



Training of trainers – Foundations of Inclusive Dialogue Facilitation

2 – 4 September 2025, Athens – Greece

From the 2nd to 4th of September 2025, EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI) and partner organisation Duderi held a training on “Foundations of Inclusive Dialogue Facilitation” in Athens, Greece, as part of a three-phase capacity programme for dialogue facilitation and policy engagement. The training was organised within the framework of the regional project “Building a Shared Vision of Citizenship: Promoting Diversity and Social Inclusion in Syria’s Transition Project” which aims to strengthen the capacity of Syrian civil society actors to lead structured inclusive, locally led dialogues and ensure that their outcomes are connected to broader political processes and policy discussions.

Through a mix of theoretical inputs and hands-on exercises, participants were equipped with practical skills to facilitate dialogue in community settings. These included active listening, managing group dynamics, and inclusive communication. Participants were also prepared to manage the practical logistics of community dialogues such as planning topics, selecting venues, and choosing appropriate methods, while developing strategies to maintain neutrality, reduce social tensions, and build consensus in sensitive settings.



This training marked a step in advancing the project's broader goal of embedding community-led dialogues as a key pillar of sustainable and inclusive governance. Lawyer Amal Naeim emphasized the importance of dialogue in rebuilding trust, noting that “today, we believe in dialogue between communities to create a climate of trust among Syrians so that they get to understand each other better and find solutions to overcome Syria's current fractures”.

By equipping trainees with the right tools, techniques and frameworks for dialogue facilitation and consensus-building, it strengthened local capacities and fostered a culture of participatory engagement. Independent consultant Razan Brghol noted that “the training highlighted that facilitation is not only about managing discussion, utilising the right tools and the right methods, but it is also about fostering empathy and respect”. The training was central in reinforcing the facilitation skills of Syrian experts, enabling them to support inclusive, effective and constructive community dialogues.

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About EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI):

EuroMed Feminist Initiative is a policy platform that provides expertise in the field of equality between women and men and women's rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, and advocates for political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of peoples to self-determination.