

**NEWSLETTER
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MoreThanAJob

**“WITH MORETHANAJOB PROJECT, RISE ABOVE DEPENDENCY
EMPOWER YOUR LIVES, TRANSFORM THE COMMUNITIES“**

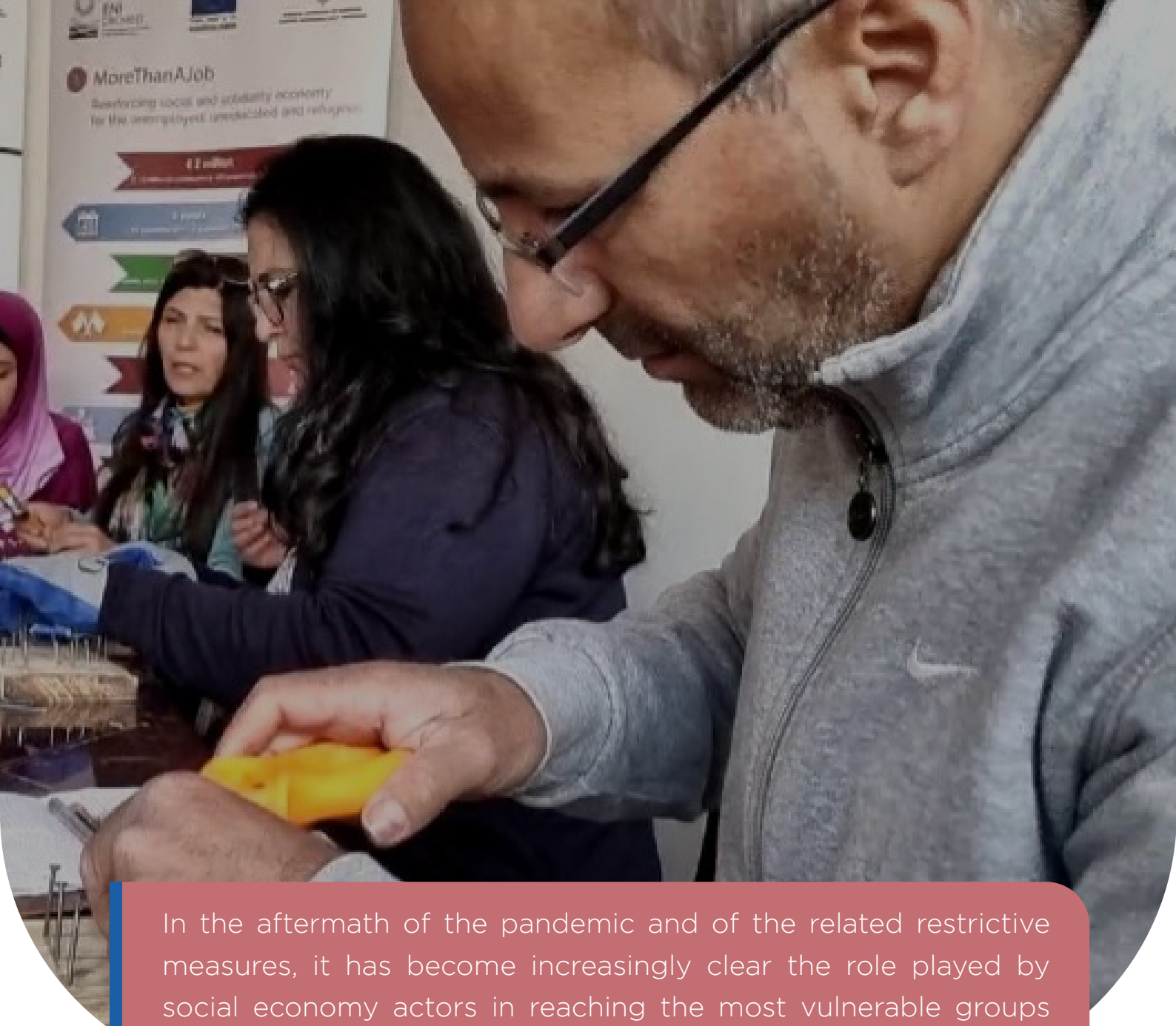


SUPPORTING SOCIAL ECONOMY FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE MEDITERRANEAN:

Three years of MoreThanAJob



We started our journey at the end of 2019, a few months before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, we have been working to continuously foster dialogue and collaboration among social economy actors and public administrations to promote the social and labor inclusion of vulnerable groups in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Greece, and Italy.



In the aftermath of the pandemic and of the related restrictive measures, it has become increasingly clear the role played by social economy actors in reaching the most vulnerable groups and in supporting the public welfare to counteract their marginalization. Cooperation and sharing of resources and means are pivotal to building a more structured dialogue between the actors involved in the development of services and initiatives for the inclusion of all citizens.

Through the different activities realized, we have been working to improve these cooperation mechanisms and to create new spaces of dialogue for the identification of the main challenges and opportunities to enhance territorial welfare services.

01

**DISCOVER
OUR JOURNEY**

We started with an assessment of good practices and initiatives based on the collaboration among social economy actors and public administrations to identify the main weaknesses and strengths. Through it, we developed the MoreThanAJob framework with social schemes and priorities to be addressed in order to ensure the delivery of better services and the capacity to reach a higher number of citizens.

In each partner's country, training activities addressed to both actors were realized in order to raise their awareness and to increase their capacities in cooperating and creating new opportunities for the social and economic growth of their territories.

The journey was completed by the local initiatives sub-granted by MoreThanAJob that allowed an even stronger presence in the territory, strengthening the impact of the project.

02

**MORE THAN A JOB
IN NUMBERS**

How we supported local growth and social inclusion in **Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Greece, and Italy**

18 professionals working in the field of social and labor inclusion increased their capacities and awareness on how to support local actions in improving the welfare services offer

+700 social economy actors participated in local training activities on how to support territorial welfare services

+150 representatives of public administrations were trained on how to collaborate more effectively with social economy actors

10 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between social economy actors and public administrations for the development of initiatives supporting social and labor inclusion of vulnerable groups

1 multilingual online portal as a center for an integrated offer of territorial services and as a tool to foster synergies among local actors for social services and initiatives' development

10 local initiatives sub-granted benefitting almost 3.000 people, particularly vulnerable ones, by enhancing their social and labor inclusion

MORETHANAJOB SHARED ITS RESULTS ON PROMOTING BETTER SOCIAL AND LABOR INTEGRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AT ITS FINAL CONFERENCE

The MoreThanAJob project has recently come to an end after three years of promoting social and labor inclusion of vulnerable groups in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Greece, and Italy. To celebrate its conclusion, the lead beneficiary of the project, An-Najah National University, and Business Consultancy and Training Services-BCTS, the Lebanese partner, organized a closing conference in Beirut on February 27, 2023, at the Social, Economic, and Environmental Council-CESEL. The event was sponsored by the Ministry of Social Affairs patronage in cooperation with the General Labor Union in Lebanon, and all partners from the involved countries participated in the conference. A big number of representatives from the public administration and the SSE actors were present as well during the closing conference.



The conference started with a moment of silence for the martyrs and the Lebanese national anthem. Dr. Wafaa Haidamous, the General Director of BCTS, welcomed the attendees and expressed her gratitude to all the supporters during the implementation of the project. Dr. Imad Ibrik, the “MoreThanAJob” project coordinator, at An-Najah University, spoke about the project’s goals and achievements, and Eng. Mohammad Itani, the National Focal Point of the Cross-Border Cooperation Program, praised the Lebanese participants for their involvement in the program. Mr. Boutros Saadeh, Secretary-General of External Relations for the General Labor Union(CGTL), spoke about the need to establish a state of social justice and personal freedoms, while Ms. Alessia Squarcella, the Deputy Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation, emphasized the importance of social solidarity institutions in creating more job opportunities for marginalized people. Dr. Pierre Baz, the representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, spoke about the challenges faced by society and the Ministry’s efforts to provide support and assistance.

Two panels of discussion were prepared to engage attendees during this event. The first panel, entitled "The impact of economic social solidarity organizations' projects on Mediterranean countries," was moderated by Dr. Wafaa Haidamous and had a diverse panel including Engineer Fadi Nasr, Social entrepreneur, Mr. Elie Berbari, the Deputy General Director of National Employment Organization-NEO, Father Michel Abboud, the president of Caritas Lebanon, and Dr. Pierre Baz, the main consultant of the Ministry of Social Affairs.



The second panel, titled "The contribution of the European Union and other donors to new projects," was moderated by Dr. Wafa Haidamous-BCTS and included Dr. Esmat AlKaradcheh , Eastern Mediterranean Office coordinator- ENICBCMED, Dr. Imad IBrik, MorethanaJob Project Coordinator, and Mr. Mohammed Shraif, the National focal point, CCP.

After the panel discussions, the floor was opened for questions, and the conference concluded with several important recommendations.

The MoreThanAJob project has successfully fostered dialogue and collaboration among social economy actors and public administrations, and its conclusion has left a positive impact on the Mediterranean countries involved in the project.



MORETHANAJOB IN JORDAN PRESENTED THE RESULTS OF THE SUB-GRANTS AND THE UPDATED NATIONAL POLICY BRIEF

MUTAH University (MU) organized a successful workshop on February 9 2023, at Tafila Technical University to present the achievements of the MoreThanAJob project. The workshop aimed to showcase the project's success in supporting poor and low-income families, employing unemployed young people, and finding job opportunities for them. The workshop was attended by several public authorities, NGOs, and parliament members, and a total of 30 attendees. The two sub-grant winners in Jordan, Shihan Charity Association (SCA) and the Applied Scientific Research Fund (ASRF), also presented the outcomes and results achieved by their projects.





MU staff presented the conducted activities and obtained objectives of the MoreThanAJob project, resulting in more than 14 families receiving support with job opportunities in a dairy product factory and more than 55 individuals who may start their businesses in the future. Comprehensive discussions were carried out, inspiring attendees with the success stories of the projects and the challenges faced during their implementation. MU also presented the final version of the developed national policy after considering the Public Authorities' (PA) feedback on the previous versions of the policy. A hard copy of the final version was given to the representatives of PA. The MoreThanAJob project has been instrumental in providing support to families in need, improving their economic situation, and providing job opportunities for young people. The project's success stories have inspired many attendees to replicate the projects' successes in their respective communities. The workshop was a great success, as it looks like MoreThanAJob continues to make a positive impact on the lives of many people in Jordan.

MORETHANAJOB IN ITALY SUPPORTED NEW SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INCLUSION OF MIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN PALERMO

Aiming at increasing the level of labor and labor inclusion of people with a migrant background, The Game promoted the strengthening of the collaboration between public and private actors to enhance the social and welfare services offered to migrant communities.

In line with the journey and objectives of MoreThanAJob, the initiative addressed one of the priorities included in the MoreThanAJob framework, more precisely “Social service delivery is increasingly responsive and generates greater social stability and livelihood outcomes based on the needs of host, refugee and immigrants’ populations”. Building on a previous good practice – the IN GIOCO Peer-to-peer counseling service – The Game foresaw a peer-to-peer counseling desk supporting in discovering employment opportunities in the territory and the local welfare services offer.

Along with the counseling service, The Game realized the following main activities:



Workshops on the Italian language through informatics



A career day



Recreational and communication events





MORETHANAJOB IN ITALY SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW BUSINESS MODEL FOR STREET SELLERS

Aiming at addressing the working conditions of street sellers in Palermo, with a particular focus on the ones with a migrant background, Artigianato Interculturale promoted the renewal of their business model in a sustainable, ethical, and legal perspective.

In line with the MoreThanAJob journey, the initiative supported an improvement in establishing and strengthening the capacity of social enterprises and in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. These are identified in the MoreThanAJob framework among the social schemes to be enhanced and promoted to foster the capacities of welfare services and initiatives in supporting the social and labor inclusion of all and, in particular, of the vulnerable groups.

Three main actions allowed us to work towards the achievement of these objectives:



Supporting the growth of social entrepreneurship



Enhancing the craft skills of street sellers



Fostering collaboration with the public administrations

MORETHANAJOB SHARES ITS EXPERIENCE WITH SUBGRANTEES TO FOSTER A SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY FOR SOCIAL AND LABOR INCLUSION

Al Najah University (ANNU), a partner of the MedRISSE project, participated in the Jordanian National Stakeholders Dialogue event on Social Innovation in Amman on February 2, 2023. The event was organized by JOHUD, Oxfam, and MedRISSE partners and aimed to showcase the challenges faced by social innovation initiatives and the success of projects that can be scaled up and replicated.

The interactive workshop included a dialogue session on social entrepreneurship in the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) sector, with actors from civil society, universities, the government, and the private sector gathering for a national dialogue. The objective was to discuss the concepts that shape the social development environment.

ANNU also participated in the "Partners Meeting" of the MedRISSE project on February 1, 2023, where the achievements of the project were evaluated, and plans for the next steps were made. During the event, the ANNU team presented the MoreThanAJob roadmap for replication, which was elaborated in collaboration with the ARCO team. The roadmap is an incentive scheme for public-private co-production of SSE support services, and it includes the MoreThanAJob subgrant mechanism as an example.





MORETHANAJOB IN GREECE HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE TO ADJUST POLICIES TO IMPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

EUROTRAINING Educational Organization organized the final event of the MoreThanAJob project, aimed at disseminating the results of the project and two sub-granted projects to relevant stakeholders. The event held on February 3, 2023, in Athens, was attended by representatives from public bodies, NGOs, educational organizations, universities, and organizations active in the field of Social and Solidarity Economy. The event included presentations on the overall implementation of the project and its results, as well as thematic sessions with representatives of public bodies for the proposal, promotion, and adoption of new policies that will strengthen and spread the results of the project, enhancing its sustainability in a subsequent stage.

Representatives from KMOP and SYMPLEXIS presented the "EdAct-Educate and Act" project and its educational platform, which offers six sections of educational material and aims to equip beneficiaries with skills for (re-)integration into the labor market and social cohesion. Beneficiaries create an account and can access courses such as Novel Technologies in Communication and Food Management. The SYMPLEXIS' representatives also presented the "GuideCar- GuideYourCareer" project, which is a mentorship program that helps beneficiaries develop the skills they need to succeed in the labor market. The program features orientation sessions and peer-to-peer networking opportunities, and until now, 124 beneficiaries have had the chance to take part in the project and connect with companies in their field.

MORETHANAJOB IN PALESTINE CONTRIBUTES TO SWITCHING FROM PEOPLE WHO DEPEND ON AID TO PEOPLE ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERED

In January 2023, the partners of the "Reinforcing social and solidarity economy for the unemployed, uneducated and refugees" Project (MoreThanAJob) visited the Nablus Directorate of Social Development and the Nablus Directorate of Labor in Palestine to share their policy brief paper on employment policies in Palestine and the role of Public Administrations (PA) in their development. The policy recommendations composed in the project's third year were discussed, and collaboration and coordination initiatives between the Ministries of Social Development and Labor were analyzed to improve the labor inclusion of young people.

The visit provided an opportunity for dialogue between the project team and PA's representatives to address the challenges and situation of young people in Palestine and discuss the reality of employment in Palestine from a social perspective. The visit also included an exchange of experiences and an analysis of strategies to address the challenges of employment and youth inclusion in Palestine.

During the meetings, it was agreed to plan a workshop for all stakeholders to discuss the development of employment policies, including the Palestinian ministries, the Palestinian National Institution for Economic Empowerment, and some of the related NGOs. The visit focused on sharing project experiences and appropriate policy responses to address the employment and economic challenges in Palestine and coming up with a final draft of policy changes.



The Nablus Directorate of Social Development and the Ministry of Labor appreciated the dedicated efforts of the MoreThanAJob team and highlighted the intersection between their ministry programs, strategies, and target groups and MoreThanAJob objectives and scope of work. The Ministry of Labor also highlighted its annual national strategic plan developed in collaboration with all national ministries and stakeholders, which intersected with MoreThanAJob policy recommendations.

Efforts were also made in terms of the Social and Solidarity Economy and its sustainability through the planned International Conference for Donors, which aimed to fund the set of strategic plans that eventually served employment policies and their application to the adopted programs and training. This would also contribute to reducing the rate of unemployment and strengthening the private sector.



MORETHANAJOB IN JORDAN ORGANIZED A MEETING AND A SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FIELD VISIT

Representatives of the MoreThanAJob partners met in Karak, Jordan on January 10 and 11, 2023 to discuss the project's progress and plan for the final steps. This was the third time the partners had met in person after the kick-off meeting in 2019. The technical and financial meeting was organized by Mutah University and held at its facilities. During the second day of the meeting, the partners visited two successful social and solidarity economy initiatives in Jordan, which were funded by the Jordanian government and implemented by the Shihan Charity Association (SCA) and the Applied Scientific Research Fund (ASRF). The partners were inspired by their success stories and reflected on the challenges they faced during the implementation of project activities.

The visit started at the Dairy Product Factory in Al Qaser, north of Karak, where unemployed women and refugees received practical training. The partners were given a tour of the factory by one of the trainers who explained the main process of producing dairy products and how they provided training to the women during the two-week training period that took place on May 12, 2022. Four women from the training group were working in the factory, and they described the main sessions they received during the training and explained the goals they achieved and how they benefited from it during the production of the dairy product.

The partners also had the opportunity to meet two successful entrepreneurs who had started new businesses based on dairy products. The partners were introduced to Jameed, a typical Jordanian dry yogurt made of sheep or goat milk, as well as traditional butter samples.





MORETHANAJOB IN PALESTINE SHOWCASES THE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG PEOPLE TOWARD EMPLOYMENT

MoreThanAJob project partners in Palestine. The Nablus Chamber of Commerce & Industry and An-Najah National University jointly held a workshop on December 20, 2022, to share the outcomes of MoreThanAJob's two sub-granted projects in Palestine.

The workshop aimed to disseminate the results of the two sub-granted projects and showcase the success stories of each project. The two sub-grantees actively participated in the closing event of the workshop, along with a number of the projects' beneficiaries. Each sub-grantee presented the outcomes and results of its own implemented project.

The workshop was attended by representatives from various ministries and institutions, including the Ministry of Labor (MoL), the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), the Tamkeen Program of MoSD, a group of practitioners, policy-makers, and other stakeholders concerned with the SSE (Social and Solidarity Economy) sector in Palestine, and a group of representatives from public administrations.

The discussions at the workshop focused on several topics, including the concept of SSEs and their impact on employment policies in Palestine, and the role of SSEs and public administrations in the development and enhancement of these policies to foster job creation among vulnerable groups in Palestine.

This workshop will contribute to the ongoing efforts of the MoreThanAJob project partners in creating sustainable job opportunities and promoting social and economic development in Palestine.

MORETHANAJOB POLICY BRIEF: IMPROVING POLICIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE EFFICIENT WELFARE SERVICES

By changing the way Social and Solidarity Economy actors and public institutions work together to provide services to unemployed people, MoreThanAJob has developed a framework of new social pilot schemes, policy briefs, and suggestions that will improve the planning of policies adapted to the needs of the target groups. The project aims to enhance access to employment and the education system of such targets in the long run.

The third policy brief recommends ten priority areas to support the inclusion and development of these policy priorities in public administrations, including the promotion of social generativity, peer-to-peer counseling service, enhancing social integration through community service interventions, establishing and strengthening the capacity of social enterprises, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, developing solidarity economy value chains, recognition of competencies acquired outside the hosting country, labor market integration through skills matching and youth empowerment, development of business education through education bridging programs, and promoting an inclusive communication approach and social cohesion.

With this comprehensive framework, MoreThanAJob seeks to promote innovative social schemes that support the inclusion of vulnerable groups in society, enhance access to employment and education, and create a more cohesive and integrated community.





MORETHANAJOB IN LEBANON GATHERS MINISTRIES AND SOCIAL ENTITIES TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE GROUPS IN LABOR INTEGRATION

Business Consultancy and Training Services (BCTS) in Lebanon, the country's partner of MoreThanAJob, held its third press conference titled "Promoting Social and Economic Solidarity for the Unemployed, the Uneducated and Refugees" at the Key Hotel - Corniche du Fleuve in Lebanon on October 4, 2022, under the patronage of the Lebanese Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs.

The conference aimed to highlight the progress of the MoreThanAJob project and its two sub-grantees in Lebanon. The event included speeches from the representatives of the ministries and the MoreThanAJob project's two sub-grantees in Lebanon - PHI Group and Common Effort.

The conference was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the General Labor Union in Lebanon, the General Director of Vocational Education, as well as various stakeholders, mayors, associations, and active members of BCTS.

Participants engaged in an effective dialogue on enhancing the psychosocial well-being of vulnerable women in the most deprived areas of Lebanon through Peer-to-Peer (P2P) counseling. They also discussed strategies to strengthen economic resilience in Lebanon through social business development workshops and cooperation between emerging social initiatives and relevant private and public sector stakeholders.

The attendees identified methods and strategies to improve the health and safety conditions of workers through awareness sessions and increase their access to decent work opportunities by improving their skills.

MORE THAN A JOB SUB-GRANTEE IN GREECE JOINS FORCES WITH THE DRAMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE GROUPS

The Drama Chamber of Commerce and Industry and KMOP, the actors behind the Greek subgrant project EdAct, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to reinforce their collaboration towards the inclusion of vulnerable groups, such as youth, uneducated, and migrants, into the labor market. The partnership highlights the importance of synergies between public authorities and actors of the Social and Solidarity Economy.

The MoU was signed on September 5, 2022, and provides a framework of collaboration and support for the implementation of the subgrant, and the provision of services to the subgrant's beneficiaries. The Chamber, represented by its president, Mr. Stefanos Georgiadis, offers knowledge of the current status of the economy and labor market, as well as a big network, while KMOP, represented by its Head of EU Programmes, Mr. Giannis Chatziris, provides technical know-how in the provision of training. Together, the two parties can provide opportunities for growth and employment to vulnerable groups, with the ultimate goal of training 100 beneficiaries from all over Greece to (re)integrate them into the labor market.

The Chamber, which plays an active role in the implementation of the project, offers protection and development of trade, industry, crafts, and trades within the framework of the requirements of the national economy. Through the design and initial phases of the implementation, it has exchanged data and ideas about the current needs of the market and what training would be the most helpful to the beneficiaries. Located in Northern Greece, it also helps to promote the educational platform developed in the context of the sub-grant to more areas of the country.





MORE THAN A JOB SUB-GRANTEES IN GREECE JOIN FORCES WITH MUNICIPALITY OF GALATSI, ATHENS, TO INSPIRE FUTURE COMMUNITY LEADERS

The Municipality of Galatsi and Symplexis have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to reinforce their partnership in the Greek sub-grant project GuideCar. The MoU was signed on September 26, 2022, by the General Secretary of the Municipality, Mr. Aggelos Dimosthenous, and the General Manager of Symplexis, Mr. Georgios Alexopoulos. The agreement aims to enhance social and labor inclusion of vulnerable groups, especially women and migrants, and highlights the importance of public-private collaboration in the Social and Solidarity Economy.

GuideCar is a project that seeks to train future community leaders from vulnerable groups, equipping them with interpersonal skills that are essential for career development and leadership roles in a changing job market. The project utilizes an e-mentoring website to offer orientation sessions to participants, providing them with the skills necessary to maintain beneficial relationships. Symplexis provides technical expertise and mentors to deliver e-mentoring services, while the Municipality has deep connections with the local community and other Municipalities, making it very active.

The MoU signed between the two parties provides a framework for collaboration and support for the implementation of the subgrant, as well as the provision of services to the subgrant's beneficiaries. The ultimate goal of the partnership is to mentor 100 beneficiaries who can carve out their professional paths in leadership positions. With the collaboration of the Municipality of Galatsi and Symplexis, GuideCar seeks to make a positive impact on the social and economic inclusion of vulnerable groups in Greece.

PARTNERS



MoreThanAJob

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

€ 2 million

€ 1.8 million EU contribution & 10% project co-financing



3 years

04 September 2019 – 03 September 2022

7 partners

ANNU, NCCI, MPWH, MUTAH, BCTS, CESIE & EUROTRAINING



5 countries

Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Italy & Greece

100 participants

in training sessions for SSE actors



90 public officers

trained for employment & education schemes

3 train-the-trainer workshops

presenting MoreThanAJob framework



10 coordination agreements

between public administrations and SSE actors

€ 200,000 in sub-grants

to support innovative SSE initiatives



6 policy reports

containing new/improved policy recommendations



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