



**OECD GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (GfD) in ARAB COUNTRIES**  
**WORKING GROUP 2 ON E-GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLIFICATION**

-

**JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVES ON E-GOVERNMENT**

**What is the objective?**

The Joint Learning Initiatives are cooperative efforts between OECD and Arab countries - initiated and supported by individual OECD or Arab countries with the help of the OECD Secretariat - to respond to Arab countries' demand of cooperation within the framework of the Governance for Development Initiative (GfD) in Arab countries.

**What are they in concrete terms?**

These cooperative activities could take the form of:

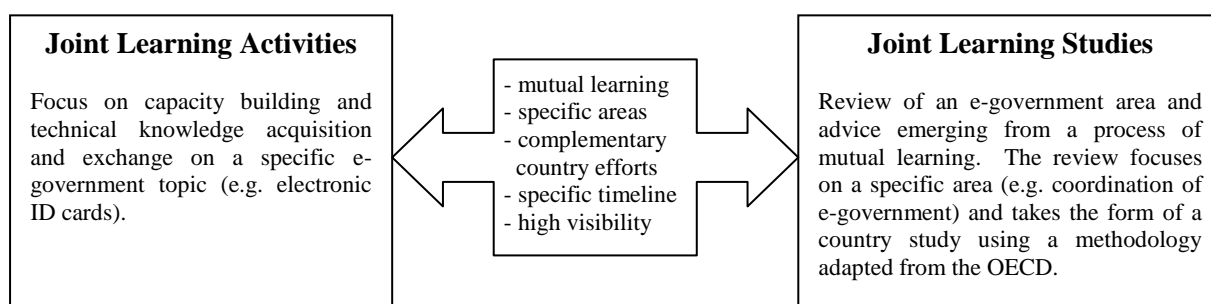
1. Joint Learning ACTIVITIES (JLA)
2. Joint Learning STUDIES (JLS)

*Joint Learning Activities* are intended to bridge the supply with the demand of technical know-how in a specific area of e-government through the conduct of ad-hoc capacity-building and technical knowledge learning initiatives. For example, a selected number of experts of Arab countries who are directly working on electronic ID cards participate in capacity building and training seminars organised, hosted and animated by experts of OECD or other Arab countries. Or selected experts of Arab and OECD countries are invited by individual Arab countries to lead capacity building seminars specifically addressing experts in their own country.

*Joint Learning Studies* are intended to help Arab countries to advance their e-government agenda through accessing knowledge and experience from OECD and other Arab countries. The Joint Learning Study on E-government is a mutual learning process culminating in the preparation of a report containing an overview of the status, main achievements, policy learning and suggestions for improvement addressed to the observed country on a specific e-government area. The "joint learning" nature of the study is that its methodology (featuring the participation of OECD Secretariat and invited experts from other Arab and OECD countries) allows for a close exchange of experiences between experts and mutual learning from

opportunities and challenges linked to e-government implementation. For example, the recently-completed Joint Learning Study on Integrity in Public Procurement was the result of the intense collaboration of experts from Morocco, Dubai, Canada, France and the OECD Secretariat. At the demand of Arab countries, Joint Learning Studies could also have broader coverage, going beyond a specific area to include a series of key aspects related to a country's e-government initiative (in this case the Joint Learning Study could take the form of an e-government country review) .

Fig. 1 Joint Learning Initiatives: TOOLS FOR COOPERATION ON E-GOVERNMENT



**What are the focus areas of the Joint Learning Initiatives?**

The Joint Learning Initiatives could focus on thematic areas identified by Arab delegates through the survey for thematic priorities for the regional policy dialogue on e-government for 2008-2010. The areas for JLI are not limited to those indicated in the table below and they could be augmented/reviewed following discussion at the working group level or specific indication from interested countries. For a list of these thematic priority areas for which JLI could be organised, please see p. 2.

**How can Joint Learning Initiatives be set up?**

With regards to the Joint Learning Activities, the Arab or OECD country hosting this activity is invited to cover the cost of its set-up and organisation. The Arab countries to which this activity is addressed could be asked to financially support their own participation when possible. The OECD could support countries' efforts to mobilise resources for these initiatives. The invitations to participate in Joint Learning Activities are sent following agreement between the host country and the OECD, and based on an indication of concrete interest and the needs of individual countries.

With regards to the Joint Learning Studies, these activities are conducted at the demand of individual countries. The requesting country is also responsible for identifying resources to cover the preparation of the study. The OECD could support the demanding country efforts in the mobilisation of resources.

Detailed terms of reference for both activities will be prepared as part of the activity set-up process.

**Thematic Areas for Joint Learning Activities (listed in order of priority – “1” express highest priority for Arab countries)**

<p><b>1. Institutional Arrangements for E-Government</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Institutions (e-government units, CIOs, inter-agency bodies) and tools for e-government coordination (e.g. enterprise architecture, voluntary agreements)</li> <li>▪ Roles, functions and organisation of e-government units in ministries, agencies and local governments</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. E-services, sectorial initiatives, shared applications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ E-service enablement, service delivery strategies, methods to improve take up</li> <li>▪ Shared applications (e.g. e-budgeting, e-payment, e-forms, document archiving)</li> <li>▪ E-procurement</li> <li>▪ Sectorial initiatives (e-health, e-learning, e-taxation)</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. E-government strategy formulation and implementation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strategy formulation for central and local government; strategy formulation for ministries and agencies</li> <li>▪ Sequencing steps for strategy implementation; monitoring tools and mechanisms (e.g. use of indicators)</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Technical infrastructure for e-government</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communication networks (e.g. internal government networks, ministry intranets)</li> <li>▪ Service infrastructure (e.g. service gateways), central databases, technical standards</li> <li>▪ Digital identification and authentication infrastructures and outlets (e.g. ID cards, PKI)</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. E-government for administrative simplification</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Integrating e-government and administrative simplification strategies</li> <li>▪ E-government applications to simplify the administration (e.g. online one-stopshops, data reporting systems for businesses)</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. E-government training and capacity building</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ E-government competencies and skills improvement (e.g. technical, project management, etc)</li> <li>▪ Online e-government learning communities within government administrations</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Legislative infrastructure for e-government</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Digital signature legislation</li> <li>▪ Privacy protection</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Measurement and Evaluation of e-government</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Measurement and evaluation tools and methods at ministry and agency level</li> <li>▪ Capacity building for setting useful e-government indicators at national, programme and project level</li> </ul>