

## Launch of the Regional Initiative for Structured Dialogue – Majalat

Majalat, a regional initiative for structured dialogue, will be holding its first regional meeting on EU neighborhood policies in the Southern Mediterranean on 20-21 September 2018 in the Jordanian capital Amman. The two-day meeting will witness the participation of more than 100 representatives of civil society organisations and trade unions from the Mediterranean region.

Majalat is an initiative for dialogue with the European Union and with its support. It was launched by a consortium of Civil Society Organisations working in the Southern Mediterranean formed by the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), EuroMed Rights, the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC), Réseau Euromed France (REF), Forum Marocain des Alternatives (FMAS), and SOLIDAR.

The seminar aims to create a space for reflection on the structured dialogue process between European partners and neighboring countries from the Southern Mediterranean region. It will be an opportunity for civil society in the region to meet and discuss the main priorities regarding EU policies defined by the process initiated by the European Union. The objective will be to discuss the main challenges in the relations between both sides of the Mediterranean. This will be raised during the annual Civil Forum in Brussels on 20-21 November 2018.

The discussion will be based on studies by experts providing an in-depth evaluation of the situation on four priority themes: good governance and rule of law, economic development and social dialogue, migration and mobility, security and countering violence, especially in light of the challenges faced by the region in the past decade.

Shrinking space for civil society, difficulties related to mobilising sustainable resources, and limited access to information and dialogue mechanisms limit civil society ability to react. In this context, Majalat represents a way of engaging civil society on the challenges they are facing as well as on EU policies in the region.