



2026 edition

Independent Election Commission · Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

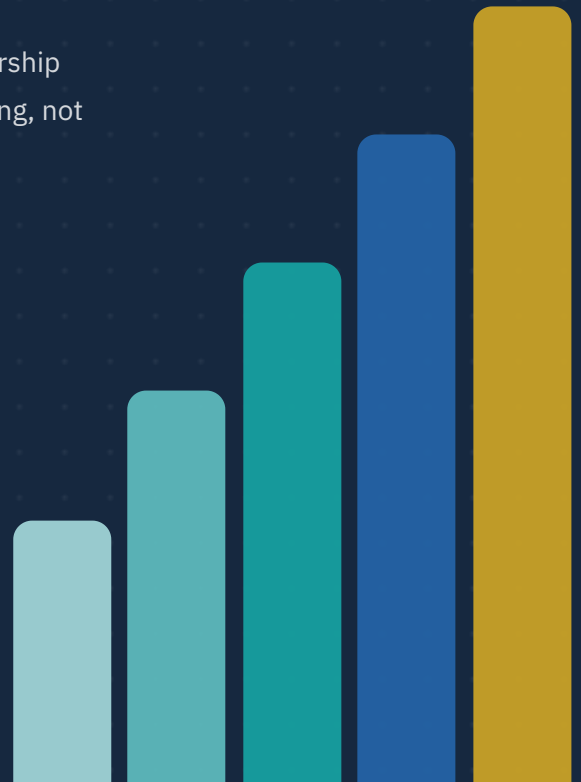
Ana Usharek

أنا أشارك

The Sustainable Democratic Empowerment
Programme for Youth

Young · Jordanian · Active

When young people learn how elections are run and try leadership with their own hands, they become partners in decision-making, not spectators.



482,720

attendances and
participants

48,304

interactive sessions

12

governorates

55

higher-education
institutions

Source: programme data up to September 2026.

01 A national programme, run by a constitutional body, that takes young people from awareness to leadership

Ana Usharek ("I Participate") is the civic and political education programme of Jordan's Independent Election Commission (IEC). Since 2022 it has worked in universities, colleges, schools and youth centres in every governorate. It starts with knowledge, builds skills, and then opens a step-by-step path to leadership and real influence in public life and the labour market.

- 1 Run directly by a constitutional body**
The institution that runs elections explains to young people how they are run, impartially and credibly.
- 2 Year-round, not seasonal**
Not tied to an election calendar; it runs every semester and through the summer.
- 3 A five-station ladder**
From the first session to the national leadership track, ATHAR.
- 4 Learning by doing**
Realistic election simulations, moot courts, competitions, a hackathon and Sawtak Mu'athir.
- 5 In all 12 governorates**
Universities, colleges, schools and youth centres, in cities and outlying areas.
- 6 Measured, independently checked impact**
Pre/post measurement and an independent study with Penn State University.

Our mission

That every young woman and man has the knowledge, skills and confidence to take part in public life responsibly, and trusts the electoral process because they understand it and have lived it.

Our vision

A generation of Jordanians who see participation as a right they exercise and a responsibility they carry, and who turn their skills into impact in their communities and opportunity in their lives.

02 Numbers that tell a story of national reach

482,720

session attendances and participants

Up to Sept 2026

48,304

sessions delivered

Latest data, 2026

298,267

female attendances and participants (61.8%)

Up to Sept 2026

184,453

male attendances and participants (38.2%)

Up to Sept 2026

15 + 15 + 80

delivery sites: universities + youth centres + schools

During 2026

45

facilitators

Up to Sept 2026

≈300

initiatives launched by participants

Programme data, Sept 2026

55 + 88

HEIs + summer sites

Impact report 2022–2025

Young people at the ballot box: 2024 elections

43.7%

of 2024 voters were aged 17–35: 715,230 of 1,638,356

31.2%

youth turnout, against 33.1% for over-35s (30.1% for youth in 2020)

45.18%

share of 18–35s on the voter register: 2,295,706 of 5,080,858

589,820

citizens eligible to vote for the first time

32.25%

overall turnout in 2024, up from 29.90% in 2020

25

minimum age to stand for parliament after the 2022 amendments

41

of 138 seats (30%) for party lists in the 20th House, rising to 50% and then 65%

3

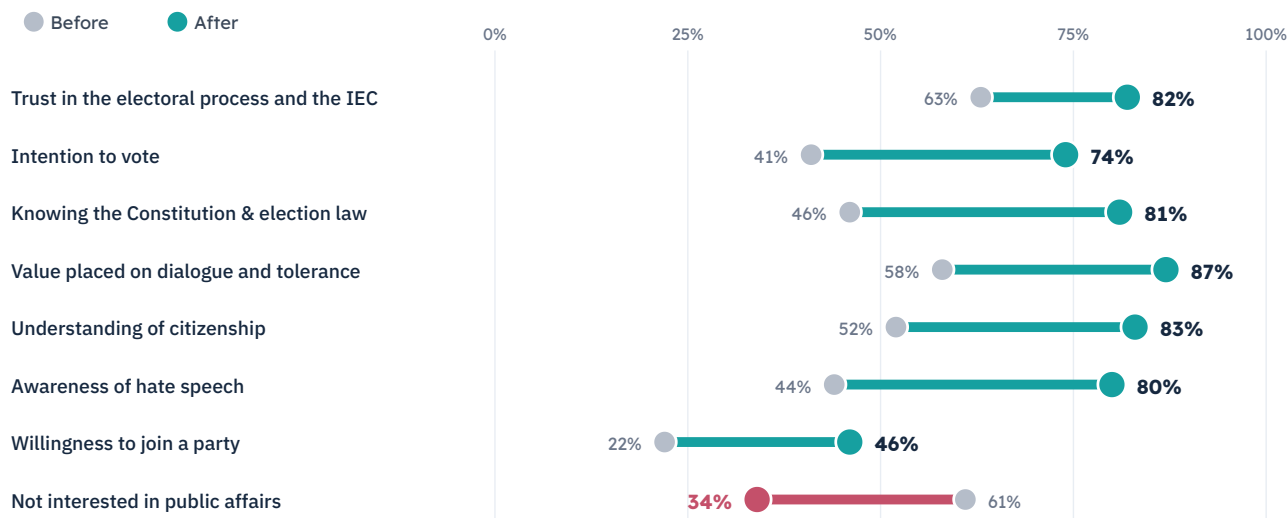
seats for under-35s on every governorate council (Local Administration Law 2026)

Youth turnout rose from 30.1% (2020) to 31.2% (2024); 68,000 more young people voted.

Sources: IEC: detailed reports on the 2020 (p. 56) and 2024 (pp. 89, 91, 100) elections, and 2024 young-voter data by hour and district (rates calculated from them); 2022 constitutional amendments; Election Law 4/2022; Local Administration Law 16/2026.

03 When young people understand the electoral process, they trust it and take part

Before and after the programme (% of participants)



Source: impact evaluation 2022–2025 (IEC pre/post assessment tools).

Knowledge

Understands the laws, procedures and their rights

Experience

Lives an election in a realistic simulation

Self-belief

Feels their voice is heard and matters

Trust

Whoever watches the count trusts the result

Participation

Votes, stands, initiates and leads

04 The skills that make an active citizen also make a strong employee and an initiative founder

When young people learn to hold a dialogue, persuade, lead a team and analyse a problem, they are preparing at the same time for public life, for the labour market and for launching their own initiative. That is why the programme builds personal skills as a bridge between all three.

Personal skills

1

2

3

Public participation

Voting and standing, party and student work, and a civic act that reaches an institution and has its reply recorded. 187 participants and graduates have stood in student council and club elections.

Employability

A professional thread in every station from day one, the compulsory "From initiative to job" module, a portfolio of acts and numbers, STAR interview practice, and credentials and reference letters an employer can read.

Entrepreneurship & initiatives

About 300 participant initiatives, digital projects in the Tech-Voices hackathon, community initiatives in Sawtak, and a ten-week field initiative in the Fellowship.

7 in 10

companies see analytical thinking as essential in 2025

39%

of existing skills will change or become outdated, 2025–2030

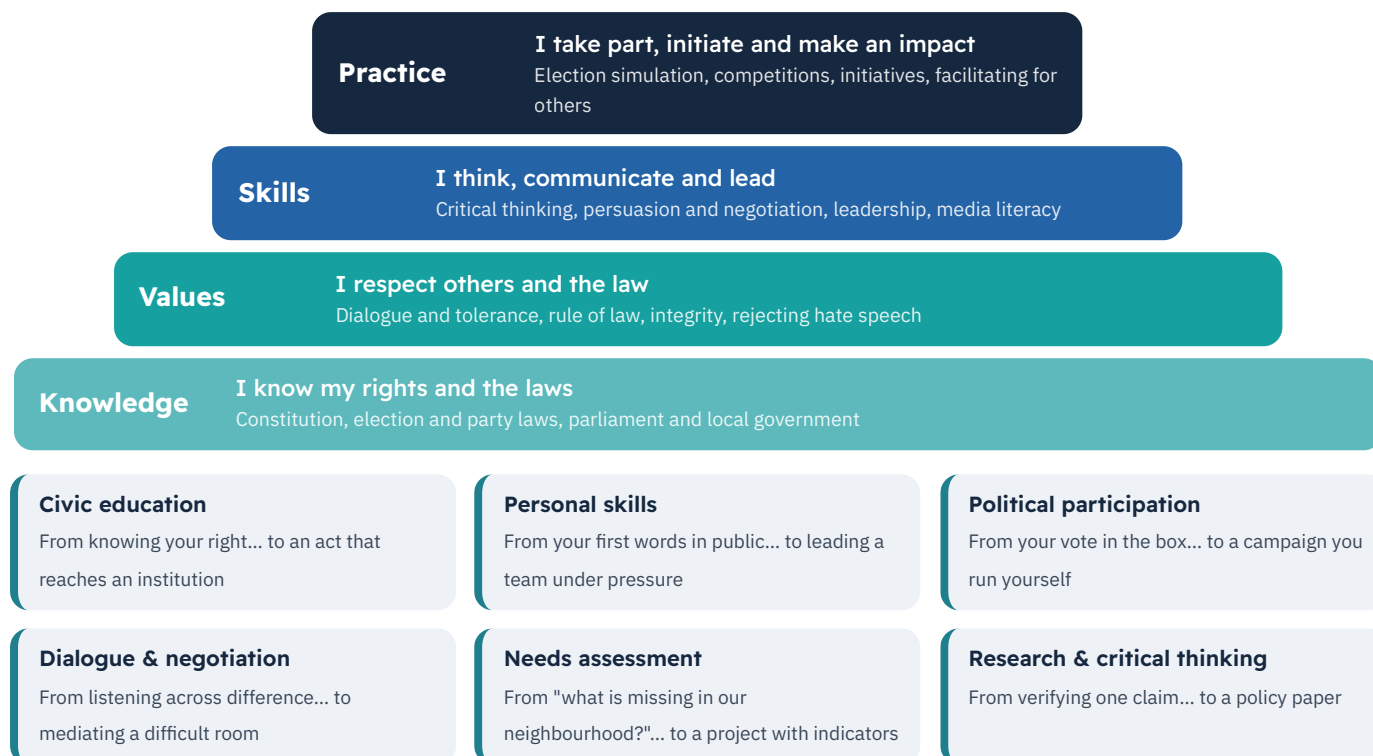
63%

of employers see skills gaps as the biggest barrier

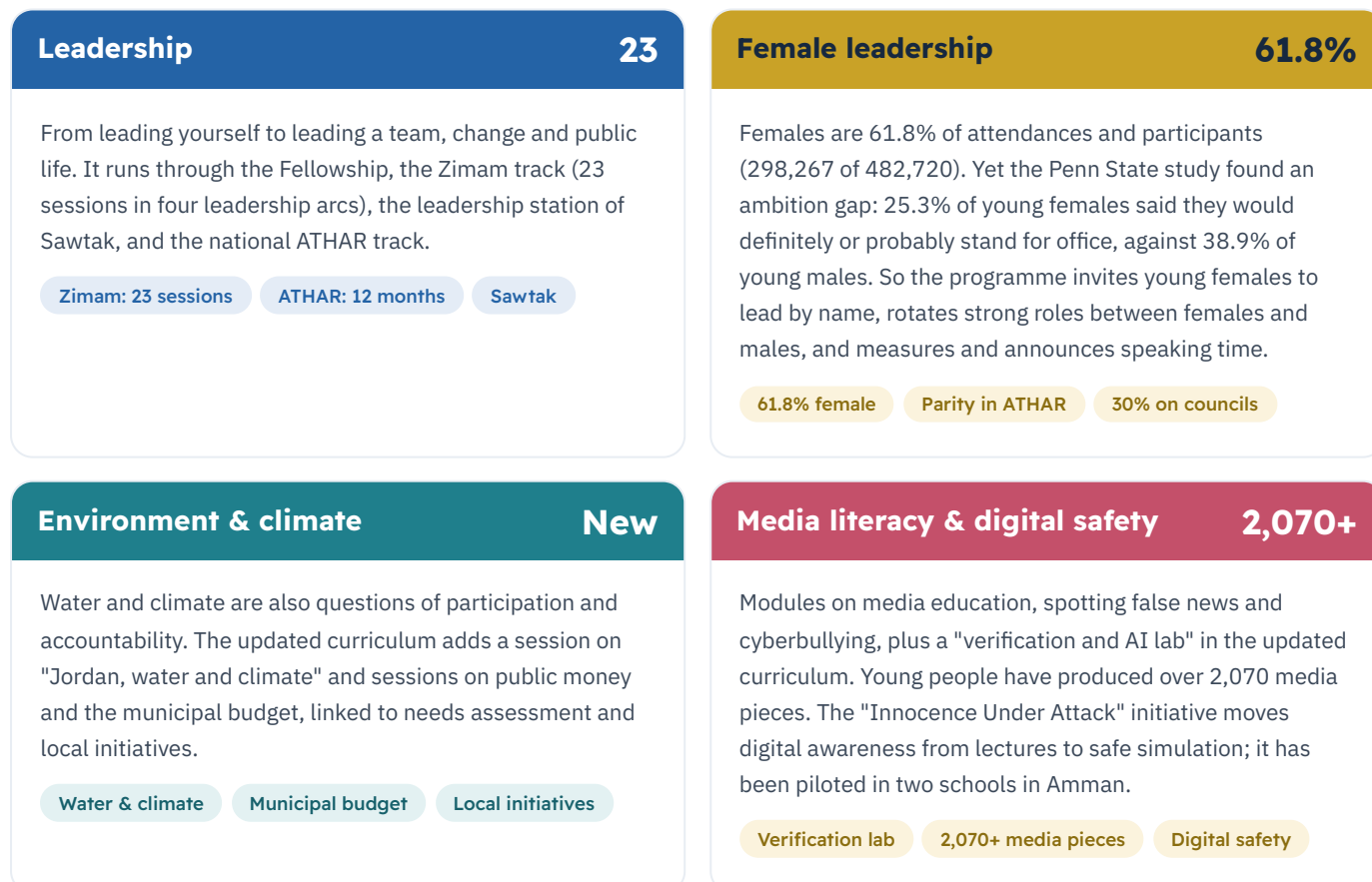
Source: World Economic Forum, Future of Jobs Report 2025.

05 Four layers that build an active, participating young citizen

The programme does not deliver isolated facts. It builds character layer by layer: knowledge that opens awareness, values that guide behaviour, skills that make action possible, and practice that creates impact.

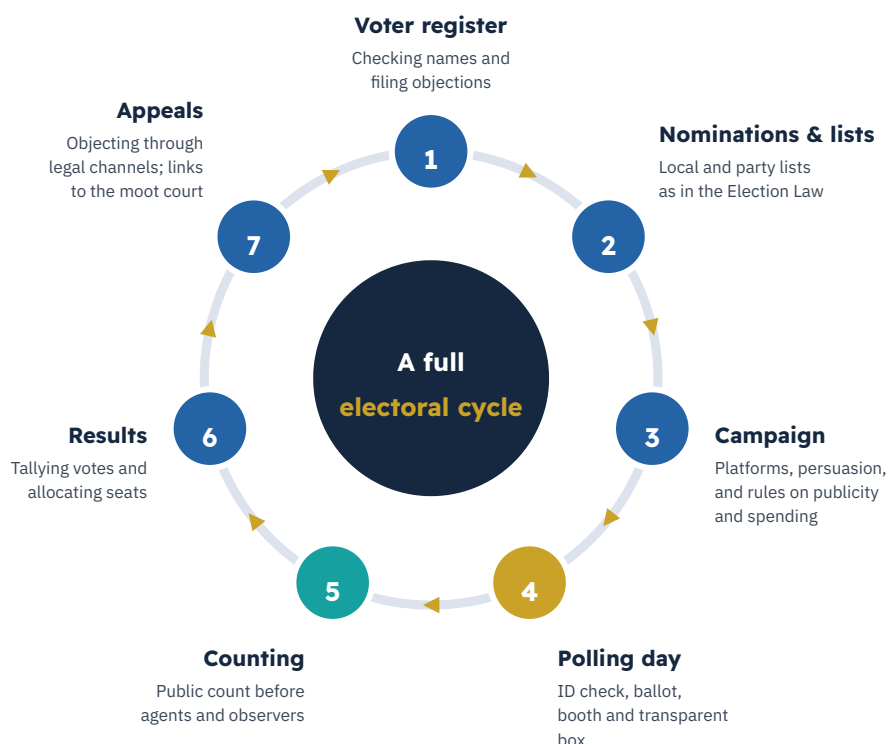


06 Issues young people live with, at the heart of the programme



07 We learn elections by living them

Simulation is a core part of the programme's method, not a side activity. Participants live the full electoral cycle with real roles and real tools, from the voter register to appeals, so they understand the process from the inside and trust its integrity.



Roles participants take on

Voter Candidate

Polling-station chair and members

Candidate agent Observer

Journalist Fact-checker

What participants take away

- A precise understanding of every stage of the electoral process
- Trust in integrity that comes from experience, not instruction
- Respect for the result, and objection through legal channels
- Organisation, teamwork and working under pressure

The practical election exercise
Learn it... live it... and take part with awareness.

3,156

students in the practical election exercise (50 sessions)

177

in the Jordanian Parliament simulation at German Jordanian University (16 sessions)

08 From the classroom to the field: the programme's young people at the heart of election season

6,035

young volunteers from the programme in awareness campaigns and on polling day, 2024 elections

11

national awareness campaigns with the programme's young people

Polling day is the real test of everything learned in the classroom: young people stand beside voters, see integrity from the inside, and return to their communities as its witnesses.

Before polling day Awareness campaigns

- Sessions in universities, schools and youth centres
- Digital content explaining the laws and voting procedures
- Checking facts and countering rumours
- Peer-to-peer dialogue

Polling day Election volunteers

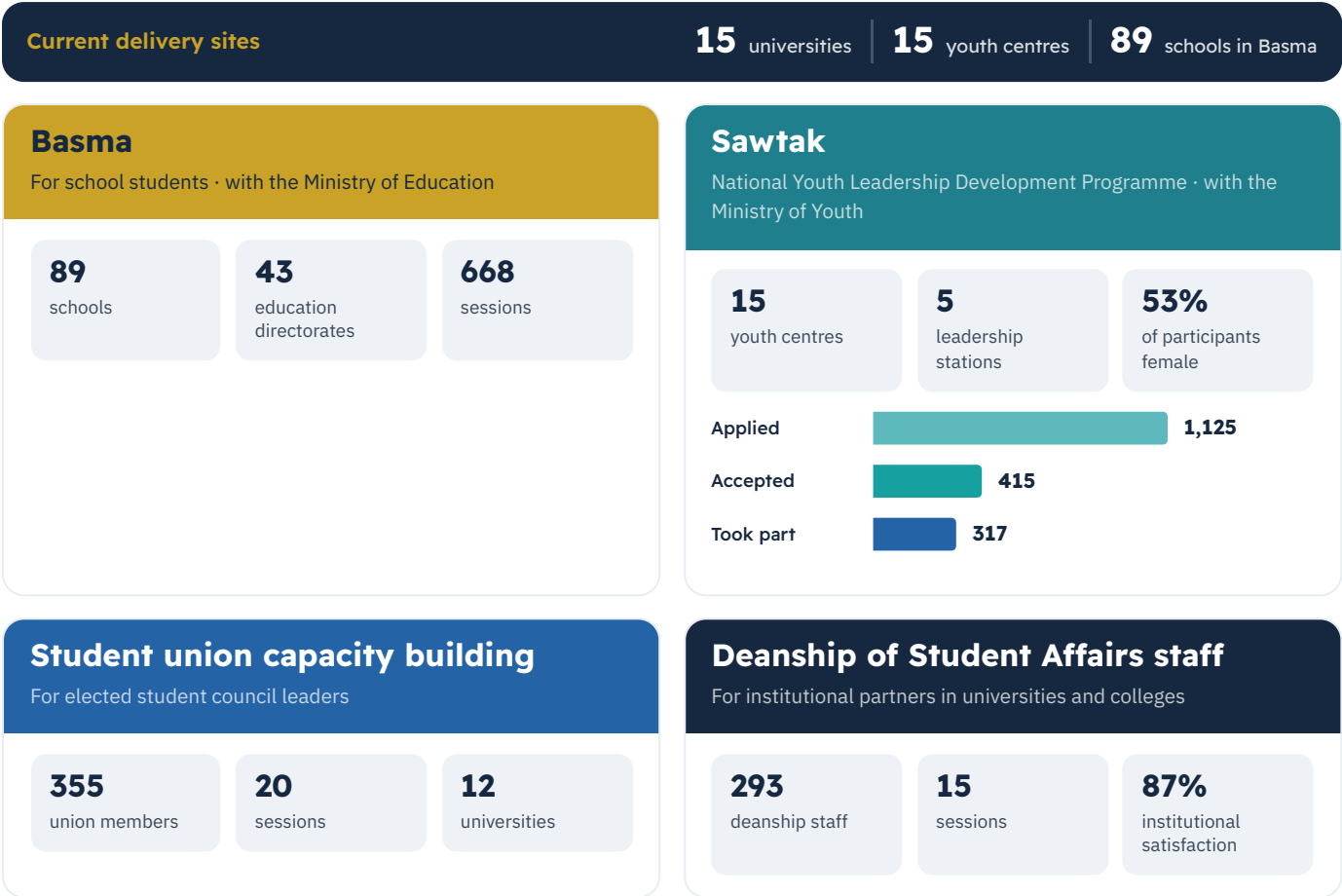
- Guiding and directing voters
- Supporting older voters and persons with disabilities
- Sharing accurate information on procedures
- Modelling neutrality and discipline in public

After polling day Reading the results

- Understanding how votes are counted and seats allocated
- Discussing results with numbers, not impressions
- Turning the experience into new initiatives and content
- Preparing for the next season

Source: Ana Usharek programme data. Source: impact evaluation 2022–2025.

09 Four programmes that reach every group



10 Why we hold competitions

For us a competition is a learning tool, not an end in itself. Knowledge becomes performance in front of an audience, and young people learn to compete fairly and respect the result, just as in an election.

Moot Court

Electoral justice through young eyes

For law students in 22 faculties. Students plead electoral cases, electoral appeals and cases under the regulation on party activities before law professors, then before judges named by the Judicial Council in the final rounds. Scoring: 60% written pleadings, 40% oral.

Convince Me (Iqna'ni)

The art of persuasion and influential speech

An alternative to debate: debate is a battle with a winner and a loser; persuasion is a bridge. The audience votes before and after, so what is measured is a team's ability to change minds, not to defeat an opponent. Judges 80%, shift in audience vote 20%.

Tech-Voices hackathon

Youth · Technology · Participation

Teams of 3–5 design apps, platforms and digital campaigns, using AI and data analysis, that boost political and civic participation. Judged on innovation, impact, feasibility and sustainability; the aim is for winning projects to be implemented with partners.

Sawtak Mu'athir

Your Voice Matters: honing talent, making impact

For journalism and media students, who become influential digital content creators across five themes, including electoral participation, countering hate speech and disinformation, and cyberbullying. Entries: film, podcast, play or digital campaign, scored on a 100-point rubric.

Raqeem | Al-Bayan

National youth oratory competition

The name joins al-raqeem (the enduring Nabataean inscription of Petra) with al-bayan (the height of Arabic eloquence): words that are carved, not spoken and forgotten. First-season theme: "The Jordan we want — draw it with your words."

Traditional debate vs Convince Me

Image: A battle: winner and loser → A bridge: a before and an after

Goal: Silence the opponent → Change the audience's mind

Measure: Judges' scores → Judges + shift in audience vote

13 Where does Ana Usharek stand among comparable programmes?

Programme	Run by	Model	Scale (unit, year)
Ana Usharek — Jordan	Independent Election Commission	Year-round 5-station ladder + simulation + competitions	482,720 attendances and participants, 48,304 sessions (2022–2026)
Global			
Electoral Literacy Clubs — India	Election Commission	Standing clubs in schools and colleges	~220,000 clubs (undated figure)
Student Vote — Canada	CIVIX with Elections Canada	Parallel school vote at election time	917,109 votes, 6,302 schools (2025)
Juniorwahl — Germany	NGO	School elections at election time	6,400+ schools (2025)
Make Your Mark — UK	UK Youth Parliament	Periodic national youth ballot	526,573 votes (2024)
Arab region			
University voter education — Palestine	Central Elections Commission	Project rounds run by universities	40,000 participants/beneficiaries (2017–18)
QatarDebate	Qatar Foundation	Debate training and championships	925 speakers, 15 national championships (2023–24)
Arab Parliament for the Child	Arab League & Sharjah	Regional mock parliament	54 members (2026)

Units differ (votes, visitors, session attendances), so read each figure in its own unit rather than comparing directly.

14 Why modernise?

Knowing is not enough

Legal knowledge rose 35 points and intention to vote from 41% to 74%, yet only about 14% of graduates went on to engage in party work.

The certificate rewarded attendance

It said you were in the room. It did not say what you can do, and no employer reads it.

Material had aged

Repealed laws (decentralisation and the 2021 local administration law) and lecture-shaped modules with no practice.

The road stopped short

No published path after the Fellowship, and no way to see how national leadership is reached.

15 The Isnad ladder: climb it station by station



Four pillars for 2027–2029

Deepen

Competence-based curricula and credentials earned by proof

Widen

From universities to colleges and community hubs: 60 sites

Elevate

Young people in local and party decision-making

Sustain

A national registry, an alumni guild and an employer council

“Democracy is not inherited. It is learned, and practised.”



Independent Election Commission
Ana Usharek programme
www.iec.jo



Interactive dashboard

Scan to open the interactive dashboard for up-to-date figures and reports, in Arabic, English and French.

anausharekshababjo.pages.dev

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Source: "Ana Usharek is changing" infographic and Zimam design document, September 2026.