



MoreThanAJob

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

Newsletter

Edition 02: Sep 2020



MoreThanAJob Portal



MoreThanAJob Framework for Social Schemes

Background situation

Since March 2020, COVID – 19 has forced most governments to close their borders and put their countries under lockdown, which has led to an international financial crisis. The economic crisis affected all the Mediterranean countries like Spain, Italy, France, Lebanon, Jordan, Greece, Palestine, etc...

Due to this global crisis, “MoreThanAJob” project faced some challenges in implementing these activities, however, all partners decided to move forward with the project. Online tools were used in order to organize partners’ meetings and respond to the declarations given by several Governments of the Mediterranean partner countries.

Our MoreThanAJob Team partners’ members in in all countries, like many other ENI CBC MED projects, decided to establish a smart working system approach to ensure the continuity of the project and to protect the health of the people and professionals involved:

Follow the instructions and suggestions of the Managing Authority who prepared guidelines with recommendations for better project implementation, as well the eventuality measures to be adopted in case the project activities become more difficult to carry out than initially planned.

Evaluate, with Partners, the risks related to the pandemic emergency on the project activities and identify all possible actions to mitigate the

risks. Resilience is one of the factors that helped us overcome the situation since the beginning of the spread of Covid-19 around the world. We believe it is about flexibility, adaptation, using alternative creative tools and updated techniques and different ways to guide others and ourselves.

For instance, our big challenge was working with all stakeholders, partners, our main team at BCTS (Business Consultancy and Training Services) while adapting to social distancing restrictions, however, we were able to overcome this obstacle through online cooperation.

Our commitment to the “MoreThanAJob project” and ENI CBC MED, and our dedication to all the projects we undertake, allowed us to be among the few institutions in Lebanon that didn’t stop working virtually and from home.

We realized how much our project could be adapted to the actual situation and how “the reinforcement of the Social and Solidarity economy for the unemployed and uneducated, and for refugees” will be a cornerstone for building a long lasting and continuous path to serve the public and the private sector.

We also discovered our team’s strengths, the power of our partners who come from 4 other countries, the perseverance of the stakeholders, and the resilience of the Lebanese people and their ability to adapt to this hard situation despite these challenges and even during this severe economic crisis.

Together, and everywhere, we will overcome this challenging situation!



COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS

Achieved milestones:

Online meeting

The second partners' meeting was chosen to be held in Palermo on March 27 and 28, 2020. Due to the worldwide situation and the lockdown in most of the countries (Covid 19), the meeting was canceled and replaced by an online meeting on Thursday April 21, 2020 to discuss the achieved results in Semester 1 and the implementation of Semester 2 activities.

This remote meeting was an opportunity to plan all needed strategy for the second semester and assess the probable impact of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as to identify possible actions for the mitigation of risks.

COVID-19 restrictions led to some delays in "MoreThanAJob" activities but continuing with the implementation was the partners' main objective. The consortium didn't have the opportunity to meet, a third steering committee was held remotely on July 14, 2020 in order to discuss the project progress and implement the next activities.

This kind of meeting was fundamental for gathering proposals and useful contributions to fight the COVID crisis.

During the Second Semester, we also exchanged experience and knowledge with other projects with the same priorities, for this reason the Joint Technical Secretariat of ENI CBC MED Program organized a meeting with the following projects on Monday April 27, 2020: "MoreThanAJob", "TEC-MED", "HELIOS", "Innovagrowomed", "Resmyle" and "MedTOWN".



This online event was created as a brainstorming session between all A.3.1 and A.3.2 priority projects to exchange experience, knowledge, and project successes in the first phase of implementation for each project. It also led to a fruitful discussion on ways to face the COVID-19 situation.

On May 27, 2020 a first online meeting between "MoreThanAJob" and "MedTOWN", as well as an expert in social inclusion from the Joint Technical Secretariat of ENI CBC MED Program had a productive session.

The objective of this session was to get close to the consortium of each project and discuss a partnership, since the objective of both projects is the Social and Solidarity Economy as a way to stimulate social inclusion and fight against poverty in the Mediterranean area.

This meeting also aimed to reinforce further long-term collaboration and to apply to a call for capitalization with "MedTOWN" with the aim of fostering the transferring and mainstreaming of knowledge and results developed under different Euro-Mediterranean initiatives.

Moreover, alliances and synergies were developed with "MedUp" (Oxfam Italy) and "Edile Label" (ANIMA Investment Network), who have already worked towards the recognition of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) actors, and the co-creation and co-production of an enabling environment for their development and operation.

NCCI Activities:

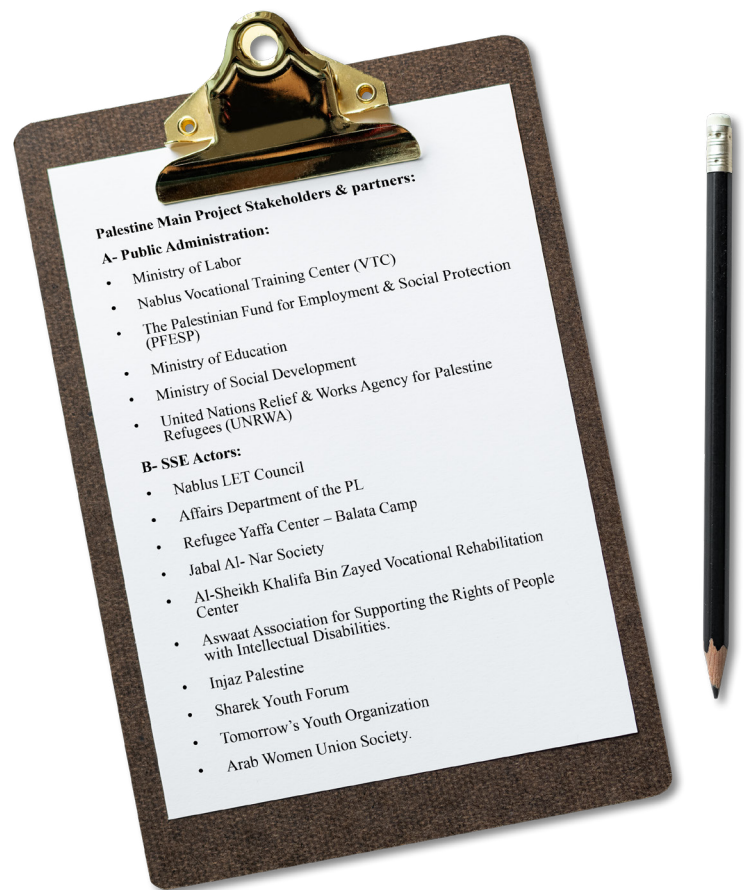
NCCI Key Achievements:

Meeting with decision makers and executive managers in the public administrations to review and discuss national policies.

SSE & PAs Workshop

A public administration and SSEs' workshop was organized to gather recommendations for policy changes in the public administrations. Around 10 stakeholders attended this workshop to get details on the implementation of "More-ThanAJob". The public administrations and SSEs discussed the needs for employment opportunities, policies on the uneducated and refugees, and the main obstacles that this project faces. This workshop also allowed NCCI to further discuss some suggestions for policy changes, and the framework of "MoreThanAJob", which were prepared by Business Consultancy and Training Services – BCTS.

We would like to note that the public administrations and SSEs actors are now registered in the project portal prepared by CESIE.



CESIE Activities:

CESIE is coordinating the development of the “MoreThanAJob” portal, a cooperation tool for SSEs and PA actors that will be soon available and active online.

In the following months, we will actively contribute to the development of the learning material for the training activities with both SSE actors and representatives of the public administrations, as well to the adaptation of the “MoreThanAJob” framework to our local context.

CESIE, with the cooperation and inputs of all partners, has developed the MoreThanAJob online portal. The MoreThanAJob portal is a multilingual interactive space aiming to foster dialogue and cooperation between SSE actors and public administrations for the development and delivery of services supporting social and labour inclusion of vulnerable groups.

The online portal is the result of a multilevel design process involving stakeholders attending local meetings organized by project partners at the beginning of 2020 which aimed to discuss how to strengthen cooperation between SSE actors and public administrations. Indeed, these encounters provided valuable suggestions and recommendations for building an online portal that improves and facilitates private-public cooperation.

The “MoreThanAJob” portal is intended to be a comprehensive database comprising the services, as well as the social and employment inclusion opportunities, available in each partner’s country.

This project’s partners, joined by various stakeholders, are currently in the final stages of testing the portal. The feedback that we will receive will allow us to fine-tune the portal and further tailor it to the final users’ needs and expectations.

We strongly believe this portal will greatly benefit the final beneficiaries of the services, especially SSE actors and the public administrations.



On one hand, the final beneficiaries will have an overview of the locally available services and opportunities tackling the following themes:

1. Family and income support;
2. Health and counselling,
3. Education and training;
4. Career guidance and employment support; and
5. Culture and participation.

On the other hand, the SSE actors and the public administrations will have at their disposal a platform to more easily develop synergies, collaborations and co-design processes with other actors. In this way, the online portal will actively support the development of innovation processes, the capitalization of existing opportunities, as well as the improvement of the social services offered.

EuroTraining Activities

During semester 2 a press release was prepared by Eurotraining in Greek, and published on the company's website regarding the main objective and activities of "MoreThanAJob", as well as its stakeholders, partners, and implementation. Eurotraining is also managing the project's twitter account (@than_job). A meeting between Eurotraining, PAs and SSEs was held in Greece to discuss the policies for each of the uneducated, unemployed, and refugee, and suggest some policy changes to implement in the "MoreThanAJob" framework in Greece.

Key informants regarding the SSE sector, including academics, researchers, practitioners of the SSE sector, and representatives from the public sector, were contacted in order to examine further possibilities for collaboration within the framework of "MoreThanAJob".



Mutah University (MUTAH) Activities

After reviewing the framework, MUTAH University organized an online meeting to discuss the main points and activities for implementing the framework in Jordan with the following stakeholders:

- Ministry of Labor
- Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific research
- Greater Karak Municipality
- Arab Potash Company
- Applied Scientific Research Fund
- The Self Sufficiency (Alektefa'a Althaty)
- BookAgri
- Phosphate Company
- Aqaba Development Cooperation
- Aqaba Railway

BCTS Activities:

During Semester 2, the framework preparation was transferred to BCTS, who started working systematically to create a conceptual framework and facilitate the implementation of the project activities in the consortium countries. The first step was conducting a literature review covering SSE key concepts; this allowed us to get an in-depth understanding of social inclusion theories and their areas of applications.

The conceptual analysis of the international best practices is visualized in a way to answer the following question: What MoreThanAJob project is going to achieve and how?

As such, the extensive analysis of the identified international best practices as well as national success stories has led to the presentation of 3 inclusion priorities the framework can address.



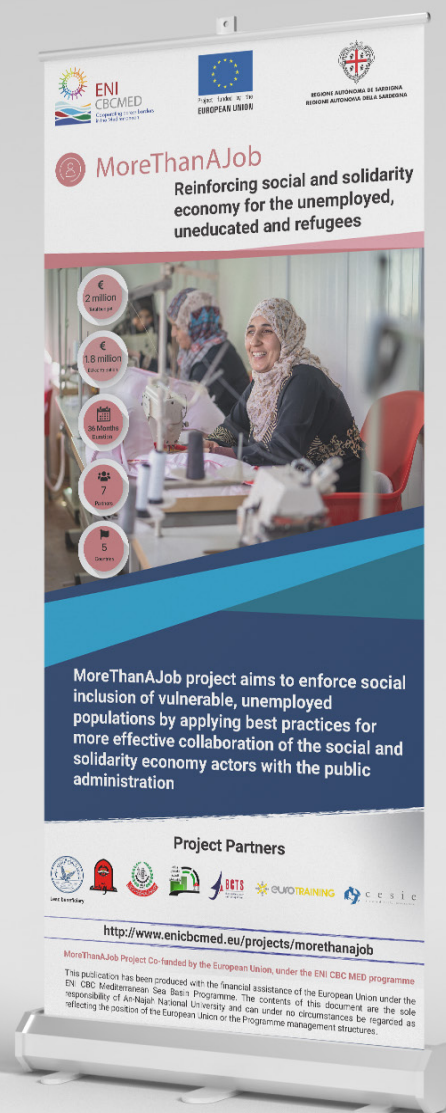
Priority 01: Social service delivery is increasingly responsive, and generates greater social stability and livelihood outcomes, based on the needs of host, refugee and immigrants' populations. (better health care, decent work, reduced inequalities, and better quality of education for children)

Priority 02: Social and Solidarity Economy is progressively growing and provides greater local economic development opportunities for the most vulnerable community members.

Priority 03: Education System is dynamically adaptive to market needs and allows greater access to innovative and agile technical education and vocational training programmes targeting different levels of education including un-educated population.

After the preparation of the framework and its revision by all partners, BCTS started working on 2 activities. The first activity was creating implementation modalities and assessing the necessary policy changes required to achieve this project's objectives. The second activity was reviewing national policies tackling the issues of this project's beneficiaries face.

BCTS conducted some meetings with PA representatives and SSE actors to collect information from Lebanese decision makers and receive suggestions for policies regarding unemployment, education, and refugees.



<http://www.enicbmed.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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