

Nicolas Rouhana: BeirutIX (Beirut Internet Exchange)

Beirut IX was formed back in 1997 by a multi-stakeholder group, and has had lots of operational challenges, namely internal connectivity based on wireless systems which hindered scalability & reliability over the years. Today, BeirutIX is at a major cornerstone; it has just operated Google Caches servers, and is preparing to receive an Akamai node, which is stressing both its fabric and its 'informal' modus-operandi, requiring BeirutIX to look at other models and best practices around the world. Participating in the Euro-IX Forum was really an eye-opener, allowing to meet subject-matter experts, explore business models used by exchanges around Europe and the world (like a very insightful experience from San Francisco !). It was also a great opportunity to network, and learn new tools to manage exchanges (like IXP Manager, BIRD, and others).

The people are fantastic, very open and helpful. The social events gave also appropriate time to 'bond' with the group. The sessions were technical and strategic; I would have preferred having separate tracks for each type, which would allow less participants and more interactions in the sessions. Attending the General Assembly, the elections and budget discussions was also very enlightening as to managing a network of IXPs.

I really thank Euro-IX for this Fellowship Program that allowed Beirut IX to take part in the 27th Euro-IX Forum in Berlin, and especially the opportunity to present the Lebanon case of peering with its challenges in front of the whole network, which really highlighted the differences in Internet eXchanges between developed and developing countries.

BeirutIX will surely be engaging more with the network moving forward, like inviting experts to visit BeirutIX to conduct a workshop locally, or sending staff for internship in other IXs, and why not supporting a future Euro-IX Forum in Beirut

For more information on Beirut-IX click [here](#)