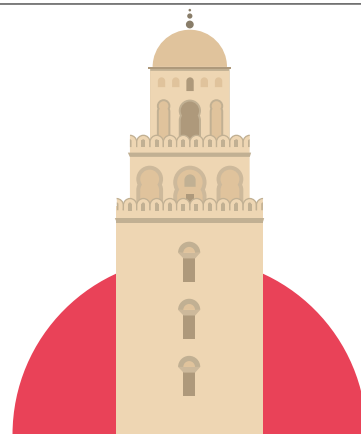


Highlights from IDEA Middle East and North Africa (MENA)



The Regional Youth Forum

In 2014, a pilot programme of the Regional Youth Forum (RYF) brought together young people, stakeholders and experts from the MENA region to rethink the future of the region through viable public policy options in the framework of debate and public policy competitions.

The theme of the first edition: Empowering MENA Youth to Rethink the Future of the Region. Participants represented eleven nationalities from ten institutions (universities or associations) present in eight countries in the MENA region.

A public panel was also included in the forum during which experts from the MENA region discussed with RYF participants and Tunisian youth present on the panel, issues on education, security, youth policy and the environment.

There were two phases to the programme:

First phase: following a highly competitive selection process, IDEA MENA organised debate and public policy training sessions for the participating institutions in their countries of residence. Following this training session, the selected participating teams drafted a policy brief on issues they had identified as affecting their communities.

Second phase: IDEA MENA organised a 5-day event in Hammamet, Tunisia, which brought together all the participating teams. Participants were able to choose between two language tracks, Arabic and English; teams in each track competed for two titles: 'best debating team' and 'best public policy proposal'.

