

V. SUCESS STORIES

Success Story 1

Ahmed El Saïdy: “The Legend” or Ostoura

“We are all citizens of this country, we all struggle but we all have duties and responsibilities towards each other as members of one nation.”

Ahmed El Saïdy is a distinguished model of a young man aspiring to break through the development scene in Egypt. Having graduated from the Faculty of Law in Assiut governorate in 2007, he went on to become a Human Rights’ advocate. Following the January 25th revolution, he found his passion in defending issues that range from human rights in general to freedom of expression, women’s rights, harassment, gender-based violence and torture.



He commenced his flourishing career in 2014 by being one of the participants of the CRISP CDS project - Simulating the Egyptian Transition (SET II) and being an essential player of the Zamposia simulation gaming initiative. This particular interactive system seeks to replicate segments of reality whereby participants engage in a thorough process of self-reflection, conflict-handling skills and personality development. El Saïdy suggests that these role playing exercises are indispensable for infusing values of co-existence, compassion, and empathy among the Egyptian society. He also emphasizes the value-added of the simulation gaming technique regarding its unparalleled ability to provide participants with the know-how and skills needed to independently embark on a journey of self-discovery and capacity building.

Following the conclusion of his first practice at Zamposia, El Saïdy hoped to expand and share this educational and life-altering experience with people all over the country. Hence, he successfully led the application of several simulation games in 2015 in Cairo, Alexandria, Ein El Sokhna, Sohag and Fayoum governorates. These workshops bravely tackled highly sensitive issues/taboo concepts including Muslim-Christian relations, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Gender-based violence, sexual harassment and domestic abuse. Among El Saïdy’s proudest highlights of the workshops is the case of Mariam, a Christian girl and Salah, a Muslim man who visited Cairo together for the first time despite the difficulties restricting their interaction back in Sohag governorate.

He consolidated his career by creating sustainable platforms for the dissemination of simulation gaming concepts. Through these platforms, he was able to ensure the empowerment of what he called “Ambassadors of Change and Dialogue”. The essence of such an establishment is to foster peaceful relations between NGOs, CSOs, and the public and private sectors. It also aims to bridge the conceptual and practical gaps between these entities so as to establish fruitful cooperation, progress and change. In El Saïdy’s words “we are all citizens of this country, we all struggle but we all have duties and responsibilities towards each other as members of one nation.”