

**Participation Now!**  
**Citizenship Education and Democracy in Times of Change**

21-24 November 2012  
 Córdoba, Spain

## Fact Sheet

**Forum 5**  
**Citizens' involvement in local and community affairs**

	Section	Indications of content
1	<b>Title of project</b>	Citizen Bus
2	<b>Location</b>	Tunisia
3	<b>Main topics/ key words</b>	Democracy, Human rights, Elections
4	<b>Brief description of topic or project</b>	Tunisia is currently in the process of learning what Democracy is. Tunisian people want to act on their future but do not always know how to proceed, as they do not see the link that exists between the political changes being discussed and the impact they could have on their day-to- day life. That's why five Tunisian CSOs and a collective of independent people, non-partisan, decided to go all around the country to explain what democracy, human rights, elections, voting, are. They designed the "BUS CITOYEN" – Citizen Bus – project, which brings together many associations and people who were aiming to get involved in a civic project. The Citizen Bus project constituted a strong force of 150 volunteers, present in all regions who wish to continue to be active in this project and having the same values of neutrality, tolerance, understanding, sharing and vigilance.
5	<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Long-term high quality training on human rights and citizenship, will allow citizen bus to have its own network of trainers, around the country, involving all of the governorates.</li> <li>2. Short-term trainings on constitutional awareness, election processes (when needed, in touch with current affairs), will allow the citizen bus network to perform a targeted awareness measure every month to inform the Tunisian population on what is happening in the country.</li> </ol>
6	<b>Effect on relevant developments in citizenship education and human rights education concerning changing processes in democracy and citizen participation.</b>	<p>Citizen Bus, its first step, has traveled all around Tunisia, for four months, from July to October 2011 and covered 23 governorates, met 250 000 Tunisian citizens from all social categories and with diverse backgrounds, to raise awareness of the importance of their vote on the first post-revolution election date.</p> <p>This action probably helped to increase the rate of participation in elections, initially estimated last May at 30%. As a reminder, 56% of the Tunisian people went to the polls on 23 October 2011.</p>
7	<b>Target Groups</b>	Tunisian citizens

8	<b>Methods / Format</b>	Travel all around Tunisia
9	<b>Results / Evaluation / Materials</b>	<p>From this experience, and aggregating the results of interviews, tests completed by the people we reached, we learned the following lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The population is lost, disoriented, without information</li> <li>• The citizen still does not have confidence in a system that he does not know and he does not understand</li> <li>• People want neutral information and keys to understanding in the context of an information boom</li> <li>• Information is provided in a highly technical manner that can only be understood by a small portion of the educated population and thus the majority of the population is left out of this process</li> <li>• Citizens still do not trust a system that has always put them aside and that they neither know nor understand</li> <li>• A large part of the civil society feels people's voices are not being heard or that the message is being distorted and that work on the causes that led to the revolution (unemployment, regional inequalities etc.) does not seem to be on the agenda of the politics</li> <li>• Some political parties have used demagogic arguments to get elected and many are trying to divide the society into two camps</li> </ul>
10	<b>Sustainable impact of topic or project (local, regional)</b>	<p>Therefore, since last July Bus Citoyen Phase II has been training 72 young civil society volunteer activists, has performed 4 ground measures and organized one face-to-face meeting between deputies and citizens in a forgotten area of Tunis.</p> <p>The test training has been done, and the tool kit is undergoing adjustment to duplicate the trainers' training.</p>
11	<b>Contact information of presenting persons (first name, surname, postal address, name of organisation, e-mail address, phone)</b>	<p>Faiza Elleuch          Bus Citoyen          Email: faiza.elleuch@gmail.com          Phone: +216 98 35 32 67</p>