



# Launch Event of the OECD Cooperation with Lebanon on Good Governance

Republic of Lebanon



Office of the Minister of State  
for Administrative Reform

Agenda - 24 June 2019

Beirut, Grand Serail



Federal Republic of Germany  
Foreign Office



ITALIAN AGENCY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION



MEPI



MENA - OECD  
Governance Programme



OECD

BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

# OVERVIEW

This conference, held under the patronage of the President of the Council of Ministers Mr. Saad Hariri, marks the launch of the cooperation between the OECD and the Republic of Lebanon in the areas of **public communication, open government, digital government** and **access to information** with the respective support of the German Federal Foreign Office, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), and the United States Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI).

Organised jointly by the **Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform** (OMSAR) and the Public Governance Directorate of the OECD, in the framework of the **MENA-OECD Governance Programme**, it will bring together high-level representatives of the Lebanese public administration, as well as a range of international actors and civil society organizations.

# CONTEXT

In recent years, the Lebanese government has had to face a series of predicaments in terms of public service delivery and policy making, stemming from a combination of internal and external factors. More generally, the country's political unrest coupled with the difficulties of the power-sharing system have fostered a culture of governance in which transparency and accountability remain a challenge.

Efforts to promote open, transparent, and accountable institutions have recently renewed traction with the new government, formed under the objective of "restoring confidence". In its ministerial statement, the government pledges to adopt the country's first national anti-corruption strategy and to modernize the administration. Lebanon's pledge to promote good governance was moreover consolidated in the aftermath of the "*Conférence économique pour le développement, par les réformes et avec les entreprises*" (CEDRE) that took place in April 2018, with the government vowing to introduce 11 governance measures (including anti-corruption and digital transformation) with a view to unlocking foreign funds in loans and grants. In addition, the Parliament has adopted several laws to strengthen transparency and good governance, including the pivotal access to information law, following years of campaigning by civil society actors, as well as the whistle blower protection law.

In this context, and in collaboration with Germany, Italy and the United States, the OECD is supporting Lebanon in achieving the above-mentioned objectives by promoting open and digital government reforms. Based on the OECD Recommendations of the Council on **Open Government** and **Digital Government Strategies**, the OECD is acting as a knowledge partner and providing the Lebanese government with policy advice, technical support and capacity building in the areas of open government, digital government, public communication, access to information and citizen's participation in public life.

# COOPERATION PILLARS

**Open Government** is defined as a “culture of governance that promotes the principles of transparency, integrity, accountability and stakeholder participation in support of democracy and inclusive growth”. At the heart of this process is changing the relationship between governments and citizens, towards one that is mutually beneficial and based on trust. As such, the OECD is supporting Lebanon in its efforts to adhere to the OECD Recommendation on Open Government and to becoming a member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

Enhancing the public’s **access to information** is a pillar of open government reforms. The OECD is working with the Lebanese government to support the implementation of the access to information law, namely through the elaboration of a National Action Plan in cooperation with OMSAR and UNDP. The plan will include commitments and activities from a wide range of stakeholders including the public administration, parliamentarians, civil society, media, and the private sector. It will thereby provide a roadmap for the successful implementation of the law. Various capacity-building activities will be also conducted to ensure that civil servants and civil society organizations are able to effectively apply the law.

In addition to ensuring citizens can access information, an open government rests on the ability of stakeholders to dialogue with their government and to make use of public information to hold governments to account. This requires the government to move from political to **public communication**, and to make use of effective channels, including social media, to engage with stakeholders on key reforms and policies. In that regard, the OECD is supporting the country in identifying the reforms needed for public communication to play a greater role in strengthening transparency and participation.

Access to information and effective public communication are prerequisites for **citizen participation**, especially at the local level. The OECD is thereby assisting selected municipalities in developing open government strategies and piloting citizen participation projects to transform the government-citizen relationship through innovative means.

Finally, the deployment of **digital technologies** is key to support the transformation towards a more open government. The use of open standards, open source software, user-driven design techniques and new digital platforms are enabling new forms of partnerships in service delivery and policy-making, which foster the transparency and accountability of government operations. To accelerate the digital transformation of the public sector, the OECD will support Lebanon and contribute with its expertise to the action plan and move toward citizen-driven digital government by leveraging lessons learned from OECD member countries such as Italy and Portugal.

By focusing on these complementary pillars of good governance, the OECD will support the government in the robust reform agenda it has embarked on, to achieve strategic objectives for the country’s prosperity and to promote inclusive growth.

# AGENDA

Monday 24 June 2019

10.30 – 11.00	Registration
11.00 – 12.00	<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Marcos Bonturi</b>, Director of Public Governance, OECD</li><li>• <b>Mr. Georg Birgelen</b>, Ambassador of Germany to Lebanon</li><li>• <b>Mr. Massimo Marotti</b>, Ambassador of Italy to Lebanon</li><li>• <b>Ms. Elizabeth Richard</b>, Ambassador of the United States to Lebanon</li><li>• <b>Dr. May Chidiac</b>, Minister of State for Administrative Reform, Lebanon</li><li>• <b>Patronage note</b></li></ul>
12.00 – 13.15	<b>Session 1: Open, transparent and participatory government in Lebanon</b> <p>Like most OECD countries, Lebanon is witnessing low levels of trust in government. Open, transparent and participatory governments can help bridge the divide between government and citizens. This session will focus on how access to information, open and citizen-driven digital government, as well as public communication can help strengthen citizen trust in government and create a dialogue between them for improved policy making and service delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. May Chidiac</b>, Minister of State for Administrative Reform, Lebanon</li><li>• <b>Mr. Anouar Ben Khalifa</b>, Senior advisor, UNDP's Regional Project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries</li><li>• <b>Mr. Assad Thebian</b>, Founder and Director of Gherbal Initiative</li><li>• <b>Mr. Paul Maassen</b>, Chief of Country Support, OGP</li></ul> <p><b>Questions and answers</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Marcos Bonturi</b>, Director of Public Governance, OECD</p>
13.15 – 13.45	<b>Networking Break</b>

13.45 – 15.00

## Session 2: Parallel sessions

Session 2. A

### **Lessons Learned: Reshaping Government to Deliver Citizen-Driven Digital Services**

The world goes digital and governments are part of this process. Citizens are today more connected and informed than ever before, and digitization is increasing their expectations. The public sector is expected to be more convenient, progressively efficient, able to respond to citizen and business needs with simpler and tailored approaches. The constant emergence of new trends and approaches and the rapid appropriation of the current transformation by most of the social and economic sectors of OECD countries are positively pushing for change in the public sector.

This session will discuss the experience of the governments of Italy and Portugal as they simplified processes, developed key enablers and established digital service standards.

- **Mr. Paul Welton**, Lead Financial Management Specialist, World Bank
- **Dr. Joe Hage**, Advisor to the Minister of State for Administrative Reform, Lebanon
- **Ms. Giulia Temperini**, International Activities Coordination Officer at the Agency for Digital Italy (AgID),

Session 2. B

### **Public communication as a lever for increased transparency and participation**

Public communication is a key function of government. When conducted effectively, it can change behaviours, improve policy effectiveness, and reinforce trust. However, governments often still view communication efforts (such as the use of social media) as a unilateral form of information provision, rather than a means to engage with a variety of stakeholders for example.

This session will explore how the Lebanese public administration can use public communication more strategically. It will provide relevant governmental entities, including the Prime Minister's Office, OMSAR, and various ministries with an opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to reforming public communication in the country. It will also include presentations from representatives from OECD countries.

- **Mr. Hani Hammoud**, political and media advisor to the Prime Minister, Lebanon
- **Mr. Razi Hage**, Advisor to the Minister of State for Administrative Reform, Lebanon
- **Ms. Karine Badr**, Policy Analyst, OECD
- **Dr. Raymond Ghajar**, Advisor to the Minister of Energy and Water, Lebanon
- **Ministry of Telecommunications Representative**

	<p>Presidency of the Council of Minister, Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Pedro Viana</b>, Director of Digital Transformation, Agency for Administrative Modernisation, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Portugal</li></ul> <p><b>Questions and answers</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. João Vasconcelos</b>, Policy Analyst, Digital Government Team, Public Governance Directorate, OECD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ministry of Social Affairs representative</b></li><li>• <b>Mr. Gerald Mullally</b>, Deputy Director of Communications at the Cabinet Office and Head of the UK Government Communication Service International (GCSI), United Kingdom</li></ul> <p><b>Questions and answers</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Omar Christidis</b>, Founder &amp; CEO of ArabNet</p>
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## SPEAKER BIOS



@AnouarBK9

**Anouar Ben Khelifa** is Senior Advisor of UNDP's regional project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries (ACIAC). Prior to that, he was Director General of the General Control of Public Services, the highest body of financial and administrative control attached to the office of the Tunisian Prime Minister. Between January 2014 and February 2015 he was Minister of State in charge of Governance, Anti-Corruption and Civil Service in the transitional government in Tunisia. Before his appointment as a member of government, he was Chief Investigator in the Tunisian National Anti-Corruption Commission, where he acted as an independent expert in charge of investigating corruption and embezzlement cases relating to the former regime in Tunisia.



@Beirutiyat

**Assaad Thebian** is a social and political activist as well as a communications strategist. He is the winner of the ArabNet 2013 Creative Combat Awards. He has been named as one of the top 20 influential figures in Lebanon in the digital sphere. Thebian is founder of Gherbal Initiative, pushing for transparency and accountability and believing that the democratization of data can act as an antidote to corruption. Gherbal Initiative collects and converts complex data sets into accessible and engaging visualizations that frame public discourse and propel political action.



@GermanEmbBeirut

**Dr. Georg Birgelen** is the German Ambassador in Lebanon. He has more than 35 years of experience as part of the German Federal Foreign Office. Prior to his appointment, he served as the head of the Consulate General in Istanbul (2015 - 2018) and as a permanent representative in the Embassy in Moscow (2011 - 2015). Before joining the Federal Foreign Office, Birgelen worked at the German Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. After that, he became Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Panama. In 1990, he moved to the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union in Brussels. In 1999, Birgelen was in Ottawa as an

	<p>exchange official, before he became Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Ottawa.</p>
 <p>@usembassybeirut</p>	<p><b>Elizabeth Richard</b> was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 17, 2016, as the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon.</p> <p>She most recently served for nearly three years as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for U.S. Assistance. Prior to holding this position, she was the Deputy Chief of Mission in Sanaa, Yemen, from 2010 to 2013. She is a career foreign service officer, with 30 years of service. From 2008 to 2010, Ms. Richard was the Border Coordinator in Islamabad, Pakistan, where she maintained oversight of all U.S. programs along Pakistan’s border with Afghanistan to ensure that U.S. efforts were synchronized across both regions. Her previous assignments included a year as director of counter narcotics and civilian police training programs in Afghanistan, two years as deputy to the special Ambassador for War Crimes issues, and a year as special assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.</p>
	<p><b>Gerald Mullally</b> is Deputy Director of the UK Prime Minister’s Office and Cabinet Office Communications and is responsible for the UK Government Communication Service’s international work. Gerald is currently delivering programmes of communications capability building for governments in North Africa, Eastern Europe, Middle East and Asia. Prior to this, Gerald was Head of Campaigns at 10 Downing Street designing and delivering a wide-range of campaigns based on the priorities of the UK Prime Minister. Previously, he worked as a special advisor to a Prime Minister and as a strategy consultant for PwC and Accenture respectively advising senior Ministers, government officials and c-suite executives across a range of FTSE 100 companies.</p>



**Giulia Temperini** is Officer at the International Activities Coordination Unit of the Agency for Digital Italy (AgID), the governmental agency coordinating the implementation of the Italian Digital Agenda. Since joining AgID, where she also acts as a national delegate, she has contributed to the law-making process at European level and subsequent transposition and implementation at national level, on several dossiers concerning the digitization of the public sector in the framework of the European Digital Single Market Strategy. She previously served for more than six years at the International Organizations Unit of the State General Accounting Department of the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance.



**Hani Hammoud** is the Political and Media Advisor to Prime Minister Saad Hariri. He is a journalist and editor-in-chief of the Lebanese daily newspaper Al-Mustaqbal. He is the current chairman of Future TV and was the principal media advisor to former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.



@jrpsvasconcelos

**João Ricardo Vasconcelos** is Digital Government Policy Analyst at the OECD's Public Governance Directorate. His work focuses on the analysis of digital government development, supporting the governments of OECD member and partner countries to take full benefit of the ongoing digital transformation of the public sector. Before joining the OECD, João led the Innovation and International Relations Unit of AMA - Agency for the Administrative Modernization, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Portugal, coordinating projects such as the EGOV Innovation Hub, the Common Knowledge Network or Dados.gov.



@DrJoeHage

**Dr. Joe Hage** is Senior Advisor to the Minister of State for Administrative Reform and an e-government consultant for UNESCO and UNICEF. He was Associate Chief Information Officer at the American University of Beirut and a venture partner at PacRim Venture Partners in Silicon Valley, USA. He spent nine years at Agile Software (acquired by Oracle) as Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Small and Medium Enterprise Solutions Division (2003-2006); Senior Vice President of Products and Technology (2001-2003); and Vice President of Corporate Marketing (1997-2000). Dr. Hage also held positions at Starfish Software (acquired by Motorola), Novell, Borland, Prime Computer, Data General, and Honeywell in the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Lebanon.



@KB1b111

**Karine Badr** is Policy Analyst at the OECD's Open Government Unit, focusing on the interlinkages between public communication and the open government principles of transparency, integrity, accountability and participation. She works with reformers from government and civil society organisations in OECD member and partner countries to support the implementation of the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government and build more inclusive and effective policies and services. Prior to that, Karine was an Anti-corruption Analyst at UNDP-ACIAC where she has worked with MENA countries during the Arab Spring.



@OECDGOV

**Marcos Bonturi** is the OECD Director for Public Governance. He leads a team of over 200 staff at the Public Governance Directorate (GOV). Under Mr. Bonturi's leadership, the Directorate works with member and non-member countries to support governments in designing and implementing strategic, evidence-based and innovative policies to strengthen public governance, respond effectively to economic, social and environmental challenges and deliver on government's commitments. Throughout his OECD career, Mr. Bonturi has held various senior positions, including Director for Global Relations and Deputy Chief of Staff in the Secretary-General's Cabinet, and has worked in several OECD Directorates. Prior to joining the OECD, Mr. Bonturi was at the Inter-American Development Bank for three years (1987-

	<p>1990), as an economist at the Social and Economic Development Department, where he worked on Latin American trade and development policies.</p>
 <p>@maxmarotti</p>	<p><b>Massimo Marotti</b> is Ambassador of Italy to Lebanon. Prior to his appointment in Beirut, he served as the Italian Ambassador to Iraq between 2013 and 2015. Prior to that, he was appointed to the Embassy of Italy in Washington, D.C. and to the Italian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, as Alternate Representative and senior member of the Italian Delegations to the U.N. Security Council. Between 1988 and 1996, he was assigned to the Embassy in Baghdad and to consulates in France and Luxembourg. In 2011, he was nominated Deputy Director General for Political and Security Affairs and Senior Director for U.N. affairs at the Italian Foreign Ministry. While in Rome, he also directed the Units for EU Foreign-Security and Defense Common Policies and NATO - International Security.</p>
 <p>@may_chidiac</p>	<p><b>Dr. May Chidiac</b> is Lebanese Minister of State for Administrative Reform. She was the former host of the political talk show “Nharkom Saïd” until an assassination attempt in 2005 that cost her her left leg and arm. Throughout her journalistic career, Dr. Chidiac stood up for the freedom of the Lebanese people when few dared to speak against the state of tyranny. She received frequent death threats. She is the Founder and President of two NGOs; May Chidiac Foundation (MCF) and its affiliated Media Institute (MCF-MI), which award journalists from around the world every year in Beirut. Throughout her career, Chidiac received numerous international awards and prizes of which are “The Freedom of Expression Prize of the International Union of Francophone Press (UPF)”. In 2006, May received the CRANS Montana Foundation Prize for Freedom of Expression awarded by His Royal Highness, Prince Albert of Monaco, Monte Carlo.</p>



@OmarChr

**Omar Christidis** is Founder & CEO of ArabNet, the leading events, insights and innovation programs focused on tech business and innovation in the MENA region. Before founding ArabNet, Omar worked in private wealth management at a family office in New York on a small team managing \$1B in diverse assets. Prior to that, he was a Consultant at Booz & Co. in the MENA, and worked on varied projects across industries, including energy, technology / media, and public sector.



@maassenpaul

**Paul Maassen** is Chief of Country Support at the Open Government Partnership (OGP). His team with staff in over 10 locations supports global efforts of open government champions, primarily of government and civil society, in using the OGP to further their objectives on transparency, accountability and participation. Before assuming this role Paul was responsible for overseeing the OGP support to civil society across the globe. Paul has a long track record in the role technology and media can play in changing people's lives and the societies they live in. Prior to joining OGP Paul worked as Head of Finance and Partnerships for WWF International's Global Climate & Energy Initiative, working primarily with WWF offices in emerging economies to strengthen the design and sustainability of their programs.

@WeltonCPFA

**Paul Welton** is Lead Financial Management Specialist at the World Bank, focusing on the Middle East and North Africa Region. Prior to that, he performed a similar role in Afghanistan where he managed the World Bank financed technical assistance project to reform Public Financial Management (PFM). Prior to Afghanistan, he led the PFM client engagement for the World Bank in both Pakistan and Rwanda. Before joining the World Bank, Paul worked as a Consulting Director for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for over 17 years. Paul also worked as a Senior Policy Adviser in UK's Department for International Development's (DFID) Financial Accountability team on secondment from PwC.



@pmviana

**Pedro Viana** is Director of Digital Transformation of the Portuguese Agency for Administrative Modernisation. He has been working on public sector digital transformation since 2002, where he contributed to the design and implementation of the Portuguese action plans for information society, eGov and eProcurement. He also implemented the Portuguese national eProcurement system in 2007, one of the leading practices worldwide. More recently, Pedro designed the programme management for the eGov strategy for the period of 2012-2016 and devised and coordinated the Digital Transformation action plan for the Portuguese government for the period of 2017-2020.



**Dr. Raymond Ghajar** has been the Interim Dean of LAU's School of Engineering since September 2018. As Interim Dean of one of the top engineering schools in the Middle East, Dr. Ghajar oversees the work of leading scientists and researchers of seven engineering disciplines and manages state-of-the-art equipment housed in the Byblos campus' Engineering Laboratories and Research Center. In addition to his role as Interim Dean at the School of Engineering, Dr. Ghajar has been the Senior Policy Advisor at Lebanon's Ministry of Energy and Water since 2007. He is the main author of the national energy policy that was approved by the Council of Ministers in 2010 and has worked on power plants ranging from 3 MW to over 500 MW using conventional technologies such as reciprocating engines and combined cycle gas turbines on tri-fuels; and renewable energies such wind and photovoltaics.



@RaziElHage

**Razi Wadih Hage** is Senior Advisor to the Minister of State for Administrative Development, with more than 10 years of experience in civil service. Since 2010, he has held the position of Expert in Economics at the Ministry of Economy and Trade in Lebanon where he leads the small and medium enterprises efforts to mediate and resolve issues between consumers and service providers. Mr. Hage is also General Manager of the Dr. Wadih Hage Foundation, manager of the Dr. Wadih Hage Primary Healthcare Center, and handles projects sponsored by his father's charitable foundation in the Metn region. Prior to his present career in the public sector, Mr. Hage was Public Relations Manager and Financial and Economic Consultant at Fakra for Industry and Commerce and founder of the R-One Invest Group providing consulting and economic investment management services

**Ministry of Telecommunications Representative**

**Ministry of Social Affairs representatives**

## THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international body that promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It is made up of 36 member countries, a secretariat in Paris, and a committee, drawn from experts from government and other fields, for each work area covered by the organisation. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. It collaborates with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change. The organisation also analyses and compares data to predict future trends. [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

## THE MENA OECD GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme is a strategic partnership between MENA and OECD countries to share knowledge and expertise, with a view of disseminating standards and principles of good governance that support the ongoing process of reform in the MENA region. The Programme strengthens collaboration with the most relevant multilateral initiatives currently underway in the region. In particular, the Programme supports the implementation of the G7 Deauville Partnership and assists governments in meeting the eligibility criteria to become a member of the Open Government Partnership. Through these initiatives, the Programme acts as a leading advocate of managing ongoing public governance reforms in the MENA region. The Programme provides a sustainable structure for regional policy dialogue as well as for country specific projects. These projects correspond to the commitment of MENA governments to implement public sector reforms in view of unlocking social and economic development and of meeting citizens' growing expectations in terms of quality services, inclusive policy making and transparency. [www.oecd.org/mena/governance/](http://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/)

## THE OECD OPEN GOVERNMENT UNIT

The OECD Open Government unit supports countries in their efforts to build more transparent, accountable and participatory governments that can restore citizens' trust and promote inclusive growth. Through data collection, capacity building efforts and the promotion of regional peer dialogue, the OECD provides in-depth analyses of open government strategies and initiatives, coupled with policy advice and actionable recommendations. The unit's work is based on the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government, the first international legal instrument on the topic, defining the main tenets of the governance of open government strategies and initiatives and paving the way forward for this agenda across OECD members and partners. [www.oecd.org/fr/gov/open-government.htm](http://www.oecd.org/fr/gov/open-government.htm)

## THE OECD DIGITAL GOVERNMENT UNIT

The Digital Government unit explores how governments can best use digital technologies to embrace good government principles and achieve policy goals. The unit's work is based on the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Digital Government Strategies. The OECD Recommendation includes key recommendations that support the integration of digital technologies into the development of comprehensive strategies for modernization and public sector reform. It provides a framework of analysis when conducting thematic reviews on digital government and open data in OECD member and non-member countries. <http://www.oecd.org/gov/digital-government/>

## THE OECD'S PROJECT ON BRINGING GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO CITIZENS

The OECD's project on Bringing Government Closer to Citizens, supported by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), will support both **open government** and **digital government** as key components to achieving public governance reform. The project supports pilot municipalities in developing and implementing an open government strategy and establish partnerships with local networks of CSOs, develop a one-stop shop for public engagement. The project also supports the central government in assessing its open government practices and becoming closer to the OECD Recommendation on Open Government and to join the OGP. Effective implementation of these recommendations will be supported through capacity building activities.

The rapid penetration of digital technologies in the economies and societies is permanently shifting the environment in which governments operate. The public sector is expected to be increasingly service oriented and progressively efficient and effective to respond to citizens' and business's needs with simpler, tailored approaches. Therefore, OECD will also develop a Digital Government Study providing actionable recommendations for Lebanon to implement the Digital Transformation Strategy, reinforcing the institutional governance framework, and developing a framework of oversight and monitoring. This is based on the **Recommendation of the Council on Digital Government Strategies** (2014), the activities of the **Working Party of Senior Digital Government Officials (E-Leaders)** and its thematic Groups. Finally, the results and good practices from Lebanon will be disseminated at the regional and global levels.

## THE OECD'S PROJECT ON OPEN GOVERNMENT AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Within the framework of a regional project supported by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (US), the OECD supports Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia in the implementation of their access to information laws and in strengthening a culture of transparency in the public sector. The project supports the elaboration of a national action plan for the implementation of the access to information law. This plan will be complemented with guidance to access to information officials, the public administration as well as civil society and media through capacity building activities, guides and policy analysis and recommendations. The project also includes regional activities.

## THE OECD'S PROJECT ON PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

With the support from the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, the project “Citizens' Voice: Enhancing open government through public communication and media ecosystems” seeks to support the contribution of public communication and the media ecosystem towards an open government in Lebanon. The project will analyse the state of public communication and media governance in Lebanon, as well as the relationships between government, media and citizens towards promoting the principles of transparency, integrity, participation and accountability. It will also support a network of public communicators and enable the capacity building of public officials through a series of conferences and workshops. This work is part of a broader project including Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

### The OECD – OGP cooperation

The OECD has worked in close collaboration with the OGP since its establishment in 2011, by providing evidence-based analysis to push impactful open government reforms around the world. The two organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding in June 2019, during the OGP Global Summit in Ottawa, to consolidate the co-operation and maximize the impact of joint activities. This cooperation seeks to strengthen transparency, accountability, integrity and stakeholder participation in policymaking, to reinforce democracy, and to support inclusive growth. The collaboration has achieved important results thus far, including the development of the [Toolkit Navigator for Open Government](#), the [OECD-OGP Communication Guide](#) as well as supporting several countries worldwide in joining the OGP and designing and implementing ambitious open government action plans.

# CONTACTS

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