

Training of trainers – Navigating dialogues in divided societies

1 – 3 October 2025, Rome – Italy

EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI), in partnership with Duderi, held the second phase of its three-phase capacity-building programme for dialogue facilitation and policy engagement under the title “Navigating Dialogue in Divided Societies” as part of the project “Building a shared vision of citizenship: Promoting diversity and social inclusion in Syria’s transition project”. The three-day training brought together Syrian experts to strengthen their skills in leading inclusive, community-based dialogues that contribute to Syria’s peaceful transition.



The training combined theoretical and practical components to strengthen participants’ facilitation and analytical skills. Through frameworks such as Bloom’s Taxonomy and epistemic fields, participants explored how power dynamics and structural systems influence dialogue outcomes, applying these insights through actor and power mapping in the context of Syrian decentralisation. They also practised participatory and goal-oriented planning tools, including scenario-building, Objectives-Oriented Project Planning, and the problem-to-solution tree, to translate analysis into actionable strategies that promote inclusion and local participation. Finally, simulation exercises allowed participants to enhance their facilitation, negotiation, and

consensus-building skills while applying neutrality and strategic empathy as key tools for managing asymmetries of power and knowledge in dialogue settings.

By the end of the training, participants demonstrated greater confidence in designing and facilitating community dialogues within their communities. “I have more confidence in the ability to foster dialogue between participants so that instead of focusing on problems, they focus on finding solutions”, said activist and lawyer Amal Naeim. Reflecting on this experience, lawyer Majdoleen Hassan added, “I have acquired skills related to searching for common ground and to expanding the areas of agreement”. This training of trainers marks a significant step in building a cohort of Syrian facilitators equipped to foster inclusive governance and connect local dialogue outcomes to national policy processes.



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Alice Chempf, Responsable de Projets

Email : alice.chempf@efi-ife.org | Téléphone : +33 7666 517 88

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.