

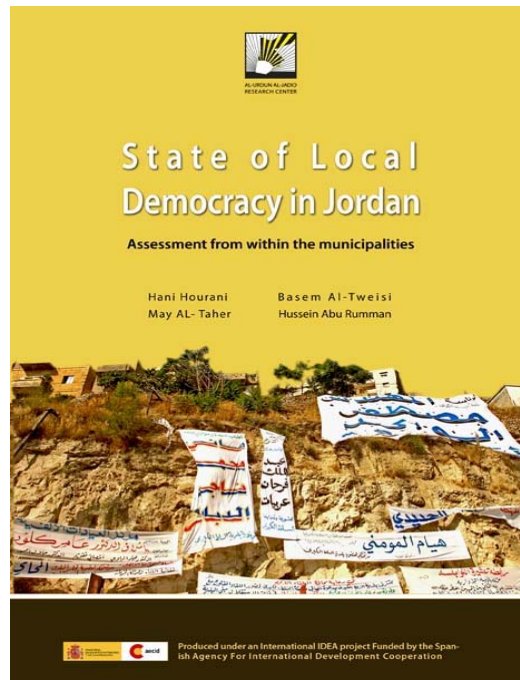


Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center

A new release by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center:

“State of Local Democracy in Jordan”

Assessment from within the municipalities



Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center has recently published the book “***State of Local Democracy***”: ***assessment from within the municipalities***”, which includes four case studies on four Jordanian municipalities: Mafraq, Jerash, Ma’an, and Rusaifa; a developed methodology was applied in undertaking the research based on self-evaluation for aspects of local democracy. This project is produced under the *Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)* funded by the *Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation*.

This book is a joint effort of the center’s experts and researchers that reached the number of twenty one researchers, the outcomes of the research was presented at a regional conference on the Local Democracy in the Arab World, which was held on May 06, 2010 in cooperation with Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the conference included tens of participants from Jordan and other Arab countries, in addition to International Organizations and Foreign Embassies’ representatives in Jordan. It is worth mentioning that this research is part of a regional project on studying local democracy including four countries: Egypt, Morocco, Yemen, and Jordan.

Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center, Tel: (962-6) 5533112/4, Fax: (962-6) 5533118, P. O. Box 940631 Amman 11194 Jordan.

Email: ujrc@ujrc-jordan.org, Hourani.ujrc@gmail.com

www.ujrc-jordan.org

The book "State of Local Democracy in Jordan" consists of 300 A4 pages, four main chapters. The first one deals with the city's general framework on Geography, demographic composition and social relations, socio/economic –financial base of Municipalities, and human development indicators from within the Municipality or Province.

The second chapter tackles the representative democracy of municipalities through two main sections; the first one is institutions, this section deals with the national and legal framework of municipalities, the electoral system and its performance, the political party system, and evaluation of elected officials.

While the second section tackles the practical aspects of the representative democracy, specifically administration of elections issue and voters participation. Chapter two ends with a number of conclusions and recommendations.

Chapter three of the book focuses on interactive democracy, on institutions and operations levels; on the institutions level the book discusses local authorities and interactive democracy, specifically on the municipality council level, it also discusses civil society's role, the private sector, international organizations, and media.

As for the second section related to operations, it discusses forms and means of communication with the public, communication with citizens, referendum and public initiatives. The chapter is completed with a number of conclusions and recommendations.

The fourth and final chapter is entitled: 'From Evaluation to Recommendation, it displays the most recognized outputs of the research project; it addresses a wide range of recommendations distributed on the close middle and remote municipalities.

Moreover, the book includes five annexes, the first one municipalities' law no. 14 for the year 2007, issued decisions by Laws Interpretation Bureau on some articles of municipalities' law, information on women representative in municipalities' elections for the year 2007, and finally members of national research team who prepared the report.

It is worth noting that the book includes an English broaden summery study of 80 pages.

The book "state of Local Democracy in Jordan" is the first book holding a field study on Jordanian municipalities through a unique methodology, it combines description, documentation and analysis, and it involves a great number of practical recommendations that benefit municipalities' work, Ministry of Municipal Affaires, CSOs and NGOs working with civil society.

Finally, the national report was prepared and edited by each of the following: *Hani Hourani, Dr. Basim Al Tweisi, Hussein Abu Rumman, and Dr. Mai Al Taher*. The contribution in leading the research teams of the four municipalities was done by: *Dr. Mohammed Wahib Al Hussein, Dr. Emad Al Rabee, Dr. Abdul Aziz Mahmood, and Dr. Basim Al Tweisi*.