



Mutual Mentorship Program – Fourth Meeting Summary

The fourth and final meeting of the Mutual Mentorship Program (MMP) before the summer break was held virtually on 30 June 2025, under the theme **“Storytelling in Practice.”** This session brought together mentors from across Europe and the MENA region for an afternoon of personal reflection, shared experiences, and important programme updates.

Ann Måwe, Director of the Swedish Dialogue Institute (SDI), opened the session by warmly welcoming participants and reflecting on the significance of coming together in light of recent regional tensions. She acknowledged the challenging period following the escalation between Israel and Iran and the broader geopolitical context. She also expressed appreciation for the messages of solidarity and mentioned the postponement of the SDI activities at the Anna Lindh Foundation Forum (ALForum), thanking Salah and Victoria for representing MMP on other panels.

The mentors were provided an overview of upcoming MMP milestones by Programme Officer, **Aseel Shaaban**. The importance of completing the evaluation form was emphasised to help shape future sessions. Two online meetings are **tentatively** planned for **16 September** and **14 October**, followed by a final in-person gathering in Amman on **25–26 November**. Participants will be invited to vote on two out of four proposed thematic areas to be discussed during the online sessions. The proposed topics are *AI & Cybersecurity*, *Green Transition*, *Women’s Economic Participation*, and *Disarmament & Non-proliferation*.

The final in-person gathering will be followed by SDI’s annual **November Conference**, which is expected to host over 100 participants and include stakeholders from government, NGOs, CSOs, and the private sector.

The mentors received logistical updates for the **November Conference** by the Admin Officer, **Lama Seryani**; SDI will cover travel, accommodation, and meals, but not visa fees. Invitation letters will be provided for visa applications, and participants were reminded to prepare necessary documents (passport copies, bios, photos, etc.).

Following these sessions and segments above, the mentors participated in an interactive session by **Rick W. Hindi**, Communications Officer at the SDI, inviting them to reflect on their one-on-one mentorship experiences. Through a QR code, attendees submitted responses to the prompt:

“Can you share something memorable or impactful from your one-on-one discussions with your mentor?”

Participants were encouraged to speak from the heart, with a few volunteers sharing their personal stories. These reflections highlighted the strength of intergenerational and cross-regional exchange, the core of the MMP experience.

Moderated by **Martina Berglund**, Deputy Director of SDI, a storytelling segment followed the interactive activity, the segments featured compelling contributions from MMP participants:

Edgar Mannheimer reflected on shifting political perspectives and public reactions, drawing on the example on a mayoral campaign. **Mohammad Hasan** highlighted storytelling as a tool for advocacy and legal protection, sharing a case where survivor testimonies and open-source information were used as evidence. **Dr. Dima Karadsheh** spoke about her personal journey from aspiring architect to working in education, emphasising how storytelling fosters empathy and visibility.

Meanwhile, **Jessica Jacobs** explored the influence of digital filmmaking as a leading form of storytelling and a means of reclaiming narrative ownership. Finally, **Nidhal Attia** recounted his investigative efforts exposing a transnational environmental scandal involving waste exports —an impactful story that contributed to policy reform.

In closing, **Ann Måwe** thanked everyone for their contributions and highlighted the value of storytelling as both a personal and political act. A special thanks was extended to **Martina Berglund** for her exceptional contribution to the programme and facilitation of the day’s session — marking her final appearance with SDI.