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Annex I

Partners of the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship (2017)

➢ AI new partners

During the year 2017, the AI has successfully established new partnerships with diverse research centers, universities and civil society organizations from various Arab countries, and even internationally. Through these partnerships, the AI aims to increase its visibility, whether regionally or internationally. In the below list, we are included some of the most important new partnerships for the AI:

- **The United Nations Development Program (UNDP)- Beirut Office**
- **The United Nations Development Program (UNDP)- Amman Regional Office**
- **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was established on 9 August 1973 pursuant to Economic and Social Council's resolution 1818 (LV). Its purpose was to stimulate economic activity in member countries, strengthen cooperation between them promote development. It was subsequently renamed the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in recognition of the social component of its work.

- **Université de Lausanne (UNIL, Swizerland)**

Founded in 1537 as a school of theology, the University of Lausanne is home to just under 15,000 students. The UNIL offers a vast range of courses in both the human and natural sciences. Following the Bologna recommendations, main university studies are at two levels: first, a three-year Bachelor degree course, followed by three to four semesters leading to a Master's degree, either by specializing in a specific domain, or by undertaking interdisciplinary studies.

- **Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium)**

The Catholic University of Louvain is Belgium's largest French-speaking university. The university was founded in 1425 as Belgium's first university.

- **Université Saint-Gallen (Switzerland)**

As a leading business university, St. Gallen University sets global standards for research and teaching by promoting integrative thought, responsible action and an entrepreneurial spirit of innovation in business and society. Located in St. Gallen, Switzerland, it has more than 8,300 students and specializes in business administration.

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- **Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)**

Since its first years, the UAB strived to set the foundations for a university model based on the respect for the basic principles of autonomy, participation and social commitment. This model unfortunately did not receive support from the then authoritarian dictatorship of Francisco Franco, who in 1973 suspended the university's statutes and relieved Rector Villar Palasí of his position. Nevertheless, the convictions with which the UAB began to take its first steps explain the drafting of the **Bellaterra Manifest** in 1975, the first document to vindicate an autonomous, democratic and socially responsible university.
Though still a little under 50 years old, **the UAB has already consolidated itself amongst the 200 best universities in the world within the main university rankings** and is located within the top 10 new universities with greatest international projection and prestige.

- **Akhawayn University (Morocco)**

Founded in 1993 by Royal Dahir (decree), Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane opened its doors to students in January 1995. Based on the principles of diversity and an international outlook, the university's mission is driven by values of human solidarity and tolerance. Al Akhawayn has modeled its administrative, pedagogical, and academic organization on the American university system, and English is the language of instruction. Still in its infancy, the university has already developed a national and international reputation for its unique identity and potential.

- **London School of Economics (LSE, UK)**

The London School of Economics is one of the world's leading social science universities. Founded in 1895, it aims for the betterment of society and, as reflected by its Latin motto, to understand the causes of things. It houses more than 10,000 students and 25 academic departments.

- **Denver University (USA)**

The University of Denver is a private institution built on exploration through research and collaboration among educators, students, and local and global communities. With nationally recognized academic programs, a history of widespread influence, a forward-looking vision for a 21st century education and a deep commitment to promoting inclusion, it aims to open a world of opportunity to students and empower its graduates to make a difference around the world.

- **Université Saint- Joseph (Beirut, Lebanon)**

For over 160 years, Saint Joseph's University has been engaging men and women in a rigorous Jesuit education that empowers them to become leaders in their industries and communities. An expansive liberal arts curriculum that serves as a foundation for all students, combined with programs tailored to meet the needs of complex and evolving fields prepare students for all of their post-graduate pursuits.

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- **Carnegie Middle East Center (Beirut Office)**

The Carnegie Middle East Center is an independent policy research institute based in Beirut, Lebanon, and part of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The center provides in-depth analysis of the political, socioeconomic, and security issues facing the Middle East and North Africa. It draws its scholarship from a pool of top regional experts, working in collaboration with Carnegie's other research centers in Beijing, Brussels, Moscow, New Delhi, and Washington

The center aims to impact policymakers and major stakeholders by offering fresh insight and ideas that cultivate a deeper understanding of the region and by developing new approaches to the challenges of countries in transition.

An advisory council comprised of distinguished national and international leaders from the policy, business, expert, and civil society sectors of countries across the Middle East provides the center with advice and support.

- **The Arab Digital Expression Foundation (ADEF, Egypt)**

It is based in Cairo. Since it started in 2005, ADEF is a regional platform for youth from the Arab region to use digital tools and new media to express themselves in an open and constructive environment. ADEF organizes a set of programs and projects revolving around the use of open-source based Information and Communication Technologies and the belief in self-expression and knowledge sharing, targeting both young professionals and youngsters. ADEF creates experiences that enhance self-exploration, creative self-expression and critical thinking for youth in the region. ADEF's work ranges from policy advocacy to on-the-ground implementation through various programs including: Alternative Media Knowledge Production and Management, Digital Empowerment, Learning and Education, Arts and Culture. All through a main headline advocating open culture and right to access to information and free expression. As a result, ADEF has become a space that incubates on-going deep discussions about art, education, identity, history, memory and politics.

- **Strategic Partnership Initiative (SPI, AUB)**

Established in September 2016, the Strategic Partnership Initiative at the AUB aims at consolidating and enhancing communication between units within AUB who are involved in community service and civic engagement, as well as building relationships with outside agencies. The Strategic Partnership Initiative is about nurturing all kinds of partnerships—with the private sector, with the public sector, and with NGOs—in order to achieve worthwhile outcomes for the students, for the faculty, and for the community.

- **City Debates (AUB, Lebanon)**

City Debates is a yearly conference organized by the Masters in Urban Planning & Policy and Masters in Urban Design Programs at the American University of Beirut. Started in 2002, City Debates brings together professionals, academics, and students from Beirut and beyond to explore issues of contemporary relevance to the urbanization of the region. The series aims to document, analyze, and compare emerging practices that are transforming the cities and regions of the Middle-East.

It also aims to foster a platform of exchange at the regional level where investigative frameworks are proposed and practical experiences and know-how are shared. By carefully selecting each year a timely theme to address, City Debates' ambition is to propose innovative ways of understanding contemporary urbanization and to

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usher creative strategies to respond to the daunting challenges. It is also to inscribe a debate about the specificities of our region outside the traditional middle-eastern exceptionalism in which it is often trapped.

- **The Munathara Initiative (Tunisia)**

Founded in 2011 the Munathara Initiative promotes the voices of youth, women and marginalized communities in the Arab public sphere in order to meet their growing desire for participation in society, politics, and governance.

- **The Lebanese Association of Female Researchers (Lebanon and Morocco)**

The Lebanese Association of Women Researchers (LAWR or Bahithat) is a forum for dynamic dialogue and the free exchange of ideas and expertise. As its members engage in the production of quality research, LAWR provides a venue for encouraging women's self-expression, meeting, and networking. LAWR is interested in safeguarding researchers' rights and in promoting the advancement of the work of women researchers. especially the young and less experienced. It encourages group work that frequently includes researchers of both genders, from outside the association.

LAWR produces a yearly volume "Bahithat". It holds monthly meetings in each of which a research project is introduced and/or discussed. Work-days around chosen topics are held three or four times each year. Beside these fixed activities, LAWR organizes conferences and work-shops on topics like Children's Literature, Feminism, Civil Society, and Women and Money.

LAWR is an independent non-profit association. Its membership currently includes thirty seven women of varied ages, academic backgrounds, training, and interests in the sciences and humanities. Most of its members are, or were, affiliated to one of the universities and or research centers in Lebanon. LAWR was formally established in 1992 to bridge intellectual exchange and maintain friendly relations between the two civil-war-divided sections of Beirut. It has remained active since then.

With the exception of one employee who manages the office, LAWR's executives are democratically elected volunteers. All members are keen on maintaining a non-hierarchical form of interaction and a friendly, cooperative, informal environment, in keeping with feminist ideas of organization and association.

- **The Syrian Feminist Lobby (Syria)**

An independent, non-partisan lobby, committed to the equal participation of men and women in all levels and processes of decision-making in Syrian. All of its members believe that democracy cannot be built without respect and full implementation of women's rights as part of universal human rights, as well as full equality between men and women in both private and public spheres.

- **KAFA (Lebanon)**

KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation is a feminist, secular, Lebanese, non-profit, non-governmental civil society organization seeking to create a society that is free of social, economic and legal patriarchal structures that discriminate against women.

KAFA has been aiming to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and exploitation since its establishment in 2005. It seeks to realize substantive gender equality through the adoption of a combination of different approaches, such as:

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Advocacy for law reform and introduction of new laws and policies; influencing public opinion, practices and mentality; conducting research and training; and empowering women and children victims of violence, and providing them with social, legal, and psychological support.

- **Arab Educational Information Network (Shamaa, MENA)**

Shamaa provides specialists and stakeholders free internet access to the educational studies produced in the Arab countries, as well as those available through international organizations with whom Shamaa has concluded cooperation agreements. Shamaa also welcomes submissions by researchers on education in the Arab countries produced worldwide. It indexes peer-refereed articles, Master theses and PhD dissertations, books, reports and conference proceedings dated 2007 onward in Arabic, English and French. The database includes bibliographic information, abstracts and, when available, the full text of educational studies.

- **The European University Institute (EUI, Italy)**

The European University Institute (EUI) is a unique international centre for doctorate and post-doctorate studies and research, situated in the Tuscan hills overlooking Florence. Since its establishment 40 years ago by the six founding members of the then European Communities, the EUI has earned a reputation as a leading international academic institution with a European focus. The four departments – Economics, History and Civilization, Law, and Political and Social Sciences – host scholars from more than 60 countries, studying for the Institution's doctorate or the one-year master in law.
Furthermore, the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) focuses on inter-disciplinary, comparative and policy research on the major issues affecting European societies, while the Max Weber Programme for Post-doctoral Studies prepares fellows for a career in academia. The School of Transnational Governance, established in 2017, aims to deliver teaching and high level training on the concepts, methods and techniques of transnational governance.
The EUI's distinctly international environment offers unique academic training, enriches the intellectual experience and provides exceptional opportunities for academics across disciplines and borders.
The departments and centers are housed in 13 historic buildings scattered about the hillside which have undergone extensive renovation in recent years.
Heads of states, leading politicians and professors are regular speakers at the EUI, as part of the Institute's long-established program of conferences, workshops and summer schools.

- **The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR, Egypt)**

The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights has been working since 2002 to strengthen and protect basic rights and freedoms in Egypt, through research, advocacy and supporting litigation in the fields of civil liberties, economic and social rights, and criminal justice.

- **Notre Dame University- Louaize (NDU, Lebanon)**

The NDU has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. Candidacy for Accreditation is a status of affiliation with the Commission which indicates that the institution has achieved initial recognition and is progressing towards accreditation.

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- **Lebanon Support (Lebanon)**

Lebanon Support is an independent non-governmental, non-religious, non-partisan, and non-profit making information and research Centre for and about civil society. Established in 2006, Lebanon Support was registered as a National Non-Governmental Organization in November 2008 (registered under the number 168/2009 AD).

Lebanon Support aims at enhancing civil society capacity, efficiency, and effectiveness through the creation of public spaces for reflection, collaboration, and debate in Lebanon.

Within this framework Lebanon Support focuses on information and knowledge production, sharing and management, as it is within Lebanon Support's beliefs, that knowledge is at the heart of developing adequate strategies and interventions to reduce existing vulnerabilities and marginalization in the country.

Lebanon Support adopts a multidisciplinary approach and evidence and fact based methodologies in civil society work in Lebanon, so as to support and develop a civic voice, and work towards better accountability and societal change.

Lebanon Support promotes and supports knowledge sharing between organizations in Lebanon, through the exchange of experiences, ideas, and information across sectors and among civil society actors in Lebanon.

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➢ AI existing partners

The AI has successfully maintained partnerships with some of the most important and influential research centers, universities, civil society organizations and media outlets in Lebanon and in the region. The below list includes some of these existing partners:

- **Status Hours (USA)**

Status Hours is an evolving, critical, collaborative, and independent audio journal combining analysis, reporting, and satire. it will feature interviews/conversations, on-the-scene reports, reviews, informed commentary, and readings. Interviews from the region and beyond will feature activists, journalists, scholars, and citizens. Status audio journal will feature interviews/conversations, on-the-scene reports, reviews, informed commentary, and readings. Interviews from the region and beyond will feature activists, journalists, scholars, and citizens.
Status will address salient matters in the political, economic, and social spheres, academia and the media. Beyond addressing events and developments, a distinct flavor of this Journal will be its attention to cultural production and the various processes of knowledge production and information dissemination for public consumption, via social or traditional media.

- **The Arab Council for Social Sciences (ACSS, Lebanon)**

The Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS) is a regional, independent, non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening social science research and knowledge production in the Arab world. By supporting researchers and academic/research institutions, the ACSS aims to contribute to the creation, dissemination, validation and utilization of social science research and to enrich public debate about the challenges facing Arab societies. The ACSS also aims to enhance the role of social science in Arab public life and inform public policy in the region.

- **The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI, AUB)**

The AUB Policy Institute (Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs) is an independent, research-based, policy-oriented institute. Inaugurated in 2006, the institute aims to harness, develop, and initiate policy-relevant research in the Arab region. The institute is committed to expanding and deepening knowledge production in and about the Arab region; and to creating a space for the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas among researchers, civil society actors and policy-makers.

- **The Environmental Justice Project (EU)**

(Academic-Activist Co-Produced Knowledge for Environmental Justice) is a network of scholars and activists engaged in action and collaborative research, that aims to analyze the transformative potential of community responses to extractivism and alternatives born from resistance. We aim to co-produce knowledge that can empower communities to push for change and geared towards the needs of social groups, advocates, citizens and social movements.

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- **Arab Studies Institute (ASI, USA)**

A not-for-profit organization that produces knowledge on matters related to the Arab world and its relations. It serves as an institute in its own right and as an umbrella organization for five other subsidiaries: the *Arab Studies Journal, Jadaliyya, Quilting Point, FAMA* (Forum on Arab and Muslim Affairs), and *Tadween Publishing*

- **The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND, MENA)**

The ANND is a regional network, working in 12 Arab countries with nine national networks (with an extended membership of 250 CSOs from different backgrounds) and 23 NGO members. ANND was established in 1997 and its headquarters is located in Beirut, Lebanon since 2000.

ANND aims at strengthening the role of civil society, enhancing the values of democracy, respect of human rights and sustainable development in the region. ANND advocates for more sound and effective socio-economic reforms in the region, which integrate the concepts of sustainable development, gender justice, and the rights-based approach.

- **The Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU, AUB)**

Established in 2001, Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU) at the American University of Beirut aims at promoting collaboration for sustainable development and acts as an interdisciplinary R&D center specialized in community development and sustainable agriculture. ESDU seeks to break away from the traditional compartmentalization of research and to put current understanding from research into the hands of the user and policy-maker communities.

ESDU has always championed a multidisciplinary and participatory approach to development, which helps ensuring that research is grounded in the needs of local people. We always work "ahead of the curve" and focus on contextualizing emerging development trends and paradigms, making them utilization-driven and most importantly relevant to the local development context in MENA, starting from the sustainable livelihoods framework back in 2001 to appreciative approaches to development evaluation in 2011.

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Annex II
Statistics of AI's Presence on Social media

- **Asfari Institute verified Database**

Mailing Database: 3881 entries [+1333, +51% from 1st Q 2016]

- **Facebook Stats**

Total Page Likes: 30106   [+15306, +103% from 1st Q 2016]

Initial start: Zero

Total weekly reach: 21667

- **Twitter Stats**

Tweet Impressions: 9881

Tweeter Follower   1738   [+1170, +175% from 1st Q 2016]

Initial start: Zero

- **YouTube Channel**

Currently we have Ninety One (91) events uploaded on our own YouTube channel.

[+45, +137% from 1st Q 2016]

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Annex III
List of AI 2017 Publications

➢ Publications in Arabic

- لمن الشارع اليوم في السودان؟ عن استمرارية الفعل الجماعي في سياق قمعي - ليديا علي
- تتبع الأثرأو كيف استطاعت حركات مقاومة العنف الجنسي التأثير في الخطاب المهيمن للدولة والمجتمع؟   داليا عبد الحميد
- النساء والمقاومة: تحديات صناعة الأرشيف والسرديات المضادة   هدى الصدة
- تطور خطاب حقوق الإنسان في الجزائر والوضع الراهن
- عمال ونقابات... بلا حركة
- الحركة النقابية العربية :آفاق بحثية   دراسة إقليمية
- الحركة العمالية والنقابية والبحث عن العدالة الاجتماعية في الجزائر
- خطاب حقوق الإنسان في دول الخليج العربية قراءة في تحديات التغييب وتناقضات التغريب سعيد سلطان الهاشمي، برنامج حقوق الإنسان في العالم العربي
- تطور خطاب حقوق الإنسان في الجزائر والوضع الراهن ، بوجمعة غشير ، برنامج حقوق الإنسان في العالم العربي
- تجربة الحركة النسائية المغربية، نعيمة بنواكريم ، برنامج حقوق الإنسان في العالم العربي
- إطلاق تقرير بحثي حول: الحركة العمالية والنقابية والبحث عن العدالة الاجتماعية في فلسطين المحتلة
- الحركة النقابية في مصر في ضوء ثورة يناير ٢٠١١: السيطرة والاحتواء وحدود المقاومة

➢ Publications in English and French

- Rural Women Cooperatives and the Quest for Empowered Citizenship in the Arab World

- In Pursuit of a Refuge, Six Years On: Revisiting the Refugee Deadlock- Dr. Dina Mansour-Ille

- Le roi est bon, la classe politique est mauvaise» Un mythe à bout de souffle ? - Mounia Bennani-Chraïbi

- Nature and Resistance in Palestine - Mazin B. Qumsiyeh

- Reports on the Doctoral Dissertation Summer Institute 2017 -Ziad Abu-Rish

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Annex IV

Collected Asfari Programs

a comprehensive list with specifics and visuals is available on our blog   ActiveArabVoices.org

➢ Public Lectures

- Knowledge Production Project (with ASI)
- Roots of the Syrian Uprising (with Jadaliya)
- Discourses Around Sexual Violence and Women Citizenship (with EIPR)
- Women's Emancipation and Civil Service Organizations in Iraq (with Omar Dewaihdy)
- Launch of the Arab Human Development Report of 2016
- The Arab World and the Post Arab Uprisings (with Max Rodenbeck)
- Environmental Justice: Sharing of global experiences, resistances, and paths forward, with a focus on the Arab region (India/South Africa, Sweden)
- Panel Discussion of Arab Fractures (with Carnegie)
- Women's Rights as Public Policy (with IFI)
- In/Exclusion at AUB: Negotiating Spaces (with AUB students)
- What Do We Know About Today's Sudan? (with La Sobonne Paris)
- Women and Resistance: Challenges in the Creation of Archives and the Construction of Counter-Narratives (with WHF)
- Egypt's Economy in the 21st Century (with Mada Masr)
- A French Lesson About Democracy (with IFI/USJ)
- Is Racism an Environmental Threat? (with Akhawayn University in Morocco)
- Reciprocal Rights in the Arab World? (with Manaharat)
- National Consultation on Tax Justice in Lebanon (with IFI)
- Education in Aleppo: From Division to Reconciliation (with Synopsis)
- Women's Role in Citizenship and Constitution in Syria
- Democracy as Civilian Control: Comparing Civil-Security Relations in Egypt and Turkey (with Denver University)
- The Authoritarian Roots of Contemporary Islamist Discourse (with ARI, Tariq Azizah)
- King Salman and His Son: Winning the US, Losing the Rest (with LSE)

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THE ASFARI FOUNDATION

REPORT FORM FOR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Name of your organisation: **Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship**	
Name of your project: **AF grant to AUB to create the Asfari Institute**	
Country and area: **Lebanon, MENA region**	
Total project budget: **USD 5,000,000**	
Project period: **from November 1, 2012 until June 30, 2019 (Grant to be extended to Year 2022 with no cost extension)**	
Date of this report **February 6, 2018**	
Reporting period: **from January 1, 2017 Until December 31, 2017**	
Name of report writer: **Dr. Dina El Khawaga**	
Position in organisation: **Director**	
Email of report writer: **de26@aub.edu.lb**	
Phone number of report writer: **+96176741981**	
Skype address of report writer:	

THE CONTEXT IN WHICH YOU WORK

1. What was the original situation or problem your project is trying to address?

The AF grant aims at building the AI as an institution, and it covers the Institute's three research programs: 1) Civil Society, Law, and Governance; 2) Culture as Resistance; and 3) Syrian Displacement, Inequality, and Informality, as well as its cross-programmatic operational activities and awards. Through these different focal areas, the AI aims at strengthening the links between civil society and Arab scholars to foster democratic reform and citizens' participation in the Arab region. To achieve that, the AI uses three tools: 1) capacity building for activists and engaged citizens; 2) knowledge production, whether through empirical and fact-based mappings, documentation, or research production and dissemination; and 3) regional and international advocacy.

2. Has the overall situation or problem which you are trying to address changed since you started your project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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3. If you answered yes, please describe below how it has changed.

While the first years following the Arab uprisings witnessed an increased interest in social mobilizations and civil society initiatives to challenge authoritarianism and corruption in the region, the past three years have demonstrated a decreased interest in popular uprising and growing scepticism of the role of civil society organizations in implementing and pushing forward democratic change in the region.

4. How have these changes affected the project?

Because we are based in Lebanon, a country strongly affected by many problems including the displacement of more than one million Syrians within Lebanese territories, we are able to identify two movements that hinder our efforts in strengthening civil society's role. The first is related to the increasing voices calling for the return of refugees to safe zones in Syria; the second is the vested interest in pushing the Syrian reconstruction agenda forward, regardless of the continuation of military and civil confrontations.

In a more general sense, a growing trend criticizing the Arab Uprisings and their so-called "devastating" economic and political consequences is mushrooming, not only among Lebanese scholars, but also among representatives of international financial institutions (such as the World Bank or the IMF).

Taken together, all these challenges make our mission more difficult to achieve, yet it is still timely and much-needed. Mainly, we seek to counter-balance this pro-status-quo trend: the use of national sovereignty idiom and counterterrorism discourse as the Trojan horse to spread political apathy and submission.

This surrounding context has had a deep impact on our work at the AI. For example, this context has created a more cautious and sceptical environment towards the AI's vision, mission and mandate. Therefore, the AI has decided to direct its scope of work not only to the Levant, but also towards the Arab region in general, where it can work with more diverse partners to counter-balance this tense context in both Syria and Lebanon.

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YOUR ORGANISATION

5. Have there been any positive changes, new developments or major problems inside your organisation? ☒ Yes ☐ No

6. If you answered yes, please explain what has changed below.

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Concerning <u>organizational positive changes:</u> **the AI has adopted a wider definition of Civil Society. Organizationally, this is reflected in the division of AI's organizational structure into three main programs, allowing us to reach a wider circle of stakeholders and audience. Those three programs are: 1) Civil Society, Law and Governance 2) Culture as Resistance and 3) Syrian Displacement, Inequality and Informality.**

This has been a significant change from the previous phase of AI's work, where focus was placed on Human Rights, Labour movements and street politics.

Each of the three respective programs tries to look at documenting the achievements of social movements, NGOs, and trade unions in defending the rule of law, the separation of powers and the accountability of political systems to their citizens, as well as fostering the right-based approach to democratic transformation among active citizens.

Also, the AI made a great achievement this year by establishing an International Advisory Board (IAB) for the first time since the establishment of AI in 2012, to assist it with planning, evaluation, fundraising and branding for its various programs and activities. The IAB is composed of intellectuals, scholars and activists from various countries (mostly Arab countries). The AI has provided all IAB members with necessary documentations about our current work and strategic plans, and it plans to hold the IAB second meeting in June 2018.

Over the past year, the recruitment process for this new organizational structure have been actively ongoing, as well as to provide the new staff members with the material and financial resources they need for designing and implementing their programmatic activities. This required dedication of time and resources from the team members for fundraising and negotiation with the AUB administration, which we will talk about in details in the next section.

For the <u>recruitment process</u>**, Two new Program Directors have joined the AI: Dr. Elizabeth Saleh, directing the Syrian Displacement, Inequality and Informality program, who joined the team in April 2017, and Dr. Hassan Abbas, directing the Culture as Resistance program, who joined the team in September 2017. Also, one program coordinator has been hired for the Civil Society, Law and Governance program, and we expect to hire another one for the Syrian Displacement program within the coming few weeks. It is important to note that the AI is currently covering the salaries of the two program coordinators from the additional grants the AI received. In addition, the AI is currently hosting a large number of interns (4-5 interns per semester), mostly AUB students. AUB hosts as well exchange students, both from USA and Europe.**

The main challenge the AI may be having in the coming period is to <u>expand its premises</u> **in order to provide a quiet and comfortable working space for**

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all the new members of staff, especially with the expected increase of their number to go along with the funded projects.

Another organizational positive change that happened over the past year was to <u>build more visibility and credibility</u> for the AI as one of the main research centres and hubs working on civil society and social mobilizations in the Arab region. This was achieved through forging new academic and organizational partnerships, our fundraising strategy, and pursuing an ambitious dissemination plan for the knowledge produced by the Institute.

PROGRESS MADE IN YOUR PROJECT

7. Please describe what steps and activities you took to implement the project.

As previously mentioned, the AI team has undertaken an active and ambitious strategy of <u>fundraising</u> to strengthen its visibility. As a result, the AI succeeded in securing more than one million USD for its programmatic activities for 2017-2019. The main reason behind this strategy is, first and foremost, to affirm AI's prominent place among AUB and non AUB research centres, regionally and internationally. Also, this strategy aimed at making the case of the dire importance of an Arab hub for civil society activists and democratic advocates.

<u>Diversifying our academic and organizational partnerships, regionally and internationally</u> was a second step that the AI has undertaken to strengthen its visibility. A full list of the AI's partners is included in *Annex 1.*

A third step to put the AI's name forward was through increasing the number of its <u>publications.</u> This has been possible through the design and implementation of the AI's blog, *Active Arab Voices*. (See more details about the AI blog in *Annex 2*). With the creation of the blog, the AI was able to use it as a platform to disseminate its publications, including both reports and commissioned research and policy papers and relevant content about the State-Society relations in the region (See list of publications in *Annex 3*).

8. When we signed an agreement with you the project proposal set out some clear objectives. Please report against the objectives set out in the agreement you signed with us.

Aim or objective	What activities did you implement to reach this objective?		To what extent has the objective been reached?
To educate	1) The establishment of a preparatory phase for the MA program about	1)	After long negotiations with the AUB administration and various departments, we are still waiting for an

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	Civil Society and Collective Action at the AUB 2) The establishment of the Arab Social Activism Program (ASAP) 3) The consolidation of many publicly-accessible Readers in Arabic for social scientists and social activists from the Arab region	answer regarding the establishment of this new MA program, adding a new concentration to an existing MA program, or developing a minor for undergraduates from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) at the AUB. 2) The Arab Social Activism Program, which is a two-weeks training program for Arab social activists and it is a part of the Arab Social Activism Observatory is scheduled to take place April 2018. A curricula is being developed currently with the contribution of a few of the best experts on the topic from the Arab region. 3) 2-3 Readers, gathering seminal texts in various fields related to Social activism, Social movements, civil society and informality, migration and inequality are being developed and translated and will be made available online for Arabic readers during the coming year 2018.
To research and Convene	1) Commissioning policy papers and research papers (see list of publications, Annex III). 2) Successfully fundraising for starting four new research projects: Arab social Activism Observatory (OSF/ARO), The Lay of the Land: A Social Mapping of Informality, Mobility and Differentiated Citizenship Amongst Syrian Displaced Communities in Lebanon (Ford Foundation/MENA office); Transnational Social Movements in the Arab World (Carnegie Corporation of NY); and finally, The Future of the League of Arab States (LAS) (also OSF/ARO), and development of an eventual regional. In addition to that, there is the already running grant by Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, for the Environmental Justice project. body engaged with Arab CSOs 3) The organization of a research project about Arab Christians political trends. 4) All of the above mentioned projects involve the production of research papers, the organization of workshops, production of reports and scholarly books.	1) A total number of **17 papers** have been published on the AI blog this year (2017). 2) The funding for the four projects has been successfully won, and the projects are running on track. 3) The report and papers produced on the Arab Christians project is being prepared by the AI team, to be published in May 2018. 4) A Steering Committee has been appointed for each project to guarantee the quality of the research/reports produced under these projects, and some of the researchers have been already commissioned. It is expected that each project will include a number of academic papers/ reports by its end, which all will be made publically accessible through the AI blog. 5) The AI has been successful so far in organizing those events at the AUB, bringing speakers and experts from various backgrounds, countries and areas of expertise. The events have also made the AI's name more known and respected. An increase of over 100% of the numbers of followers of the AI accounts on social media has been achieved between 2016 and 2017.

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	5) The organization of monthly events (public lectures, book launches, …)	
To disseminate	1) The AI blog 2) Active accounts on social media (Facebook, Twitter- *annex 2)* 3) Creating new regional and international partnership (see *Annex 1*)	1) So far, the AI blog is gathering a good number of readers, increasingly growing. The AI team is currently working on developing the visual identity for the Institute. 2) The number of followers on social media has considerably grew over the past year and it is still increasing steadily. (See Annex 2) 3) The list of partnerships, whether regional or international, the AI managed to create is growing. The old partnerships are also kept active through the co-organization of workshops, talks, and publishing joint papers.

9. How many people benefited from the Foundation's donation? How have they benefited?

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While it is difficult to give an accurate number of the beneficiaries of the AI's different projects and activities, we can identify three main categories that have been supported logistically, academically and technically by the AI: the first category is composed mainly of <u>Arab scholars</u> (graduate students, researchers and professors from the region) that have collaborated with the AI to publish new knowledge about trade unions, rural cooperatives, different social mobilizations taking place in the region, gender and women's rights, civil-military relations and many other topics (see a full list of publications *in Annex 3*).

A second category is composed of <u>Arab activists</u>, the AI has organized monthly interviews with social activists from the Arab region (Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Iraq…), as well as internationally (Sweden, the USA, Germany…). This activity aims at documenting and making publically accessible an archive of good practices, success stories and lessons learned from activists not only from the region, but also from all around the globe.

On the same note, the AI managed, with a generous additional grant from the Asfari Foundation, the AI organized a workshop in October 2017, entitled "Arab CSOs Addressing International Donors: "Internal and External Challenges in the Context of Transition", gathering around 30 Civil Society activists from the region, to network, exchange experiences and think about future steps for a stronger collaboration.

The third category of beneficiaries is the <u>Arab media professionals</u>, especially those involved in new forms of electronic journalism. The AI has organized, in cooperation with the ASI, and Salon Syria a series of workshops for young Syrian journalists about the challenges facing their profession, whether inside or outside Syria, as well as to enable them to network, exchange good practices and think about the future of their profession. The AI is currently considering expanding its interest to media professionals from other Arab countries.

The fourth and final category of beneficiaries is, in fact, the <u>general public</u>. Over the past year, the AI managed to increase its mailing database by more than a thousand names, with more than a 50% increase over 2016. The same happened with social media: for Facebook, the AI's page has a total number of likes of 30106 (with an increase of 103% over 2016), and a total number of 1738 followers on Twitter (with an increase of 175% over 2016).

10. Overall, what are the three or four key achievements of the project over the past period (what are you most proud of)?

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- **The launch of monthly events (not only annual conferences, but also book launches, public lectures, interviews and so on…)**

- **Establishing an International Advisory Board for the AI, and the organization of its first meeting in October 2017.**

- **Winning grants for three considerable projects from four of the most important funding organizations: Open Society Foundation (OSF), Ford Foundation and Carnegie Corporation.**

11. How has the project helped you work towards your organisation's objectives? Please include examples of evidence you have for this.

We believe that our programmatic activities are all serving the main goal of our organization, which is becoming a well-known hub between civil society organizations, Arab activists and scholars in the region.
First, concerning the knowledge production, we believe that the consistent mapping, the monthly and yearly documentation and the fact-based research we conduct at the AI helps illustrates the achievements and the positive role civil society and activism play in pushing forward democratic reform in the region.

Second, when it comes to the dissemination, and convention aspects of our work the stress on the regional dimension has also helped the AI fine-tune its mission and programmatic activities, and allowed AI to present more successfully the role of civil society in countries like Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco.

Finally, there is the education aspect of our mission. One of the first steps that helped the AI's organizational objectives was the development of training materials on activism and civil society in the region, to become the first comprehensive training program on the topic in the region (the Arab Social Activism Program ASAP). Some of the training materials will be all made publically accessible in both Arabic and English.
In the same sense, the AI has commissioned four AUB scholars to develop new teaching materials on Civil Society and collective action, which will serve as a concentration within the existing MA program at the Public Administration department of the AUB. The next round of the courses development, which will take place in 2018, will serve as a minor for the undergraduate students.

12. Are your objectives still suitable to address the situation? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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13. If you answered no, what would you like to change, and how?

> N/A

14. If you can, please some detailed examples of people who benefited from your work. You do not need to give names (a first name would be helpful) but please let us know how old the person is, what gender they are, what area they are from, and the socio-economic situation of the person. <u>We are particularly interested in what their situation was, and what has changed for them as a result of this project.</u>

Case study 1

> **Zeina, a 26 year old Christian Syrian young woman, living in Damascus, was able to take part in our project about Arab Christians political trends. After attending a short training on writing for social sciences, she was able write an article, which will be published shortly in one of the AI's reports. Her chapter will tackle mainly the different forms of persecution that Syrian Christians in Damscus face since 2013, whether from Al-Assad's regime forces, islamists or Hezbollah's militias.**

Case study 2

> **Omar, a 21 year old Syrian American, born and raised in Illinois, USA. The AI has hosted him for four months as an intern. During his period of internship, he was asked to survey the MA programs about civil society in the USA. Omar's words before leaving the AI were "I decided to go back to the Arab region to work for my people, those people who believe in democracy, social change and social justice. AI helped me to know a lot about great social activities in the region".**

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Case study 3

> **Kholoud, a 33 year old Egyptian PhD candidate in Psychology at Louvain University- Belgium, was able to conduct 46 non-directive interviews with Syrian displaced women in 12 different locations in Lebanon, who have been either sexually harassed, or forced to early marriages and motherhood for social and economic reasons. During her research, the AI has hosted her for free. In exchange, she helped the AI consolidate a comprehensive mapping of Syrian and Lebanese NGOs working on fighting violence against Syrian women and providing psychological assistance and rehabilitation to them. This report is scheduled to be published in June 2018.**

15. How has this project worked towards the Asfari Foundation's Civil Society Programme objectives? ('help individuals and organisations gain, develop and share skills and knowledge so as to create a more effective civil society'). What evidence do you have for this?

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As we have explained in previous sections of this report, the AI has its mission, vision and strategic objectives in almost a perfect harmony with the AF's objectives for its Civil Society programs. For instance, the AI is "helping individuals and organizations develop their skills and knowledge" through its strategic objective to "educate". Through its different research programs, there are many workshops destined to develop the capacities of both young researchers in the field of writing academically sound research papers on topics of interest for the Institute (i.e. Civil society, social movements, Syrian refugees in Lebanon,…). The AI also aims to organize capacity building programs for social activists in the region, through its "Arab Social Activism Program" (ASAP), which will take place in April 2018. For the first time, the office of the Dean of the FAS at the AUB has asked AI Director to train all AUB faculty (social scientists) on proposal writing. This workshop is expected to take place in May 2018.

On the same note, the AI is working also to "create a more effective civil society", goes well with the AI's objective to "research and convene" by creating various platforms to exchange best practices and foster peer-to-peer learning among activists from the Arab region (and also internationally). This is practically translated into our programmatic activities through a project like the Asfari cultural award, which will include a networking and peer-to- peer learning workshop for the shortlisted candidates, to help them exchange experiences and good practices. It was also the case with the workshop entitled "Arab CSOs Addressing International Donors: "Internal and External Challenges in the Context of Transition", which took place in October 2017.

Finally, concerning "sharing the skills and knowledge", this particular objective is perfectly in line with the AI's objective to "disseminate". Through our Blog, *Active Arab Voices*, and its pages on social media, the AI has been making publically accessible all its resources and archives, especially the archive entitled "Online Archive of Arab Activism". This archive is basically gathering in-depth interviews with Arab activists from all over the region, talking about their experiences and the various challenges they have faced throughout their careers. This Archive is made publically accessible through the AI blog and YouTube channel.
Also, the AI has made it a tradition to host a monthly public lecture on a relevant topic at the AUB premises, all of which encourage participants to learn more and think critically about the civil society and social movements, or more broadly about the wider political and social context in the Arab Region (See full list in *Annex 4).*

In conclusion, the year 2017-2018 has indeed been a strategic year, in terms of re-visiting the AI's mission, vision and strategic objectives. It is expected that the AI will have more implemented activities in the coming years.

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16. What were the key challenges to this project, and what did you do to overcome them?

Challenge	Action taken to overcome
Lack of an operational definition of mission and vision for the AI, which lead the AI to be perceived as the "internal donor" on AUB campus.	This has been remedied by developing a detailed strategic document at the end of 2016, explaining in details the mission, vision and the role of AI in the coming years.
Total dependency on the AF grant to implement the programmatic activities of the AI. With the need to expand staff and programs, this organizational model lacked sustainability.	The AI has already started an active and ambitious strategy for fundraising, to get more funding for the programmatic activities. The strategy has been proven effective so far, and the AI has successfully obtained funding for four projects from three well-reputed international funding agencies.
With the increase of the number of programs and funded projects, the AI's organizational capacity to effectively attend to all these new activities need to be reviewed.	To mitigate this risk, the AI is currently increasing the number of its staff members and consultants, in order to maintain the same level of effectiveness in the implementation of all its activities. The AI has also put in place an efficient and inclusive system for internships, to encourage AUB students to become part of the AI team for a semester or more. During the past year, the AI has hosted a total number of 12 interns. The AI has also hired a consultant and hosted two visiting professors, and two fellows (scholars).

17. How did you make sure that the work was going to plan and reaching its objectives (monitoring and evaluation)?

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As previously mentioned, last year has been considered as a year for strategic planning and revamping for the AI. However, monitoring and evaluation is extremely important for the work undertaken by the AI and it is a key part of all of its ongoing projects.

For all of its ongoing major projects, the AI has established a steering committee (of 3-5 members) for each project, composed of renowned experts in the field from various Arab countries. The establishment of such steering committees do not only contribute to the planning and implementation of the projects, but they also play a key role in setting a clear, harmonious and serious research methodology for each project as well as reviewing the papers produced by researchers, and guaranteeing the production of academically sound research papers.

Also, for the more practical projects like the Arab Social Activism Observatory, not only did the AI establish a steering committee for the project, but also the AI chose to hire an independent evaluator for the project, to monitor the success and relevance of such a program and its 5 years strategy.

18. What has your organisation learned from this project with the Asfari Foundation?

The AI has learned a lot by working with the AF, mainly:
1- It is important for the success of any organization to diversify its sources of funding and not to rely completely on one donor if it wants to achieve both financial sustainability and regional and international visibility.
2- Working on a dynamic strategic planning for the organization is a key investment for the success of the organization in terms of definition of its role and programmatic activities.
3- Diversifying partnerships and allowing spaces for networking and peer-to-peer learning, especially on the regional level, always generates a creative debate which allows the AI to further fine-tune its mission, vision, strategic objectives as well as its programmatic activities.

19. Did the project have any results you did not expect (these might be positive or negative)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

20. If you answered yes, what were they?

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As previously mentioned, since the AI lacked an operational definition of its vision, mission and role in the past years, it has been perceived for a long while as the "internal donor" on campus. This is an unexpected result of our work. The AI is currently working actively to change this perception through both the fine-tuning of mission, vision and strategic objectives as well as diversifying of forms of partnerships and strengthening its academic participation at sister research centres and academic departments at the AUB.

21. Did you work together with other organisations or individuals (not part of your organisation) for this project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

22. If you did, please give their name below, and what their role was. If you do not want to give names, please describe the type of organisation (e.g. international organisation, local charity, company, young volunteer, professional volunteer etc.)

Name or type of organisation or individual	Role
Consultants	Since the AI staff is still limited in number, we need to commission external consultants to fill various roles for the organization in its various projects: academic and organizational report writers, researchers, steering committee members, …etc. This strategy has proven efficient and more economic instead of always depending on in-house expertise.
Interns	The AI has put in place a good system for internships, encouraging students (from both the AUB and beyond) to be hosted at AI, develop their capacities and knowledge by taking part in the-day-to-day activities of the AI, where they can also get an on-the-job training. During the past year, the AI has hosted 12 interns, who gave positive feedback about the period of their internship.
Local micro producers and social entrepreneurs	Through more than one event, the AI has hosted fairs and exhibitions for Lebanese and Syrian micro producers, mainly working on projects to economically empower Syrian refugees. The most prominent example was the Syrian

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	Christmas fair organized at the AUB premises on the 7th of December 2017, hosting 7 Lebanese and Syrian organizations working on such projects.
International organizations, funding agencies and other research centres and NGOs.	As previously mentioned, the AI has been working to diversify its academic and organizational partnerships. In that context, it has developed partnerships with 8 new partners ranging from international organizations (i.e. UNDP, ESCWA), universities (EUI, UNIL) or NGOs (i.e. ADEF, KAFA, Lebanese Association of Female Researchers, Syrian Feminist Lobby..) Also, the AI has successfully obtained funding from three major funding agencies: the Open Society Foundation (OSF), Ford Foundation and Carnegie Corporation. The AI is working with these organizations as a fully- fledged partner and not simply as a recipient of funding. The AI often exchanges contacts, research outcomes and project ideas with those organizations, and invites their representatives to attend our events/workshops.

23. Did you involve beneficiaries in the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

24. If you answered 'yes', please explain how they assisted.

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All of the AI's work depends largely on the participation of our beneficiaries. Based on the different categories of beneficiaries we have identified earlier in this report, it is important to highlight that: 1) <u>Arab scholars</u> have been involved in AI projects in various ways, as consultants (writing papers and reports, acting as steering committee members for our projects, or simply participating in our events/conferences as speakers and lecturers). As for the 2) <u>Arab activists</u>, they have also assisted in the implementation of our projects by contributing as consultants (also writing reports and papers and participating in our events), as well as being the key actors of the "Online Archive of Arab Activism", which the AI is proud of. 3) For <u>the Arab media professionals</u>, the training workshops the AI has jointly organized with ASI has given them the opportunity, especially young media professionals from Syria, to shed light on their experiences inside and outside Syria. It has also exchanged their success stories and their good practices. 4) As for the <u>general public</u>, they have also been interactive, especially with our publications and articles (made available via our blog and social media accounts) and by being present and interactive during our public lectures and events.

25. How many people were involved in the implementation of the project?

Type of staff or volunteer	Role in project	Number of this kind of staff
AI Director	Planning, fundraising, supervising all of the AI team and coordinating the overall activities of the AI, and between the AI, the AUB and the AF. The AI Director has also chosen to personally act as the Program Director of the "Civil Society, Law and Governance" program for the coming year, in order to decrease expenses.	1
AI associate director	Has been assisting the coordination of the overall activities of the AI, and personally directing a project on Environmental justice. Unfortunately, with the end of her contract, this position has been closed.	1 (position closed)
Senior research assistant	The senior research assistants have been helping with the implementation of the ongoing projects, as well as assisting program directors in conducting necessary research for the ongoing programs and projects' proposals	2 (position closed)
Asfari Fellows	The winners of AI fellowships, they have been normally working on their own research projects.	2 (position closed)

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AI Financial Management Officer	Handles all administrative and financial issues related to the AI, and coordinates between the AI and the AUB administration. She also manages funds and grants.	1
AI Communication Consultant	Manages the AI blog, all AI publications and public events. He is also in charge of supervising the interns.	1
program directors	As newly established position, the program directors have the responsibility of developing relevant projects and programmatic activities for their programs, as well as partially fundraising for them and implementing them, with the assistance of program coordinators.	2
program coordinator	Assisting program directors in planning, fundraising for and implementing the programmatic activities of their programs. Each program of the AI should have a program coordinator, this is why the AI is actively working on recruiting more people to fill these positions	1 (more will be hired)
interns	The AI is encouraging students to do their internships with us in order to develop their capacities and knowledge by taking part in the-day-to-day activities of the AI, where they can also get an on-the-job training. During the past year, the AI has hosted 12 interns, who gave positive feedback about the period of their internship.	12

Starting 2018, the AI has hired another Program Coordinator for the Syrian Displacement Program. Over the course of the year, it is expected to hire a Research Assistant (Part- time), and an Administrative Assistant (full-time).

26. What benefits, if any, did your staff and volunteers gain from being involved in the project?

Interns and staff members normally gain more experience and on-the-job training while working for the AI, as well as while working for their respective projects. They also develop their academic knowledge and their expertise about the Arab region, since they are normally asked to collect materials, write book reviews, build press files, or conduct fieldwork research about various issues related to the AI's areas of interest.
The AI allows its interns the opportunity to publish articles and book reviews on its blog.

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27. What support did you give to your staff and volunteers, if any? (eg training,etc.)

On-the- Job training, thorough review of their writings. Most of the interns have also received recommendation letters after their period of internships were over.
Three interns have submitted papers to be published on the AI blog last year.

FINANCE

28. What is the overall cost of your project (ie over the entire project period)?

USD 5,000,000 (the amount committed by AF 2012-2022)

29. What percentage of the total budget is funded by the Asfari Foundation?

a-Program fees and Honoraria remaining budget from AF as of January 1, 2017	503,051.00	
b-Salaries from AF (Assuming Budget=expenses as of Dec 17)	298,699.91	
c-Amount received from AF in 2017	30,000.00	
AI Budget Jan 17-Dec 17 (a+b+c)	831,750.91	

	Budget 2017	**Percentage of total budget**
AI Budget Jan 17-Dec 17 (a+b+c)	831,750.91	48%
Carnegie Oct 17-Sep 18	214,569	12%
Ford Foundation Nov 17-Oct 18	275,000	16%
OSF Jul 17-Jun 18	375,000	22%
UAB June 17-June 18	$24,966.54	1%
Total Asfari Institute budget	1,721,286	

30. Are there other donors? If you can, please tell us who they are.

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Name or type of donor	Percentage of budget
Carnegie Corporation Of New York	Total of USD 399,501 for 2 years (October 1, 2017 until September 30, 2019)
Ford Foundation	Total of USD 275,000 for 1 year (November 1, 2017 until October 31, 2018)
Open Society Foundation (OSF)	Total USD 375,000 for 1 year (July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018)
Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona (UAB)	Total of USD 98,853.00 for 3 years (June 2016 until April 2019)

31. How much funding did you receive from the Foundation during this reporting period?

USD 30,000 in Year 2017

32. Please set out in the columns below the budget items the Asfari Foundation is funding, with the related budget, the expenditure for this period and any differences between budget and expenditure. If the expenditure is 10% higher or lower than the budget, please explain why in the column on the right. Please attach receipts for the donation.

Item	Original budget	Actual cost	Difference between original and actual cost	Explanation of difference

Please refer to Financial Statement for the period from January 1, 2017 until December 31, 2017

33. Have you done any further fundraising for this project during this reporting period?
☒ Yes ☐ No

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34. If you did, what organisations did you approach, and were you successful?

Organisation approached (name or type)	Funding obtained
Carnegie Corporation of NY	Total of USD 399,501 for 2 years (October 1, 2017 until September 30, 2019)
Ford Foundation	Total of USD 275,000 for 1 year (November 1, 2017 until October 31, 2018) (to be extended until March 2018)
Open Society Foundation	Total USD 375,000 for 1 year (July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018) (to be extended with no additional costs till September 2018)

The AI has also approached other organizations and funding agencies, such as: IDRC (Canada), Global Partners Governance (UK), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, SOAS (Department of Development Studies), and the Danish- Egyptian Dialogue Institute for funding and cooperation, but unfortunately the AI was not successful.

35. How do you plan to sustain the work of your organisation in the long term?

On the long run, the AI intends to sustain its work by <u>diversifying its sources of funding</u>, to be also able to properly conduct its programs. The AI is also planning to <u>increase the number of its staff members </u>to be able to effectively implement all of its planned projects and programmatic activities.

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OTHER MATTERS

36. What are you plans for the coming few months (if applicable)?

The AI is currently working on the following:
1- **Developing ideas and proposals for the three new AI programs, in order to present them to various funding agencies**
2- **Increasing the number of AI staff: by actively working on hiring new program coordinators to support the program directors. The AI director is looking at the possibility of hiring a fourth program director to work mainly on issues related to active citizenship in the region starting next year.**
3- **Continuing the implementation of the various AI projects, including the ongoing two research projects on transnational social movements in the Arab region, and the Syrian displacement at the intersection of inequality and informality. Also, the AI intends to organize the first Arab Social Activism Training Program (ASAP) in April 2018.**

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37. Did you show that your project was funded by the Asfari Foundation? If so, how?

Yes, the AI's website and blog clearly mentions that the AI has the AF as a main donor.

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38. Do you have any supporting information on your project activities funded by the Foundation? If so, please tick the appropriate box and insert the information either in the text box below, or as an e-mail attachment.

☐ Links to articles in local or international media outlets
☒ Links to videos
☒ Pictures

All of our activities are documented with videos and/or pictures on the AI blog and YouTube channel.

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39. What support or follow up did you receive from the Foundation?

> **The AF has offered us an additional funding to conduct a joint workshop on the challenges facing Civil Society organizations in the Arab region. This was briefly after the AI director has discussed the importance of the topic and the AI's interest to work on it jointly with the AF.**

40. Was this helpful? ☒ Yes ☐ No

41. Why was, or wasn't, this helpful?

> **It was indeed helpful because it allowed the AI the opportunity to discuss this important topic among some of the key NGOs and donor organizations in the region. It also allowed the AI a chance to create a platform for networking and exchange of good practices among those NGOs. Finally, it allowed the AI to enrich its online archive on social activism, since it allowed AI staff to conduct interviews with some of the participants.**

42. What else could the Foundation do to support you?

> **As the AI grows and diversifies its programs and activities, the AF's generous contribution won't be able to cover salaries and other operational expenses beyond 2022. While the AI is actively seeking other sources of funding, the shift is never easy and the AI would run more smoothly in the coming years knowing that the AF can commit to cover the salaries of its current staff working on annual basis.**

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43. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

> **The AF's support to the AI has been more than essential for the AI to develop and start its mission as a hub for civil society, scholars and activists in the Arab region. The AI cannot continue working to achieve its strategic objectives without the continued support of the AF, or ask AUB to partially cover staff salaries.**

Thank you for filling out this report form. Please check that you have answered all the questions, and attach any media reports, photos or relevant material, and anything else you think might be helpful. Before you send the report, please date and sign it below.

This report is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signed by   **Dr. Dina El Khawaga**

Signature:

Date: **6th of February 2018**