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Report Workshop Erbil 6-12 September

In the framework of the project Key People Key Knowledge for Iraqi Women was organised the second mission form 6-12 September 2014.

Agenda on the Mission:

Departure: 5 September 2014

Arrival to Erbil: 6 September 2014 (04:00 am)

September, 06, 2014, (11:00 – 14:30) - Meeting with the local NGO

September, 06, 2014, (18: 00 – 19:30) – Meeting with the Governor of Ninawa

September, 07, 2014 Workshop- First day (10:00 – 16: 00)

University of Mosul

University of Rome Tor Vergata

Governorate of Ninawa

Municipality of Mosul

MEDITER

September, 08, 2014 (10:00 – 13:00) - Meeting with the President and Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce of Erbil.

September, 08, 2014 (18:00 – 18:20) – Meeting at the Italian Embassy in Erbil.

September, 09, 2014 Workshop- Second day (10:00 – 16:00)

University of Mosul

University of Rome Tor Vergata

Governorate of Ninawa

Municipality of Mosul

MEDITER

Departure from Erbil: September, 10, 2014

Arrival to Beirut (Lebanon): September, 10, 2014

September, 11, 2014, (10:00 – 14: 00)- Meeting with SAFADI foundation in Tripoli

Due to the political changes and the latest developments in Iraq especially in the city of Mosul the project partners were considering relocating the project activities in the city of Erbil (Kurdistan) because there the situation is calmer.

The purpose of this mission was to meet with the partners for deciding the implementation of the activities in Erbil and then to set contacts with local authorities and NGOs.

On 06/09/2014 at 11:00-14:00 the staff of Mediter composed by Mr. Victor Matteucci, Mrs. Sondus Alraui and Mss. Dorina Kulla organised a meeting with Mrs. Suzan Aref, Executive Director of the local organisation WEO at the spaces of Hotel Helin De Ville”- Kerkuk road in the city of Erbil.

The purpose of this meeting was to evaluate the possibility and the ways of collaboration with local NGO in Erbil in order to provide to the project logistic support and better access to the territory.ÂÂ

Mrs. Suzan Aref introduced herself and the organisation that she represents, the mission of the organisation, the objectives and of a few projects that the organisation has implemented through the years.

Women Empowerment Organization is a non-governmental, voluntary and independent organization. Established in June 2004; Erbil, Iraq. The main goal of W.E.O. is to consolidate women's roles and capabilities in the Iraqi community through enhancing their social, political, economic and cultural participation. W.E.O. conducts trainings, seminars, conferences and workshops that foster an exchange of information and experience among national, regional and international human rights movements.

Then the Project Manager, Mr. Victor Matteucci introduced the MEDITER Network and the Key People Project. He explained to Mrs. Aref the importance of this project even in a chaotic situation as it is.

Mr. Matteucci described the reason and the purpose of this meeting and after explaining the project activities in details requested form the NGO if they were willing to provide to the project their support as long as they have a large experience in the project implementation process and very good knowledge of the territory.

Mrs. Aref expressed her availability for supporting the project and the project partners. She even expressed her wish to collaborate with the MEDITER Network in other projects and initiatives for the development of the region, especially Erbil.

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On 6/09/2014 at 18:00 Meeting with the Governor of Nivawa

The Project staff of Mediter (Mr. Victor Matteucci, Mrs. Sondus Alraui and Ms. Dorina Kulla) met with the Governor of Ninawa, Mr. Athil Abdulazeez Al-Najafi and the project coordinator on the behalf of the Governorate of Ninawa Mrs. Saba Ramadhan Hasan.

The meeting was held at the office of the Governorate of Ninawa in Erbil.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss with the Governor the actual situation of Mosul the project activities and his important role for providing his support for facilitating the project procedures regarding the administrative aspects.

The Governor explained that the actual situation in Mosul is quite unstable and that the ISIS forces have occupied most of the city. Most of the citizens of Mosul have escaped in Erbil living in refugee camps and for this reason the Governorate opened an office in Erbil in order to stay close and support the Mosul refugees.

However the Governor thinks that the city of Mosul will reborn, but for this to happen there is required a lot of help, not necessarily economical but spiritual also. He considers the collaboration between EU and the city of Mosul essential and hopefully to continue and grow even more in the future.

As for the implementation of the project, the Lead Partner proposed to change the location of the project to Erbil but without changing the target group of Mosul women. For this reason there is the intention to work with Mosul women refuge in Erbil.

Considering the actual situation in the north of Iraq the Governor accepted the suggestion and added the aim for uniting all the religious communities of the area of Ninawa in order to make them work together for the reconstruction of Mosul, and for now this is essential.

In these terms the Governorate of Ninawa, suggested involving in the project beneficiaries (Christians) from some cities of Ninawa which are still under the control of the Iraqi Authorities. This suggestion was proposed because some rural areas of Mosul, where the most population is Christian, have not been taken under the ISIS control. For preventing the people of this area from leaving their houses and territory the Governor suggested to consider, during the selection of the beneficiaries, the candidatures of women from these areas. In this way these women will start to have hope and a new perspective for their life. Additionally, the partners consider it very important for the project to have among the trainees both Muslim and Christian participants, in

order to promote and encourage a climate of dialogue and tolerance in this chaotic situation.

The conclusion of this meeting was that this project is very important to be implemented, especially in a situation as such, where people need hope and prospective for their future and that the next activities to be implemented in Erbil.

On 07/09/2014 at 10:00-16:00 Workshop (steering committee among partners)

The second workshop aimed to discuss with the partners a) where to implement the activities in a situation of war and insecurity, b) what were the solutions, c) what are the consequences, d) what are the possibilities to relay in local stakeholders, e) how to start planning the next phase of the project without rescheduling the timeframe, f) at what point was the research study and how to make it possible to insert in it data that reflect the needs of the territory in the actual situation of Iraq.

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The workshop was organised at the spaces of “Hotel Helin De Ville”- Kerkuk road in the city of Erbil and was attended by:

Mr. Victor Matteucci – President of MEDITER and Manager of the Project

Mrs. Sundus Maabad Hamad – Project Technical Support on behalf of MEDITER

Ms. Dorina Kulla- Project Administrative Staff on behalf of MEDITER

Mrs. Saba R. Hasan – Project Coordinator on behalf of the Governorate of Ninawa

Prof. Moyassar Ibraheem Ahmed – University of Mosul

Mr. Abd Al-Satar Khdr Al-Habow – Mosul Municipality Director

Prof. Vincenzo Atella – University of Rome “Tor Vergata”

The representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Mosul couldn't participate at the meeting due to the closing of borders between Mosul and Erbil.

The representative of BIAT couldn't participate at the meeting due to security issues.

Agenda and minutes of the Meeting:

10:00 – Opening of the meeting

The Lead Partner opened the meeting thanking the participants for their presence and their will to proceed with this project even in a difficult situation as the one they are living.

Each representative of the partners expressed their determination for continuing this project. Even in a situation where the war has directly affected most of them and in an extreme social / economic situation of precariousness, the on-going of this project means for them the possibility to:

- a. Keep international relations and avoiding further isolation

b. Rely on one working activity that estimates an economic distribution (although modest) in a critical moment in which the actual situation of the political immigrants in Erbil obligates them to live at the extremes of marginality.

c. Guarantee their political role and their institutional administrative position towards the people of Mosul, assuring them anyway an activity that allows a perspective of integration and development for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people, as are the women and war widows (target group of the project).

The project partners from Iraq are actually located in the city of Erbil except the Chamber of Commerce of Mosul, which is still in the city of Mosul. All the Iraqi partners, despite their location, continue their administrative work. Furthermore, the Governorate of Ninawa has recently opened an office in the city of Erbil and continues its work from there.^^

10:15- Description of what has been done till now, faced difficulties and solutions

According to the action plan of the project is in the first phase of the implementation.

The first phase (6 months) of this project consists in executive design, analysis of the territories and studies.

Until now each partner has established the working group for the project and from January to March 2014 the working group held several meetings and skype conferences in order to discuss:

- The fundamental purpose of the Project,
- Project objectives.
- The organisation of the first project activities.
- The organisation of the first workshop among partners
- Elaboration of the communication and visibility plan

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The first activity was the Kick of meeting organised in Mosul (Iraq) on 03/03/2014.

Objective of the activity: Launching the project in Mosul, meeting with all the partners to determine individual skills and formalize the action plan of the project, including the organization and the start-up of activities between partners.

From April- August 2014 the working group of the project organised several meetings for the organisation of the second workshop with partners and for the coordination of the work among partners. Due to the area developments the second workshop was postponed from June 2014 to September 2014.

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The second activity of the project was the **Study Research**

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The two responsible partners for the realisation of the study research are The University of Mosul and the University of Rome “Tor Vergata”. The research is meant to contextualise the theory of subsidiarity and externalisation of social services to the private sector in Ninawa environment, notably involving women.

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The University of Rome Tor Vergata has provided to the University of Mosul the research approach, the methodology, and has supported the researches during their work.

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The University of Mosul, relying to the methodology provided by the University Tor Vergata has continued with the data gathering, elaboration of the data and listing up the study results.

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The study research results were planned to be published and shared at the end of September 2014 during the seminar organised in the framework of the project.

Due to the recent developments in Iraq the work of the two universities has slowed down.

The professor of the University of Mosul explained that during the ISIS attack at the University everyone had to escape leaving there all the documents and their work. However, besides the actual situation and communication difficulties, the professors have continued developing the study research. For this reason, the study research, instead of September 2014 will be finalised in December 2014.

The engaged professors for this work are:

Prof. Vincenzo Atella- Director of CENSIS, the Research Department at the University of Rome “Tor Vergata.”

Prof. Moyassar Ibraheem Ahmed - Prof. In Operations Management Industrial Management Dep. Head of Post Graduate Study committee Consultant In Quality Management Systems

Administration & Economic College - Mosul University

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13:00- Lunch Break

14:00- Planning of next activities in terms of the log frame

The second objective on the agenda was to field-test the possibility of relocating the activity of design and management of the training for women from Mosul to Erbil, maintaining as much as possible the target group unchanged and working with the women of Mosul refugees in Erbil as final beneficiaries of the project. It was, therefore, to verify that this assumption was shared by the partners and that it was actually feasible.

Regarding this second topic the partners expressed their agreement to work in Erbil at least as long as the situation does not imply the impossibility of working in the area of Mosul. Additionally, the partners consider it very important for the project to have among the trainees both Muslim and Christian participants, in order to promote and encourage a climate of dialogue and tolerance in this chaotic situation.

The second phase (12 months) of the project was planned to start at the end of the first year of the project (December 2014). At the beginning of the second phase was foreseen a preparatory work and after that the organisation of the training.

The training will start in March 2015 and it will focus on the capacity building of the 100 women for starting, managing and administrating enterprises. Each partner will provide one expert for the training.

The training themes will be decided after the delivery of the results of the Research Study.

For the organisation of the training, as mentioned before, will be needed a preparatory work, which will start in December 2014. This preparatory work consists in: i) Identifying and Selecting the Experts, ii) Setting the training programme, iii) Preparing the call for interest for the selection of the beneficiaries based on skills, education, work experience, competences, etc., iv) Establishment of the Committee for the evaluation of the candidatures, v) Design of the training curricula, vi) Logistic Aspects for the training and timetables.

As long as the training is supposed to be organised in Erbil, in order to assure logistic support and implementation facilities, during this mission in Iraq (5-10 September 2014) MEDITER along with the project partners organised meetings with representatives of the local authorities of NGO-s of Erbil.

Another topic that was discussed in the meeting was the partnership with BIAT (the Lebanese Partner). The Lead Partner informed the other partners the communication of BIAT for of resignation from the project, decision motivated due to the lack of security in the region and to the complexity of the project.

However, this new development does not bring any financial changes at the project. In this regards, all partners provided three alternatives as solutions of this situation.

The first alternative is the possibility to replace the Lebanese partner BIAT with another Lebanese partner “SAFADI Foundation”, a partner of particular relevance and competences in the Mediterranean Region and with proven experience in activities of social and economic support to the disadvantaged. SAFADI Foundation is based in Tripoli (Lebanon) www.safadi-foundation.org and was proposed for its competences and large experience similar actions.

Additionally, SAFADI foundation is an organisation that MEDITER has continuously collaborated through the years and can efficiently guarantee the estimated results.

The second alternative is that it can be MEDITER, as Lead Partner, to assume the role, the functioning and the budget of the Lebanese partner BIAT. The MEDTER Network has in it the competences and the sufficient expertise to support the task.

The third alternative is to replace BIAT with a local NGO form Erbil considering that this is the new city where the project will be implemented and the role of a local NGO could be essential for the development of the project in the area.

These are two possible and practical solutions for the replacement of BIAT. Of course that the partner replacement procedure will have to be discussed with the Contracting Authority and according to their suggestion will be decided which is the best alternative. Until now, we currently know for sure that both alternatives are feasible.

15:30- Conclusions

All partners agreed on the possibility to implement the project in Erbil and work with women refuge form Mosul;

The study research will end in December 2014 and will be published and promoted in March 2015;

All partners agreed to change the partner BIAT.

On 08/09/2014 at 10:00-13:00- Meeting at the Chamber of Commerce of Erbil

In order to implement the project in another city the Project partners decided to set local contacts in Erbil.

One of these meetings was organised at the Chamber of Commerce of Erbil. The project group met with the President of the Chamber of Commerce Erbil- Dr. Dara Jalil Al-Kayatand, the Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce Erbil- Dr. Soran A. Aziz and the Relations Manager Azad Ahmed Sherwani.

The Project Manager introduced the project to the participants explain the goal and the objectives of the project. Additionally, the Project Manager discussed the possibilities of support that the Chamber of Commerce could provide during the implementation of the project.ÂÂ

The reply of this stakeholder was positive and they assured to support our training activity providing a logistical and organisational support. Furthermore, they expressed their availability to cooperate in all necessary forms in order to help us achieving the expected results of the project.ÂÂ

Furthermore during this meeting were discussed the future possibilities for collaboration between MEDITER and the Chamber of Commerce of Erbil for the development of the region and the city.

On 08/09/2014 at 18:00-18:20- Meeting at the Italian Embassy in Erbil

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The working group of the project organised a meeting at the Italian Embassy with Â **Console Dr. Carmelo Ficarra**

This meeting was organised for introducing the project and its objectives to the ambassador and also to set contacts with them. This meeting was important because there were discussed, apart their support at the project, the local needs of the area seen by a diplomatic prospective.

On 09/09/2014 at 10:00-16:00 - Second day of Workshop (steering committee among partners)

The workshop was organised at the spaces of “Hotel Helin De Ville”- Kerkuk road in the city of Erbil and was attended by:

Mr. Victor Matteucci – President of MEDITER and Manager of the Project

Mrs. Sundus Maabad Hamad – Project Technical Support on behalf of MEDITER

Ms. Dorina Kulla- Project Administrative Staff on behalf of MEDITER

Mrs. Saba R. Hasan – Project Coordinator on behalf of the Governorate of Ninawa

Prof. Moyassar Ibraheem Ahmed – University of Mosul

Mr. Abd Al-Satar Khdr Al-Habow – Mosul Municipality Director

Prof. Vincenzo Atella – University of Rome “Tor Vergata”

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Agenda and minutes of the meeting

10:00 Opening of the meeting

The Lead Partner opened the meeting explaining to the participants the objective of the second day of workshop which was reporting and administrative procedures.

10:15-16:00 Administrative Procedures

This Project is the First European Project that the Iraqi Partners are implementing in the region and this reason it was important and needed to explain them the PRAG rules and the reporting procedures.

Some of the discussed topics were:

The procedures for the assignment of External Experts;

Time sheets and daily reports;

Visibility actions and the use of European flag and code of the project in each publication;^^

The procedures for purchasing materials;

September, 11, 2014, (10:00 – 14: 00)- Meeting with SAFADI foundation in Tripoli

In terms of the replacement of the Lebanese Partner BIAT, MEDITER organised a meeting in (Tripoli) Lebanon on 11 September 2014 at the SAFADI foundation office with the organisation's Manager, to which was described the project, especially the activities that were foreseen for BIAT. The SAFADI foundation Manager gave their availability to participate at this project and to overtake the activities that were foreseen for BIAT, taking full honours and responsibilities relating to participation.

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Participants at this meeting were:

Mr. Victor Matteucci – Manager of the Project

Ms. Dorina Kulla – Administrative staff of the project

Mr Riad Alamedine

Mme Samira Baghdadi

Mme Severine Carreira

Mme Rima Aboubaker

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The planned activities that were responsibility of the Lebanese partner start in the second phase of the project. BIAT was chosen in the first place because this organisation had already created successfully an Incubator in Lebanon (Beirut) and the project designers indented to bring the same successful experience and expertise in Iraq. Now, that this partner resigned from the project, it doesn't mean that there is no more need for best practices and strategic partners, it means that we need to find a solution that will have the same estimated impact with estimated project results.

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Eventual consequences that influence the financial nature of the project

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For the moment there are no situations that can or should determine consequences of variation to the financial framework of the project, except those considering the replacement of one partner. However, that would still leave the budget intact.

Anyhow, eventual budget modifications or reallocations will be discussed with all the partners in the workshop of December 2014 in Erbil. Of course, all the necessary budget reallocations will

be proposed at the Contracting Authority. These considerations were not discussed in this workshop because each partner had to first evaluate what changes to apply and then come up with a definitive proposal.

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