

## **Dr. Rafaella Greco of the European Commission visits LERC on ICMPD Project**

**November 2013**

**By Jasmin Lilian Diab, LERC**

Dr. Rafaella Greco, European Commission Consultant, visited LERC on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with the purpose of evaluating the project being implemented by the ICMPD, the International Center for Migration Policy Development, as well as further discussing the visit of both Moroccan and Tunisian delegations from the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs to LERC in July of 2013.

The ICMPD project's aim is to strengthen and capacitate institutions on migration and development, as well as enable them to have a link with their diaspora communities. This realm also includes enlarging national policies on migration and development.

Throughout her meeting with LERC Director Dr. Guita Hourani, Dr. Greco inquired about the services provided to the diaspora of Lebanon, as well as those offered to emigrants who wish to return to their country of origin. She also inquired about the extent to which this migrant community assists their "families back home".

Dr. Hourani gave Dr. Greco a brief history of the Center, its mission and accomplishments. She also expressed the Center's interest in cooperating with the ICMPD and other initiatives. Dr. Greco, who was then given a tour of the center's library, and a briefing of the center's collection and database by Chief Archivist Ms. Liliane Haddad.



*Dr. Greco and Ms. Haddad (LERC Offices), (November 2013)*

The visit was concluded by a tour of LERC's library, in which Dr. Greco was exposed to LERC's collections from Lebanese around the world. The tour was given by then Research Assistant Ms. Maritta Sislian.



*Ms. Sislian describing one of the paintings to Dr. Greco (LERC Library), (November 2013)*

Dr. Greco wrote the following in the Center's Golden Book "*Rome meets Beirut in this magnificent Center of memories, history and future; my compliments for this great and incredible labor.*"