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Our Partners

Introduction Global Project Partners





This year's annual report is not only intended to celebrate the work of the year 2021. It is a special edition for a special milestone: Global Project Partners is celebrating its 20^{th} anniversary.

To honor these two decades of activity, this edition will highlight the most important accomplishments achieved by GPP and the impact of partnerships and projects built over the course of the past 20 years.



More than 20 years have passed since Global Project Partners e.V. (GPP) was founded at the House of German Business in Berlin.

I still remember the day the 7 founders went to the notary to sign the papers of founding GPP.

The idea behind GPP was to establish an innovative and agile non-profit organization that connects the German business association stakeholders with counterparts in the MENA region.

This simple idea resulted in more than 170 projects which have been implemented in the MENA region, Central and Eastern Europe and Africa in the last 20 years.

Out of these projects which focused on three main pillars: Women's Empowerment, Vocational Training, and Social Innovation two networks have emerged: Women in Business and the Digital Arabia Network.

GPP started supporting businesswomen associations in the MENA region since its establishment in 2001. Together with Germany's biggest business women association (Verband Deutscher Unternehmerinnen), the network Women in Business (WiB) emerged in 2016 connecting more than 3500 businesswomen across the MENA region and Germany.



WiB is expanding its activities to Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire in 2023. In 2017, GPP launched its second network Digital Arabia Network (DAN) which is connecting the digital community in the MENA region and Europe across five different spheres.

We are thankful for what we have achieved over the past 20 years and we will continue being agile and innovative in designing and implementing our projects to create an impact and support our networks and partners worldwide.

Bassant Helmi Co-Founder of GPP









Stronger Together: The Voices of A Community

GPP roots its mission in building strategic partnerships with key stakeholders to join forces and create movements that support the achievement of the project objectives. Specifically, Global Project Partners (GPP) has been working together with VdU for six years to strengthen women-led businesses in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa).

"The WiB network is a success story of cooperation between the VdU and four female entrepreneur associations in the MENA region. More than 2000 female entrepreneurs are already part of the network there. We have developed many offline and online formats in recent years. In the process, VdU members have acted as trainers, speakers and moderators. The Businesswomen of Egypt 21 conference, which takes place annually in Egypt, has become the largest network event for our partner associations. "

Bassant Helmi Co-Founder of GPP







Interview with **Prof. Dr. Dr. Ayad Al-Ani**Associated Member

Einstein Center Digital Future, Berlin

EINSTEIN CENTER
Digital Future

What impact do you think DAN has achieved over the past years?

I think it's fair to say that DAN was one of the first actors to endeavor the impact of digital transformation in the different realms of Arab societies. A unique feature of DAN was that it tried to look beyond the phenomena of start-ups and connect the separate discussions in the region with relevant research and policies in Germany. Thus, it can be claimed that DAN played some role in the rapid raising of awareness in the Arab world when it comes to the options and risks of digitization. With the support of the German Foreign Office - for example - a novel series of conferences and workshops were conducted in different countries hosting government officials, groups of civil society and interested actors also discussing "difficult" topics like participation, digital sovereignty, the role of the government and fake news. With the annual digital conference - Rakameya - the rising debate in the region was given a new platform and further areas of digitization like culture, female entrepreneurship and smart cities were included and new levels of community building were achieved.

What do you hope to achieve in the future and what are key focus areas you think will be relevant

The last few years witnessed a rapid growth of impressive and notable digital skills, strategies and initiatives in the Arab world. I think the next steps could entail a pragmatic platform for Arab digital actors that share similar challenges and goals. Also, as lives in Europe will get more difficult due to the energy transformation ahead, it makes sense to build on the experiences of Arab digital entrepreneurs as these were successful in a difficult political and economic climate and could now serve the West with interesting cases of resilience and transformation. In a sense, digitization has leveled the field to some extent and the Arab experience is attaining more interest especially as both regions have to work together to find ways to slow down the effects of climate change and find solutions to related matters such as migration and employment.

Elizabeth Lehinch Member of the National Board of Verband deutscher Unternehmerinnen e.V.



"Everything happens for a reason.
That reason causes change."

The fact that GPP and the Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Germany (VdU e.V.) had their offices in the same building back in 2002 was not an accidental encounter, it was destiny.

Twenty years later we proudly take note of the profound impact that this value-oriented and reliable collaboration between GPP and VdU has achieved in the form of effective and sustainable learning and exchange platforms to promote, support and nurture female entrepreneurship in the MENA region.

There is no doubt: GPP and VdU are the best partners imaginable to continue this journey together, expanding the Women in Business network to Africa and I am so proud to have the opportunity to work together with the fantastic GPP team, who are driven by their principles of promoting female entrepreneurship enabling present and future generations of women to lead secure and autonomous lives.





Building Connections With Impact: Our dynamic networks



The "Digital Arabia Network" was created in response to the challenges of digitalization. DAN is a lab for the digital future of the Arab world, which extends from the MENA region to the European diaspora. As an online and offline platform, DAN connects all the creative and digital innovators who contribute to making our lives a little bit easier, fairer and better.





DAN's activity focuses on hosting events aiming to bring together members from the professional network across the MENA region and create a space for them to meet, exchange and work together around the topics of technology, digitization, digital innovation and community building.

The goals of the Digital Arabia Network since 2017 have been evolving to respond to the modern challenges in the MENA Region and around the topics of digital innovation.

Some of the goals of DAN's network include amplifying, spotlighting and accelerating the process of the digitization process in the MENA region; Highlighting and advocating for the advantages and the potential of technology and digital transformation around the world and across the MENA region, and building and strengthening community values around the digital transformation and across the MENA region;

Amongst others, education, community building and knowledge sharing were key priorities in the work of DAN. The work accomplished centered around facilitating knowledge, spreading information, and offering insights and updates from the industries related to the 5 DAN's spheres; The Network has put a dedicated effort to let members meet, connect, network, engineer community connections, bring together partner organizations, and people from the network.

Women in Business

"Empowering female entrepreneurs and connecting them is more than just a job or a project for me: it is a passion."

Bassant Helmi

Solidarity, mutual support and growth through community are the foundational principles that led the creation of the Women in Business Network.

GPP's CEO, Bassant Helmi, valued the potential and changemaking power of empowering women in entrepreneurship and she acted upon this vision throughout the time at GPP.

After witnessing the first attempts by women entrepreneurs to organize themselves in Egypt in the 1990s, she continued to support the founding of women entrepreneurs' associations to strengthen the process.

This is how Women in Business was formed.

Women in Business was born from a successful partnership: The Association of German Women Entrepreneurs (VdU) and Global Project Partners (GPP), together with women's business associations in the MENA region, came together to launch the Women in Business cooperation project and worked in synchrony to support (prospective) women entrepreneurs from the MENA region with expertise and a strong network in fulfilling their potential.

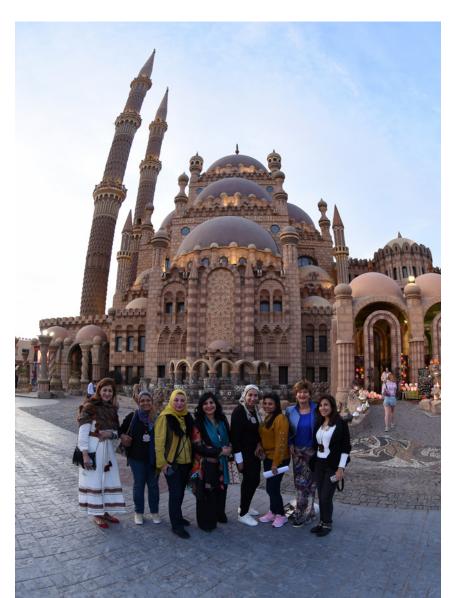
The network offers women entrepreneurs, self-employed women and those interested in founding their own businesses the unique opportunity to network with each other and with mentors, associations from the region and partners from the business world, to exchange experiences, to develop competencies and business contacts and thus to create lasting economic perspectives and equal opportunities.



Women in Business

Women in Business has worked on a series of important programs over the past years.

The **WIB CONFERENCE** took place in the years 2018, 2019 and 2020. The goal was to highlight important sectoral developments, identify rising business opportunities, discuss solutions to common challenges, share success stories and best practices, and create new B2B opportunities for businesswomen across the region.





The **DIGITAL WIB**, the first Digital Transformation Accelerator for Women-led SMEs in the MENA Region, a personalized support program to enable Women-led SMEs in the Mena region to accelerate their growth by leveraging digital transformation.

The **SKILLS WIB**, a capacity-building program on NGO Management dedicated to the permanent staff of our partner associations. The modules covered in the program are Strategic Planning, Project Management and Monitoring

The **CREATIVE WIB**, a program of three workshops help women in the MENA Region step into the creative industry and tackle the subjects of changing face of retail, the success of local products and their future abroad and sustainability, which will make you familiar with the export potential of your products to Germany.

and Evaluation.



Project Highlights from the past two years



TAMEB

TAMEB, the handicraft skills qualification program, continued to support Syrian refugees and Turkish women residing in Istanbul in gaining a better livelihood and professional opportunities.

Despite the pandemic impacting some of the original planning throughout 2021, the second phase of the Tameb project was initiated and moved forward in continuation with the initial phase started in April 2016 through October 2019.

The TAMEB project ("German-Turkish Partnership for Vocational Education") is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via sequa gGmbH and implemented locally to-

gether with the Turkish NGO STL Global (Toplumsal Dönüşüm Yaşam ve Kalkınma Derneği) with the aim of supporting Turkish women, and Syrian refugee women in Turkey to leverage their professional path by learning handicraft skills.

The project scope centered around demand-oriented vocational qualification courses like tailoring training, that were certified according to Turkish standards and developed in cooperation with the German partner.

These courses have been successfully offered by Turkish partners, who have provided their skills and capacities to the project participants both in online and offline formats.











MEB fullytrainedperson



A total of 594 women participated in the training between 2019 and 2021.

Although the pandemic forced the project to adjust some of its original plan and format (part of the project was delivered online), it succeed to stay on track beyond the challenges of switching to the e-learning model.

The basic practical training was offered in smaller groups in the center (offline) once the covid-19 situation allowed for it. Both modules (online and offline) were combined in a flexible way according to the pandemic situation in Ankara.

The women participating in the project were equipped with various types of training support, including job readiness modules and educational materials that they could retain as a foundation for the future development of their ambitions and skills.

Although the pandemic hindered participants' job placement at the conclusion of the project, we consider TAMEB to be a powerful experience for the women who were part of it and their possibility to face the world of work with competitive competencies and in-demand skills.

















RAKAMEYA

2020: 12 Sessions, 40 Speakers, 500 Participants 2021: 80 Speakers, 23 Sessions, 890 participants

We have hosted two editions of Rakameya, the first conference for digital transformation in the MENA Region.

The digital transformation of our societies is already here and will continue to cross-cut every aspect of our lives.

Today, with the onset of a global pandemic disrupting the world as we knew it before, digital transformation is taking on an even more prominent role. DAN understands digital transformation as a reality that needs to be tackled collectively.

Along with this vision, DAN has been hosting two seconds of Rakameya in May 2020 and June 2021.

In particular, the second edition of the conference consisted of 50% community-led sessions from the suggestions submitted and short-listed through an open call for proposals.

The format of Rakameya 2021 aimed to remind that the engagement of multiple and diverse stakeholders is key for leading transformation through a collective, inclusive and participatory manner and towards a global effort to come up with new solutions for digital and social innovation.

In this sense, the conference hosted a call for all professionals and enthusiasts from the MENA region active in the digital transformation field who are interested in participating in the conversation and examining the impact of the digitization process across DAN's different spheres: Arts & Culture, Business & the Future of Work, Civic Participation & Smart Cities, Gender Equality and Inclusion and Online Media & Journalism. and through different formats.

Rakameya 2021 wanted to investigate in particular what role digital transformation takes in shaping the future across the MENA region, in an era marked by a pandemic and the urgent need to respond to new societal, cultural and economic challenges.

New Futures was the overarching theme of the three days, bringing together the most diverse voices of experts and enthusiasts in the field of digital transformation in and from the MENA region.

We invited all individuals, companies and enthusiasts from the field to be part of Rakameya's three days of exploration, open dialogues and networking space towards a collective, intersectional contribution to the process of digital transformation.

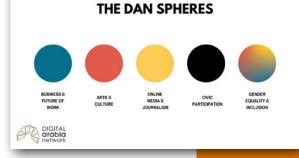
The first Campaign on Cybercrime against Women in Egypt was presented during Rakameya

DAN in cooperation with Sal@mat MENA started an impactful collaboration in 2021 to tackle cybercrimes against women and girls in the MENA region. Both partners have dedicated a session at Rakameya in 2021 to this rising phenomenon. The success of the session resulted in the commitment to joining forces and onboarding new partners to raise awareness and contribute to fighting this ugly phenomenon which resulted in different cases having the victims commit suicide.



June 15-17

#RKM21



DINA ABOUGHAZALA **EGAB**





RE-THINK MENA

June 15-17



OPENING SESSION: THE CHANGEMAKERS - STARTUPS IN THE MENA REGION

June 15-17







ABDELAZIZ **TALEB**



AMEL SAIDANE

LINA **BEHRENS**

KAREEM AL ZORKANI



ANDREAS



THE STATUS OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN DZ-

EG-TN June 15-17





AMEL SAIDANE



ISMAIL CHAIB



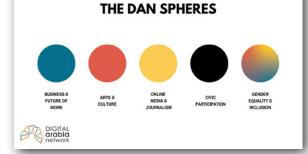
RANIA REDA





June 15-17







DR. HANAN

BADR





SAOUSSEN

BEN CHEIKH



IBRAHIM





UNCONFERNCING

DR. LINA YASSIN

NTIST AND COACH

June 15-17





WE NEED MORE (!): THE PLATFORM **ECONOMY IN THE ARAB WORLD**

June 15-17

DIGITAL **arabia** network













CYNTHIA ABOUKHATER

AHMED **TANTASH**



NO WOMAN IS SAFE: ONLINE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN MENA

June 15-17















MERYAM SOUALHIA

FERIAL **MENOUAR**

ALI

NUHA

DR. RAED SHARIF







BASSANT HELMI





Alexandra Kinias Founder and CEO Women of Egypt Initiative/Network

The reality of Cybercrime

The emergence of digital technologies has provided various opportunities for women and girls to exploit their capabilities, improve their quality of life or contribute to the welfare of society. Above all, the internet offers new possibilities for networking and participative democracy. According to the UN, one of the positive developments of recent years is that the internet user gender gap worldwide has decreased. In post-Soviet countries, the gender gap dropped from 7,5% in 2013 to 3,6% in 2019. More women and girls enter the digital sphere for (self) education, job opportunities, or promotion of their businesses as well as for their political agenda and for public advocacy.

Testimonial from our partner

"We are privileged to have been cooperating with Global Projects Partners (GPP) in the past several years in Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality issues that are life-changing for women in the MENA region, especially in Egypt.

We share similar visions and goals and are honored to have been working together on joint campaigns such as the recent and very successful campaign on cyber crimes against women. We look forward to continuing our work with GPP towards the goal of living in a world where women are safe and empowered."

Partnership At Eye Level Partnership At Eye Level





Key Partnerships & Programs

Women Empowerment

SheMadeIT Africa

SheMadeIT is an event concept that was developed by Women in Business Network (WiB) targeting STEM female students who are in their final year at university.

SheMadeIT AFRICA is a series of workshops organized by the Association of German Women Entrepreneurs (VdU), Global Project Partners (GPP), Women in Business Network (WiB) and Digital Skills Accelerator Africa (DSAA). The target group is female STEM Students at Universities in Tunisia, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Ghana and Rwanda, Female DSAA Trainees, Young STEM graduates and local institutions supporting young women in finding decent jobs and enhancing their digital skills. The overall objective of the event is to offer guidance, inspiration and networking opportunities for STEM female students who are about to finish their studies as well as female DSAA trainees to establish their own businesses or enhance their chances of employability. The online program run in November 2021 was attended by more than 240 participants and included inspirational stories, a workshop on Why Networks and Mentoring Programs Matter, a workshop on How to establish your own company or startup, and the last workshop to meet your potential employer. All sessions were run in French and English.



Confernence Speakers







































CONSULTANT AT DSAA

















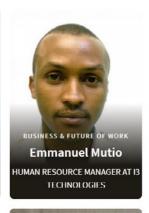






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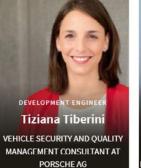
















Women Empowerment



Female Micro-Entrepreneurship in rural areas in Egypt

The project supported 41 women in disadvantaged regions in Upper Egypt (Menia, Assiut) and Greater Cairo (Banha) to gain skills and generate sustainable income as micro-entrepreneurs.

The project measures were implemented in Egypt in cooperation with the Egyptian NGO "Nahdet El Mahroussa" (NM). The project which ran from July-December 2021 was financed by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Nord-Sued-Brücken, Berlin.



Vocational Training





Ukrainian Construction Sector (2020-2021)

The main aim of the project was to improve vocational qualifications in the field of construction in Ukraine.

To achieve this goal, GPP together with its German and Ukrainian partners conducted Train-the-Trainer courses on drywall construction and masonry construction with a focus on methodology and didactic for 180 Ukrainian teachers from vocational institutions. The project was conducted in close cooperation with AHK Ukraine and Handwerksbildungszentrum Brackwede Fachbereich Bau e.V. The project was supported by the Federal Foreign Office.



Social Innovation

#Hackyourfuture Ukraine (2020)

The project was implemented in the framework of the Federal Foreign Office's Eastern Partnership Programme and focused on youth and civil society organizations from rural Western Ukraine.

The aim of the project was to give perspectives to the youth by closing the trust gap with the help of digital advocacy of civil society organizations from rural Western Ukraine. GPP and Institute for Regional Development (IRD) from Ukraine conducted online trainings on digital advocacy to strengthen the capacity building of civil society organizations from the regions to engage Ukrainian youth in search for solutions to political and social issues of their local communities. Over 25 representatives of CSOs accomplished online courses. 13 teams of Ukrainian students took part in the hackathon. Over 130 participants took part in a Digital Festival discussing the acceleration of the digital transformation of Ukraine.















Dawaj Zminy Ukraine (2018-2020)

Together with the Ukrainian NGO "Open Space" Global Project Partners e.V. developed the program "Dawaj Sminy!".

Ukrainian for "Let us change", to support young Ukrainians from the south and east of the country in translating their socio-political concerns into political or social initiatives in their home villages and small towns. In a series of workshops on "public advocacy", the Dawaj Sminy! fellows were given the necessary knowledge, skills and contacts that they need in order to make a profitable contribution to their social or

socio-political concerns. Along with practical tasks, which the participants had to fulfill between the individual workshops, they developed socio-political or social initiatives from their concerns, which they jointly realized in the course of the project. 114 Ukrainians participated in the project while implementing 45 initiatives throughout the whole country. 24 participants traveled to Germany to gain new knowledge and experience from their German counterparts. The project was financially supported by the Federal Foreign Office in the framework of the Eastern Partnership Programme.















Testimonials



Safa Ghnaim Associate Director of Project at Tactical Tech

Safa Ghnaim is leading global projects for digital rights defense and democratizing resources to preserve the right of privacy for all.

"Actually being a part of DAN has already given me new opportunities. I was personally invited to join a conference by a Palestinian university in June, and they found me on the DAN website. Through attending that conference, I made so many new professional and personal contacts and was inspired to start many new projects. Thank you for that!"

"DAN is a unique community bringing together digital transformation practitioners for the greater good of the MENA region. It is an incredible opportunity to share our expertise / give back to the region as well as learn from peers, and hone our skills."



Ismail Chaib General Manager at Yassir

Ismail CHAIB, recognized Open Banking and Open Finance practitioner with +9 years of experience in the domain who is passionate about FinTech, Open Banking, and Financial Inclusion. Testimonials

Dr. Lina Yassin Neuroscientist, Agile Coach & Founder of NUMO

Dr. Lina Yassin, Neuroscientist, Agile Coach & Founder of NUMO, also identifying as a multi-spectrum professional including a Scientist, an Artist, and an Agent for Change.

"Digital Arabia Network has offered me a space to continue growing, exploring, and connecting. What started as," Oh! where do I meet like-minded people? Who are the digital actors at MENA? What does the Arabic Digital ecosystem look like? How can I, in the diaspora, still connect and collaborate with peers from the MENA region? Today, as an active member of DAN, I am happy to invite others to join us in the journey of digitally transforming the Arab region and putting #Growth first. Thanks for this amazing opportunity my dear friend Bassant"









Conclusion Global Project Partners









To the next 20 Years





In 2021, GPP celebrated its 20th anniversary. So where is the journey headed in the next 20 years?

The focus areas that have emerged since the association was founded will definitely stay with us: Women's Empowerment, Vocational Training, and Social Innovation.

Who would have thought that today we would be talking of a feminist foreign policy or of a feminist development policy.

In the coming years, our projects will continue to focus on the topic of gender equality. This will be our internal roadmap. With our networks

we want to tackle the problem of the gender digital divide or support women in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire to use their potential. We are curious about new countries. And we are curious who will strengthen our networks in the coming years.

To the next 20!

Martina Ziebell Member of the Board



Facts & Figures

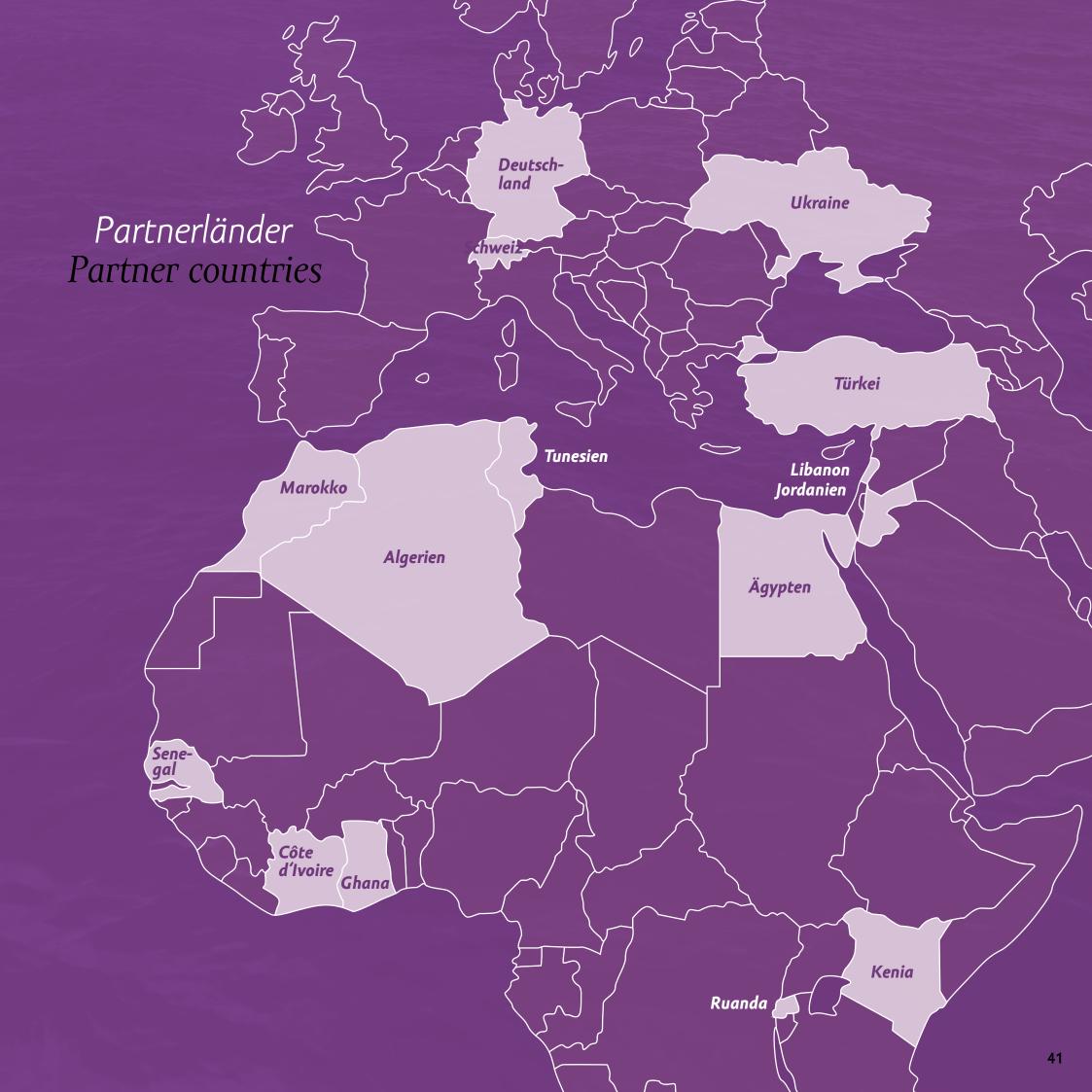
Projects

Themenfelder Topics

Soziale Innovation Social Innovation

Ermächtigung von Frauen Women Empowerment Berufliche Bildung Vocational Education

Partnerorganisationen Partner organizations







Digital Arabia Network
Berlin



German Society for International Cooperation



Lebanese League for Women in Business Beirut



Digital Skills Accelerator
Africa



Nahdet El Mahrousa Cairo – Egypt





IRD - Institute for Regional Development
Ukraine

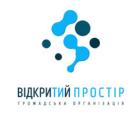


Tunisian**Startups**.

Tunisian Startups
Tunisia



German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce
Ukraine



Vidkrytyj Prostir (Open Space) Ukraine



Harmoni Turkey



Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Berlin



Savoir Et Vouloir Entreprendre Algiers



Federal Foreign Office Berlin



Women in Business Algeria - Egypt - Germany - Lebanon - Tunisia



Business Women of Egypt 21 Cairo – Egypt



betacube Tunisia



IMPACT Morocco



SheMadeIT Africa



Rakameya Mena Region



sequa gGmbH Bonn



German-Turkish Partnership for Vocational Skills Development



Douar Tech Morocco



Verband deutscher Unternehmerinnen Berlin



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