

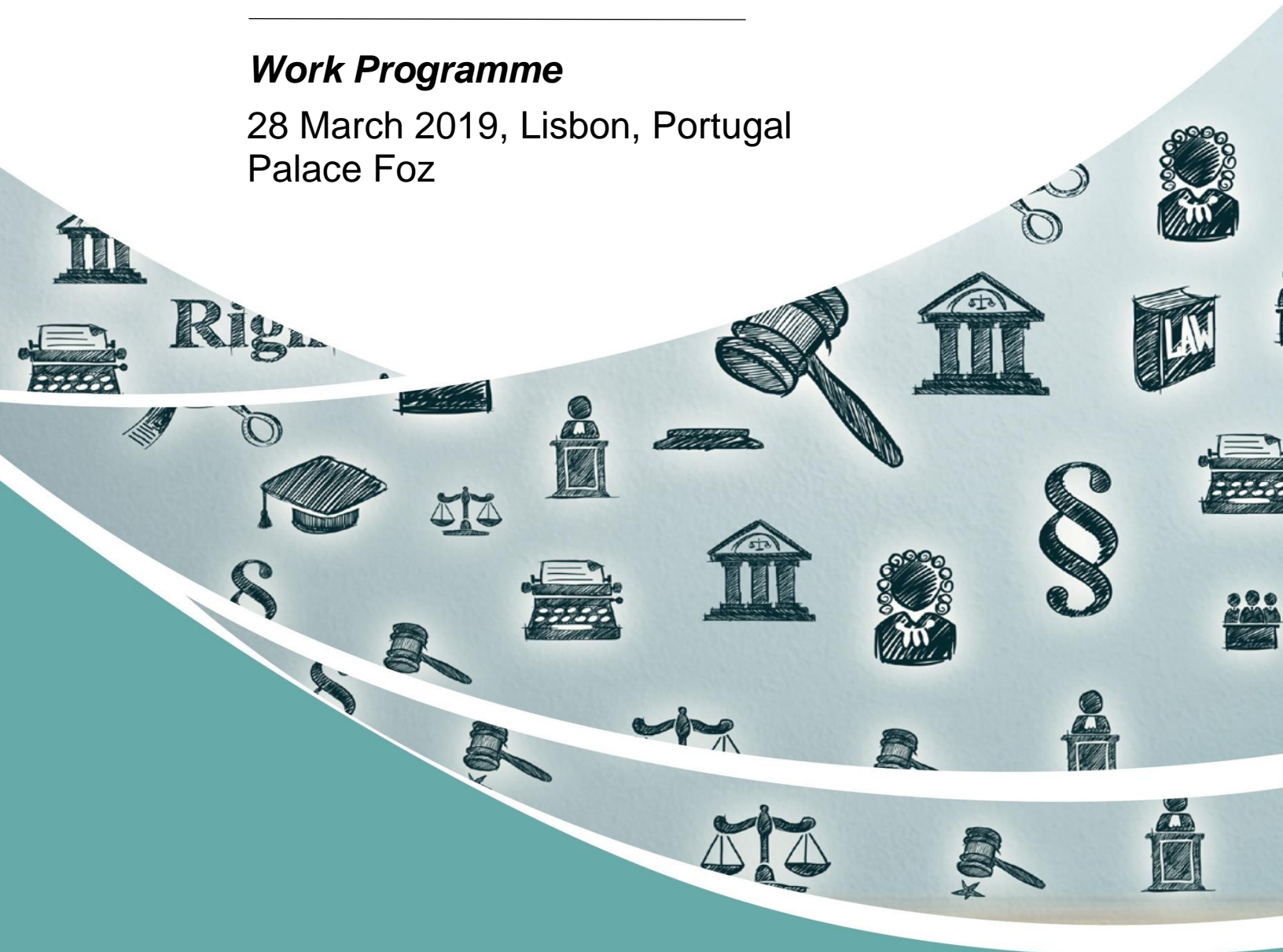


TOWARDS PEOPLE-CENTRED JUSTICE & LEGAL EMPOWERMENT in MENA COUNTRIES

With special insight on access to justice for SMEs in Tunisia

Work Programme

28 March 2019, Lisbon, Portugal
Palace Foz



MENA-OECD Working Group on Regulatory Reform and the Rule of Law

Enhancing the regulatory environment by using sound evidence, systematic consultations, regulatory tools, and regular reviews of the stock of legislation is a common priority for MENA countries. The OECD has developed a Regional Charter for Regulatory Quality (2016) providing MENA countries with a common framework of principles and good practices for regulatory management. MENA countries also benefit from the OECD Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance (2012) which supports the implementation of regulatory reform to achieve strategic public policy objectives.

The MENA-OECD Working Group on Regulatory Reform and the Rule of Law (WG IV) promotes a forum for MENA countries and international experts to exchange on good practices in regulatory reform and discuss how to ensure effective access to justice services and strengthen the rule of law.

The Working Group is part of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme - a strategic partnership between MENA and OECD countries to share knowledge and expertise, with a view to disseminating standards and principles of good governance that support the ongoing process of reform in the MENA region.

The outcomes of discussions from the Working Group IV feed into the OECD Public Governance and Regulatory Policy Committees.

Meeting Overview and Objectives

The MENA-OECD Working Group IV is holding its 2019 annual meeting entitled “***Towards People-centred Justice & Legal Empowerment in MENA countries***” on 28 March 2019, in Lisbon, Portugal. The meeting will take place within the Global OECD Policy Roundtable on Equal Access to Justice.

This year, it will benefit from special insights of the Tunisia cooperation with the OECD in the framework of the FCO UK programme.

The purpose of the meeting is to enable exchanges on the processes, tools and actors mobilised in order to improve the effectiveness and quality of laws and regulations, as well as to facilitate access to justice for all. It will bring together official representatives from MENA and OECD countries as well as international experts.

The reference documents for the discussions will be:

- OECD (forthcoming), [Legislation and Good Governance: The Role of Legislative Drafting Manuals](#)
- OECD (forthcoming), Equal Access to Justice for Inclusive Growth: Putting People at the Centre
- OECD-OSJI (2019), Legal Needs Surveys and Access to Justice
- OECD (2018), [Business Access to Justice in Latvia](#)
- OECD (2016), [Regional Charter for Regulatory Quality, MENA-OECD](#)
- OECD (2013), [Regulatory Reform in the Middle East and North Africa: Implementing Regulatory Policy Principles to Foster Inclusive Growth](#)
- OECD (2012), [Policy Recommendations of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance](#)

12:45 – 14:00	MENA-OECD Working Group IV Lunch
	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anabela Pedroso, State Secretary of Justice, Portugal; Co-chair, Annual Meeting, MENA-OECD Working Group IV • Zouheir Ben Tanfous, Legal Counsel, Presidency of Government, Tunisia; Co-chair, MENA-OECD Working Group IV • Tatyana Teplova, Head, Gender and Justice for Inclusiveness, Public Governance Directorate, OECD <p>Photo & Coffee</p>
14:00 – 16:00	MENA-OECD Working Group IV – Open discussion
	<p>Moderated by co-chairs of the MENA-OECD Working Group IV : Tunisia and Portugal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better regulation and access to justice through plain language, access to information and legal empowerment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mohamed Abazaid, Deputy President, Court of Cassation; Legal Counsellor, Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administration Reform, Egypt – Sécolène Pasquier, Deputy Chief, Access to Law Office, Ministry of Justice, France • Access to justice for vulnerable groups in the MENA region, including women, youth and children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Abderafi Erouihane, Director, Studies, Cooperation and Modernisation, Ministry of Justice, Morocco – Heiða Björg Pálmadóttir, Director General, Government Agency for Child Protection, Iceland • Digital justice – bringing justice closer to the people through the use of technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Abdulla Al-Majid, Undersecretary, Ministry of Justice, UAE – Hugo Nunes, Adviser, State Secretary Cabinet, Portugal • Legal empowerment and access to justice for business, including small and medium enterprises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lotfi Khaldi, Secretary General, Supreme Administrative Court, Tunisia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Anna Skrjabina, Project Leader, Justice for Growth, Court Administration Latvia
16:00 – 16:30	Conclusions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charlotte Denise-Adam, Policy Analyst and Project Co-ordinator, OECD & Chloe Lelievre, Policy Analyst and Programme Lead, Access to Justice, Public Governance Directorate, OECD• Zouheir Ben Tanfous, Legal Counsel, Presidency of Government, Tunisia; Co-chair, MENA-OECD Working Group IV• Hugo Nunes, Adviser, State Secretary Cabinet, Portugal; Co-chair, Annual Meeting, MENA-OECD Working Group IV



The OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international body that promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It is made up of 36 member countries, a secretariat in Paris, and a committee, drawn from experts from government and other fields, for each work area covered by the Organisation. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. We collaborate with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change. We measure productivity and global flows of trade and investment.

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme is a strategic partnership between MENA and OECD countries to share knowledge and expertise, with a view of disseminating standards and principles of good governance that support the ongoing process of reform in the MENA region. The Programme strengthens collaboration with the most relevant multilateral initiatives currently underway in the region. In particular, the Programme supports the implementation of the G7 Deauville Partnership and assists governments in meeting the eligibility criteria to become a member of the Open Government Partnership. Through these initiatives, the Programme acts as a leading advocate of managing ongoing public governance reforms in the MENA region. The Programme provides a sustainable structure for regional policy dialogue as well as for country specific projects. These projects correspond to the commitment of MENA governments to implement public sector reforms in view of unlocking social and economic development and of meeting citizens' growing expectations in terms of quality services, inclusive policymaking and transparency.



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