

## France - Deauville Partnership Action Plan on exchanges – Case study

Bilateral contacts of the French Parliament with partner countries have been increasing since the Arab Spring. Visits were organized in France and in those countries (3 study visits to Libya, 4 exchanges visits with Morocco, two with Egypt and one study visit to Jordan).

To increase population and civil society participation in local politics and improve local governance and democracy ownership, France has set up an extended and active network of partnerships with counterparts in the MENA region. Their action is coordinated through *Cités Unies France*.

Three new initiatives were launched in 2011-2012 to increase the cooperation with MENA countries local governments: The Franco-Moroccan Common Support, The Mediterranean Fund and a partnership with UNDP to finance innovative projects on information and communication technologies for local authorities. A series of events were also organized in 2012, such as two Franco-Tunisian meetings in Tunisia on local authorities' cooperation, a Seminar of the AIVF (International French-Speaking cities) in Tunis, and an Economic Week of the Mediterranean in Marseille.

In order to increase the efficiency of our cooperation, a new approach and a review of our relations in the MENA region are currently engaged. In this regard, the President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and MP, Michel Vauzelle, was appointed by the French President François Hollande as a Special Envoy for the Mediterranean. His mandate is to promote Mediterranean projects, notably the contribution of the Parliaments and local governments, which are of utmost importance for the success of this initiative.