



iiDEBATE

PRESENTATION

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IIDEBATE IN A FEW WORDS

The International Institute of Debate is a non-profit, whose mission is to develop the next generation of civic leaders, activists and change agents. It aims to accomplish that by giving young people the opportunity to actively participate in the political process. By opening up spaces for democratic education and youth participation in schools and government, we strive to prioritize the needs of low-income youth and under-resourced schools and regions.

In 2013, IDebate began as a small pilot program with an all-volunteer staff running different debate competitions and empowerment projects in four different Tunisian Regions. Two years later, IDebate has grown this strategy of real-life democracy education into five robust "Action Civics" programs that serve 120 high school students engaging teachers and decision makers into our process. Our main program areas –led by youth policymaking, and youth community problem solving – teach young people civic knowledge and leadership skills while transforming their attitudes about political participation. These programs focus on helping young people achieve success in their academic and professional as well as their social lives.

Since IDebate opened its doors, nearly 3000 students have participated in our programs, more than 1000 hours of training have been delivered. Our alumni are becoming more active community leaders. They admit the success of our hands-on approach to developing constantly active, civic and professional leaders. We are proud to now be one of the strongest and most innovative youth development and civic education organizations in the city, with lasting impacts on the personal and civic development of Tunisian youth and on how the local schools and government incorporate young people into their decision-making processes.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Delivering trainings

IIDEbate provides training in the field of communication and debate to engage youth and improve their skills in critical thinking and make them more active in their communities. The process that we go through is:

Conducting a training session

IIDEbate organises trainings for Civil society, Institutions, Companies and Youth Groups upon request, in a wide range of themes ranging from debate, to communication skills, to public speaking and project creation and pitching .

IIDEbate trainings are delivered through a network of well-experienced trainers in different fields who are all certified from international organizations. IIDEbate trainers do more than just train, they are also involved in the design of the training materials and ensure a vigilant follow up with the trainees to measure the impact of the sessions.

Conducting workshops

Depending on our partner's needs and under request, we organize workshops under request.

Organizing conferences and public debates

IIDEbate organizes different conferences and public debates in partnership with civil society organizations and with our main partners. We show our dedication and involvement to the development of the youth in addition to our corporate partners through assisting them in showcasing their projects and initiatives. Through these conferences, participants are able to acquire a deep knowledge on how to improve their communication skills and to overcome their fears of public speaking. A conference is a great way for people with a common interest to get together and exchange the most cutting-edge ideas in their field. IIDEbate organizes conferences on a regular basis in different fields such as academia, industry, multi-level marketing groups, and religious groups, to name a few.

Serving as a consultant

According to the requirement, some companies and international organizations request experts in communication and conflict management to deliver trainings, help in the design of a customized training or even to take advice on how to improve the competences of their employees, trainers and sales department.

Initiating competitions/challenges

IIDebate uses the Policy Debate format and the Open Debate format, where we use competition and challenge as the main tool to engage youth into participating with us. Those challenges are usually organized in partnership with different international organizations that help us to deliver successful projects. Those formats, we believe help push the participants to think about the problems in their communities, conduct research on those issues, and come up with solutions through creative methods such as videos and articles or even by sharing their ideas/success stories with the public, who will in return vote and support them to improve and implement their projects.

Since IIDebate is part of many networks such as Young Arab Voices, African Youth Panel, Tunisian American Alumni Network and UNESCO "NET MED YOUTH", those competitions were very successful. In the past two years, we earned the support of different partners and organizations to promote the activities and the projects, and also to engage youth to be a part of civil society organizations and clubs.



Creating projects/programs

What distinguishes IIDebate from other debate organizations is our focus on inspiring, helping and pushing youth not only to debate and discuss world issues but also to give them the chance to execute their initiatives on the ground and make a positive impact in their communities. Through our curriculums as well, we engage participants in our programs through debate sessions to present and defend their researched solutions to each other in order to come up with conclusive resolutions and initiatives. Initiatives that we assist and help evolve into programs and projects. We concentrated on several issues related to this field like:

- **Pedagogy**
- **Access to quality education**
- **Inequality**
- **Women right**
- **Access to information**
- **Transparency**

In addition, through our curriculums, we make participants in our program reflect on world issues and make a thorough research about its reality in their communities. Then, we give them the chance through debate sessions to convince each other about solutions and suggestions based on their research to tackle that specific issue. In the end, they come up with programs and invent projects that they can implement all around the country and we follow up with them to find funding to execute those projects.

This method helps the community to be more active and to believe that the system should go from down to up, citizens to government and not only the other way around. It also helps to create a positive change and make all citizens care and rely on themselves to change any issue ,they are living, to a solution.



OUR VALUES

Democracy
Solidarity
Dialogue
Engagement
Transparency

HOW WE DO IT ?

Creating initiatives

We give the chance for young people to put into practice their project ideas. Through our curriculums and activities, we work to ensure good quality trainings and follow up for organizations working with children and young people, so that their works continue to be vibrant, energetic and varied. Through the IIDebate process, young people involved in organizational activities achieve strong personal and technical competencies – benefiting businesses, education and democracy.

IIDebate makes young people agents of change in their communities

IIDebate promotes children and young people's active engagement in shaping democracy – locally, nationally and globally – in order to achieve greater influence on their everyday lives and this involvement is done through our programs "Tunisian Youth Cares", "Sghayer W Nghayer" and all the activities that we organize. In addition, IIDebate works on youth engagement in the political process, by creating simulations for teenagers under 18 to teach the real meaning of democracy.

IIDebate advocates for public politics of youth

IIDebate fights for the recognition of the young people force as an active resource in society and as the workforce of tomorrow, who add to the cohesion in society. Through our programs Tounsi W Nghayer and Café Talk we empower young people's skills to make them create initiatives in their communities to resolve social issues. We also connect them with decision makers to support those initiatives.

IIDebate gives youth the potential to serve their communities

Volunteer work is a valuable resource for society, providing children and young people with the opportunity to get together and beyond cultural differences, educational systems and social backgrounds. IIDebate also works hard to involve into this process, people with disabilities who might be having troubles to connect with their environment. Through the discussion and the activities, volunteers feel more connected to world issues and responsible to make it a better place starting from their own community.

WHY WE DO IT?

I.I. Debate works mainly on empowering young leaders of tomorrow by providing them with the skills of public speaking, negotiation and critical thinking. We work to engage youth of undeveloped countries especially women to be more active and to stop any violation to their rights.

We believe that debate can be the essential tool to be provided in order to make those youth more aware of what's happening around them and ready to fight any human rights violation. We also believe that connecting civil society organizations through a good communication can be the weapon to fight corruption and inequality.

OUR PROJECTS

Khallini Ne5tar خطيني نختار

In partnership with The British Council, The International Institute of Debate engaged 1000 school students from 10 regions of Tunisia in different training cycles that enabled them to explore career paths that they may want to pursue. The British Council has been playing a significant role in addressing the issue of education in developing countries, as well as enhancing myriad marketable skills in youth.

This project ended up with a big fair on March 21st in the Palais des Congrès in Tunis. More than 1000 visitors from eight regions attended it; 65% high school students, 25% professionals, 7% parents and 3% journalists.

This event gave high school students the opportunity to meet with all the different schools and organizations that may help them with finding their own path and some answers to their questions related to orientation.



Tunisian Youth Cares
Challenge

International Youth Day

In partnership with 10 Tunisian organizations with the support of UNECO NET MED Youth and United Nations Tunisia, IDebate brought together 40 young Tunisian leaders from 6 different regions with social project to compete and show to the leaders that youth can have the power to change their communities. 10 different projects were exposed in front of judges composed by: International organizations, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of education and Media.

action/2015 Tunisia Action 2015

IIdebate was part of the coalition of over 2,200 organisations around the world who are committed to fighting for a better future.

By working together at critical decision-making points in 2015, we ensured world leaders felt the pressure of millions of people to make 2015 a year of action and change.

Together, through the millions of actions we took, we:

- > Showed that the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and the Climate Agreement have a real public constituency behind them.
- > Brought news of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and the Climate Agreement to millions of people and highlighted how the core issues of our time – poverty, inequality and climate change – are interlinked.
- > Brought together diverse communities – from development, to climate, to human rights – to campaign together for change.



Tounsi W Nghayer

Sghayer W Nghayer realised by The International Institute of Debate aims at training young students in civic engagement, advocacy, and freedom of speech, public speaking, non-verbal communication and journalism. To achieve a successful training, the program includes a training of trainers as well. The young beneficiaries will disseminate the taught concepts in civic engagement in their respective 5 regions: Tunis-Ariana, Bizerte, Sidibouzid, Gabes and Sfax through fieldtrips and awareness campaigns. The young beneficiaries will present their findings to a committee to help reshape the education system.

Sghayer W Nghayer



This project aims to involve young people in the decision making process to become future leaders and educate them on critical thinking to create change in their communities. This initiative was launched by the International Institute of debate funded by MEPI program 'Middle East Partnership Initiative' over a period of 12 months.

The project's objectives

1. Give the opportunity to young people between 15 and 23 years to find solutions regarding the issue of orientation through a national debate
2. Developing the skills of young people through training in various fields
3. Provide opportunities for young people between 15 and 23 years of being in contact with decision makers and inspire them to become future leaders

Cafe Talk

The International Institute of Debate decided to start the project entitled "Cafe talk": It consists on organizing public debates and open discussion in Cafés about local and global issues. Everyone can benefit from this project and especially youth aged between 16 to 30 years, since they are the one who spend more time in Cafés. In such age, everyone will try to express his voice by giving their opinion about topics like: Politics, sports, art, economics, every teenager wants to make a difference but they will certainly face issues of self-expression even in subjects that they are extremely concerned with. In fact, our project today will give them the space to discuss, talk and debate about topics that they will choose themselves.

"Café Talk" started in Gabes, Gafsa, Sfax, Kairouane, Monastir, Medenine, Bizerte and Tunis. We started by small cafés (Cultural Cafes). Then following up with this pilot project we will spread it all around Tunisia.

The project expended in Jordan and Algeria to impact more youth around the Arab world.

