



**Memo: Results obtained through the Nicosia Initiative 2017-2018**

➤ **Overview of the Nicosia Initiative**

Initiated at the ARLEM plenary in Nicosia in January 2016, the Nicosia Initiative is the European Committee of the Region's platform aimed at strengthening Libyan local authorities. In the absence of a unified government at national level, Libyan municipalities play a key role in providing basic services to citizens in a context of instability, economic crisis and state fragility.

With funding from the European Commission's Public Administration Facility and other partners (including the Italian Ministry of Interior, the Region of Flanders and the European Endowment for Peace), the Nicosia Initiative matches the needs of Libyan municipalities with support offered by European cities and regions. It aims to create mutually beneficial and sustainable partnerships that improve the living conditions of Libyan citizens by strengthening administrative capacity, improving public services delivery, and fostering local economic development.

During its pilot phase from 2016 to 2018, the Nicosia Initiative brought together eight Libyan founding municipalities, representing all main territories of Libya across conflict lines. Specifically, the initiative includes Tripoli, Gharyan and Zintan from the West, Zliten and Sirte from the Centre, Benghazi and Tobruk from the East, as well as Sabha from the South of the country. This selection has been based on the following criteria:

- Mayors' availability to overcome the existing differences and work together;
- Inclusion of all regions of the country;
- Potential of municipalities to reach out to a wider number of neighbouring territories;
- Mayors' capacity and influence to relate with the different national levels;
- Capacity and availability to interact with international partners to establish sustainable relations.

The main activities so far have focused on training for core municipality staff, improving the delivery of public services by the municipalities, providing peace training to Libyan youth to foster reconciliation and social cohesion, and supporting local economic development, in particular in the area of sustainable fisheries.

➤ **Results obtained in selected areas of activity**

Training for core municipality staff

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Immediate results</b>	<b>Longer-term impact</b>
May 2017	Kick-off workshop – Continuous learning for Libyan municipality staff	EU (PAF 2)	CIEDEL, Lyon  CCI, Trento  Crown Agents  Libyan universities	Tailor-made curriculum developed on 6 modules identified as priorities by Libyan LRAs.	Local delivery of training modules started in January/February 2019 based on framework agreements between the universities and municipalities.  Framework agreements already signed between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ University of Tripoli and Tripoli Municipality</li> <li>▪ University of Benghazi and Benghazi Municipality</li> <li>▪ University of Sabha and Sabha Municipality</li> </ul> Several modules developed during the curricula development phase are being tested in the Universities of Tripoli, Benghazi, Sabha and Zawiya.
November 2017	First block of 3 modules for Libyan LRAs			Representatives of 10 universities and municipalities trained.	
February 2018	Second block of 3 modules for Libyan LRAs				
September-October 2018	Third block on curriculum development and Training of Trainers				

Delivery of public services

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Immediate results</b>	<b>Longer-term impact</b>
March 2017	Field workshop and study visit on waste management in Tozeur	EU (PAF 2)	Flanders  ACR + Suez Environment  AICA Italy	6 Libyan engineers trained Technical project specifications elaborated	Project to set up organic composting units ready to be implemented in 6 Libyan municipalities (subject to funding availability). This constitutes the first chain of an integrated waste management system, starting from active involvement of the citizens and reduction of organic waste in dumping sites to reduce public health risks.
November-December 2017	Training program in waste water treatment and reuse	EU (PAF 2)	Region of Murcia	20 Libyan technicians from 7 municipalities trained	Application of good practices in respective local administrations and areas (subject to funding availability)
May-June 2018	Provision of insulin to municipal health centres	Italian government	IOM	Insulin delivered to 7 municipalities	Municipalities have demonstrated their capacity to monitor delivery to actual final beneficiaries in need. If supported, they could also run prevention campaigns addressing citizens.

Training for Libyan youth

Date	Activity	Funding	Partners	Immediate results	Longer-term impact
April 2017	Positive peace training pilot workshop for young Libyans	EUD Libya  European Endowment for Democracy	UNICEF  IEP  Mechelen Municipality	20 young Libyans trained in positive peace  4 projects identified Youth network for peace established  Peace talks between Zintan municipality and Misurata started following the training	Reopening of Radio Amwāğ Sirte in April 2018 with funding for equipment and installation received by the European Endowment for Democracy.  Radio is still operating and provides essential information services to the local population.  Signal reaches down to Zliten as well.
March-April 2018	Four positive peace training workshops for young Libyans	Italian government	UNICEF  IEP  Sligo Municipality  City of Tilburg  City of Málaga  Northern Ireland Local Government Association	180 young Libyans trained in positive peace and economy  180 project proposals developed  24 selected  11 funded and under implementation	11 community projects funded and implemented during the second half of 2018:  - <b>Al Hayat</b> Rehabilitation Centre for youth and children, Sabha - <b>Wasla</b> weekly radio programme, Zuwara, as well as additional cities in all parts of the country - <b>Positive Footprint for Visual Creativity</b> , producing creative media material, films, and mobile cinema, Sirte, Zliten and Brac Beach

			<p>Innovation and Planning Agency</p> <p>Italian Libyan Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Expertise France</p> <p>Various UN agencies</p> <p>Libyan Mayors visiting (Al Bayda, Zintan, Ghariyan)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Step for Peace</b>, creating a permanent social media platform showcasing inspiring personal experiences, Benghazi</li> <li>- <b>Gerass</b>, empowering teachers and students as peace-makers through workshops and training materials, Gharyan.</li> <li>- <b>UXO awareness campaign</b> via school visits, posters, an online application etc., Gharyan and neighbouring cities</li> <li>- <b>Youth Forum</b> fostering interest in reading and culture among young people, Zliten</li> <li>- <b>Win App</b> providing livestream workshops promoting positive peace, multiple municipalities</li> <li>- <b>Youth for the South</b>, training technicians and installing and repairing air-conditionings, refrigerators and washing machines, Sabha</li> <li>- <b>Mother Benghazi</b>, promoting peace through soccer, Benghazi</li> <li>- <b>Learn and Teach “Uber”</b>, creating an online platform for tutoring, Tripoli, with plans to cover all Libya</li> </ul>
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Local economic development

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Immediate results</b>	<b>Longer-term impact</b>
April 2017	First exchange on development of fisheries sector	Italian government	Region of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia	Workshop in Trieste with 8 Libyan experts has allowed preparing the terms of reference of assessment and training the team	Project proposal for phase 2 was drafted based on the findings of the assessment in order to assure funds mobilization
February 2018	PATH-DEV project kick-off event				
May 2018	Workshop to prepare ToR for assessment of fisheries sector in Libya			Assessment of the sector finalized (complex analysis involving around 100 fishermen along the coast in addition to desk review)	Thanks to the project, Benghazi has decided to reactivate its fishery-training institute, which was closed. Benghazi fishery authority has visited the Tripoli training institution to get ideas and support. Furthermore, the Mayor of Benghazi has started working with local entrepreneurs on the project of a fishery village in the port area.
April 2019	PATH-DEV project closing of first phase			Working session and training of a team of 14 Libyan experts including veterinaries and food safety specialists to identify all key elements missing to achieve EU certification to export Libyan fish into European markets.	
				Set-up of a joint group	Innovation and Planning Agency

			<p>collecting and feeding all information needed into the assessment, with Sirte expert designated as coordinator.</p> <p>Training of 12 fishery trainers.</p> <p>Development of a Training Manual to be adopted in fishery training institutions in Libya.</p> <p>Mayors of Tripoli and Benghazi presented first results in February 2019 at the forum "Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation".</p> <p>Assessment and other outputs presented at final event in April 2019 in Udine, where support for phase of the project was announced.</p>	<p>(IPA) through funding received by Dutch organization SPARK agreed to fund training courses in fishery in the five pilot locations, starting from August 2019. Our trained Libyan experts are currently preparing the curricula based on the material developed in Trieste and starting the selection of candidates (a percentage of female candidates will be also involved after the Libyan team has seen their role in the success of the fishery sector in Galicia). Total beneficiaries will be 100 young Libyan operators in the sector.</p> <p>WFP has expressed interest to support the fishery development program.</p>
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