

Youth empowerment project kicks off in Morocco

By Sarah Touahri for Magharebia

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Moroccan teens and young adults may care more about their country's political reality if they learn about their civil, political and environmental rights, a new programme aims to show. "We're going to organise activities that meet the needs of young people in order to foster a sense of responsible citizenship in **them**," said Mohamed En-Nosse, director of the United Association for the Guidance of Children and Youths (ASUEEJ).

His group launched the "I'm a Moroccan Citizen" project on January 31st in co-ordination with the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). "We want to remind citizens that they also have responsibilities towards their country, not just rights," **he** said.

Training workshops begin next month for 100 youths under age 25 years who either belong to civil society groups or attend schools in the Marrakech-Tensift-El Haouz region. The campaign also includes a competition for the best video or image of an act of good citizenship. An interactive CD illustrating 20 examples of responsible citizenship acts will be produced and distributed to all institutions. "We're planning to create citizenship clubs to get young people together in order to share ideas," En-Nosse underlined.

For **his** part, sociologist Selhami Omar told Magharebia that a massive citizenship programme is needed because people's sense of citizenship and love of their homeland has long been diminishing. "An attitude of 'I couldn't care less' is widespread among a large segment of the population. This is a very dangerous culture that has taken hold of society. Many young people do not value their country," he said. In his view, this phenomenon is due to political and socio-economic factors and it is now time to enable young people to enter the political arena. According to Omar, better economic conditions should also reinforce their patriotism.

Mohamed Nadimi, a 22-year-old student, said that young people tend to become more selfish over time. "Of the people I know, not many are willing to make civic gestures like working for NGOs or getting involved in protecting the environment. On the other hand, they're willing to take help from other people. "Families and teachers must play their role by inculcating in youths a sense of responsibility towards their society and encouraging them to work for the good of the country so that they can reap the benefits of collective solidarity," Omar concluded.



Moroccan organisation ASUEEJ spearheaded a campaign for youths, "I'm a Moroccan Citizen".

I COMPREHENSION (16 POINTS)

{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Complete the following table with information from the text. (3 pts)

Cause	Effect
.....	Youths may care more about their country's political reality.
An interactive CD will be produced.
.....	They can reap the benefits of collective solidarity.

B Answer these questions. (2 pts)

- 1 Who will take part in the programme?
.....
.....
- 2 Why do a lot of young people underestimate their country?
.....
.....

C Say if the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY your answers. (2 pts)

- 1 The writer thinks that people's sense of citizenship and love of their home country is increasing.
.....
.....
- 2 Some youths think that young people tend to become more egoistic over time.
.....
.....

D Find in the text words or expressions which mean the same as the following. (3 pts)

- 1 promote / boost (para 1): 3 teaching (para 6):
- 2 field / domain (para 4):

E What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)

- 1 them (para 1): 3 his (para 4):
- 2 he (para 2):

F Complete the following sentences with information from the text. (3 pts)

- 1 We're going to organise activities that meet the needs of young people so that
- 2 Citizens have responsibilities towards their country. Besides,
- 3 Not many are willing to make civic gestures like working for NGOs or getting involved in protecting the environment even though

II LANGUAGE (14 POINTS)

A give the correct form of the words between brackets. (1.5 pt)

The Moroccan government has taken serious measures to reduce (illiterate) among women. It also tries to raise their (aware) to the importance of education in human (develop)

B Fill in each blank with the appropriate phrasal verb. (3 pts)

try on – die out – take off – make out – check in – pick up – turn up – apply for

- 1 Look! There's an advertised job in this newspaper. Why don't you it?
- 2 "I'd like to for the flight to London, please. Here are my ticket and passport."
- 3 I've been waiting here for my friend since 4 o'clock. I don't think he'll as it's 5.00.

C Put the verbs between brackets in the correct tense. (1.5 pt)

When he (finish) his studies in Europe, Houssam returned to Morocco. Now, he (work) as a teacher at a university. He (just / publish) a book on study skills.

D Rewrite the following sentences as suggested. (4 pts)

- 1 "When I retire from my job, I'll set up my own business" Amine said.
Amine told his colleagues
- 2 I didn't apologize to my neighbor for my rudeness. That's something I really regret.
I should
- 3 Next month, the government will launch a new programme to combat some transmissible diseases.
By June, the government
- 4 People don't respect children's rights in many countries.
Children's rights

E Match the following statements with the functions they express. (4 pts)

Statements	Functions
1 The 9:00 train's rather slow. You'd better take a taxi, instead.	a contrasting b explaining c expressing cause & effect d advising
2 Road accidents are partly due to drivers' carelessness.	
3 The main aim of this campaign is to sensitize people to the importance of voluntary work.	
4 Sanaa wants to emigrate whereas her husband would rather stay in his country.	

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

