



MoreThanAJob

Reinforcing social and solidarity economy
for the unemployed, uneducated and refugees

Newsletter

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MoreThanAJob (Reinforcing social and solidarity economy for the unemployed, uneducated and refugees) is a project funded by the European Union under the ENI CBC MED programme. The programme is managed by the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy) and aims to promote cross-border cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

Background situation

The financial crisis in Europe, as well as the unstable financial and political situation in many Mediterranean Partner Countries, has made apparent that new and credible alternatives to the mainstream economy are needed. These transformations in the economy and the society have brought increased attention to the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) actors that have been capable of helping to turn the challenges into opportunities. The expression Social and Solidarity Economy refers to a broad range of organizations that have explicit economic and social objectives as well as involve varying forms of cooperative, associative and solidarity relations. Examples are NGOs, cooperatives, mutual societies, foundations and social enterprises.

Nevertheless, in order to make efficient the SSE initiatives, effective collaboration with public authorities is fundamental.

The aim

MoreThanAJob will enforce social inclusion of vulnerable unemployed populations by applying best practices for more effective collaboration of the Social and Solidarity Economy actors with the public administration.

Main beneficiaries

Public authorities involved in the delivering of services in the field of education and employment SSE organizations active in the field of education, training and employment vulnerable groups as unemployed low-skilled people and refugees.

Main activities

- Report of international good practices for effective cooperation between SSE and public administration to reinforce social inclusion of vulnerable groups as unemployed, low-skilled people and refugees
- Development of MoreThanAJob Framework by adapting international good practices to local features
- Training seminars to SSE actors and public administration representatives.
- Financial support to SSE actors to implement innovative SSE-Public administration cooperation initiatives.
- Recommendations for translation of the MoreThanAJob framework in effective programmes and policies at national level.
- MoreThanAJob portal as Online cooperation space between the different stakeholders.

Project Duration

September 4, 2019 – September 3, 2022

Achieved milestones

Kick off Meeting: The official launch of MoreThanAJob project Amman - Jordan, 27th and 28th of November 2019



The MoreThanAJob project was officially launched on November 27 and 28, 2019 at Grand Hyatt Amman Hotel, Jordan. It aims at enforcing the social inclusion of vulnerable, unemployed populations through the application of best practices for more effective collaboration of the social and solidarity economy (SSE) actors with the public administration.

The MoreThanAJob project consortium's partners were gathered for 2 days to discuss their project. The kick off meeting started by an opening speech delivered by Mr. Emad Shana'ah, ENI CBC MED National Contact Point – Jordan, and a welcome note delivered by the project coordinator Dr. Emad Breik welcoming the seven fellow partners coming from the following Mediterranean countries; Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Italy and Greece.

Discussions about tailoring the project activities into countries different contexts, were conducted by MoreThanAJob partners with the facilitation support of Dr. Wafaa Haidamous (BCTS, founder and managing partner).

This collective brainstorming exercise has led to the suggestions of different course correction measures which will be further elaborated during the inception report.

The second day was initiated by Dr. Esmat Al-Karadsheh, the coordinator of ENI CBC MED Eastern Mediterranean Branch office.

Presentations of the summary of deliverables, activities, milestones, incoming events, and existing situation in partner countries were presented and discussed. Further work planning and discussions will be regularly conducted between partners to insure an efficient implementation of the project in a context-specific environment.

Press conferences and Stakeholders Meetings in partners' countries

AN-Najah National University (ANNU) and Nablus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) Joint Press conference - Palestine



Mr. Omar Hashem (NCCI Chairman), Prof. Mohammad Sbou (ANNU Vice-President) and Dr. Emad Breik (MoreThanAJob Project Coordinator)

The event started with the speeches of both NCCI Chairman Mr. Omar Hashem and ANNU vice-president Dr. Mohammad Sbou'. They discussed the importance of the project and assured their desire to diligently make it a success with the collaboration of all regional partners. Dr. Emad Breik, project coordinator, stated the various positions towards the Project, gave a summary of the launched project, and indicated the expected impact on society, highlighting the effort they will make to empower the project results. Four SSE's success stories that reflect the four main target groups "unemployed, refugees, dropouts and graduates job seekers", were presented. The workshop was conducted on Thursday December 19, 2019 at NCCI Hall and was attended by more than 60 participants representing stakeholders. The constructive interaction and brainstorming between participants have led to addressing the below recommendations:

- The reliance on Palestinian media and communication outlets in spreading awareness regarding the project goals will contribute to a proper targeting of beneficiaries.
- The coordination and dialogue between Palestinian public authorities and civil society will strengthen the engagement of stakeholders in policy advocacy and system reform.
- A tailored capacity building plan will empower both public administrators and SSE actors enabling better access of target audience to employment.
- NCCI role in keeping relevant stakeholders informed about project's progress will smoothen the implementation and sustain the impact.

The discussions outcomes will be considered during the elaboration of contextualized work plan.

Moreover, stakeholders' needs will be evaluated and categorized in order to be used in the adaptation of the best practices so to be incorporated in MoreThanAJob framework of applicable best practices.



Three Palestinian Ministries and other National and International stakeholders are on board

The Palestinian Ministries of Labor (MoL), Education (MoE) and Social Development (MoSD). In addition to the United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), General Federation for Palestinian Teachers expressed their interest in supporting the project implementation. SSE Actors such as Committees, Societies & Associations, Nablus Governorate, Nablus LET Council, Popular committees in Refugee Camps & Old City & Jaffa Center – Balata Camp, Palestinian Media representatives, Palestinian Experts (Public & Private), PFESP - The Palestinian Fund for Employment & Social Protection were considered among the main beneficiaries of MoreThanAJob project.



Ministry of Public Works & Housing (MPWH) and Mutah University (MUTAH) joint Press conference



Main speeches: Dr. Esmat AlKaradsheh, Prof. Omer Maaitah, Dr. Mohamed Majalee, Dr. Fahmi Abu AlRoub.

The project's press conference and stakeholders meeting in was held on the 6th of January 2020 in Amman - Jordan. The event was organized by Mutah University, and MPWH. The press conference aimed to informing press and stakeholders about project's goal, planned activities, expected results, achievements, and opportunities. Journalists, media representatives, local authorities, universities, NGOs and Public institutions active in the field of employment and skills assessment, including ministries of Labor, Planning, Higher Education, Migration, AlBlaq University, ASRF, Greotor Karak Municipality, Police Force in Jordan, and related bodies attended the press conference.



Hosted by Al Mamlakah TV, Prof. Omer Maaitah explained the objectives and aims of MoreThanAJob project. He spoke about the significance of stakeholders and the target group. He discussed the project and its importance to Jordanians and to other partners. The interview also tackled best practices which will be embedded in the project inclusiveness framework.

Main Stakeholders/partnerships:

- Ministry of Labor
- Ministry of Planning and International cooperation
- Greotor Karak Municipality
- Jordan Company for Antibody Production (MonoJo Biotech)
- Applied Scientific Research Fund (ASRF)
- Bookagri

Press conference and stakeholders meeting Business Consultancy and Training Services (BCTS) – Lebanon



The project's Press Conference and Stakeholders Meeting in Lebanon was held on the 4th of February 2020 at "Le Gabriel Hotel – Beirut". The event was organized by Business Consultancy and Training Services (BCTS) under the patronage of the Ministry of Labor and in collaboration with the General Union of Labor in Lebanon. The aim of the press conference was to announce "MoreThanAJob" project in Lebanon, by updating the press and stakeholders about the goals, planned activities, expected results, and opportunities. More than 70 participants from public sector institutions, civil society organizations, academic representatives and national and international media agents were gathered to discuss potential ways of coordination between Public administration (PA) and Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) Actors aiming for a better social inclusion for unemployed, uneducated and refugees.



Mr. Mohamad Itani, the National contact point of ENI CBC MED program in Lebanon, emphasized on the professionalism, dedication and seriousness of Lebanese participation in ENI CBC MED programme, where 26 of the 41 selected projects included Lebanese partners.

The Minister of Labor (MoL), H.E. Lamia Yamine, was represented by Mrs. Mariam Akoum who is chairing the Vocational Training Department at MoL. The latter pinpointed the importance of the collaboration between the Public Administration (PA) and the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) through "MoreThanAJob" project especially during the current social economic situation in Lebanon.

Mr. Hassan Fakihi, the Vice President of General Labor Union in Lebanon, highlighted the potential impact of this project on labor sector.

Dr. Wafaa Haidamous, Founder and Managing Director of Business Consultancy and Training Services (BCTS), explained the project activities, objectives, expected results and beneficiaries. She emphasized on project's partners roles in analyzing and studying the international best practices and collectively tailoring them within "MoreThanAJob" framework. She clarified the holistic approach undertaken by the project in terms of leaving no one behind and working of sustaining the coordination, dialogue and communication between local authorities and SSE actors.

Dr. Nabil Costantine, an Educational expert and senior university professor, highlighted the importance of education system reform in Lebanon and provided fruitful suggestions to make it more inclusive for refugees and uneducated communities. Impacted by the current socio-economic crisis, the recommendations stipulated the necessity of mobilizing stockholder's resources and support for a synergized inception of the project. Getting the buy-in of relevant national authorities is also recommended for a better policy advocacy and system reform. Nevertheless, applying participatory (bottom-up) approach by SSEs while dealing with beneficiaries will facilitate the engagement and cooperation mechanisms and thus lead to project sustainability.

Main Stakeholders/partnerships:

- Ministry of Labor (MOL)
- Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA)
- Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)
- General Labor Union in Lebanon (CGTL)
- Association of Lebanese industrialists (ALI)
- Union of Municipalities of Southern coastal Metn
- Union of Municipalities of Jabal Ammel
- Union of Municipalities of Akkar

The importance of private-public cooperation in socio-labour inclusion design meeting in Italy



On the 20th of February 2020, CESIE organized the design meeting with representatives of the Social and Solidarity Economy as a first moment of encounter and comparison crucial for achieving the main aim of the project: “Enhancing the cooperation between SSE actors and public administration for the delivery of social services to foster the social and labour inclusion of vulnerable groups”.

Ms. Giulia Tarantino, project manager at CESIE, and Ms. Letizia Portera, coordinator of the International Cooperation department at CESIE, presented the project, its main aim and activities to the participants as well as facilitated the sharing of the best practices, experiences and ideas.



Participants to the meeting:

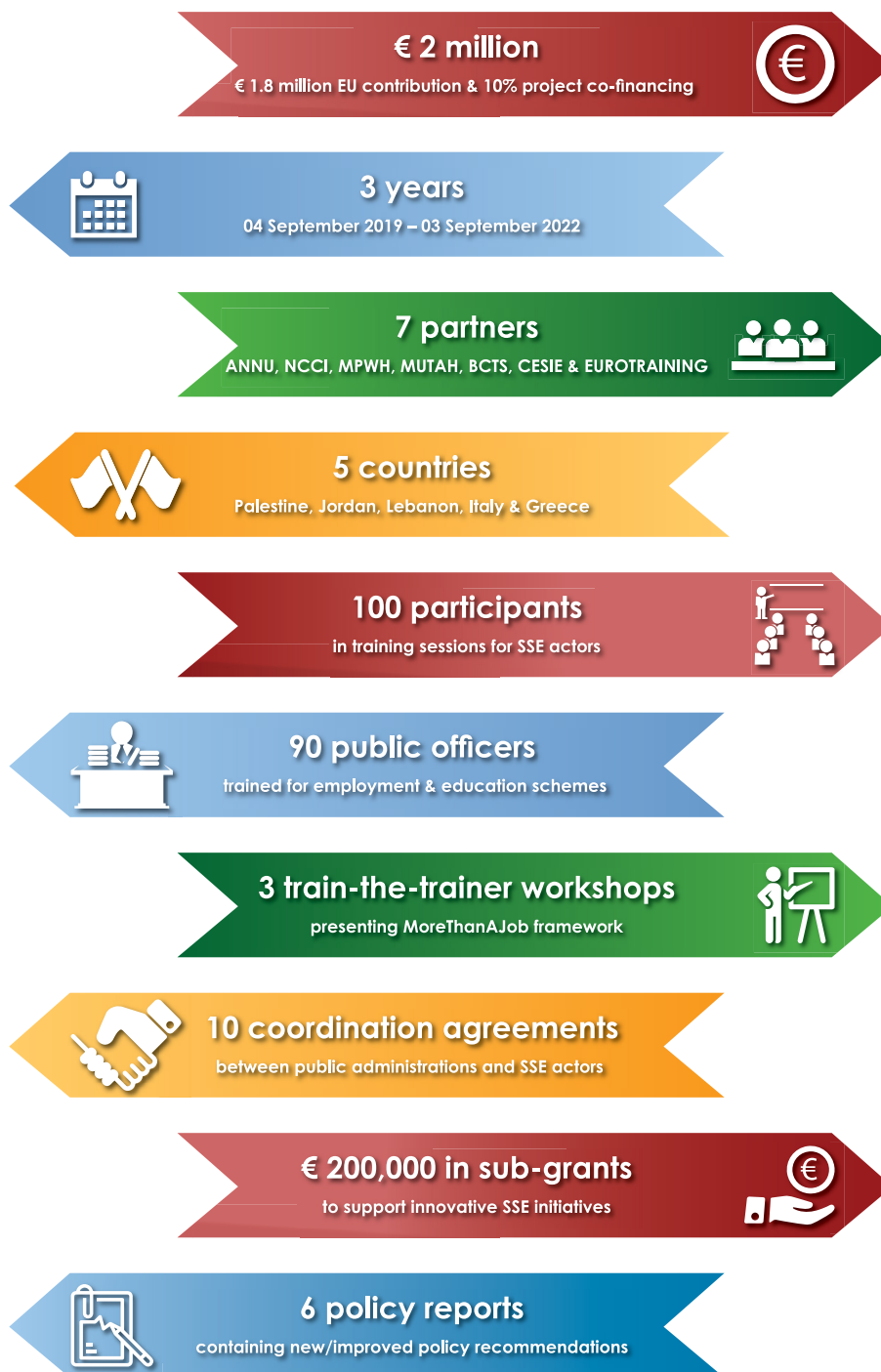
- The vice-president of a non-profit organization active in the promotion of labour inclusion through different projects and services.
- Two representatives of reception centers for refugees and asylum seekers.
- The president of an association active in the promotion of employability skills among disadvantaged groups.
- The local administrator of a cooperative bank based on ethical finance principles and funding projects aimed at welfare, social economy, environmental protection, innovation, international cooperation and culture.
- The president of a textile and creative laboratory working with disadvantaged groups, mostly disabled people.
- The coordinator of a bakery project to foster the social and labour inclusion of young offenders in close collaboration with the youth detention center in Palermo.

All the actors participating to the meeting have a common experience in cooperating with the public administration in delivering part of their services. The elements of success and weaknesses in the cooperation experiences collected during the meeting will contribute to the development of the MoreThanAJob model for the development of innovative social schemes based on cooperation between SSE actors and public administrations.

The results of the design meeting will be enriched by the experience of other SSE actors that have been mapped and identified in the starting months of the project and will be involved in the next project's activities. Among them, there are foundations, organizations, associations and social enterprises active in the promotion of solidarity values in the community they work with and in the creation of sustainable local projects in partnership with other local actors, including public administration.

Moreover, the MoreThanAJob portal, an interactive Online space, is under development. It aims at fostering communication between the actors involved in this path. To ensure the development of an efficient and effective platform, it is crucial to understand the needs of its final users. Indeed, during the design meeting, CESIE presented the portal and asked participants to share their inputs and ideas on how it could be structured. Similar activities will be done in the different partner countries to take into consideration the different national contexts and specificities.

Fact sheet



<http://www.enicbcmcd.eu/projects/morethanajob>



An-Najah National University / Palestine
Nablus Chamber of Commerce and Industry / Palestine
Ministry of Public Works & Housing / Jordan
Mutah University / Jordan
Business Consultancy and Training Services / Lebanon
CESIE / Italy
Eurotraining Educational Organization SA / Greece

Imad Ibrik
Isam Abo Zaid
Fahmi Abu Rub
Omer Maaitah
Wafaa Haidamou
Giulia Tarantino
Zotakis Vasileios

iibrik@najah.edu
isam.abuzaid@nablus-chamber.org
abualrub@just.edu.jo
maaitah_noor@hotmail.com
wafaa.h.hallassou@bctsb.com
giulia.tarantino@cesie.org
zotakis@eurotraining.gr

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