

Final comments of the Youth4Governance closing ceremony.
September 24th, 2021
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Excellencies, Dear General Directors, Dear Colleagues

Those slides are a sneak peak of the reports, which have much more, and have actionable recommendations. You can find the reports on the <https://www.youth4governance.org> website and download and read them. They are quite detailed and informative.

When this internship program started and during the onboarding of the first edition, we told the interns that this is not an NGO, not a political party, not a classroom. This also not a normal internship in an enterprise. We told them that they are embarking on a consultancy mission, that we are on the other side of the matrix. Their objective is to put their consultant hat, unravel the mechanisms, processes, systems within the state, locate the nuts and bolts, use science and knowledge to understand the public sector and help reform it.

We have worked by their side and saw them take this ride with courage commitment and passion. We saw them discover their State, discover its vulnerabilities but also the huge opportunities within Public Administration. In the debriefings, they talked about their surprise to see weird things, like photos of political zaims displayed in offices of civil servants. But they also talked about their drive to support talented and committed civil servant who impressed them with their knowledge and hard work.

Their performance all along and while building these reports was impressive and many times we even learned from them. We learned seeing the state through their eyes, and seeing the envy, drive and readiness of our youth to engage in lifting up their country.

This program is a great story unfolding, the story of young Lebanese building the state they wish to live in. Of talent that is ready to engage, pull their sleeves up, and get the job done.

1-This program is about bringing the youth closer to State institutions, but also about promoting the brand of citizen-expert, who will explore, assess, measure, analyze, evidence, and recommend, then bring science into practice building our institutions up.

2-This program is also another thing. It is a message to the civil servants serving the State of Lebanon for years and seeing things crumbling in those times, to tell them that the teachers and students of our universities, the consultants of our country are here by their side in those tough times, ready to help fix things. We will locate the champions of change in the public administration, the hard working, dedicated civil servants who gave their lives to build something good, and give them the support to pass through this tough transition and bring our institutions back in the game, because institutions are our only way to recover our country.

3-This program is also a message to those who do not want change, in the public sector and outside the public sector, to tell them that we will confront their resistance to change with our science, our expertise and our technology. Politicking will not win over will and technical competency. Maneuvering cannot stand in the face of research, analysis, understanding, and implementing. Because the country is in need for this approach and it is only through this approach that we can build the State we want.

In short, this program is about the citizen-expert, about science at the service of change, about supporting champions of change wherever they are, and about standing firm in the face of those who will resist rebuilding our State. And this is why our alliance with the Central Inspection is very strategic today.

Finally, we would like to thank:

The Rector Father Salim Daccache for his trust and support.

The dean of FDSP Professor Lena Gannage for giving space to this initiative and supporting it against all odds and challenges the faculty is undergoing.

VP Toufic Rizk, and Lamia Moubayed for helping mounting this project.

The teachers of FDSP who are helping students finalize their report, and those who worked behind the scenes, Rita, Amany, Magy, Rana and Wael... all the siren team.

We would like to thank the directors general for opening their doors to our students, and for the central inspection to give them the support, attention and time against all odds.

We would also like to thank the British embassy for believing in and supporting the governance work with the Central Inspection which has inspired this initiative.

Yes, we are the State!