



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development



Sixteen  
Plus Forum



# Civil Society and Youth Social Inclusion

# The Jasmine Foundation Approach - Tunisia

16+ Forum Annual Showcase

30 October – 1 November 2017, Tbilissi, Georgia

# A « Think and Do Tank »



## Think. Engage. Empower

- Based in Tunis since 2013
- Support the democratic transition in Tunisia
- Methodology : Use social and human research to

INFORM POLICY AND  
PROPOSE SOLUTIONS  
TO SOCIAL ISSUES

STRONG FACT  
BASED  
ADVOCACY

DRIVE SOCIAL  
INNOVATION FOR MORE  
EFFICIENT SOCIAL ACTION

CO-CREATION OF  
A NEW VISION  
FOR CHANGE



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# Tunisian Post-Revolution Context

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Democratic transition

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Political architecture and framework of democracy

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Critical economic and social challenges: reforming institutions and policies towards more efficiency and inclusion of marginalised regions and populations

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Youth: main energy of revolution but weak political participation and disillusion with politics: participation in CSOs (6%°) and in political parties (4%).

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Risk of recruitment in networks of violent extremism and illegal immigration

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This situation is quite dangerous for democracy



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# Tunisian Post-Revolution Context

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What can be done to engage young people in more positive activities that protects them from being attracted to violent extremism?

What can civil society do?



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# Our Methodology

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Mobilise action-research methodology for data Collection / analysis survey, focus groups, interviews.

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Target directly the causes of lack of participation;

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Identify opportunities for action

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Action strategy based on findings and recommendations

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Choose a young project team, mastering the local cultural repertoires.

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Careful implementation based on analysis of the actors and their influence



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# Challenges

Why are young people reluctant to participate in political processes?



Lack of trust in formal institutions,

Strong perception of social exclusion (need for social recognition and inclusion): widening income inequalities, inequalities of opportunity, shrinking job opportunities

Suspicion of any form of organized collective action, with regard to concepts such as human rights, citizenship

Negative perception of the quality of local services

Huge regional disparities

High centralization of powers



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**A NEW MODEL OF GOVERNANCE  
THAT REBUILDS TRUST BETWEEN  
CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT  
IS NEEDED !**

# Opportunities for Action

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- Chapter 7: decentralised model based on new democratic norms of governance
- Article 137: “Local authorities shall have the **freedom** to dispose of their resources within the framework of the approved budget in accordance with the rules of **good governance** and under the supervision of the financial judiciary.
- Article 139 : “Local authorities shall adopt the mechanisms of **participatory democracy** and the principles of **open governance** to ensure **broader participation by citizens and civil society** in the preparation of development programmes and land management and monitoring of their implementation, in accordance with the law.”



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## Involve multiple stakeholders

- Work with local communities, especially youth, to strengthen their awareness and enhance their participation
- Work with parliamentarians in order to bring out a political will advocating the inclusion of the public and especially youth in decision making
- Collaborate with municipalities that have the political will to open up to participatory approaches and listen to citizens' perceptions of the quality of services

# Strategie for Action

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## Constructive and constant pressure

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Rallying several actors around achievable objectives

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Working with municipalities that are open to participatory methods

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Generate competition dynamics through an index of citizen (especially youth) perception and evaluation of the quality of local services.

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Speech centered on improving communication between citizens and local authorities: citizen newsletter + digital applications.

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Fact-based approach



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# Youth platform for dialogue

## Build Trust !

Creating user-friendly spaces (youth cafés) where young people are invited to express their views on the results of the collection of data which are exposed to them (objectivization of their perceptions and externalization)

Young people are listened to without judgments  
an expert moderator intervenes only in the second half of the meeting to clarify ambiguous notions, to stimulate reflection on the solutions, engage their responsibility as actors.

# Learning by doing

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Non formal learning methods (discussion, games, competitions, simulations, etc.) to go beyond young people reluctance to engage in formal learning.

Learning by doing because practical experience helps put back meaning into notions that were abused by the discourse of legitimization of the dictatorship.

Mini-projects to complement young people learning, and to disseminate their learning to their immediate environment (empowerment): local actors of change.

# Learning by doing

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## Awareness campaign lead and design by youth

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2\\_D\\_Ljzp64](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2_D_Ljzp64)



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# Some Results



At least **30** youth cafés

Citizen report cards to evaluate local services in **6** municipalities

**4** youth-led observatories of the quality of local services

Local news bulletin in **5** municipalities

**2** Digital apps to facilitate communication between local authorities and citizens

Advocacy campaigns with parliament and relevant ministries to introduce participatory decision making tools.

**More than 20** Focus groups with local authorities to convey results of citizens report cards

At least **60** workshop to empower youth

# Thanks for your attention !

The Jasmine Foundation

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