

## Newsletter 01/2012

**Dear friends of the Heinrich Böll Stiftung,**

We are happy to introduce our newsletter to update you on our activities, recent projects and publications. We also want to provide some information about the work of our partners. In the last year and a half the Middle East has been in turmoil, with the “Arab Spring” rising expectations for more democratic participation, while some warn an “Arabic Winter” might follow. At the same time, according to a common perception, the change of seasons does not seem to affect Palestine. But although the movement on the political level seems slow and difficult, our partners and many other organizations in Palestine work hard to achieve social change, a peaceful end to the occupation and a full realization of the Palestinian human and civilian rights. This is a crucial time for Palestine and Jordan as well. Peaceful popular resistance in Palestine and meaningful reform in Jordan are on top of the agenda. We will continue to work closely with our local partners to enhance our cooperation. We look forward to your interest and support.

Dr. René Wildangel, Director hbs Ramallah (Palestine/Jordan Office)

### News from hbs-Ramallah office (Palestine-Jordan)

#### Visits and Delegations

**Cem Özdemir**, co-chairman of „Alliance ‘90/The Greens”, visited the occupied Palestinian territories on **January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**. *hbs Ramallah* organized a program comprised of several meetings with Palestinian officials including Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, and a tour through the city of Hebron, led by Imad Hamdan, the General Director of the [Hebron Rehabilitation Committee](#).

From **February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>** the *Heinrich Böll Stiftung* in Ramallah co-sponsored a **delegation** of Palestinian experts to Berlin and Brussels to [discuss](#) latest developments in the Palestinian reconciliation process. Read the full article on our [website](#).

The Chairman of the Green’s parliamentary group, **Jürgen Trittin**, and the Green’s parliamentary spokesperson on foreign affairs, **Kerstin Müller**, visited the Palestinian Territories between **March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. *hbs Ramallah* organized various meetings with Palestinian officials and civil society representatives, among them Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. The full article about the visit can be found on our [website](#). The Green Parliamentary Group has introduced a [motion](#) (in German, will be translated) to discuss the problem of “area C” in the German Bundestag.

**Barbara Unmüßig**, co-president of the *Heinrich Böll Stiftung*, visited Palestine from **April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. She attended numerous meetings with civil society actors and conducted three field trips to Al-Walajeh and the Bethlehem area affected by the wall and settlement construction, the Jordan Valley, and the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan.

### Past Events

On **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012**, the *hbs* welcomed official representatives, partners, colleagues and friends on the occasion of the farewell of the former director **Mr. Joachim Paul** and the welcome of the new director **Dr. René Wildangel** at Leaders Hall in Al-Maysoun, Ramallah. The event featured speeches by the Co-Chairman of the German Green Party, **Mr. Cem Özdemir**, HBS Co-President **Ralf Fücks** and a presentation by our partner The Institute for Jerusalem Studies. The full article and photos of the reception are available [here](#).

On **February 5<sup>th</sup>** the “[Center for Women’s Legal Research and Counseling](#)” (CWLRC) organized a farewell and welcoming reception for the former director of *hbs*, **Joachim Paul**, and the new director, **Dr. René Wildangel**, in Gaza City. The Reception was attended by representatives of NGOs and civil society on Gaza Strip. A report on the event can be found on CWLRC’s website in [Arabic](#).

*hbs Ramallah* has launched a series of events on “[Climate Change and its Impact on Palestine](#)” in cooperation with the **Environmental Quality Authority (EQA)** and the **Goethe Institute Ramallah**. The events took place in Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron, Bethlehem and Gaza between January and June. They sought to enhance a critical debate on climate change adaptation strategies in Palestine, taking into account the local context. On **June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**, *HBS Ramallah*, in cooperation with the *Goethe Institute* and *MA’AN Development Center* has continued the series with two events in the Gaza Strip.



*hbs Ramallah* funded the second phase of the “**Palestinian Youth Communication Project**” in cooperation with MASARAT Center. MASARAT conducted a workshop in Istanbul-Turkey in April to bring together 23 young Palestinians from the West Bank and

Jerusalem, Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan to discuss. The exceptional group had three days to put together a joined plan of action to advocate their rights as Palestinians for an independent state and self determination. An account of the event can be found on MASARAT's website ([Arabic](#)).



Our Jordanian partner [AWO](#) (Arab Women Organization) conducted a workshop in Aqaba on “**Building Common Agendas for Empowerment and Strengthening Women’s Participation**” from **April 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>**, 2012 and continues a project enforcing the influence of women on the political reform process in the wake of [elections](#) in Jordan.

### Upcoming Events and Calls

Our long-term partner, the Institute of Jerusalem Studies, will conduct its [annual conference](#) on **July 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>**. The conference will focus on the “Jordan Valley and Area C” with introductory remarks by Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry.

A training workshop for [young filmmakers](#) from the Middle East on “**Story Documenting Techniques**” will take place in Cairo from **July 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>**. *hbs Ramallah* is cofounding the participation of 4 Palestinian filmmakers to this project which aims at documenting the influence of social media in the Arab Spring.

During the **second half of July** the Arab Women Organization will organize a national conference on strengthening the links between women’s NGOs and state actors in order to promote women’s rights on the decision making level.

*Heinrich Böll Stiftung Ramallah* in cooperation with [EDAMA](#) Energy Water and Environment Productivity is going to launch a series of events on **energy efficiency** in Amman, Jordan. The events will take place in **July and September** and aim to discuss energy at a larger consumers' level, efficiency at the individual level and the regulatory framework for renewable energies. More details on the events will be released soon on our website.

The **Second Regional Summer School** of the *HBS offices Ramallah, Beirut and Cairo* will take place in Amman from **September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. The Summer School will focus on the challenges climate change poses for the Arab Middle East and North African region and will tackle topics such as gender-responsiveness in adaptation strategies and the impacts of climate change on urban livelihoods. Please find the Call for Applications on our website in [English](#) and [Arabic](#).



### Ressources/ Miscellaneous

The Co-President of the *Heinrich Böll Stiftung*, Barbara Unmüßig, released an article on **“Green Economy – Magic Bullet?”** ([link](#)) that critically reflects on the concept "Green Economy". *hbs Ramallah* commissioned the Arabic translation which can be found [here](#).

A critical approach on the enclosure of the commons by Antonio Tricarico and Heike Löschmann is available in Arabic on our [website](#).

Our partner organization [MA'AN Development Center](#) has issued three editions of its **environmental online magazine** in Arabic:

- # 41: <http://www.maan-ctr.org/magazine/Archive/Issue41/index.php> (February 2012)
- # 42: <http://www.maan-ctr.org/magazine/Archive/Issue42/index.php> (March 2012)
- # 43: <http://www.maan-ctr.org/magazine/Archive/Issue43/index.php> (April 2012)

The **International Crisis Group** (ICG) has released two major reports on **“Back to Basics: Israel’s Arab Minority and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict”** and **“The Emperor Has No Clothes: Palestinians and the End of the Peace Process.”**

*hbs Ramallah* offers **internships** to students and graduates from Germany and elsewhere, for those with a strong interest in political and social development in the region and whose interests align with the *hbs* program. Our next call will be for the period from **January through March 2013**. For further information please check our [website](#).

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