Launch of the E- Conference and Voting System

This launch is an integral part of the EU-funded programme "Support to Jordanian Democratic Institutions and Development" (EU-JDID) which is composed of four components: parliamentary support, electoral assistance, support to the political party system and strengthening the role of civil society. EU-JDID aims at supporting Jordan's reform process towards consolidation of democracy and at promoting inclusiveness of national policy and decision-making processes with a focus on women and youth. Funded by the EU and co-funded by Spain, EU-JDID is implemented by the consortium led by the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) comprising Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), French Agency for Media Cooperation (CFI) and the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD).
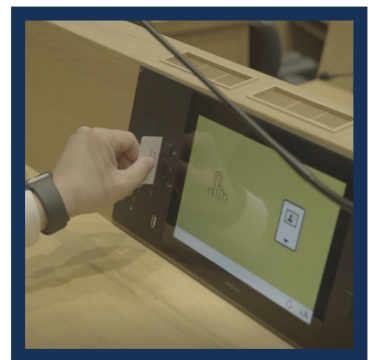
PROJECT DATA

49 people involved

1,440 hours for dismantling and installation

3 missions of EU Parliament's technical assistance providers

129 MPs trained on new system and operating procedures

BACKGROUND

The House of Representatives (HoR) of Jordan is committed to transparency, efficiency and modernisation in pursuit of multi-party parliamentary democracy. According to the World e-Parliament Report 2008, United Nations (2008), distinct characteristics of a "democratic" parliament may be defined as representative, transparent, accessible, accountable and effective. The E-Conference and Voting System is a state-of-the-art technical system, and embodies Jordan's key commitments towards the Open Government Partnership, both in terms of efficient and accountable governance and environmental awareness.

SYSTEM DETAILS

Electronic voting systems provide for increased transparency and accuracy in the democratic process, providing instant and publishable voting results. E-voting removes the complexity of casting and counting ballots, producing results that limit the chance for human error. These results can be published almost instantaneously and, where there is a breakdown of votes cast, provide citizens with the data to hold their individual representatives to account. The new system also provides instant availability of digital records through improved live video and streaming. Voting by an electronic system contributes to modernisation efforts and to important open government agendas. Through increased security and user authentication, the system forbids voting for colleagues, therefore improving vote-validity and integrity.

In April 2019, the HoR changed the internal regulation (Bylaws) and made electronic voting the preferred method of voting, making the new system the preferred modality for all votes undertaken in the plenary session

In addition to the voting benefits, the system also introduces other valuable improvements, including translation features and new capabilities of recording and broadcasting parliamentary sessions which help in establishing a stronger and more transparent connection between the civilians and their representatives.