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### European Union and DW Akademie launch project to support free and independent Libyan media

Today the Delegation of the European Union, Deutsche Welle Akademie and Libyan officials launched a new project aiming to support Libyan people's right to access independent and accurate information through free and independent media, during a kick-off event in Tunis.

During the event DW Akademie presented the official website of the project (<http://www.mediainlibya.com/>) on which Libyan journalists can apply for trainings and be updated for all project activities. An exhibition of the photo contest "[Ramadan 2018](#)", organised by DW Akademie and the EU Delegation was opened to the public. The competition focused on the diversity of Libyan culture. A professional jury chaired by renowned Libyan artist Reem Hagheg selected the eight winners out of more than 300 photos from all parts of Libya.

In his opening speech, the Head of European Union Delegation to Libya, Ambassador Alan Bugeja emphasized, *"Independent media – that people can trust - is crucial for our societies. Conveying information to the public in an objective manner, away from ideological or political divides, is a great service to the people. It brings in logic and moderation, an element much needed for political stability and democratic life. Media freedom is not only a key element of a democratic society; it also impacts significantly the image of a country on the world stage. EU supports the efforts of Libyan journalists, foreign journalists and Libyan institutions to improve the governance and the quality of the media landscape in Libya, emphasizing on our values for freedom of speech and expression"*.

*"We strongly believe that a well functioning media sector, quality journalism and well informed citizens are essential for sustainable political, social and economic development. We include all social groups and place a special emphasis on ethnic minorities, women and young people"*, stressed Natascha Schwanke, Head Africa of DW Akademie, during the kick-off event.

Jalal Othman, Head of the Media Department at the Presidential Council stressed, *"It is very important to invest in media development, especially in a country like Libya, where the problems are mainly caused by the media who fuel the conflict. The real drivers of the ongoing divisions are extremists who pervaded media platforms"*.

#### Background

The aim of the EU-funded project "Media Development in Libya" is to support the role of free and independent media in Libya's transformation process. The project will provide training for journalists and other media professionals from all regions of Libya. It will also offer training and technical assistance to relevant Libyan institutions, thereby promoting the production of quality journalism – by Libyans for Libyans.

#### About DW Akademie

DW Akademie is Germany's leading organisation for international media development. We support the development of independent, transparent media systems, quality journalism and media expertise. We help rebuild media in post-crisis and post-conflict environments and contribute internationally to the professional training of media workers.

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