

# DIGITAL INNOVATIONS FOR PEACE

New technology against information  
disorder across the MENA Region

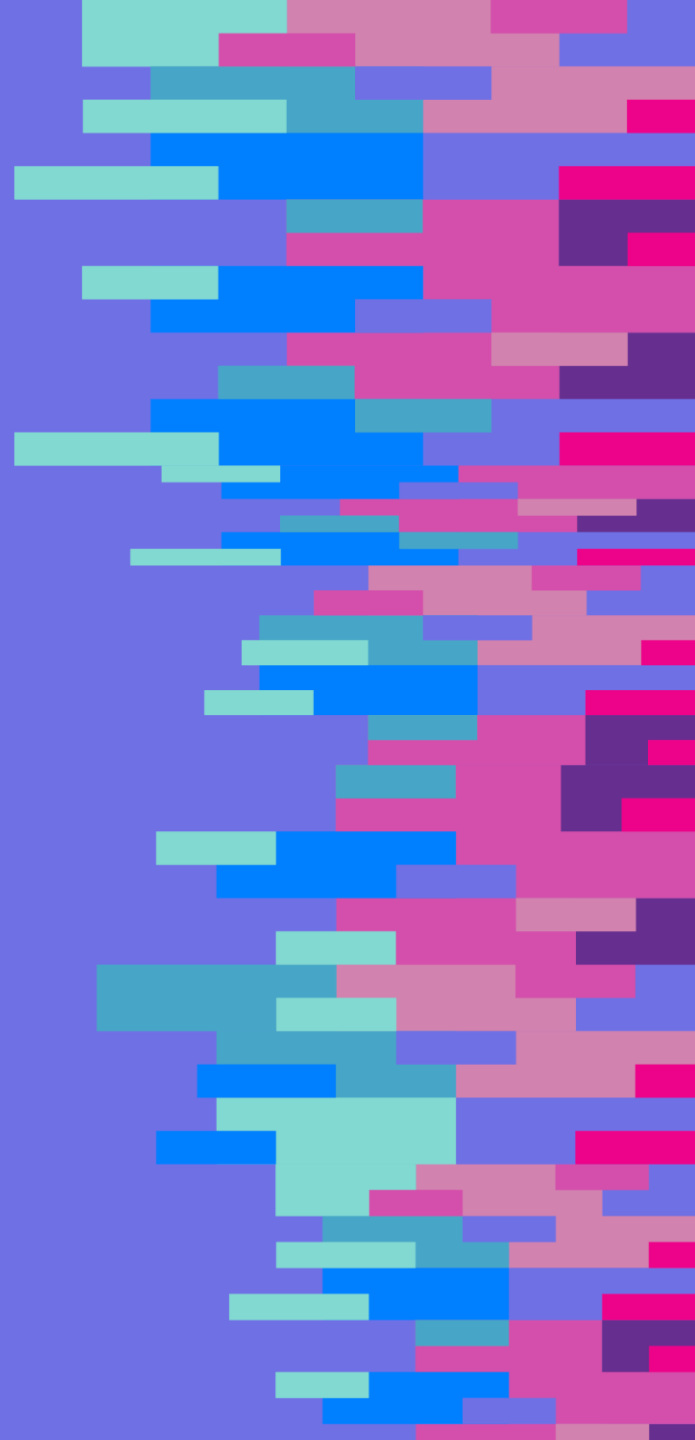


# Digital Innovations for Peace (DIP)

## Sharing Three-Years of Impact



WELCOME



*Dear Readers,*

*As the "Digital Innovations for Peace" (DIP) project reaches its conclusion after three enriching years, we are excited to reflect on the remarkable achievements and forward strides made in combating disinformation and promoting digital harmony across the MENA region. Supported by the European Union and the German Foreign Office, DIP has been instrumental in empowering communities and media professionals through ground breaking initiatives that have reshaped the digital landscape.*

*In this final brochure, we proudly share the impactful stories of our vibrant network of over 3,200 media professionals, ICT experts, and entrepreneurs committed to peace-building and social justice. From pioneering media start-ups to powerful advocacy campaigns, DIP has laid the foundation for a more informed and inclusive digital future.*

*As we wrap up this journey, we express our deepest gratitude to all the dedicated individuals, partners, and organisations who have contributed to making this project a resounding success. Your passion and commitment have been the driving force behind these accomplishments. Together, we have paved the way for continued progress and resilience in the digital realm.*

*Thank you for being an integral part of this transformative adventure.*

*The DIP Team*

# Digital Innovations for Peace (DIP)

## *In a nutshell...*

The Digital Innovations for Peace (DIP) project has spent the last three years strengthening resilience against disinformation and promoting a more peaceful digital environment in the MENA region.

Our multi-faceted approach includes:

- Developing a vibrant online community.
- Driving innovative reporting on conflict-related issues.
- Launching impactful media campaigns against hate speech.
- Connecting entrepreneurs, digital activists, and media professionals to empower users and enhance media literacy skills.

## Middle East and North Africa

### COUNTRIES

Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Tunisia, Palestinian Territories

### BUDGET

2.300.000 euros

European Union (87%) & German Foreign Office (13%)

### CO - APPLICANTS

Leaders International

Elbiro Media Foundation

### DURATION

2022 – 2024 (3years)

# Digital Innovations for Peace (DIP)

## *Who we are?*

### *DW Akademie:*

DW Center for international media development, journalism training and knowledge transfer with projects in more than 100 countries.

### *Leaders International & Leaders Organisation:*

Economic development organisation that brings together governments, community groups and private sector partners to work on various projects across the Middle East and Africa.

### *Elbiro Media Foundation:*

Innovative and decentralized resource space for journalists and media professionals from the Mediterranean region.



*Made for minds.*



# Building Resilience Against Disinformation in the MENA Region

## *Our Cross-Regional Network*

Launched in 2022, the DIP project's cross-regional network of media professionals, ICT experts and entrepreneurs has grown to over 3,200 members (43% are women, 50% are youth).

This diverse network includes strong representation from Tunisia, Libya, and Algeria but also journalists and media makers from Morocco, Iraq, the OPT, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, Yemen, Sudan, and the European diaspora.



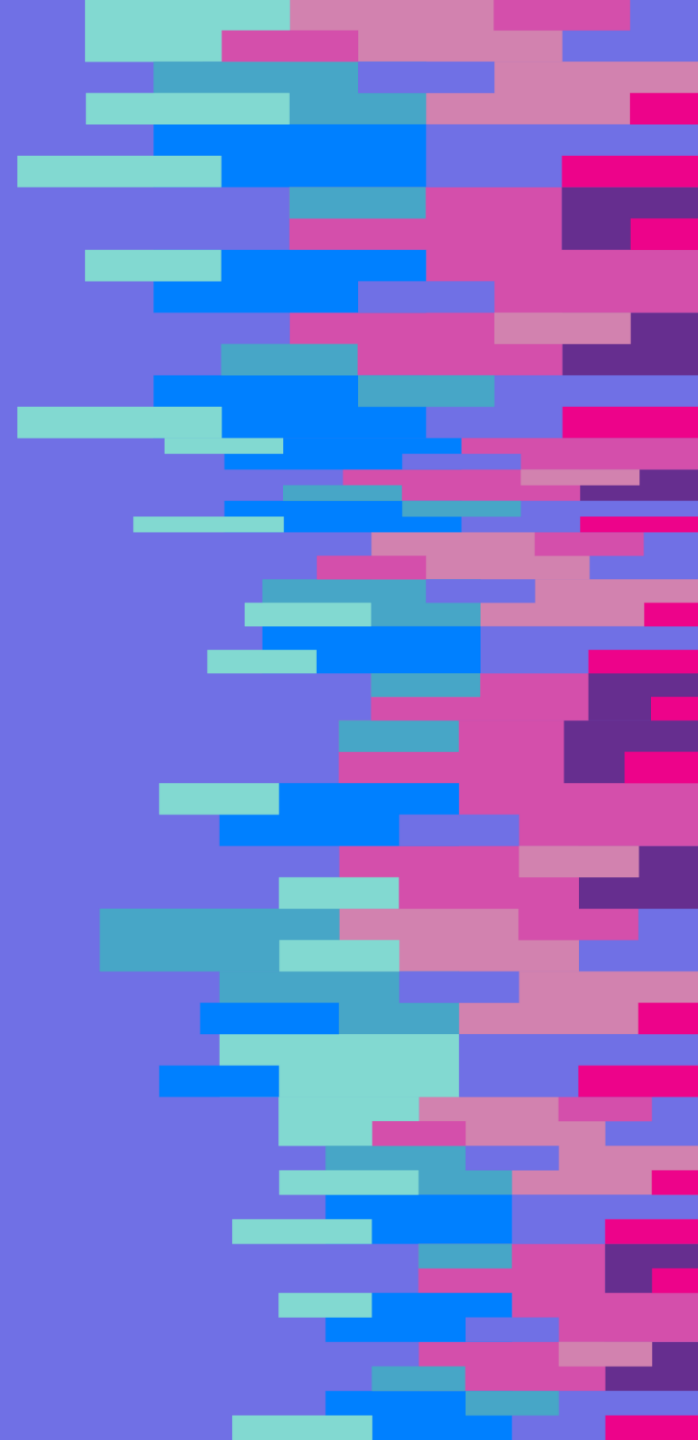
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Addressing online hate speech and intolerance requires us to look beyond borders. By joining forces regionally and empowering diverse actors with the right tools and skills, we can create a more inclusive and informed MENA.



Susanne Stephan, DW Program Director

# Building Resilience against Disinformation in the MENA Region



# Strengthen Capacities for Media Makers in the MENA Region

## *Strengthening Skills for a Digital Age*

Capacity building to media makers is central to DIP. It provides continuous training in:

- Data-driven journalism
- Social listening techniques
- Digital security
- Media and Information Literacy (MIL)
- Fact-checking methodologies & AI machine learning applications
- Cross-border investigative collaborations

These skills enable innovative, high-quality cross-border reporting. The network participates in monthly workshops, expert discussions, and networking events, with access to a rich library of online resources.



Peacebuilding campaigns workshop in Tunis.  
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The DIP Network strengthened my connections with MENA-colleagues, particularly through my online MIL networking session. Exchanging ideas on media analysis and combating misinformation confirmed journalistic networking's importance for peaceful, purposeful media.



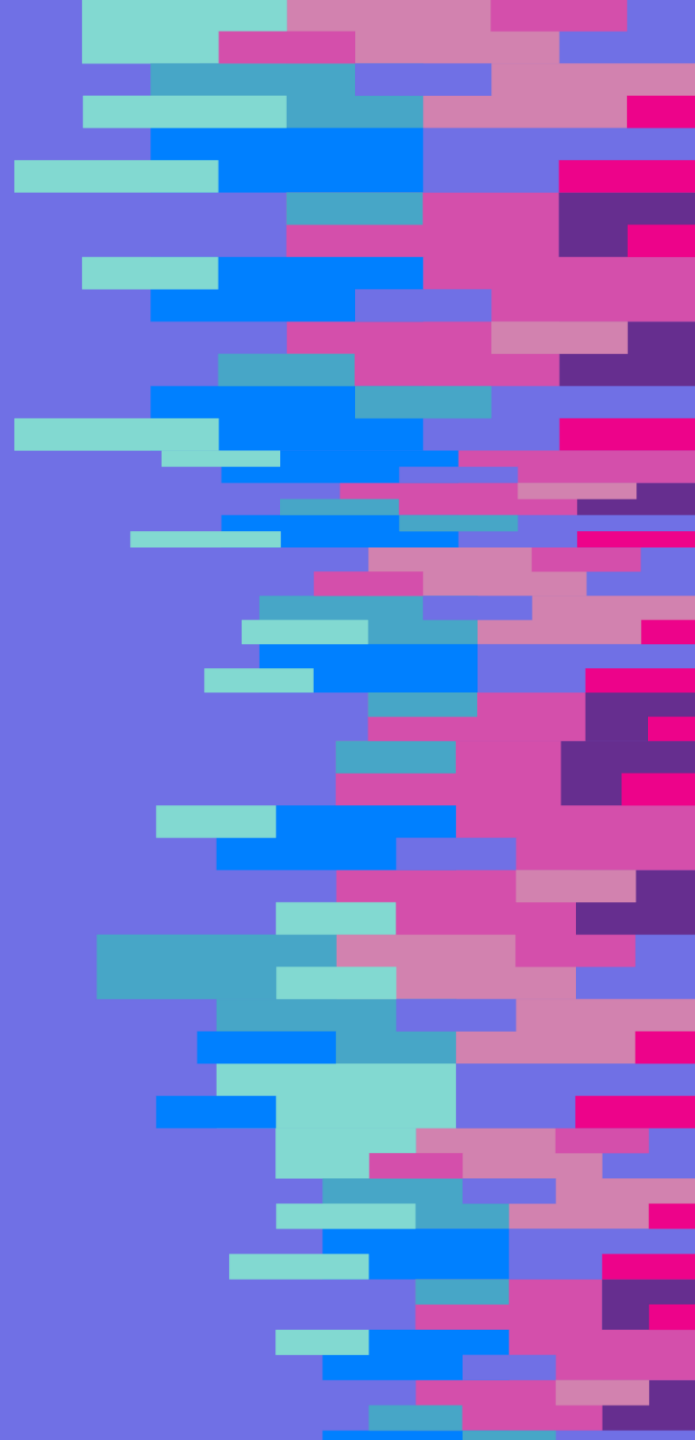
Hind Al-Subai Al-Idrisi, Journalist from Morocco

# Strengthened Capacities for Media Makers in the MENA Region

## *Our Outcomes*

- 3,200+ MENA media professionals in a thriving network
- 100+ training sessions on key digital skills
- 10,000+ media professionals trained
- 130+ educational resources on data and quality journalism
- 16,000 people reached through peacebuilding campaigns
- 25,000+ people engaged beyond the core network

# Driving Digital Innovations for Peace



# Driving Digital Innovation for MENA

## *Empowering Media Resilience*

In collaboration with Leaders International (LI), DIP has made significant strides in digital innovation to strengthen media users' resilience against disinformation and enhance MIL skills. LI's initiatives have resulted in the launch of seven innovative media start-ups, poised to reshape the region's digital landscape, counter disinformation, enhance MIL, and combat hate speech.



The Spotcast start-up team at their office  
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# Driving Digital Innovation for MENA

## *Innovative ICT Solutions and Training*

An **online portal** features 100+ tools and open-source solutions identified by an initial mapping. Crowdsourcing competitions and hackathons attracted more than 180 entrepreneurs and media professionals, resulting in **27 award-winning concepts**. Participants who joined both activities received training in ideation, business model development, digital media challenges, open-source solutions, as well as pitching and storytelling techniques.



The Kashif start-up team at an office  
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# Driving Digital Innovation for MENA

## *Award-Winning Concepts*

Award-winning concepts included:

- **Seha AI (Algeria):** Provides reliable health information through collaboration with health journalists and integrates AI-driven data analysis.
- **Almuhaqiq Thaki** (“The smart detective”) (Jordan): An engaging initiative teaching children to identify misinformation through a quiz-style game, promoting responsible navigation of digital content.



Hind developer of Smart Detective

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# Driving Digital Innovation for MENA

## *From Concept to Start-Ups*

From a competitive pool, seven start-ups aimed at combating disinformation, addressing hate speech, and enhancing (MIL) were selected for the acceleration hub after pitching to an expert jury. These geographically diverse start-ups from - Algeria, the West Bank, Jordan, and Lebanon - participated in a three-month acceleration program, culminating in a demo day attended by potential investors and policymakers, and received both technical and financial support.



The Kashif start-up team  
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# Driving Digital Innovation for MENA

## *Meet the Visionaries from the DIP acceleration hub*

The following seven start-ups are pioneering efforts in reshaping the MENA digital landscape:

- [Field Production \(D1+\)](#): A digital platform for Arabic-speaking Syrian women refugees in Gaziantep, raising awareness on refugee issues and advocating for integration into European asylum countries through content sharing and community resources.
- [Fact Check \(Kashif\)](#): An AI-powered tool to combat misinformation in Palestinian media. Kashif promotes ethical reporting and allows users to verify information via its bot, currently being enhanced for better misinformation detection.

# Driving Digital Innovation for MENA

## *Meet the Visionaries from the DIP acceleration hub*

The following seven start-ups are pioneering efforts in reshaping the MENA digital landscape:

- [MENA Media Mesh](#): An AI platform that analyses media biases in the MENA region. Its browser extension provides real-time insights, helping users navigate news complexities and understand media influences.
- [Spotcast](#): An independent media platform highlighting marginalised regions in Lebanon through collaborative content creation aimed at presenting their realities and challenging stereotypes.

“

As Spot-Cast’s platform team leader, the acceleration hub was pivotal in refining our systems and digital solutions, enhancing my leadership in startup development. It positioned Spot-Cast as a stronger, innovative alternative social media platform.

Omar Khaled, Spotcast Startup, Lebanon



# Driving Digital Innovation for MENA

## *Meet the Visionaries from the DIP acceleration hub*

- [Rouh روح](#): A humanitarian news agency producing human-interest video stories such as podcasts and digital narratives while ensuring psychological safety in its content through expert input and AI analysis which is being developed.
- [New Media الجديد الاعلام](#): This training platform enhances public fact-checking skills with in-person and online courses. The platform plans to include an AI tool to streamline verification for media organisations and individuals.
- [Tadqeqi](#): An Algeria-based platform combating fake news with educational resources and analytical reports. It promotes media information fact-checking, with plans to enhance its AI verification bot and include video lessons and workshops.

These ventures are at the forefront of driving change and creating a more informed society in the MENA region.

“

DIP Acceleration enriched my understanding of media entrepreneurship and refined my project, Rouh. It opened up new funding opportunities by strengthening our business model and boosted my confidence in presenting to incubators and funders. This experience empowered me to pursue sustainable growth for Rouh.

Summaya Abu Ramouz, Rouh Startup, OPT

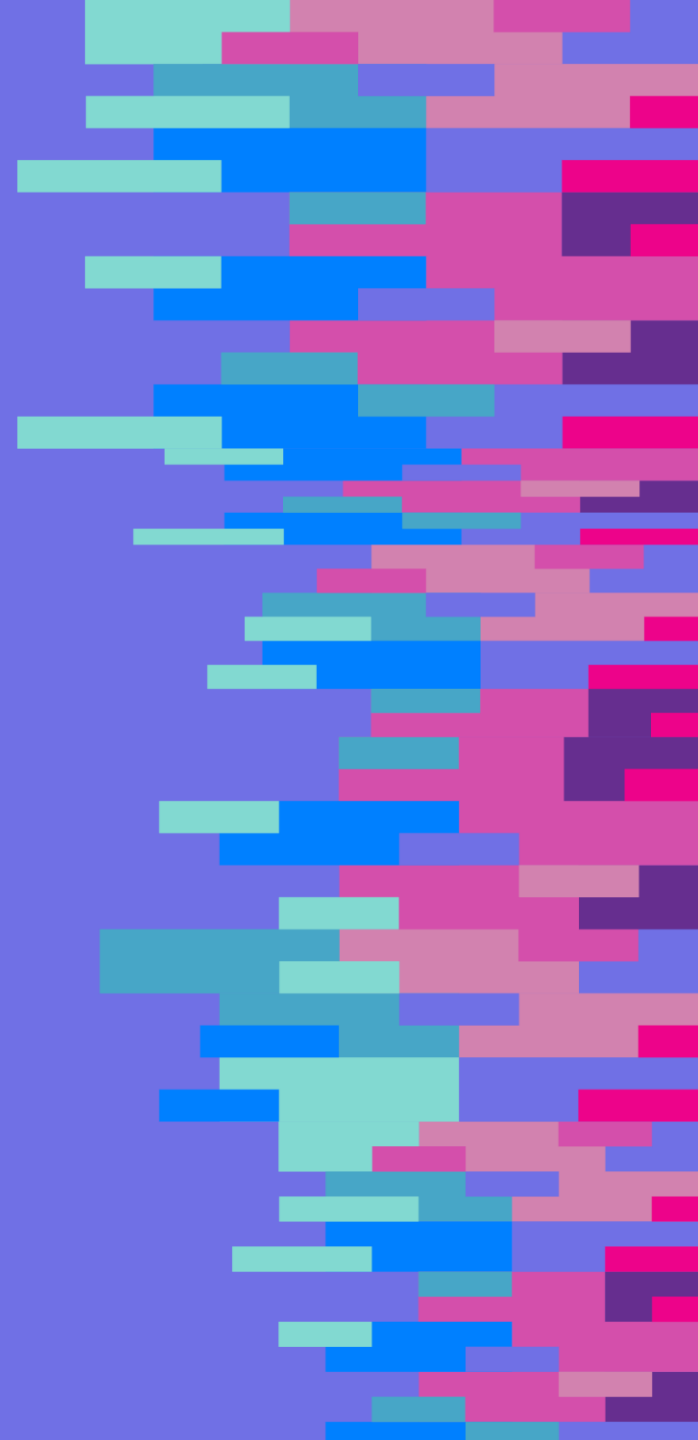


# Driving Digital Innovation & Solutions in MENA

## *Our Outcomes*

- 100+ existing tools for MIL and countering hate speech mapped
- 3 crowdsourcing competitions and 5 hackathons
- 180+ technical experts and entrepreneurs; 27 awarded prizes
- 7 acceleration media start-ups launched
- 170+ hours of training and one-to-one mentorships provided to acceleration media start-ups
- 31K+ social engagements from media users via posts and live workshop streams

# Empowering Change: Peacebuilding Campaigns



# Empowering Change: Peacebuilding Campaigns

## *Topics & Countries*

This significant component of the DIP project, funded by the German Foreign Ministry, empowered civil society organisations across MENA to champion peacebuilding initiatives focused on marginalised groups. Seven innovative media advocacy campaigns (Algeria, Libya, Tunisia) addressed:

- Rights of the disabled
- Women's protection
- Migration
- Cybercrime laws



Closing photo of the peacebuilding campaigns workshop in June Tunis.

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# Empowering Change: Peacebuilding Campaigns

## *Campaign Highlights*

- [Djazairouna \(Algeria\)](#): Advocated for legislative change and raised awareness to combat hate speech against women in Algeria with an aim of reducing widespread violence and discrimination.
- [Académie de Dialogue National \(Tunisia\)](#): Promoted tolerance and awareness towards African migrants in Tunisia, pressuring the government to enforce protective measures against discrimination.
- [Annir Initiative \(Libya\)](#): Created a secure digital space for women in Libya by combating hate speech and empowering women to exercise their rights and self-defence.
- [IBSAR \(Tunisia\)](#): Empowered persons with disabilities to assert their digital rights and access information in an inclusive digital environment, effectively reducing hate speech online.

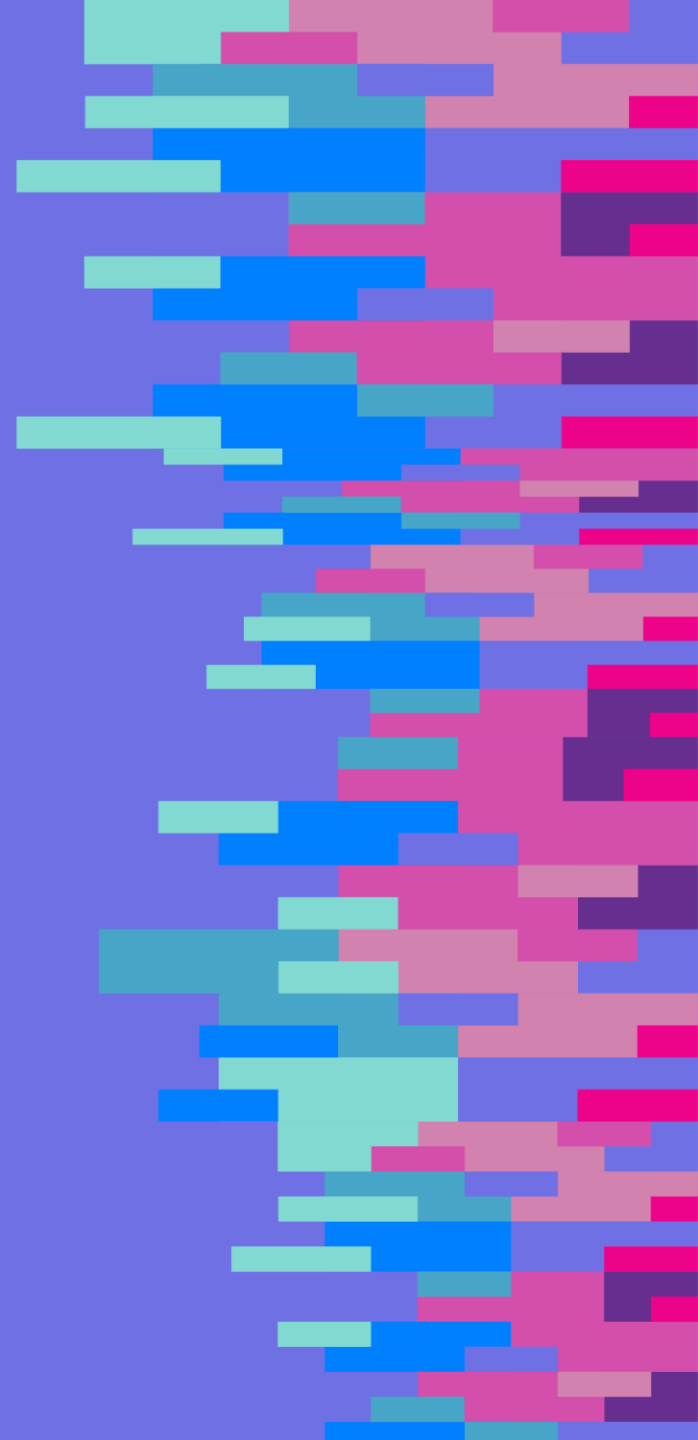
# Empowering Change: Peacebuilding Campaigns

## *Campaign Highlights*

- [National Association of Women in Communication \(Algeria\)](#): Enabled women to become powerful advocates against hate speech and online violence, promoting a culture of tolerance and peace within society.
- [H2O \(Libya\)](#): Mobilised youth and civil society to champion legal reforms against hate speech (Cyber Crimes Law), establishing stronger protections and a united front against discrimination.
- [International Debate Association \(Tunisia\)](#): Enhanced access to information for individuals with disabilities in Tunisia, promoting equality and participation in public life and decision-making.

These campaigns exemplify the transformative power of digital innovation in advancing peace and social justice. By amplifying marginalised voices and addressing pressing societal issues, DIP is paving the way for a more inclusive and harmonious future.

# Empowering Education



# Empowering Education

## *Educational Videos*

To enhance capacity-building efforts, the project produced a series of [educational videos](#) on:

- **Data Journalism:** Showcasing effective practices in the field.
- **Digital Security:** Essential safety measures for journalists in MENA.
- **Social Listening:** Tools and strategies for improved storytelling and social media monitoring.



Eman Waheshi representing social listening episode  
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# Empowering Education

## *Amplifying Voices: Financial support for Journalists*

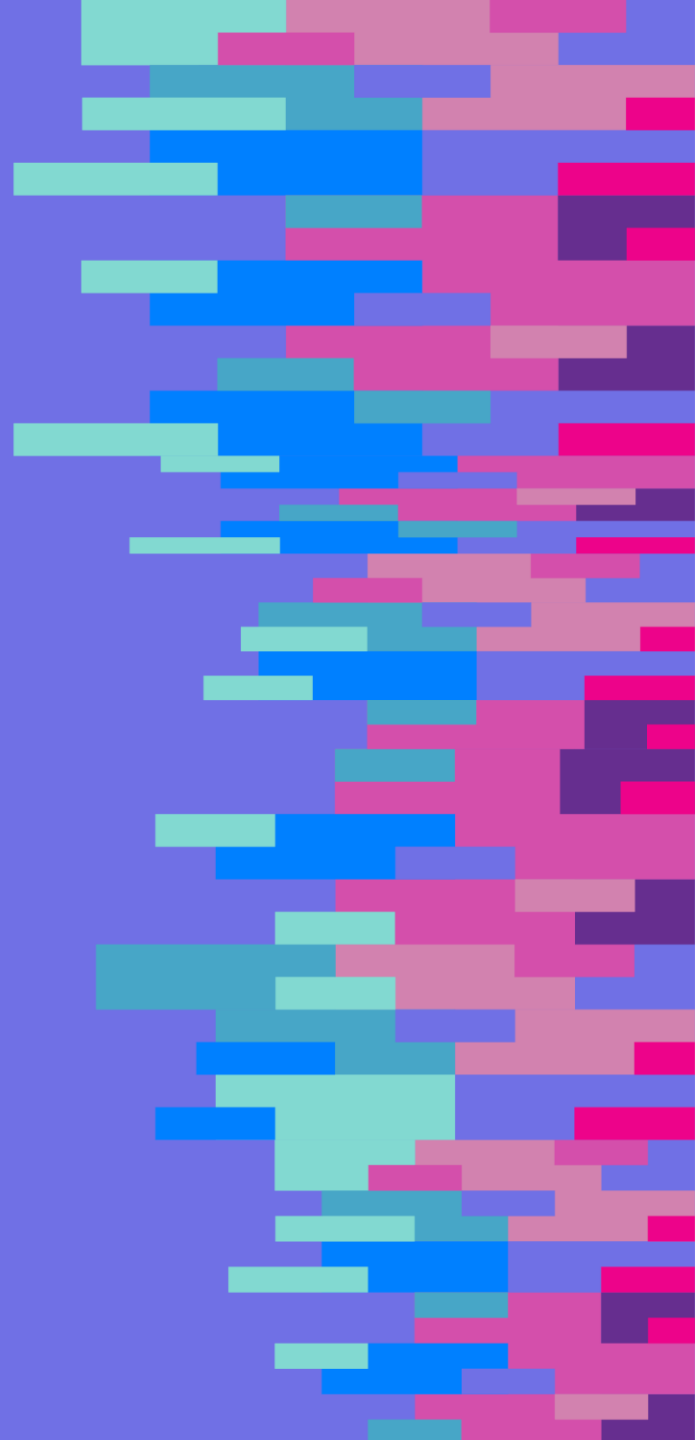
In alignment with our commitment to capacity building, 29 exceptional journalists from the region received financial support through mini grants and mentoring to produce high-quality, data-driven reports, videos and articles focusing on migration, women's rights, environmental impacts, and the struggles of marginalised communities. These journalists applied their theoretical knowledge through powerful stories that highlight community resilience and shed light on critical issues often overlooked in mainstream media.



Peacebuilding networking event in Tunis.

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# Sustainability



# Building Resilience Against Disinformation in the MENA Region

## *How to Continue?*

Building upon the accomplishments of the DIP project, we are committed to sustaining the momentum of the regional network through ongoing capacity-building and networking opportunities. Together, we will continue to empower informed and engaged citizens in the MENA region.



Group photo at the conclusion of the Training-of-Trainers workshop in Tunis Nov 2022  
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# Building Resilience Against Disinformation in the MENA Region

## *Programme 2025*

- Jan 2025: Disinformation in Lebanon and Libya
- Feb 2025: Exile and Migration Media - Showcase relevant DIP initiatives
- Mar 2025: Investigative Journalism and Accountability - Debate/Polls
- Apr 2025: AI-Driven Media Innovation - Showcase relevant DIP initiatives
- May 2025: Cultural Media and Art Advocacy
- Jun 2025: Environmental Media and Climate Journalism

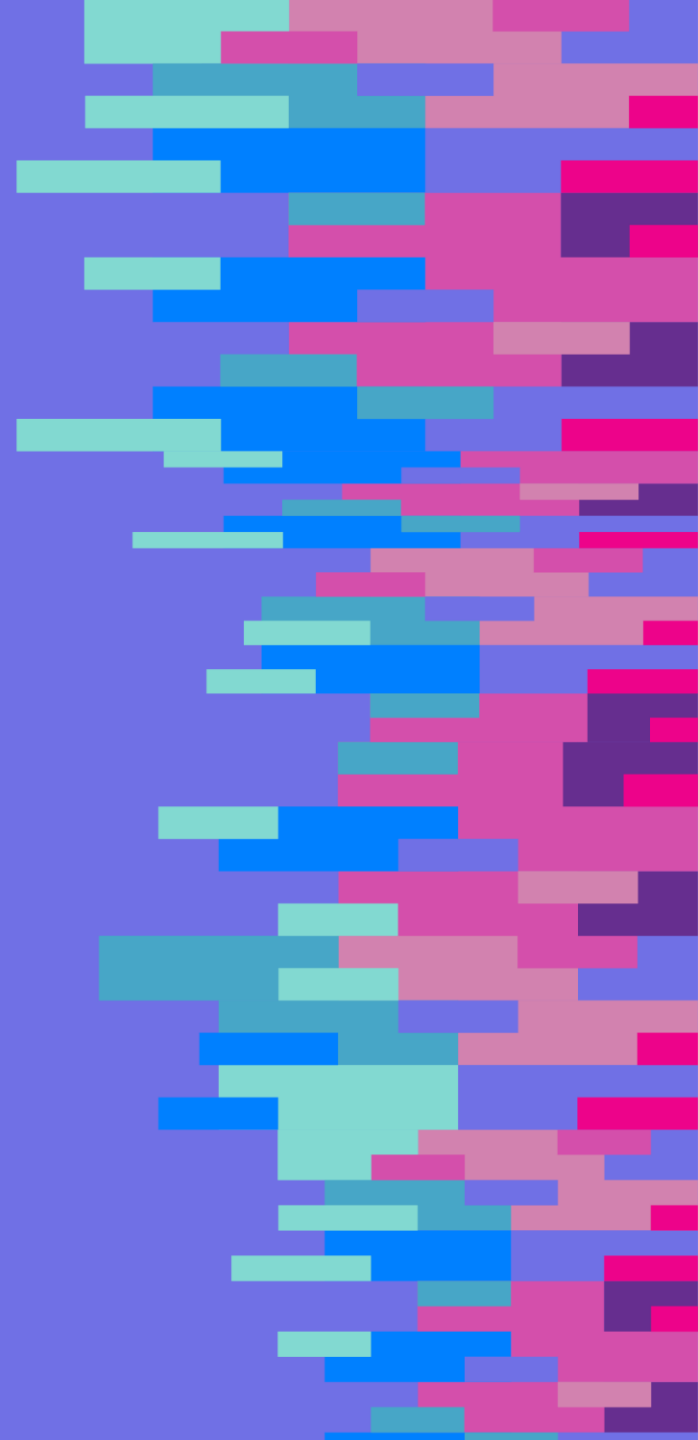
# Stay Connected

<https://www.facebook.com/DigitalInnovationsforPeace>

<https://dip.leadersinternational.org/>

For registration in the DIP FB Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/556047222596093>



“

The DIP project **largely achieved**, and in many areas, **exceeded its initial targets**. It demonstrated resilience by implementing flexible support measures that ensured participant safety and maintained sustained online engagement despite logistical and financial challenges.

Voluntas, Extract from Final Evaluation

DW Akademie is Deutsche Welle's center for international media development, journalism training and knowledge transfer. Our projects strengthen the human right to freedom of expression and unhindered access to information. DW Akademie empowers people worldwide to make independent decisions based on reliable facts and constructive dialogue.

DW Akademie is a strategic partner of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. We also receive funding from the Federal Foreign Office and the European Union and are active in around 70 developing countries and emerging economies.

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