

Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean

Funded
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Implemented
by the Council of Europe

Seed funding for grass root initiatives on youth engagement in peace and democratic processes in the Euro-Mediterranean region

NARRATIVE REPORT

Project title

Start date and end date

Implemented by

Name of the Organisation

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the information above and below. You are encouraged to add visual elements such as photographs, tables, graphics, etc. and you may format the document as you wish, as long as you answer the questions in the following pages.

Make sure you attach the financial report and all support documents specified in the guidelines for reporting, as well as statistics and media and visibility elements.

If you have doubts contact Lisbon.forum@coe.int

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Description of the Organisation and the project

Background of the Organisation

Briefly explain the founding and work which has been implemented by the Organisation (as in the application form)

In the last two years, we did many activities related to youth, peace and security. Either in Europe than in Palestine in the Witness Center "Shahed". We did National Training Course on Human Rights Education in Italy to prevent hate speech and violence online and offline, we did an international project of capacity building for youth workers in Senegal-Spain-Italy to train multipliers in Human Rights education as tool for keep and build peace among young people in Casamance-Senegal; we did a project/campaign with students to fight and prevent bullying and cyberbullying using HRE approach. We are now implementing an international Training Course on Human rights education as a mean to prevent Violent Extremism in New Delhi for European and Asian participants in cooperation with ASEF. We realized international campaigns made by young people following the action days indicated by CoE within the NHS campaign in which we were involved. We realized several activities to promote among youth leaders and youth workers the manual "Bookmarks" of the CoE as we were the official Italian translators. In Palestine, specifically, we realized activities in cooperation with others organization abroad: "Youth for Health Rights" Danish and Palestinian young people working together to raise health awareness in the old city of Nablus about health rights and engage the young people as a driving power of positive social change; we participated in Erasmus + Program through wich Palestinian young people went abroad to exchange their experiences, knowledge and culture among youth around the world. At the local level, we realized "Youth Right to City": 30 young people were part of the Strategic Development Planning process in their municipality to enhance its responsive for youth needs and rights. Our youth members in Nablus produced two videos about the tolerance and social cohesion in Palestinian society, realized a social campaign in parallel with all AICEM members at the international level about HR in the occasion of 10th December the human rights day. We also realized "100 Intellectuals Talk to the Palestinians" which was a Campaign aiming to create a dialogue bridge between the Palestinian civil society key actors with international intellectuals have vision and perspectives regarding Palestinian – Israeli conflict. The main challenge was realizing an action at local level totally managed by us because so far we managed to realize project always thanks to the support of others organization as the applicant, this time we would like to be the applicant and being able to realize the project from A to Z in order to increase the capacity of our young people to actively being engaged in society in a sustainable way as agents of change for peacebuilding and human rights ambassadors.

Context

Explain the context within the project (as in application form)

In the latest period in Palestine we are facing a serious challenge for young people. Youth suffer from the increase in tension in their life as a result of the complex and sophisticated situation of political, economic, and social situation. Youth, in general, feel frustrated since they have a high rate of unemployment which made them consumers without the possibility to contribute in any manner to the society. The feeling of inability caused negative and dangerous symptoms in terms of becoming potential drugs users, having behavioral disorders, lack of self-esteem and lack of trust in their parents, community and leaders. This situation has worsened by the lack of opportunities of community activities, community participation, the lack of getting their rights as humans and youth in the political and social events. So young people lose the opportunity to participate in the leading decision-making process, which is related to the old culture willing only old people who have the decisions. This is specifically true when comes to a topic such as peace, security and conflict resolution in this very tense situation Palestine is living for years. Young people feel useless which is causing a high rate of trying to migrate outside the city or the country and they start to get isolated from community participation. They face identity dispersion, careless attitudes toward community and public life. They lost their life meaning and they are exposed to any negative coping mechanism. With this small scale project on youth, we want to start changing this situation contributing in changing the narrative about youth and give them the capacity, the strength and the opportunity to stop being only a witness and start becoming active agents of change specifically when it comes to their contribution to youth, peace and security. We expected to involve 300 young people living in Nablus and make them participate thanks to our capacity building path for agents of change.

Objectives of the project

Explain the objectives of the project (as in the application form)

Our specific objectives are:

1. create a structured education format for young people to be active and autonomous that can be replicated;
2. to train 2 youth workers operating at local level to implement the educational format to youth leaders/multipliers;
3. Increase the cooperation at local and national level between stakeholders and youth on the specific topic of HRE, youth engagement and peace by sending the 2 youth workers in 2 international events on the topic of youth engagement, HR, peacebuilding and gaining operational tools for coordinating local activities;
4. to empower 30 young people with tool and capacity to create concrete actions at a local level to advocate for their rights to participate, to understand and willing to promote/protect HR, to take the responsibility of contributing to building a more peaceful and secure society;
5. Realize 15 concrete actions at local level involving 300 young people (10 for each participant involved);
6. Realize an action plan ideated and lead by young people for 2020 to increase the number and type of grass-roots activities in Nablus in order to reach more marginalized youth;
7. Implementation of a communication campaign done by the 30 youth involved directly to improve the recognition of civil society initiatives for promoting and building peace, taking into account the needs and priorities of the context in Palestine.

Target group(s)

Specify the target group (as in the application form)

we have 2 target group direct and indirect:

1. The direct target group will be 2 youth workers operating in Nablus Palestine and 30 young people (check annex B) under the age of 35 living in Nablus Palestine participating in a capacity-building path for increasing their engagement in society with a specific focus on peace, human rights and security.
2. The indirect target group will be 300 young people under the age of 35 living around Nablus and in the marginalized neighborhood and the youth organization working in Palestine itself.

How many young people contributed to the project?

The project directly involved 3 youth workers (one more than expected) Kayed Maari, Nagham Sadaqa, Mohammad Obaisi and 30 young people from Nablus area. The full names of participants are in the list of participants. Further, thanks to the project we involved 2 decision maker of the government mrs. Sereen Halwa and mrs Aseel Qadu from the Council of Youth and Sport in Palestine who organized the meeting among the participants and 6 decision makers of the Council.

Indirectly the project involved around 20.000 people. Among those, almost 280 people physically involved thanks to the local actions done by the 30 participants.
Information about the people reached in the annex A.

Methodology

How did you start?

The methodology used is based on concept of NFE and HRE methodology: the project principle is the "cascade effect". In fact, we started by involving 2 youth workers from Nablus, Kayed Maari and Nagham Sadaqa, in a training course about youth participation, human rights and peace.

After this the two youth workers came back to Nablus and shared the content of their training with the manager of the project manager, Ahmad Jarousi and a third coordinator, Mohammad Obaisi.

The project manager came to an international TC in Vienna together with Sara Massini and during that time they organized logistically the project and follow a training course on planning project activities to better equip the 30 participants with new activities and processes. In the meantime the project coordinators selected the participants, 30 out of 50.

After this, the project team relised two training session on Human Rights and Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and a second meeting about the UN Security Council Resolution 2250(2015) on Youth, Peace and Security and the result of the Lisbon Forum Youth, Peace and Security.

Last part of the training will be of 3 full days about peace and non violence communication and advocacy strategy to change the narrative regarding the participation of young people in society to have impact on the social, cultural, economic and political dimensions of security.

Following the training, the 30 participants divided in several groups and ideated 3 main social action to proof the capacity of young people to have an impact.

The young participants did several intervention in many occasion promoting the two topics decided (gender equality and health) opening space for discussion with local and national stakeholders. This results was reported by the campaign "young people can change" where they can proof the capacity of action that young people have to convince policy makers in enabling them to contribute also in peace and security matter.

How did you monitor the implementation?

The project involved 3 project coordinators, each of them were in contact with the three groups after the training course to support them in the implementation of their actions.

Every week the three coordinators had a call with the project manager in order to certify that everything was successfully implemented.

Did you use any of the Council of Europe expertise and tools (conventions, publications, standards, etc.)?

We presented the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in order to introduce HR and we presented the manuals used to promote HR Education such as Compass.

If there were any changes to the initial plan please specify.

At the beginning we were thinking to let the 30 participants to realise smaller activity involving 10 people each after the training course. However, after the training, the participants wanted to change the plan because they thought that those activities were not enough impactful to start a process of changes. Because of that, they proposed to realise 1 main action among 2 project plans:

- One about health – right to health,
- One about gender equality – right to be equal.

Then, they propose to use the results of this action in order to promote among the stakeholder the capacity of young people to make changes in society and start to change the narratives enabling young people to be included in the discussion and the decision related to peace and security of their society.

At the end we had a bigger main action about health, some actions involving around 270 people plus 20 volunteers of the organization and reaching through their action on line more than 20.000 people.

For more details check the annex A.

Outcomes/Results

Description of results

What were the achievements?

Thanks to the project we managed to:

- Create an educational format to engage young people in advocacy action from YPS that we can improve and replicate several times in the next months;
- Train 3 youth workers/trainers of the organization;
- Train 30 new young people becoming new volunteers of the organization;
- Involve the 20 young people discarded by the selection procedures including them in the multiplying activities done at local level;
- Reach around 250 people plus 20 volunteers already working within the organization through the activities realised;
- Made an on line and off line campaign reaching more than 20.000 people in Palestine around Nablus;
- Organize 3 meetings with local authorities (Council of youth and sport department in Jericho and the Municipality of Nablus), one local decision maker (a local entrepreneur founder of local ngos) and stakeholders (university professor and health authority).

How did the seed funding contribute to the implement the key findings of the 2018 Lisbon Forum on "youth, peace and security"?

Our young people in Nablus are not talking seriously about peace since many years because they stopped believe in it. Also they do not really know the deep meaning of Human Rights and leave their lives with the perception that they don not have real possibility to make changes to increase the reality of their community.

Thanks to the seed funding, the 30 young people involved and the other volunteers included in the actions, had the chance to reconsider the concept of Human Right and question their believe of powerlessness.

Our new young volunteers started to see a possibility of changes and, most important, they start to believe in themselves as agent of changes.

This project was more than a simple training and follow up activity. We started a process in which they are interested to invest in. Because of this they asked us to start searching other funds to carry on their projects and ideas, starting from the local and moving, who knows, at national and international level.

Was the role of young people in democratic promotion, social cohesion, peace building – all elements within the youth, peace and security (YPS) agenda recognized? Explain how?

The local authority we involved were pleasantly surprised by their ideas and proposals and they agreed to organize table for discussion in the next months in order to try to include them in decision making processes regarding the development of their city.

In the next, months our volunteers will be contacted by the office of Council of Youth and Sport in Palestine to move forward with their ideas.

How did the funding increase the organisations expertise on “youth, peace and security”?

Our organization in Palestine had no specific expertise in the field. Now this has become one of the point in our agenda and we will be continuing working on it.

Follow-up and evaluation

How do you intend to follow-up the project? What are the follow-up mechanisms which you will put into place now that the project has ended?

As we defined within the project application, we propose to the participants to make an action plan using 10 action days (5 decided by AICEM and 5 decided by them) that will function also as monitoring system. In fact, after the project the first fixed action day will be 8th of March 2020 for the international day of women. The 30 youth actors will realise together at least one action online or offline for the activity each using the competences they have learned through the project. And this will be the same from all the year until the last action day that will be the 10th of December for the international day of Human Rights.

The action days already fixed are: 8th of March international Women day, 29th May World day for peacekeepers, 12th August Youth International day, 21st September world peace day, 25th November International Day against violence on women, 10th december International day for Human Rights. AICEM will ensure that the 3 youth workers and the two experts will stay available online for the 30 youth actors during the whole year to support their implementation of the follow up of the project. In December 2020 a big report will be shared online to underline the results achieved.

What was the overall evaluation from beneficiaries of the project?

We made a final evaluation, the results (annex D) show us that the 57% of participants declare that are satisfied by the project, and the 38% very satisfied. The 33% declared that it fully meets their expectation and other 33% said the meet their expectation. In general, they expressed their needs to move forward with this kind of activities and having more days of training and deeper in content in order to make even bigger impact.