I am a young Lebanese graduate in mediation and currently training to practice in Paris. I repeatedly get asked the following question: What is the mediation situation in the Middle East? I believe your country is a mediation-friendly country that you are losing to Europe! What is the mediation situation in the Middle East? What are the Middle East business community’s approach to mediation? Are Middle Eastern countries solving their conflicts through mediation? How can mediation be developed?

When I collect on these questions, I ask what does a “mediation-friendly country” mean to you? What makes a country a “mediation-friendly country”?

While browsing this blog, I came across an article entitled What’s Your Country’s Mediation-Friendly Ranking. To help determine what makes a country mediation-friendly, the author had divided the countries according to four parameters: mediation-friendly; the use of mediation in courts; the use of mediation in the public sector; and the use of mediation in private sector. The author further divided the countries according to their strategies for developing mediation in the public sector: to what extent the public sector is engaged in mediation and what kind of mediation is currently used in the public sector.

Lebanon is often considered a region with a complex religious and political landscape. This complex landscape makes it challenging to develop mediation, given the presence of various religious and political factions. However, Lebanon has made some progress in promoting mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism, especially in the context of family disputes and personal relationships.

The Lebanese Civil Code contains provisions that promote mediation in family disputes, but these provisions are not yet fully implemented. Moreover, Lebanon does not have a mediation law, only a project of law that has not yet been adopted by the Lebanese Parliament. The lack of a mediation law and the limited implementation of mediation provisions in the Lebanese Civil Code may hinder the development of mediation in Lebanon.

The government of Lebanon has taken some steps to promote mediation, such as the establishment of mediation centres and the provision of mediation training. However, these efforts have been hindered by the ongoing political and security challenges facing the country.

In conclusion, while Lebanon has made some progress in promoting mediation, there is still a long way to go before the country can be considered a mediation-friendly country. The government, civil society organizations, and international partners should continue to work towards the development of mediation in Lebanon, taking into account the unique challenges facing the country.