

## A perspective for young Tunisians and the new democracy – strengthening civil engagement in Kairouan

### Context

After the Tunisian revolution in 2011 and the beginning of the democratic transition of the country, civil society organisations started to take on a more visible and active role in the development of the country. The aim of the political transition to build a **stable, decentralised and thriving democracy** depends on a civil competent in their engagement in and contribution to the countries improved governance. As a growing number of young Tunisians becomes disenchanted with the transition process, and more and more join radical forces, this **need for a strong civil society that has meaningful impact for change** is steadily gaining in urgency.

**We love Kairouan (WLK)** is a civil society organisation of young, engaged people, founded after the revolution in 2012 in Kairouan, in the centre of Tunisia. It **encourages engagement in civil society matters** in the city and its wider region, especially in issues such as **environment, local**



**identity and culture** (more information [here](#)).



While WLK has a core group of dedicated members, the sustainable engagement of other youths in their activities or the organisation continues to be a challenge. What is more, the conceptualisation and implementation of the activities in a collaborative and, most importantly, a sustainable way that leads to clear impact, is a frequent issue.

### Overview of the project

We love Kairouan and the Collective Leadership Institute (CLI) are working together to improve the impact of WLK's activities, and to contribute to the development of a local identity in Kairouan. The objective is to **develop together an initiative that has a perspective for sustainable impact, improves local Good Governance and thereby strengthens local youth's engagement**. Via CLI's integrated capacity building, WLK and CLI will launch the development of the initiative.

The capacity building is based on CLI's two key approaches, the [Dialogic Change Model](#) and the [Compass for Collective Leadership](#). Together with key members of WLK, **areas for activities will be selected that target change in a key area of local governance**, such as environment, renewable energies or water management. The training will focus on developing new activities in an **inclusive and impact-oriented way**, with particular attention to **engaging a larger group of young people**. The participants develop essential competencies to **become change agents in the spirit of Collective Leadership**. Another focus will be on the creation of Collective Intelligence and ownership via the application of CLI's approaches.

Following this initial development of the initiatives integrated in a capacity building workshop, CLI and WLK will continue to **collaborate for the process to implement the activities** in an impact-oriented way.

## Activities :

### Preparation mission (end of March 2017):

To explore the context and to plan the capacity building workshop together, CLI and WLK met for a week of informative exchanges and planning sessions at the end of March 2017. The subject areas – environment and social development – as well as the participants and the balance of CLI’s approaches of the Dialogic Change Model and the Collective Leadership Compass were chosen.



### Capacity building workshop for key members of WLK (early May 2017):

The training of WLK members in strategic engagement and collaboration methods, with focus on the Dialogic Change Model, took place at the beginning of May 2017. Four concrete activities for local identity development, among them activities to promote the social, economic and cultural value of a historic city district, were developed. The workshop was based on CLI’s proven format of [tailor-made trainings](#).



**Exploratory workshop of WLK and Kairouan's key stakeholders (planned: October 2017):**

As a first step for the implementation of the four ideas for concrete activities, a local frame of strategic collaboration on equal terms between Kairouan's civil society and its key stakeholders in governance and development has been agreed. Together with CLI, WLK will engage key stakeholders in governance and development in order to realise a first exploratory workshop on concrete ideas for such strategic collaboration, an approach that is inspired by municipal youth councils in Germany. This frame will act as a catalyser to realise WLK's activities with sustainable impact, and offers youth in the region a perspective for effective engagement, and for making a difference for Kairouan's and Tunisia's democratic future.

A collaborative project between [We Love Kairouan](#) and the [Collective Leadership Institute](#), February to December 2017.

Supported by the ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) with funds from the German Federal Foreign Office.



Federal Foreign Office