travel risks are part of our safety protocol as well as manuals for emergencies.

Due to security reasons, we postponed our cooperation with the Development Training and Research Center Europe (DTRCE) in Erbil, Iraq. This year the situation seems to be different and perhaps the training will take place after all. The training targets Christian political minorities. There is still a need for training that can contribute to a constructive political dialogue. Most likely one of the trainers will be an MEP from our German sister party, Anne Gericke.

In 2017 FICDD developed a few short soap series clips in which we address several democratic principles. We want to continue this project, called Comicracy, but we want to scale down in size. The further development of these clips took place in 2018 as more context around one clip was produced. This means that the clip is more suitable to use online or during a training. We will develop the remaining three clips in the same manner. We believe that the soap series setting will appeal to the MENA region participants of online courses on democratic principles. The added context will make the clips even more suitable. We address themes such as gender equality and freedom of expression.

The only completely new project in the Shiraka program is a project initiated by EFS of the “CDA” party. Together with the international foundations of “PvdA”, “VVD”, “D66” and “GroenLinks”, a series of trainings will take place within the framework of a three-year project. The target group is politically engaged Moroccan youth. FICDD is invited to take part as well and we will sponsor one training.

Since Morocco as a partner country is new to FICDD and because it is the first time that so many Dutch political parties will organize this project together, FICDD is granted the opportunity to evaluate our continued support on a yearly basis. At this time, the different parties are working out the details of this training proposal. Each political party is awarded the chance to give a training on a topic that is close to their heart. We consider this a great opportunity; in this process we can directly show the participants how democratic values work in practice. With regards to an FICDD training the topic might be the separation between State and Church.

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