

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNS)

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation that encourages and supports liberal democracy and human rights as well as the tenets of an open market economy and rule of law.

Established in 1958 by Theodor Heuss, the first president of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Foundation follows the ideals of Friedrich Naumann, who at the beginning of the last century was a leading German liberal thinker and politician. Friedrich Naumann resolutely backed the idea of civic education as a prerequisite for public participation and thus for democracy.

The main goal of the Foundation's work abroad and at home is to achieve worldwide recognition of the principles of freedom and responsibility. In this respect, we support our partners all over the world to find solutions to individual problems within the regional and cultural context of each country. The Foundation has a network of institutes in Germany and also numerous offices in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, America and Asia.

Since 1981, the Amman Office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, together with its partners in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq, has implemented many activities that underline the principles of liberalism.

Jordan

Working together with organisations such as:

- the Free Thought Forum (www.ftf-jordan.org).
- the Young Entrepreneurs Association (www.yea.com.jo).
- and the National Center for Human Rights NCHR (www.nchr.org.jo).

the Friedrich Naumann Foundation aims at contributing to finding liberal solutions for the country's socio-economic challenges and at enhancing civic and youth participation in public affairs. The Foundation's youth projects complement these efforts.



Lebanon

Through cooperation with its Lebanese partners, e.g.:

- the Lebanese Economic Association LEA (www.leb-econ.org).
- the Lebanese Transparency Association LTA (www.transparency-lebanon.org).
- the Lebanese Conflict Resolution Network LCRN,
- and Arab Centre for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity ACRLI (www.arabruloflaw.org).

the Foundation aims at contributing towards building a state of law, fighting corruption, promoting good governance and supporting participation in local politics.

Syria

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation has been active in Syria since 2002. Currently, the Foundation's individual partners in Syria are actively involved in the Friedrich Naumann Foundation's annual "Arab Economic Freedom Conference" and the regional project on "Freedom of Association in the Arab World".

Iraq

The Foundation started working with Iraqi political decision-makers in late 2004 and has since continued supporting them with legal consultancy, capacity-building and conflict-resolution efforts. The Foundation has over the years supported Iraqi decision-makers with regard to their country's constitution drafting process, provided the platform for a constructive dialogue on federalism and is currently engaged in conflict-prevention efforts in Kirkuk. Due to the volatile security situation, all Iraq activities are taking place outside the country – normally in Jordan.

Regional Project on Freedom of Association

The year 2007 witnessed the beginning of an EU co-financed regional project on "Freedom of Association in the Arab World", implemented jointly by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation and its partners in the region under the patronage of the League of Arab States LAS. The project aims at strengthening democratic practices through creating minimum acceptable standards for laws regulating political parties, NGOs and labour unions. It also aims at improving CSOs' performance and image through the adoption of internal good governance principles (www.arab-laws-reform.net).



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