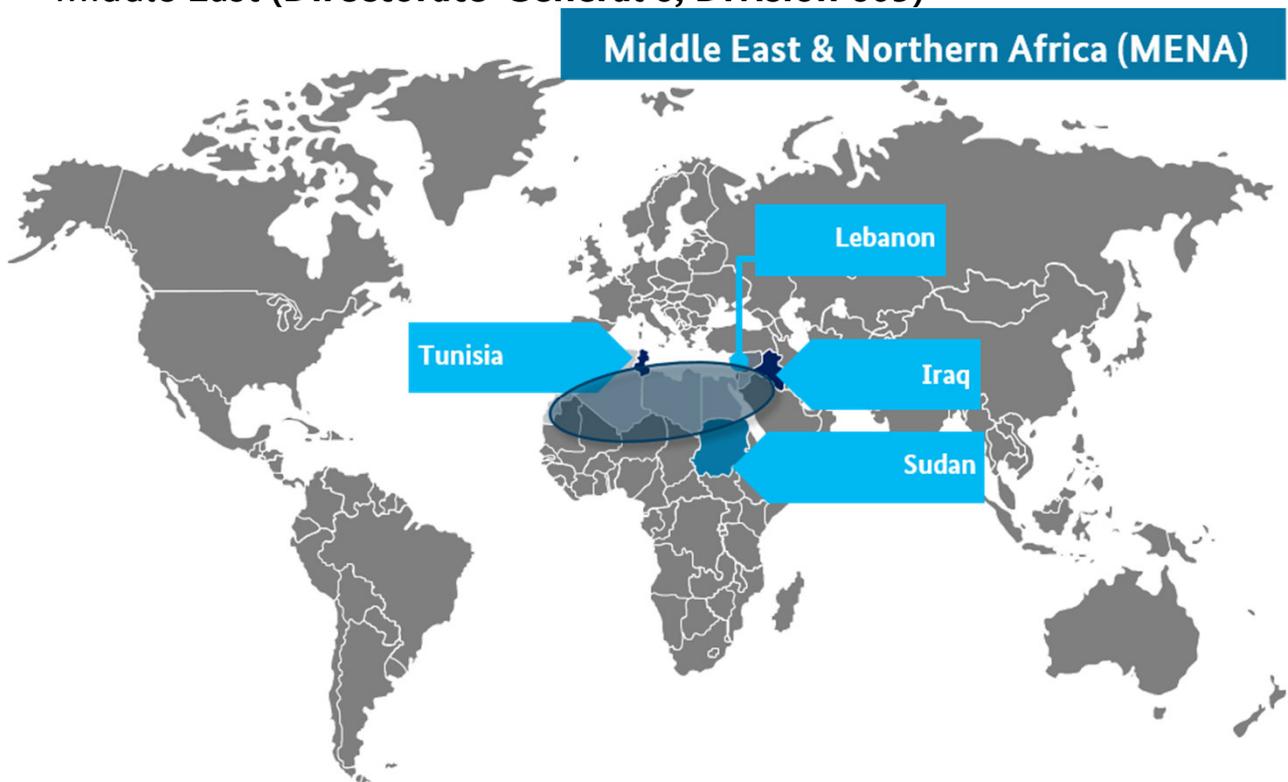


Federal Foreign Office Funding Concept

Ta'ziz Partnership

Federal Foreign Office promotion of **cultural relations and education policy projects** with countries of North Africa and the Middle East (**Directorate-General 6, Division 609**)



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Ta'ziz Partnership – Background and aims

The people of North Africa and the Middle East had high expectations that the uprisings (known as the **Arab Spring**) would bring them greater personal freedoms, more equitable socio-economic conditions and greater political participation.

With the two foreign policy funding programmes known as the **transformation partnership** (appropriation 0501 item 687 21) and **scientific partnership** (appropriation 0504 item 687 18), the German Government has developed a **pair of flexible and complementary instruments** for supporting democratic processes and the rule of law and reinforcing civil society participation and interconnectedness, by means of measures including the creation of (real or virtual) spaces in the media and cultural sector, outside the realm of politics. The two instruments are part of the Federal Foreign Office's overall **crisis prevention approach**, and also fall under the remit of its **cultural relations and education policy strategy**.

The political realities in the region – including the restoration of authoritarian systems of rule and the collapse of certain states as well as the emergence of new democratic movements – and the results of the strategic evaluation of the two funding programmes made it necessary to **substantially realign these foreign policy instruments**.

The **political objective**, however, remains the same: **supporting political processes** which aim to **bolster democracy and the rule of law in the Middle East and North African region**.

This offer of partnership to political decision-makers and members of civil society in the region will now be known as the **Ta'ziz Partnership for Democracy** (الديمقراطية تعزيز الشراكة)

The Arabic word ta'ziz (تعزير) means strengthening/consolidating and is intended to highlight the aim of the funding programmes. In this way, we hope to ensure greater acceptance and visibility in the partner countries.

Ta'ziz Partnership – two programmes, one partnership

Ta'ziz funding (appropriation 0501 item 687 21) will be managed by **Division S 03** and directed at transformation processes which aim to **bolster democracy and the rule of law**; the focus will be on countries in which:

- the conditions for free and fair elections are already in place or will be in the foreseeable future, efforts are being made to establish them, or there is already a democratically elected government in place to act as our partner;
- spaces for sincere, structured cooperation with state and civil society actors are opening up (growing rather than shrinking spaces);
- civil society and the state are seeking to establish a partnership in order to consolidate the democratic achievements in the country, and scaling up its cooperation with this country is in Germany's interests.

These criteria are currently met by **Tunisia** and the **Sudan** as well as **Lebanon** and **Iraq**, two democracies marked by significant religious divides. Projects in these countries will focus on sectors which are crucial for consolidating the still-fragile transformation process and which require versatile measures that are carefully managed by political bodies and are compatible with long-term development policy measures.

The funding managed by **Division 609** for the **long-term scientific partnership** with Ta'ziz countries (appropriation 0504 item 687 18), for projects in the **fields of cultural relations and education policy**, is intended for the creation of spaces outside the realm of politics for the future generation, particularly in countries in which we are not able to directly build on a political transformation process. The primary partners in this context are individuals (generally scholarship recipients) and ¹NGOs operating with relative autonomy from the state. This allows to maintain a connection even with societies whose governments are not, or no longer, engaging with a democratic transformation. In the future, we aim to align these projects even more closely with the goal of creating the civil society basis needed for democratic transformations.

¹Non-governmental organizations

Ta'ziz project support within the framework of AKBP¹

Project support provided through the **Ta'ziz Partnership** within the framework of the **scientific partnership** (appropriation 0504 item 68718) implemented by Directorate-General 6, lead responsibility lying with Division 609 and **its cultural relations and education policy projects...**

- has the **primary aim** of **reinforcing civil society participation and networking** by means of measures including the creation of (real or virtual) discursive spaces and the associated media relations and educational work.
- is in keeping with the **key objective of cultural relations and education policy**, namely **promoting access to culture, education and the media** with a special focus on **dealing with social media**.
- is designed to further **the consolidation process within society** through **elements to strengthen a sense of identity** and to **support the coming generation** upon whose shoulders responsibility for state affairs will rest.

Project partners for the Ta'ziz Partnership within the framework of cultural relations and education policy include:

- **civil society organisations and independent NGOs**
- the German Archaeological Institute (DAI)
- **mediators** working in cultural relations and education policy such as:
 - the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
 - the Goethe-Institut (GI)
 - the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa)
 - Deutsche Welle (DW)
 - the German Commission for UNESCO

¹ cultural relations and education policy

Funding objectives

The Federal Foreign Office promotes projects, measures and programmes in the **field of cultural relations and education policy**, which comply with the following **objectives and funding criteria**:

Overall objectives

- 1 **Strengthening values** that are crucial to a democratic transformation and bring long-term democratic benefits.
- 2 **Promoting civil society participation** and creating (real or virtual) discursive spaces for the coming generation through cultural relations and education policy.

➤ Overarching **cross-sectoral task** of all measures and projects is to **promote diversity** and to **strengthen participation of women and young people**.

Targets/funding criteria

Strength- ening values

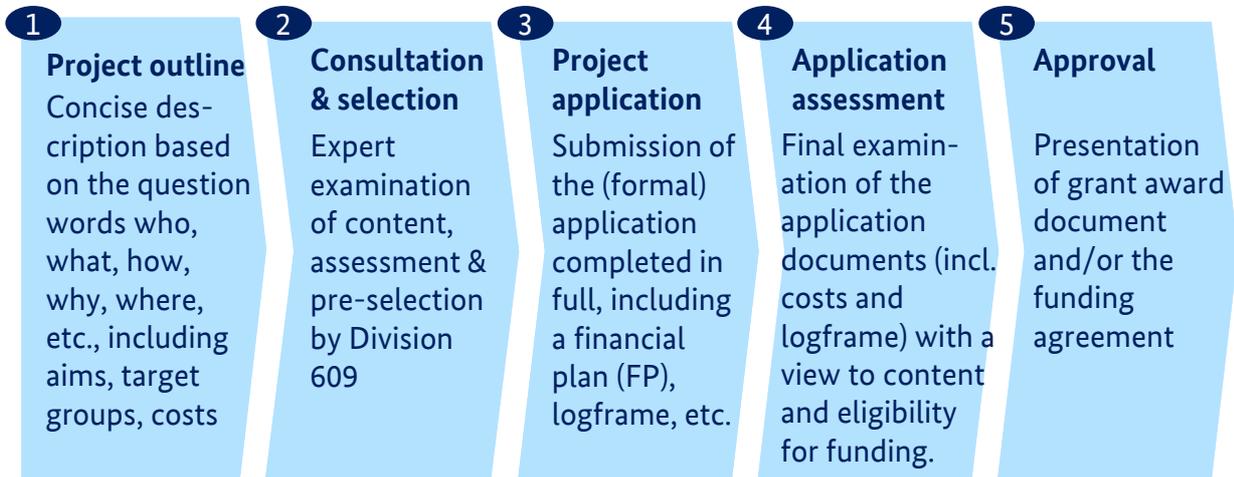
- ✓ **Promoting education and science:** Supporting reform endeavours in schools and universities, in particular by strengthening participatory approaches; promoting scholarships.
- ✓ **Preserving and expanding platforms** for discussions and exchange of views, including on socially controversial issues.
- ✓ **Promoting good governance:** Improving governance to pave the way for more extensive cooperation; strategic communication.
- ✓ **Supporting political education and the media** by means of professionalisation of the media sector, awareness-raising in regard to disinformation/digital literacy, promoting local media initiatives and citizen journalism, political TV debates, media literacy and cultural initiatives devoted to civic education.

Promoting civil society participation

- ✓ Supporting **participative civil society discourse** and associated media relations work.
- ✓ **Establishing and expanding civil society structures**, e.g. through qualifications, further training and strengthening institutional structures of civil society organisations, as well as promoting inclusive civilian structures within societies.
- Expanding the options of **civil participation** especially of women, young people and minority groups, e.g. by means of self-empowerment and self-determination.
- ✓ **Fostering multiplier effects and the transfer of knowledge** between civil society actors as well as with and within science, e.g. by enhancing local and regional connectivity.
- ✓ Strengthening the **willingness of citizens to participate** in political, social, cultural and economic processes.

Requirements & procedures

Five steps to funding¹



! Good to know:

- The submission of a fully completed application does **not give rise to any right to funding**.
- Funding can only be approved if the **project has not yet begun** when the application is submitted.
- The funding in question is project funding meaning that the projects have **an annual budget**. Projects should therefore in principle be completed by 31 December of the year in which they were approved. In justified cases, however, the Federal Foreign Office can deviate to a certain extent from this principle and also approve projects that run into the next calendar year, provided that it is absolutely necessary for the projects to run into the next calendar year or to last for more than one year in order to achieve their (political) objectives.
- Projects can receive **follow-up funding**. However, there is **no guarantee that follow-up funding will be granted** (Section 23 of the Federal Budget Code). It is the responsibility of the project organisation to ensure long-term financing through other sources of funding or revenue.

¹legal basis e.g. Section 23 and Section 44 of the Federal Budget Code, administrative regulation on Sections 23 and 24 of the Federal Budget Code

Information & contact

Important elements of the project application

- **Project outline**

→ in advance for initial consideration and pre-selection

Following consultation and positive assessment, pre-selection by Division 609:

- **Project application:** completed in full, initially in digital form
- **Financial plan:** complete total spending, with breakdown for each budgetary year including personnel structure (see sample financial plan)
- **Logframe** with description of project aims and definition of measurable SMART¹ indicators on achieving targets including basic values
- **Additional sheet** for the ODA database

→ After final examination and preliminary approval: submission of formal application with further documents by post

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as at January 2021

¹SMART: Specific / Measurable / Achievable / Relevant / Time-Bound