

# PROJECT ASSESSMENT- MID TERM REVIEW

Date of Mid Term Review: 28 February 2018

## A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

<b>Project title</b>	Interdisciplinary Mobile Cultural Activity (IMCA) for youth vulnerable to socioeconomic exclusion and violent extremist radicalization and recruitment
<b>Project number</b>	A.2
<b>Implementation period</b>	1 March 2017-31 August 2018
<b>Budget (€)</b>	USD 60,000
<b>Implementer</b>	COOPERA
<b>Region</b>	Maghreb
<b>Countries</b>	Tunisia (Kasserine area)
<b>Type target group</b>	Selected group: Rural Youth
<b>Intervention method</b>	3. Competence: improve knowledge in local culture, decoration, planning; 4. Identity: Self confidence in performing arts and encouraging the promotion of their local cultures and traditions.8. Educational dialogue: Stimulate debates, analysis and critical thinking based on respect and tolerance
<b>Objective</b>	Overall objective: Enabling mobile, flexible, versatile and inexpensive access of youngsters at risk of radicalization to activities providing basic arts and crafts skills with economic potential, while stimulating open, analytical and critical thought conducive to understand the risks of radicalization and reject violent extremist ideology. Specific objective: After 18 months, project beneficiaries are able to put what they have learnt in workshops into practice and have developed a greater sensitiveness and respect for others thanks to the acquisition of new skills and ideas based on local cultural and religious traditions.

## B. SUMMARY

Although the design of the project was somehow imprecise, the grantee has managed to orient the project towards concrete and relevant activities, very much linked to the objective of the Pilot Project, and context based. Up to date, the project has conducted 6 workshops and implementation goes smoothly. The monitoring system of the project is very solid, and allows easy identification of problems and track of results. Challenges are mainly related to security situation and vulnerable condition of the participants.

## C. METHODOLOGY

The findings presented in this report are formed based on input from different sources:



- Review of documentation, including the project description as annexed to the contract, progress reports, reports of co-ordination meetings and a field visit report, electronic correspondence and records of teleconferences;
- Technical evaluation of the substantive material-deliverables;
- Observations made by UNICRI during attended events (training on 09-10 December 2017).

## **D. RELEVANCE (4)**

### **IMPORTANCE OF THE ACTIVITIES TO THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE (3)**

The project proposal was conceived as a mobile multidisciplinary cultural activity that would be delivered to Tunisian people at risk of being recruited, such as youngsters, women and young families at risk of radicalization. As a mobile project, it can adapt itself to different locations near the Algerian border, in the axis from Al Kef to Kasserine, in the central area, and in small and nomad populations in that axis (two-hour travel). In this sense, the project has a regional vocation throughout Tunisia, and with further funding it can be scaled and replicated regionally beyond as a follow-on activity in the sud (Gafsa, Kebili, Toceur).

Once the schedule is arranged with local leaders and the village chiefs of each target area, a mobile unit will travel to conduct 4 different kinds of workshops during 3 or 4 days, where musical training and performances will take place.

Mobile workshops will provide training in:

- Traditional beads
- Textile decoration for women
- Leather handicraft
- Logical debate

The activities of the project proposal were organized as follows:

A1.1. Youngsters will attend the events designed by the Cultural Centre. Once the mobile team arrives, tents and stages will be set up. Artisans will organize their own workshops; once workshops start, the musician will stage a performance that will serve to disseminate ideas among population and tribal leaders. The workshops' working plan will be first explained to artisans; then, youngsters and women will join activities and workshops. There will be constant musical performances and youngsters can learn to play traditional instruments too.

A1.2. Support to cultural agendas in Cultural Centers of each town. Activities will be publicized counting on elder people, heads of associations and district leaders who will be responsible for selecting young beneficiaries. Posters announcing activities will be displayed.

A1.3. Interviews will be conducted for the trainees' follow-up. Workshops will take place three times in each town; during the second and third workshops, youngsters who attended the previous one/s will be monitored to observe their progress, creativity and correct possible learning problems or help out in family problems, promoting a critical, reflexive, and democratic education for them.

The activities planned are highly relevant to the overall objective, and constitute innovative mechanism to increase capacities of local youth in the prevention of radicalism.

## **QUALITY OF THE PROJECT DESIGN (2)**

The project design is clear, although some parts are left imprecise, not providing many details about how the activities would take place (no specific locations for the trainings, selection methods for the targeted youth, selection of the *formateurs*). The activities are relevant, and linked to the overall objective.

The indicators defined are linked to the expected results, but it is difficult to interpret and measure them, as there is no clear understanding on how many youths are expected to participate, and on what basis. Below are depicted the indicators:

Ind. 1.1. 4 months after the start, 85% of the youngsters expected to participate take part in the cultural programs in the mobile Cultural Centre.

Ind. 1.2. 85% of the youngsters take part in the mobile activities, from the 5th month of the project on.

Ind. 2.1. At the end of the project, 95% of the youngsters have been trained in the traditional beads, textile decoration and leather goods workshops as well as in the logical debates.

Ind. 3.1. Local musical performances are organized as well as local exhibitions to display the works of the new young artisans, scheduled around the 11th month of the project.

Ind. 4.1. 95% of monitoring interviews to youngsters are made from the 10th month of the project on.

Ind. 4.2. Trade is boosted among the youngsters from the 11th month and 45% of them starts to sell.

## **CONTEXT BASED (4)**

The project is targeting the Algerian border of Tunisia, in the axis from Al Kef to Kasserine, which is a region particularly vulnerable to violent extremism. The type of activities are best suited for a rural environment, and they are tailored to socio-economic vulnerabilities of the area.

## **E. EFFICIENCY (4)**

### **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES (3)**

The project has spent an amount of 43,981 USD, 73% of the allocation (3<sup>rd</sup> progress report).

### **IMPLEMENTATION VOLUME (4)**

Up to date, the project has conducted the following activities:

A1.1. A total of 6 cultural workshops of 2 days each (consecutive weekends) have been conducted in two different locations in the axe LeKef-Kasserine, in Thala/Khmouda and in Semmama.

The cultural workshop in Thala/Khmouda took place on 21-22 Oct and 28-29 Oct 2017. The topics were: photography, plaster and wicker handicraft, henna tattoo and wall painting.

The cultural workshop in Kasserine took place in 4 consecutive weekends, 18-19 Nov, 25-26 Nov, 02-03 Dec and 09-10 Dec 2017. Topics were: Hairdressing, strategy, break dance, rosemary distillation, mural painting and crafts in clay and plaster. Nearly 100 participants attended per day (97, 106, 89 and 107 respectively).

All the trainers are local with different teaching experiences and gender balance. They received very good support from the secondary school where the workshops took place.

A1.2. The support to cultural agendas is done in coordination with the local partners, *Forum des Jeunes pour la Culture de Citoyennete* (Thala/Kmouda), *Association Reves des Enfants de Sbeitla* (Kasserine). Activities are publicized using social media, local association contacts, and local authorities. Posters announcing activities are displayed.

A1.3. Interviews are conducted for the trainees' follow-up. The monitoring system used by COOPERA includes questionnaires to participants after the workshops, interviews to the *formateurs*, interviews to the local organizers, and selected interviews to some of the participants. Since the participants repeat their attendance through the consecutive weekends, it allows for longitudinal measurement of responses. The interviews are recorded and allow a deeper information about radicalization aspects.

The activities conducted are somehow different to the ones planned (ie. Musician etc...). The topics for the workshops have been adapted to the local needs identified with the local associations, so the changes have been made to adapt the activities to the context.

The project suffered some initial delays, due to the need to adapt the activities to the reality of the villages. But once the network has been established, and the system for the workshops is operational, the implementation goes smoothly.

#### **QUALITY OF DELIVERABLES (4)**

So far, deliverables sent to UNICRI relate to the activities A.1.1, A.1.2, and A.1.3 as follows:

- 1- Analytical Report of the participants in Kasserine workshop, participation statistics, gender balance and overall conclusions from participants responses to questionnaires.
- 2- Materials used in some of the workshops (SWOT analysis for strategy workshop)
- 3- Monitoring instruments used (*formateurs* interview questions, organizers interview questions, youth interview questions, youth questionnaires)
- 4- Certificate of attendance to the youth in Kasserine.
- 5- Communication material (see H. Visibility)

The deliverables have good quality, and have been produced in coordination with the local associations. UNICRI attended the workshop on 09-10 December in Kasserine and confirmed that training was well organized, participants were well guided, and the atmosphere was very encouraging and didactic for the young kids.

#### **QUALITY OF THE REPORTING AND MONITORING APPROACH (4)**

A total of three reports have been submitted (up to 30 June, 30 September, 31 January). The reports have very good quality and are honest in the identification of challenges and clear. The implementer communicates often and on demands basis, and so far, the channels are fluent and good.

The implementer has put in place important efforts to measure and obtain first-hand information from the end users. The monitoring system is very well done, and allows longitudinal measurement. Questionnaires on the activities are shared with *formateurs* and participants, and interviews to selected participants are undertaken and recorded (videos available).

## **F. EFFECTIVENESS (2)**

### **PROGRESS AGAINST INDICATORS (3)**

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Ind. 2.1. At the end of the project, 95% of the youngsters have been trained in the traditional beads, textile decoration and leather goods workshops as well as in the logical debates.

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Ind. 4.1. 95% of monitoring interviews to youngsters are made from the 10th month of the project on.

Ind. 4.2. Trade is boosted among the youngsters from the 11th month and 45% of them starts to sell.

Up to date, 224 participants in total attended the workshops in Kasserine, and Thala/Khmouda (399 training sessions attended in Kasserine, 111 training sessions attended in Thala/Khmouda as the same participants attended consecutive weekends). The trainings are related to the cultural arts and debate/strategy. The musical performances have not taken place as it has not considered relevant in coordination with local associations. Selling (ind.4.2) is not part of the expected results of the topics for training chosen.

With regard to the monitoring tools, a total of 350 questionnaires have been filled by approximately 77% of the students. It is expected that the future workshops will continue recording the views of the participants.

### **CHANGES/IMPACT PRODUCED (1)**

No particular changes or impact produced or reported at this stage.

## **G. SUSTAINABILITY (2)**

### **PROSPECTS, MEASURES OF SUSTAINABILITY (2)**

It is expected that the trainings, even brief, will keep the interest of the participants alive, but it is premature to anticipate sustainability yet. See challenges I. Average age.

## EVIDENCE/SIGNAL OF SUSTAINABILITY (1)

Same as above.

## H. VISIBILITY (4)

In this project, Facebook has been essential to communicate with the youth. Local radio stations have also shown interest and have informed about the events. These activities have been very important to bring the participants to the workshops on the expected dates.

The grantee has developed several communication materials, as follows:

1. Project banner
2. Stickers / labels
3. Folder for students
4. Posters to publicize the workshops

In the final event of Kasserine (09-10 Dec) local authorities attended (the Commissioner for women, children and family of Kasserine, Mr Ezzien Najlaoui and the First Delegate of the Government at Kasserine, Mr Atef Messi), and showed important support to the project.

The links below include pictures and videos of the workshops and media coverage.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/huxuxj178z3ciwa/AABKvvDs95PT5hdD2nYEV8eta?dl=0>

<https://www.facebook.com/Coopera.ONGD.Tunisie/>

## I. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED (2)

**Average age:** The grantee has tried to increase the average age of young people attending the workshops (to 18-25). However, it has not been easy. The socio-economic situation of Kasserine is very deprived, with high unemployment rates, black markets and smugglings with the nearby Algeria. Many youths beyond 18 receive minimal subsidies, to pay the most basic needs, and do not seem to have strong incentives to improve/change their conditions.

**Security challenges:** Security situation in Kasserine is highly unstable, calm-tense, strong military presence and many conflicting opinions: Some local people see the military as a government's way to control, and they do not see the threat of terrorism. However, every week there are shootings, people or soldiers who walk on anti-personnel bombs. So far, activities have been conducted without problems, but security is a concern in every planning of the workshops.

**Economic challenges:** The grantee has requested (Dec 2017) additional funding of USD5,000 to cover food and related activities to ensure attendance to the workshops. The request has been approved by EPEU-UNOV in January 2018.

**Cooperation with one local association:** The association '*Forum des Jeunes pour la culture de citoyenne de Kasserine*', in charge of the organization of the events in Thala, has not performed its tasks efficiently. In view of the grantee, they did not follow clear criteria for selecting the participants, records of attendance were not consistently taken, and overall communication as very unsatisfactory. They will not engage further with them for future trainings.

