ES- SAOURA journal for human and social studies

ISSN: 2477-9881 EISSN: 2676-2153

Serial Number: 23 /Volume: 12
N°: 01 (2026), p 444-463

The Transformation of Civil Society Role in the Digital Era: From Traditional Action to Networked Action

تحول دور المجتمع المدني في زمن الرقمنة: من الفعل التقليدي إلى الفعل الشبكي

Dr. Haniche Fairouz[1*]
[1] University of Lounicy Ali, blida 2 (Algeria), f.haniche@univ-blida2.dz
ORCID iD[1]: 0009-0009-0156-7379

Received: 24/01/2026	Accepted: 09/06/2026	Published: 12/06/2026

Abstract: The contemporary world is undergoing a profound transformation driven by the digital revolution, which has reshaped various aspects of social, economic, and political life. Digitalization has become a key factor in redefining the ways individuals and organizations interact and operate. Civil society has influenced by these changes, shifting from traditional field-based action to networked action that relies on digital platforms and social media as new spaces for mobilization, advocacy, and influence. The importance of this topic lies in its reflection of the deep transformation of civil actors' roles. The digital sphere has created opportunities to enhance participation and transparency, yet it has also introduced challenges related to credibility, data protection, and the dominance of major digital corporations.

Keywords: Civil Society, Digitalization, Role, Networked action. Digital era.

ملخص: يشهد العالم المعاصر تحولًا جذريًا بفعل الثورة الرقمية التي مست مختلف مجالات الحياة، ما جعل الرقمنة عاملًا رئيسيًا في إعادة تشكيل أنماط التفاعل والعمل داخل المجتمعات. وقد تأثر المجتمع المدني بهذه التحولات، فانتقل من الفعل التقليدي القائم على النشاط الميداني المباشر إلى الفعل الشبكي المعتمد على المنصات الرقمية ووسائل التواصل الاجتماعي كفضاءات جديدة للتعبئة والمرافعة والتأثير. وتكمن أهمية هذا الموضوع في كونه يعكس تغيرًا عميقًا في أدوار الفاعلين المدنيين، حيث أتاح الفضاء الرقمي فرصًا لتعزيز المشاركة والشفافية، لكنه في المقابل يطرح تحديات تتعلق بالمصداقية، وحماية البيانات، وهيمنة الشركات الرقمية الكبرى.

كلمات مفتاحية: المجتمع المدني، الرقمنة، الأدوار، الفعل الشبكي، زمن الرقمنة.

***Corresponding author**

1. Introduction

The contemporary world is undergoing profound transformations driven by the digital revolution, which has affected various spheres of political, economic, social, and cultural life. Digitalization has become a fundamental factor in reshaping patterns of communication, work, and production within modern societies. Civil society has been significantly influenced by these technological changes, as it now faces a new reality that requires moving beyond traditional modes of operation, which were primarily based on direct field activities and face-to-face interactions, toward new forms of civic action conducted in the digital sphere through the use of online platforms and social media as alternative tools for mobilization, awareness-raising, advocacy, and the shaping of public opinion

The significance of studying "The Transformation of Civil Society Roles in the Digital Era: From Traditional Action to Networked Action" lies in its focus on a critical transitional phase for civil action, during which digitalization has created substantial opportunities to enhance civic participation, reinforce transparency and good governance, and empower individuals to engage in public life more flexibly and efficiently. However, this transformation has also introduced complex challenges, including concerns about the credibility of civil discourse, the protection of personal data, and the growing dominance of major digital corporations over the public sphere. These developments underscore the need for in-depth scholarly analysis to understand the dimensions and implications of this transformation.

This study aims to examine the manifestations of digital transformation within civil society organizations, uncover the effects of digitalization on their roles and operational mechanisms, identify the challenges they face in the contemporary digital environment, and propose strategies to enhance their effectiveness in alignment with the demands of the digital era. The central research question guiding this study is: To what extent has digitalization reshaped the roles of civil society, transforming it from a traditional actor into a networked one that performs its social and political roles through digital media? From this central question, several sub-questions emerge, including: What are the main features of digital transformation within civil society structures? How has digital technology influenced the nature of

communication, mobilization, and advocacy? Moreover, what challenges does networked civil action face in the digital sphere?

Based on these questions, the study hypothesizes that digitalization has contributed to developing civil society roles and expanding its influence within the digital domain. The shift toward networked action has enhanced civic participation and promoted transparency, while simultaneously creating new challenges related to information security and credibility. The study further posits that the success of civil society in navigating this transformation depends on its capacity to adopt effective digital governance mechanisms and strategies to adapt to the evolving technological environment.

To address these issues, the study employs several research methodologies, most notably the descriptive-analytical method to examine concepts and theories related to civil society and digitalization, the comparative method to analyze civil action before and after digital transformation, and the prospective method to anticipate the future trajectory of civil society roles in light of rapid technological advancement. The study structured into three main chapters: the first chapter explores the theoretical framework of civil society and digitalization; the second examines the impact of digital transformation on the reconfiguration of civil society roles; and the third discusses the prospects for developing civil action in the current digital environment and the challenges it faces in the future.

2. Theoretical framework of civil society and digitalization

2.1 Civil society evolution and concept:

Civil society is one of the fundamental pillars in building modern states, as it represents the space in which associations, organizations, and initiatives operate independently from state authority, with the aim of serving the public interest and promoting the values of participation and social responsibility. In this section, we will further explore the emergence of civil society, as well as its concept, characteristics, and roles.

A- The Emergence and Historical Development:

The concept of civil society did not develop all at once, nor was it the work of a single philosopher or thinker. Rather, it emerged and evolved through the contributions of various political philosophers, each with different ideas and perspectives. Its earliest roots can traced back to Greek thought, particularly to the philosopher Aristotle. (Al-Madini, 1997)

However, the concept of civil society only truly developed during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, through the ideas of social contract philosophers, who viewed civil society as any human association that moved from a natural state to a civil state, one characterized by the existence of a political authority founded on a contractual agreement. Thus, it represents a politically organized society that expresses the will of all, without distinction, encompassing both society and the state together. (Hussein, 2000)

Several thinkers later studied civil society and its significance, such as Adam Ferguson**,** Charles de Montesquieu**,** David Hume**,** Thomas Paine**,** and Hegel**.** However, none of these thinkers distinguished between civil society and the state; rather, they considered civil society to be subordinate and dependent on the state. It was not until the nineteenth century that the thinker Alexis de Tocqueville fundamentally transformed the concept of civil society—from being an entity subordinate to the state into a strong and independent actor. Its function, he argued, is to represent and defend the interests of society peacefully and civilly in the face of state authority, serving as the very foundation of a democratic state. (Mengotti, 1988)

This idea was further reinforced by the Italian thinker Antonio Gramsci in the twentieth century, who emphasized that a strong, advanced, and democratic state is one that possesses a powerful, independent, and active civil society. (Al-Rashid, 2004)

Despite the importance of civil society, no significant studies on the topic appeared after Gramsci's contributions until the last third of the twentieth century, with the emergence of waves of democratic transition, which highlighted the necessity of civil society as an indicator of democracy and development.

B- The Concept of Civil Society:

Civil society is defined as "a realm free from the individual use of power and chaotic domination; a space within which men and women interact through an ever-growing network of civil, economic, cultural, and public relationships, ties, and institutions."

According to Stephen Delue, civil society refers to the many and diverse forms of associations that indicate an independent sphere providing individuals with the freedom to pursue a variety of life goods offered by different communities, which they may choose to join. He also defines civil society as an independent sphere that functions as a buffer against centralized governmental authority, creating a fertile environment where different groups can pursue their own paths without fear of interference. (Saeed, 1996)

Raymond Hinnebusch defines civil society as "a network of voluntarily formed associations that appear independent from the state and primary groups, yet function to contain them, forming a buffer zone between the state and society." (Bouamama, 2005)

In general, civil society can defined as "a set of voluntary, free, and independent organizations from the state that occupy the public sphere, positioned between the family and the state. Membership in these organizations is voluntary and aimed at serving and defending public interests without seeking material profit."

From these definitions, we can infer the importance of civil society as a vital force that:

- Encourages citizens' participation in public life.
- Protects society from the dominance of political power.
- Promotes pluralism, democracy, and social responsibility.
- Strengthens communication between citizens and the state.

C-The Role and Characteristics of Civil Society

-The Role of Civil Society are:

- **Promoting Political and Social Participation:** civil society contributes to encouraging citizens to engage in public affairs and decision-making through associations and voluntary organizations, thereby strengthening the values of democracy and active citizenship.
- **Monitoring Authority and Demanding Transparency**: civil society performs a supervisory role over the performance of state institutions and in combating corruption, which reinforces the principle of accountability and limits the abuse of power.

- **Defending Rights and Freedoms**: civil society organizations work to protect human rights and provide support to vulnerable and marginalized groups within society.
- **Supporting Sustainable Development:** civil society contributes to implementing local development projects in areas such as education, environment, and health, thereby complementing the efforts of the state.
- **Promoting Awareness and Civic Culture**: through its educational and media activities, civil society promotes the values of tolerance, dialogue, and acceptance of others—key elements of social peace.

-The Characteristics of Civil Society:

- **Independence from the State:** civil society characterized by being an independent entity not subject to political or economic authority, ensuring its freedom of expression and action.
- **Voluntary Membership and Participation:** civil society organizations based on voluntary involvement without coercion, reflecting the spirit of initiative and personal responsibility. (Al-Shammari, 2020)
- **Non-Profit Orientation:** the primary goal of these organizations is to serve the public interest rather than pursue financial gain.
- **Pluralism and Diversity:** civil society includes associations and organizations with different orientations and goals, reflecting the diversity of the broader society.
- **Operation in the Public Sphere**: civil society operates in open spaces of dialogue and social interaction, far from isolation or exclusivity. (Abd al-Rahman, 2018)

2.2 The Digitization

Digitization has become one of the fundamental pillars of the modern era, as it has facilitated the conversion of information and data from physical or analog forms into digital formats that can easily processed by computers. Digitization plays a pivotal role in simplifying the storage of information, enabling rapid access, and allowing analysis to support decision-making. It also represents the first step toward digital transformation, which contributes to improving processes and services within institutions and society.

A- The concept of digitization:

Digitization is as the process of converting information from a physical or analog form into a digital format that can read by a computer. This includes converting images, sounds, documents, and analog signals into digital data by generating a sequence of numbers that describe a specific set of points or samples.

It referred also to as the process of converting documents from paper form to digital form through scanning technology**,** ensuring that the digital document is an exact replica of the original in terms of size and content. Furthermore, the digital document must be readable, easy to use, and of high quality to ensure the effectiveness of the digitization process. (Khtir, 2012)

From this, we can conclude that there is a distinction between digitization as a process and digital transformation as a result. Digital transformation involves converting analog data into digital form. In the past, we relied on videotapes and compact discs to watch movies or listen to music, but today, thanks to digital technologies, we enjoy high-quality audio and video. Thus, digital transformation represents an improvement of existing processes through information technology, enabling us to make optimal use of data by redesigning, analyzing, and interpreting it to make informed decisions.

From the previous definitions, we can infer the importance of digitization, which can summarized as follows:

- Ease of Storage and Access to Information: Converting documents and data into digital formats makes storage safer and more convenient, and allows quick access from anywhere**.**

- Data Protection and Loss Reduction: digital documents are less prone to damage or loss compared to paper documents, and they can easily backed up.

-Improved Efficiency and Productivity: digitization speeds up administrative, educational, and industrial processes through instant access to data and its analysis.

-Supporting Digital Transformation: digitization is the first step toward Digitalization and Digital Transformation, as it provides the digital data necessary to develop systems, processes, and services.

-Enabling Innovation and Redesign: digital data allows organizations to redesign their services and products and analyze them to make better and more accurate decisions.

-Saving Time and Cost: digitization reduces the need for paper، large storage spaces، and human effort in managing traditional files.

B- Digitization Requirements:

The process of digitalization requires a set of essential conditions and factors to ensure its success and sustainability within institutions and societies. The most important of these requirements are as follows:

-Technological Infrastructure: This includes the availability of computers، networks، servers، and high-speed internet connections — the foundation upon which all digital operations rely.

-Cyber security and Data Protection: Securing digital systems against cyber-attacks and ensuring the privacy of information are among the main pillars of digitalization.

-Qualified Human Resources: Digitalization requires well-trained personnel capable of using modern technologies and efficiently managing digital systems.

-Legal and Regulatory Framework: The existence of laws and regulations governing electronic information exchange and protecting the rights of individuals and institutions in the digital space.

-Funding and Institutional Support: The success of digitalization projects depends on adequate budgets and administrative support to ensure their continuity and development.

-Cultural and Administrative Change: The transition to digitalization requires a shift in organizational culture — moving from paper-based systems to electronic processes with confidence and awareness. (Haleem, 2022)

3. The impact of digitalization on the functional role of civil society

The virtual civil society considered one of the most prominent manifestations of digital transformation in the modern era. It has emerged as a new interactive space that brings together individuals and organizations through the internet, transcending geographical and temporal boundaries. This society plays a pivotal role in promoting social and political awareness through digital platforms such as social media networks and interactive websites, which allow individuals to express their opinions and exchange information freely.

3.1 The virtual civil society and its role in civic mobilization:

The virtual civil society is all voluntary activities organized by associations on internet platforms concerning their interests, values, and objectives. This also includes providing services, supporting independent education, influencing public policies, discussing government policy outcomes, shaping public opinion, mobilizing communities, and exerting pressure.

Digitization, electronic media, and social networking platforms have greatly facilitated the work of civil society, enabling it to communicate and directly influence its audience quickly and effectively in ways that serve the public good.

This mechanism has proven to be more influential, faster, more flexible, and more efficient than traditional methods. Consequently, virtual civil society has been able to achieve the following:

- Create a space free expression.
- Building strong social capital.
- Empower marginalized groups within society by amplifying their influence.
- Enhance agility, flexibility, and overall effectiveness.
- Eliminate the burden of institutional structures.
- Promote inclusivity, mutual communication, and continuous interaction among citizens.

Thus, today's civil society—through its digital dimension—has succeeded in educating citizens about democracy, nurturing civic values, raising awareness, and voicing public concerns to relevant authorities. The use of social media by civil society has made it a more powerful actor at both national and international levels—sometimes even stronger than certain international organizations. It has increased pressure on governmental and private institutions by monitoring their actions and exposing violations through the dissemination of information on digital platforms

and public engagement with it. As a result, its strength and influence on society have grown significantly through digital networks. (Amar, 2023)

3.2 virtual civil society's strategies:

The function of civil society in two ways: on one hand, it enables these organizations to operate more effectively, and on the other, it imposes new requirements such as information security, privacy, and digital openness.

Digital technologies—such as mobile applications and data analytics platforms—help civil society organizations bridge the gap between the government and citizens, creating new channels for interaction and monitoring. Therefore, digital governance serves as a key tool in enhancing the role of civil society not only as a service provider but also as an influential actor in policy-making, society, and governance.

To achieve this, digital civil society relies on several strategies to strengthen its digital governance:

-Building Digital Infrastructure: without a solid digital infrastructure communication networks, information management systems, and secure databases effective digital governance cannot achieved. Therefore, organizations should:

- Invest in information and communication technologies (ICT) and continuously update them.
- Adopt content and data management systems that allow for the collection, storage, and analysis of information.
- Ensure user and beneficiary access (including marginalized groups) through user-friendly and accessible interfaces. (Society, 2025)

For example, a study on digital governance models in developing countries found that strong digital infrastructure was associated with greater citizen participation and improved services.

- Developing Human Capacity and Digital Skills: Technology alone is not sufficient; organizations need qualified individuals with digital skills (data analysis, system operation, information security) and a cultural commitment to transparency

and participation. In this regard, it recommended that organizations conduct regular training programs and provide ongoing professional development support for digital staff.

-**Adopting Integrated Information Systems and Data Management**, by adopting a centralized platform or integrated information system can:

- Monitor performance and outcomes more accurately.
- Provide transparent reports to donors and the public.
- Enable data-driven decision-making**.**

The digital technologies used by civil society organizations helped collect and analyze data on public services and monitor government performance.

-Enhancing Digital Transparency and Accountability: One of the main components of digital governance is access to information and the provision of electronic channels for participation and expression. Organizations should also adopt clear security policies to protect data and ensure beneficiaries' privacy. For instance, an analysis showed that civil society organizations that published open data and allowed citizen engagement achieved better performance in monitoring and accountability.

- Promoting Electronic and Community Participation: Social media platforms, online dialogue forums, and direct feedback channels provide citizens with tools to participate in decision-making and influence organizational policies. One study noted that effective digital communication through online platforms has transformed the way organizations interact with their audiences.

-Establishing Information Security and Technological Governance Policies: Given cyber challenges and the rise of big data, digital governance must include:

- Privacy and personal data protection policies.
- Business continuity and digital disaster recovery plans.
- Monitoring compliance with relevant digital legislation. (Zholdybayev, 2023)

3.3- The "Green Algeria" association as a model for digital civil society:

In the era of the digital space, community and volunteer work has transformed into a pivotal communicative actor، possessing the ability to positively influence field reality and guide public opinion toward vital issues that directly affect both

society and the individual. Algeria presents a pioneering model in this context; a civil association has successfully transitioned from traditional voluntary charitable work to systematic digital initiatives of civil society organizations with a national depth and unprecedented mobilization capacity. The "Green Algeria" project, led by Fouad Maala, stands out as an inspiring case study that clearly embodies the intersection of digital communication and environmental awareness to produce an active social movement seeking to protect the environment through extensive and intensive afforestation campaigns.

This experience began in 2013 with a simple individual act by citizen Fouad Maala (a mechanical engineer and merchant), which consisted of planting a single tree in front of his house in the (El-Battoir) neighborhood in the Batna province. This behavior came as an initial response to counter the phenomenon of "urban sprawl" (concrete encroachment) and the decline of green spaces in residential urban centers. This phase was characterized by "local individual initiative," as the activity at that time was limited to the geographical perimeter of the Batna municipality and the participation of the initiator's close circle of friends. (Halissi.T, 2024)

Following this, the initiator recognized early on the potential influential power within the digital space to mobilize society and urge citizens to engage in national afforestation as a voluntary act that reinforces the values of citizenship and environmental belonging. Based on this, he established an interactive page on the "Facebook" platform under the slogan "A Tree in Front of Every House." This transition marked a qualitative shift from "traditional volunteering" to "digital networked volunteering." By 2023, with the growth of the digital audience base surpassing a quarter of a million followers and then approaching the one-million mark, the virtual page transformed into an official, licensed organizational structure under the name "Green Algeria Association." By virtue of this institutional transformation, the scope of activity expanded beyond the municipalities of the Batna province to extend across all 58 Algerian provinces through the organization of major national campaigns under the slogan "Green, God Willing." The digital communicative discourse of this initiative was characterized by two main mechanisms:

- **The Strategy of the Visual Role Model:** It relied on the daily posting of short videos (Reels) documenting on-the-ground planting processes, which added a sense of transparency, credibility, and realism to the project.
- **The Local Relocalization of Ideas:** Avoiding complex, elitist environmental discourse and replacing it with a simple, direct language

that touches the daily life of the Algerian citizen and addresses their immediate needs.

Fouad Maala successfully utilized the digital space effectively to spread the "A Tree in Front of Every House" initiative. This strategy contributed to simplifying the concept of volunteer work and stripping it of its classic complexities, reducing it to an accessible environmental practice where each citizen plants a tree in front of their home. This communicative mechanism generated a state of "positive social contagion" that quickly spread to encompass various regions of the country. (Algerie maintenant.dz, 2025)

Furthermore, digital campaigns provided Algerian youth with an interactive platform for self-actualization and for reinforcing the values of "active citizenship" against signs of negativity. As a result, national afforestation days transformed into a remarkable digital phenomenon, or what is known as a "National Trend." This was clearly demonstrated in the "One Million Trees in 24 Hours" campaign organized in October 2025, followed by the "5 Million Trees" campaign in March 2026. This massive mobilization success prompted sovereign state institutions (led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the General Directorate of Forests) to adopt the initiative, sign official partnership agreements with the association, and honor its president with the title of "Ambassador of Volunteer Youth." This dynamic contributed to turning environmental initiatives into "national celebrations," giving volunteers a deep sense of belonging to a purposeful national project where virtual space blends with tangible reality on the ground. (MADR.GOV.DZ, 2025)

Based on the above, it becomes evident that the smart and systematic use of social networks by civil society organizations is capable of transforming conventional charitable ideas into a concrete reality. The experience proved highly efficient in mobilizing thousands of citizens and guiding them toward planting trees at a unified time, relying on the appeal of the visual image and the power of the digital "trend." Table reviews the quantitative indicators that reflect the scale of the association's digital presence and its networked impact.

Table about Quantitative Indicators of the Digital Presence of the "Green Algeria" Association Across Social Platforms

Social Media Platform	Number of Followers / Subscribers	Number of Short Videos (Reels / Shorts)
Facebook (Year 2013)	3.6 million followers	6,000 reels
YouTube (Year 2020)	96 thousand subscribers	1,488 short videos
Instagram (Year 2022)	1.2 million followers	4,843 reels

TikTok (Year 2023)	1.2 million followers	4,842 reels

Source: Table prepared by the researcher based on information available on the official platforms of the Green Algeria Association.

An analytical reading of the digital indicators presented in the table above, linked with the historical trajectory of the initiative, reveals a set of significant sociological and communicative dimension. It is evident that the "Facebook" platform constitutes the primary audience base and the backbone of the initiative, with 3.6 million followers .This digital superiority aligns with the sociological specificities of the Algerian user, who favors using this platform as a primary space for social mobilization and the coordination of on-the-ground community work. Furthermore, this distinction is linked to the primacy of chronological usage; the founder adopted this platform as the initial launching pad for his initiative back in 2013, unlike the other platforms that were activated later, starting from the year 2020 alongside the institutionalization of the association.

Subsequently, the features of digital integration emerge through the equal volume of followers between the "TikTok" and "Instagram" platforms, each standing at 1.2 million followers .

This reflects a smart and systematic communicative strategy adopted by the association in recycling content and publishing it simultaneously. The goal is to ensure dynamic outreach to adolescents and youth, widely known as" Generation Z" (Gen Z) ،who represent the demographic that most heavily consumes visual platforms featuring short videos.

Regarding the depth of digital content, the massive influx of visual materials with the total number of short clips surpassing the 17,000 mark across various platforms—indicates a state of "intensive communicative liquidity." It also reflects an absolute reliance on "documentary and instantaneous imagery" as a pivotal communicative mechanism to bridge trust, maintain transparency with virtual audiences, and mobilize them effectively on the ground.

Regarding the depth of digital content, the massive influx of visual materials—with the total number of short clips surpassing the 17,000 mark across various platforms—indicates a state of "intensive communicative liquidity." It also reflects an absolute reliance on "documentary and instantaneous imagery" as a pivotal communicative mechanism to bridge trust, maintain transparency with virtual audiences, and mobilize them effectively on the ground.

In conclusion, it can be said that the "Green Algeria" project has provided definitive sociological proof that civil society in the digital era has transcended passive virtual patterns to transform into a tangible energy for mobilization and change, capable of leading millionaire environmental campaigns on the ground. The developmental transition from a single tree planted in front of a house in the Batna province to the planting of millions of trees across the entire national territory proves that the smart utilization of digital social capital and visual communication—when touching upon a genuine psychological and social need among the masses—becomes fully capable of reshaping the environmental and volunteering landscape of contemporary societies.

3.4- virtual civil society's challenges:

A- **Challenges Facing the Digital Civil Society**

The digital civil society encounters a set of structural and operational challenges that hinder its full potential to act as a transformative agent in governance and public participation.

-The Digital Divide and Weak Infrastructure: Many civil society organizations (CSOs) still suffer from weak digital infrastructure, limited Internet access, outdated devices, and a lack of digital literacy. This situation restricts their ability to engage effectively in digital governance and online advocacy.

-Lack of Digital Skills and Capacities: Technology alone is insufficient without skilled human resources. Organizations need trained professionals with digital competencies such as data analysis, information security, and digital management, along with a culture that promotes transparency and participation**.**

- Financial Constraints and Sustainability: Digital initiatives often face unstable or conditional funding, making it difficult for CSOs to sustain long-term digital transformation or innovation.

- Unequal Representation and Participation: Organizations from marginalized regions, particularly in the Global South, often have limited representation in global or multilateral internet governance processes, reducing their voice and influence.

- Technological Shifts and Platform Instability: The constantly changing nature of digital platforms (algorithms, terms of service, data ownership) challenges CSOs to adapt quickly or risk losing reach and engagement.

B-Expected Outcomes of the Digital Civil Society

Despite these challenges, the digital transformation of civil society promises numerous positive outcomes when support by sustainable strategies and enabling environments.

- **Enhanced Transparency and Accountability:** Digital tools enable data collection, publication, and citizen monitoring, leading to greater transparency and accountability in public and institutional performance

- **Broader Participation and Citizen Empowerment:** Through online platforms, social media, and interactive tools, digital civil society empowers citizens — including marginalized groups — to participate in decision-making and shape public discourse.

-**Improved Organizational Efficiency and Policy Influence**: By adopting smart digital systems, civil society organizations can enhance responsiveness, mobilization capacity, and influence on policymaking and governance.

-**Innovation and Institutional Transformation:** Digitalization enables CSOs to develop new models of social innovation, utilize big data effectively, and reorganize themselves into more agile and interconnected entities**.**

-**Reduction of Social and Political Gaps:** When properly leveraged, digital inclusion can bridge the gap between citizens and governments, promoting social justice, civic equality, and digital democracy.

Digitalization of civil society represents one of the fundamental transformations occurring in modern societies, as digital technology has become a crucial tool for redefining the roles of civil actors and enhancing their presence in public life. Through digitalization, civil society activity is no longer confine to offices and traditional meetings; it now extends into the virtual space, where networks of communication and influence formed, projects managed, and societal energies are mobilize more efficiently and transparently. In my view, digitalization today offers a genuine opportunity to rebuild the relationship between citizens and civil society based on direct interaction and digital citizenship.

In the Algerian context, I observe that the digitalization of civil society has begun to gain noticeable momentum in recent years, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, which imposed a new reality of remote work and electronic communication. The state has initiated digital platforms such as "Kafa'at+," managed by the National Observatory of Civil Society, aimed at training associations and equipping them with digital management tools. Many associations have also turned to social media as a space for expression, mobilization, and awareness-raising, making civil activity closer to citizens and more responsive to events. However, this transformation faces challenges, the most significant being weak digital infrastructure in some regions, a lack of technical skills among civil society actors, and the absence of a comprehensive legal framework regulating civil activity in the digital space.

From my perspective, the prospects for digitalizing civil society in Algeria remain promising if systematically and thoughtfully invested in. Strengthening the digital capacities of associations, involving them in the national digital transformation strategy, and providing financial and technical support can transform civil society into an active partner in local and national development. Digitalization also offers vast potential for reinforcing transparency and accountability, providing access to information, and empowering marginalized groups to express themselves and participate. The future of Algerian civil society depends on its ability to integrate into the digital revolution and leverage technology to build a more open and influential civic space.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the digital revolution has profoundly transformed the landscape of civil society, reshaping its structures, methods of action, and spheres of influence. Civil society organizations, once confined to traditional forms of activism such as direct fieldwork, meetings, and face-to-face mobilization, have now transitioned toward networked and digitally mediated forms of engagement. This transformation has expanded the reach and impact of civic action, allowing for participation that is more inclusive, rapid mobilization, and broader advocacy through online platforms and social media networks.

However, this evolution also presents complex challenges that must be critically address. The digitalization of civic life has introduced issues related to information credibility, privacy, cyber security, and the growing dependency on

digital corporations that control major communication channels. Moreover, the digital divide continues to limit equal participation, particularly in developing contexts where access to technology and digital literacy remain uneven.

Therefore, it is essential for civil society organizations to develop strategic approaches that ensure a balance between technological innovation and ethical responsibility. They must invest in digital capacity building, promote transparency and data protection, and establish mechanisms for verifying information and preventing digital manipulation. In parallel, governments and international partners should support inclusive digital policies that guarantee equitable access to technology and encourage civic innovation in the service of democracy and sustainable development.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of civil society in the digital era depends on its ability to embrace digital transformation while preserving its core values of participation, solidarity, and accountability. The move from traditional to networked action should not only modernize methods but also deepen the democratic essence of civic engagement, ensuring that technology serves as a means of empowerment rather than exclusion.

From my personal perspective, I believe that the prospects for a digital civil society in Algeria are highly promising, particularly when considering the current paradox. While Algeria counts over 140,000 registered national and local associations, the vast majority remain unknown and fail to introduce themselves to the public. This leaves them in a state of stagnation and absence from the general landscape, offering no tangible value to either society or the state. In contrast, pioneering civic initiatives have emerged by investing in the digital sphere to define their identity and engage with citizens. Through these efforts, they are fostering a civilized, civic social behavior that promotes the culture of volunteering and charity work, as exemplified by the experience of the "Algeria Green" (Algeria Khadra) association. Here, a single individual, driven by a single dream, succeeded in reaching millions of people and positively influencing them through these alternative media channels.

With the increasing adoption of technology and digitalization, Algerian civil society can become a more influential and transparent actor in public life. The future

demands strengthening the digital capacities of these associations, providing the necessary infrastructure, and establishing a clear legal framework to support their digital activities. If we manage to invest in these pillars, and if all 140,000 associations follow in the footsteps of such successful digital experiences, one can only imagine the transformative power and active participation that will shape the future of Algeria tomorrow in decision-making and sustainable development.

References:

1. أحمد حسن حسين، *الجماعات السياسية والإسلامية والمجتمع المدني* .القاهرة: دار الثقافة للنشر، 2000، ص 94.
2. الحليسي، ط. (28 يونيو 2024) .*بدأها من باب داره.. رحلة فؤاد معلى لجعل الجزائر خضراء* .استرجع من : https://ultraalgeria.ultrasawt.com
3. خثير، فاطمة فريدة .*رقمنة الأرصدة الأرشيفية: المتطلبات والإجراءات* .مجلة العلوم الإنسانية، مجلد 12، عدد 4، 2012، ص 11.
4. الشمري، خالد .*المجتمع المدني والتنمية المستدامة* .عمان: دار اليازوري العلمية للنشر والتوزيع، 2020، ص 71.
5. عبد الرحمن، محمد .(2018) .*المجتمع المدني والتحول الديمقراطي في الوطن العربي* .القاهرة: دار الفكر العربي.
6. عبد الوهاب الرشيد، *التحول الديمقراطي والمجتمع المدني* .مصر: دار المدى للطباعة والنشر والتوزيع، 2004، ص 64.
7. عمار، أ. (2023). البعد الاتصالي للمجتمع المدني الافتراضي (اتصال الجمعيات): مقاربة نظرية. مجلة الدراسات القانونية والاجتماعية، 8(2)، 399–403.
8. الجزائر الآن. (25 أكتوبر 2025) .*ملف خاص: الجزائر خضراء... مليون شجرة تكتب ملحمة شاب آمنت به الدولة والشباب* .استرجع من https://algeriemaintenant.dz :
9. زهير بوعامة، "محاولة لفهم طبيعة وحدود انفتاح السلطة على فعاليات المجتمع المدني و أثره في عملية التحول السياسي في الجزائر"، ورقة مقدمة إلى كراسات الملتقى الوطني الأول، عين مليلة: دار الهدى للطباعة والنشر والتوزيع، 2005، ص 112.
10. توفيق المديني، *المجتمع المدني والدولة السياسية في الوطن العربي* .ط1، دمشق: منشورات اتحاد الكتاب العرب، 1997، ص 64.
11. محمد السيد سعيد، "فكرة المجتمع المدني العالمي"، *مجلة العربي*، العدد 447، فبراير 1996، ص 29.
12. المرصد الوطني للمجتمع المدني. (20 أكتوبر 2025) .*إطلاق المنصة الرقمية "كفاءات+" للتدريب وتطوير قدرات المجتمع المدني* .استرجع من https://www.facebook.com/Onscdz/posts/395321936414038/ :
13. وزارة الفلاحة والتنمية الريفية الجزائرية. (25 أكتوبر 2025) .*انطلاق الحملة الوطنية للتشجير لغرس مليون شجرة خلال 24 ساعة بالتعاون مع جمعية الجزائر الخضراء* .الموقع الرسمي لوزارة الفلاحة والتنمية الريفية بالجزائر. استرجع من https://madr.gov.dz :
14. Haleem, A. (2022). *Understanding the role of digital technologies in education.* algies: ScienceDirect.

15. Mengotti, C. (1988). *Civil society in Latin America*. london: Center for Study of Democracy.
16. Zholdybayev, E. S.-2. (2023). Digitalization as a tool for interaction of state apparatus and civil society. *Buk etov Business Review*, *110*(2), 199-207.