



REPORT

“Places of Diversity”
Study visit to Jordan

11-16 March 2014

Introduction

Within the project **“PLACES OF DIVERSITY - Public Spaces as Field for Intercultural Dialog and Promotion of Social Values”**, funded by the Anna Lindh Foundation, a study visit to Jordan was organized in the period 11-16 March 2014. This was second of two study visits planned by the project. The first one was organized in Albania and Montenegro on 27 October-1 November 2013.

The study visit to Jordan was hosted by the partner organization **Leaders of Tomorrow (LoT)**, from Amman, Jordan. The study visit included meetings with NGO stakeholders in the cities of Amman and Wadi Mousa, visits to LoTs intervention sites in Amman and its vicinity, as well as partners' meetings.

The project **“PLACES OF DIVERSITY - Public Spaces as Field for Intercultural Dialog and Promotion of Social Values”** officially began in August 2013 and it will last for 11 months.

Project partners

Partners in the project are organizations **EXPEDITIO** Center for Sustainable Spatial Development, from Kotor, Montenegro; **Leaders of Tomorrow**, from Amman, Jordan; and **Co-PLAN**, from Tirana, Albania.

EXPEDITIO is an NGO whose mission is to encourage sustainable spatial development in Montenegro and the SEE region through activity in the fields of sustainable architecture, cultural heritage and urban planning. EXPEDITIO was established by six students of architecture in 1997, after participation in anti-Milošević's student protests in Belgrade. The idea to establish NGO derived from the desire to work closely with communities on various urban and rural issues. Since 2000, EXPEDITIO is based in Kotor, one of two UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Montenegro.

Leaders of Tomorrow (LoT) is a youth-led NGO, active since 2007 in Jordan and regionally in the Middle East and North Africa. Their mission is to build a community of young Arab leaders who are educated, critical, initiative-takers, and capable of serving their local communities. LoT worked on many projects and initiatives, including EuroMed and YiA exchanges such as Diwanieh (public street debates), FOR9A.com (lifechanging opportunities for young Arabs), FADFED (public commenting), Mstkblna (prepping high school students), and Mo7aka (role-playing retreats) - that address youth challenges in the MENA.

Co-PLAN was established in 1997. It has an extensive experience in regard to all aspects of governance and sustainable spatial development, urban and regional planning and development, activities at multiple scales (i.e., the neighborhood, city, regional, inter-regional, and national levels) and with a spectrum of actors such as communities, local and central government, businesses, donors, and civil society organizations. Co-PLAN has collaboration agreement with Polis University from Tirana and is acting as its applied research agent combining the practical live experience with the academic studies.

“PLACES OF DIVERSITY” Project summary

In many Mediterranean cities, especially those with less developed democracies, public spaces are often commercialized, or taken up by private capital investments. When planning public spaces the attention is usually devoted mainly to physical appearance, and much less to citizens’ participation in or the messages the space conveys to its users. Bearing this in mind, the project “PLACES OF DIVERSITY” can be an inspiration for those stakeholders who want to see social values promoted in urban spaces in their communities. Although the project will be developed for the towns in Jordan, Montenegro and Albania, the set principles will enable their application in other places.

The overall aim of the project “PLACES OF DIVERSITY” is to improve intercultural dialog between youth and civil society organizations from Albania, Jordan and Montenegro, through activities that increase citizens participation in promoting social values in urban/public spaces.

Specific objectives of the project are:

1. Increasing citizens awareness on intercultural dialogue and social values by using public spaces as a field to promote it
2. Improving collaboration between actors dealing with urban and social issues in Albania, Jordan and Montenegro, through joint activities in public spaces
3. Increasing participation of youth and CSOs in joint actions on re-thinking public spaces in Jordan, Montenegro and Albania

The main project activities include:

1. **Informing** stakeholders about the activities, objectives and results of the project;
2. Organizing **study visits** - Amman, Tirana and Kotor - linking, networking and learning from good practices of activism in the public spaces;
3. Organizing **creative workshops** for young people in order to develop ideas on how to promote desirable social values in public spaces;
4. Realizing **creative pilot projects in Jordan, Albania and Montenegro**, with the participation of local artists, designers, youth associations, etc.
5. Creating a **common web portal: How with small interventions in public spaces we can promote desirable social values?**

Study visit – JORDAN

The aim of the study visit to Jordan was to meet and network with local actors and organizations dealing with public spaces, intercultural dialogue and social issues, in order to exchange ideas on creative ways in which public spaces places can be improved to the benefit of both local community and visitors and on how different social values can be promoted in them.

Through site visits and meetings with local organizations and activists the partners had a chance to learn about challenges regarding public spaces in Jordan, as well as to exchange knowledge on different perspectives that focus on utilizing unused or abandoned public spaces in Jordan and other partners' countries.

Furthermore, the partners had a chance to meet with the members of Jordanian ALF network, and through public presentations and informal exchange, to share ideas of different activities and interventions in public spaces, ranging from small-scale to larger ones that can improve the life of local residents and promote different social values.

The study visit also presented an opportunity for the partners to share the knowledge and experiences gained during the project implementation, as well as to discuss and plan the implementation of the remaining project activities.

First Day - 11/3/2014, Amman

The arrival of project partners from Albania and Montenegro to Amman late in the evening.

Second Day – 12/3/2014, Amman

The second day in Amman included many activities. The first knot of the rope was an office visit to Leaders of Tomorrow headquarters in Mecca Street Amman. This was an introductory session to further discuss the planned agenda of the study visit's group activities. Some planned activities were replaced with others due to unexpected bad weather conditions.



The group first visited the Amman Citadel (Jabal al Qalaa) which is considered one of the most important monuments in Amman, being one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited places. It is also considered as a very important public place since it allows people and tourists to get engaged with its historical ambience. Amman Citadel offers marvelous views of the surroundings, connecting east and west Amman together.

Jordanian citizens residing in the area of Jabal al Qalaa consider Amman citadel as a crucial element in their surroundings, as it provides a space for them to engage in social get together events either within its boundaries or on its outskirts.



The second knot was the Amman Downtown, which is the hub area of Amman, considered a connection node of public transportation, logistics and central economical trade place for the Amman residents. The site visit included a visit to one of the oldest houses in Downtown which is considered one of the very popular public spaces for everyone. The owner provides this space out for artists, photographers and historians to portray their work and showcase. The group also visited two set of stairs, which gave a brief idea on the upcoming project intervention LoT is working on. LoT representatives provided a brief insight about the stairs condition and how they might look after the intervention.

Reviving, reshaping, restructuring staircases is one of the interventions LoT is working on within the project. The idea behind this activity of public spaces reviving it is to revive abandoned and tucked in, polluted stairs in Amman. Stairs in Jabal Qalaa and the Downtown areas play a major role in commuting. They have central connecting locations within neighborhood, connecting different areas and mountains together.

Given that stairs make a very important element in Amman surroundings, taking good care of them and putting an effort by architects, designers and urban planners is a must. It is the desire of LoT to help sustain and beautify the stairs, put up their history in order to make neighborhood residents and users interact and help preserving them.

The second day site visit created a profound base and gave out a clear and basic idea for the project partners of Jordanian social, economical, historical and political situation, which clearly states that people live in a costly economy, and that they suffer from different social constraints on behavior. Nevertheless, the country boasts an extremely interesting diversity of people, backgrounds and cultural heritage, formulated during its history and through influences of several dynasties.

Third day – 13/3/2014, Wadi Mousa/Petra

On the third day of the study visit, the group departed for the south of Jordan, towards the great city of Petra, a historical and archaeological city situated in the southern Jordanian governorate of Ma'an. The city is famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system. Another name for Petra is the Rose City due to the color of the stone out of which it has been carved. On December 6, 1985, Petra was designated a World Heritage Site.

Initially the plan was for the partners to participate at a diwanieh, which LoT had planned to hold in Wadi Mousa on 13 March 2014. The idea was for the partners to attend a diwanieh, i.e. a public debate, as an important example of civic activism providing possibilities for young people to discuss sensitive social and political issues. However, due to forecast rainy weather the diwanieh had to be postponed for the following week.

Nevertheless, the partners had the chance to meet up with Mohammad Hilalat and a team of young activists from different institutions in Wadi Mousa, who are, among other things, interested in improving public spaces and space revival in their city. They presented their yearly plans and activities aimed at improving the situation in different spheres of the community's life, ranging from clean-up actions, street activism, planting trees and greening city areas. The partners from Albania and Montenegro shared their examples of some activities in public spaces targeted at improving them in different aspects. The group together brainstormed on an idea of the Wadi Mousa activists, by which they want to set up a small park in the city but are encountered by different obstacles, including those of ownership and available finances. One of the ideas was that tourists can help supporting the Area by making an arrangement by which 1 Jordanian dinar of each tourist's airplane ticket or admission fee to Petra is dedicated for the planting of a tree in the park.



The meeting provided very useful in terms of the exchange of ideas and mutual encouragement to continue in efforts to contribute to improving the life in our communities, as it had been proved that even small-scale actions can mean a great difference for the local people.

Fourth day – 14/3/2014, way back from Wadi Mousa to Amman

A stop on the way back from Wadi Mousa to Amman was used by partners to have a meeting in order to summarize what activities have been realized within the project so far, what activities still need to be done and to share experiences of the project realization so far.

The following activities have been realized:

1.1. Informing stakeholders in all partner's countries about the beginning of a project

The partners used different methods, including printed and broadcast media, mailing lists, social platforms, their organizations' websites, etc. to inform a wide range of stakeholders (general public, youth associations, NGOs, universities, professionals, cultural stakeholders, media representatives, etc.) about the project, its aims and planned activities.

2. Intercultural exchange / Study visit to Albania and Montenegro

The Study visit was organized in the period 27 October-1 November 2013, and it included the towns of Tirana and Durrës in Albania and Kotor, Tivat and Perast in Montenegro.

The Study visit included intercultural exchange between the partners, public presentations of project partners and their activities related to public spaces, visits to sites of public interventions, meetings with organizations promoting civic activism, working with young people or organizing artistic events in public spaces, etc.

3.1. Organizing local workshops/focus groups/events to share and collect ideas for promotion of social values in urban space

Workshops with young people/students were held by all the partners in the period September 2013-January 2014.

The workshops, which attracted a great interest and enthusiasm of young people, were aimed at examining what social values they hold important and encouraging them to think of creative ways in which these values could be promoted in public spaces.

During the workshops, different ideas were developed for small creative interventions in public spaces, some of which were later on realized in public spaces.

3.3. Realizing small creative interventions in various urban spaces engaging youth, artists, graphic designers, architects....

This activity followed workshops with young people, which served to develop ideas for the concrete creative interventions in public spaces.

Partners from Co-PLAN implemented their public interventions in Tirana during September 2013. The interventions entitled "**Urban provo[ac]tions**" included five actions aimed to affect the public consciousness on urban issues, attracting the attention of the citizens toward some of the problematic aspects of the contemporary city. The tool used to do so, as also noticeable from the title of the event, was a combination of provocation and activism.

Partners from LoT realized one of their interventions in Zarqaa, Russeifah, with a group of young volunteers, who made an effort to embellish their surroundings, coming up with the idea to paint educational and inspirational murals on school walls.

The activities to be realized in the coming period:

3.2. Identifying/mapping territories that will be used as grounds for promotion of social values in urban spaces

This activity will include the identification of public spaces that are already used or have the potential to be used as public spaces and become grounds for different social activities/events, promoting of different values, enriching thus the life of local residents and visitors.

The activity will be conducted in the period April -June 2014.

3.3. Realizing small creative interventions in various urban spaces engaging youth, artists, graphic designers, architects....

Partners from Expeditio will realize all of their interventions and partners from LoT their remaining interventions in the period April-June 2014.

4.1. Producing PR material

A promotional leaflet in the form of notepad was printed in 600 copies and distributed to partners.

4.2. Joint web portal of ideas: “How small interventions in urban spaces can promote social values?”

The web portal will be realized during April 2014. When the web portal is set up all the partners will regularly update it with information, ideas and good practice examples.



Fifth Day – 15/3/2014, Amman/ Zarqa

The fifth day included a visit to Zarqaa, Russeifah in the vicinity of Amman, where the partners from LoT realized one of their project interventions, in cooperation with a group of young volunteers gathered around a local youth centre. These young people put an effort to beautify their surroundings and came up with the idea to paint educational and inspirational murals on the school walls using quotes and drawings, such as: “Jordan first”, “Water makes Everything Alive”, “Neighborhood cleanliness, is our Cleanliness”. During the site visit the partners were accompanied by a representative of volunteers and the local centre who spoke about centre’s activities and showed them a neglected nursery school yard which they intend to develop so that it can be used by children. The partners also had a chance to visit the centre, meet its leaders and learn more about their activities, which, in addition to conducting voluntary actions, include the hosting of workshops and lectures about important topics directly related to environmental awareness and recycling.



The partners were particularly impressed by the dedication of young people they met. Their enthusiasm and willingness to change things for the better proves that among ordinary people and community there lies tremendous potential to improve things.

In the afternoon a meeting with the Jordanian Anna Lindh network was held in Amman at the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies.



The meeting was attended by 24 participants, representative of project partners and members of Anna Lindh network, who used this opportunity to establish contacts and share their experiences and ideas.

The meeting also included public presentations of the activities of Expeditio and Co-PLAN related to interventions in public spaces.

Sixth Day – 16/3/2014

Departure of participants.

APPENDICES

STUDY VISIT PARTICIPANT LIST

ALF/CFP/2013/MT2

Project number: (ALF/CFP/2013/MT2/78) "PLACES OF DIVERSITY - Public Spaces as Field for Intercultural Dialog and Promotion of Social Values" - List of Participants

Study visit Jordan - First Partner meeting 12/03/2014

No.	Name & Surname	Gender M/F	age 0-13	age 14-20	age 21-35	age >35	Country of residence	Nationality	Organisation NAME	Organisation CONTACT details	ALF member? (yes/no)	Signature
1	Sami Hawari	M			X		JOR	JOR	Leads Pizarro	leads@pizarro.org		[Signature]
2	Haitham Kulkarni	M			X		JOR	JOR	Leads Pizarro	leads@pizarro.org		[Signature]
3	Evan Dapto	M			X		AL	AL	G-PAD	evandapto@univates.pedagog.com		[Signature]
4	Arbekelda Thugui	F			X		AL	AL	SOCIETE GENERALE	arbekelda@hotmail.com	NO	[Signature]
5	Vesna Zivkovic	F				✓	Montenegro	Montenegro	Ex pro de Ho	Vesna Zivkovic	YES	[Signature]
6	Arda Ciro	F			✓		Albania	AL	Go PLAN	arda-ciro@go-plan.org	YES	[Signature]
7	Tatjana Peric	F				✓	Montenegro	MNE/GER	Ex pro de Ho	tatjana.peric@go-plan.org	YES	[Signature]
8	Lian al Saifi	F			✓		Jordan	Jordan	LOT	Lian@leadesat.org		[Signature]
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Annex J

Project number: (ALF/CFP/2013/MT2/78) "PLACES OF DIVERSITY - Public Spaces as Field for Intercultural Dialog and Promotion of Social Values" - List of Participants
Study visit Jordan - Meeting in Wadi Musa 13/03/2014

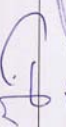
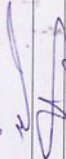
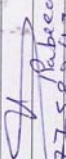
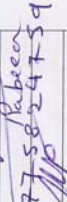
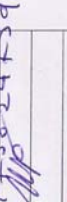
No.	Name & Surname	gender M/F	age 0-13	age 14-20	age 21-35	age >35	Country of residence	Nationality	Organisation NAME	Organisation CONTACT details	ALF member? (yes/no)	Signature
1	VESNA LEKOVIC	F				✓	Montenegro	Montenigrin	Expeditor	Vesna.alex@ptt.tg.org	✓	Vesna Lekovic
2	Mohammed helalat	M					Jordan	Sordanien	hashem academy	hashem academy	✓	
3	Anas Spultovic	M				✓	Jordanien	Jordanien	hashem academy	hashem academy	✓	
4	WALEED I. Meshaleh	M					Jordan	Jordanien	hashem academy	hashem academy	✓	
5	Hashem L. Nawafleh	M				✓	Jordanien	Jordanien	hashem academy	hashem academy	✓	
6	Aida Ciro	F				✓	Albanian	Albanian	Co-PLAN	aida-ciro@co-plan.org	YES	
7	Elina Dajha	M				✓	Albanian	Albanian	Co-PLAN	elina.dajha@co-plan.org	YES	
8	Mohammad Waheeb	M				✓	Jordan	Sordanien	hashem academy	hashem academy	No	
9	Yousef Al-Salameen	M				✓	Jordan	Jordanien	hashem academy	hashem academy	No	
10	Suzana Horvatic	M				✓	Yugoslavia	Yugoslavia	LOT	gavrilovic@lot.org	YES	
11	Ljiljana Ropic	F				✓	Yugoslavia	Yugoslavia	EXIPTMO	ljiljana.ropic@exiptmo.org	YES	
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Project number: (ALF/CFP/2013/MT2/78) "PLACES OF DIVERSITY - Public Spaces as Field for Intercultural Dialog and Promotion of Social Values" - List of Participants
Study visit Jordan - BYAK INSTITUTE FOR INTER-FAITH STUDIES 15/03/2014 17:00h

rua.alabwneh@gmail.com

No.	Name & Surname	gender M/F	age 0-13	age 14-20	age 21-35	age 35+	Country of residence	Nationality	Organisation NAME	Organisation CONTACT details	ALF member? (yes/no)	Signature
1	Rua Al-Abwneh	F			X		Jordan	Jordanian	Leaders of	0798596242	no	Rua Al-Abwneh
2	Lina Saiti	F			X		"	"	LOT	0797596377	no	Lina Saiti
3	Aida Oro	F			X		Albanian	"	Co-PLAN	aida_ciro@co-plan.org	yes	Aida Oro
4	Shvan Dorjko	M			X		Albania	Albanian	Co-PLAN	elvan-dajko@university.edu.al	yes	Shvan Dorjko
5	VESJA LEKOVIC	F			X		Montenegro	Montenegrin	Expedition	vesja.lekovic@gmail.com	yes	Vesja Lekovic
6	ARBEKELEDA KUQI	F			X		Albania	Albanian	Jordan Leaders	unbekel@shkollat.com	no	Arbekele Kuci
7	Bodour Alhyari	F			X		Jordan	Jordanian	Jordan Leaders	0762726007	yes	Bodour Alhyari
8	Tyngony, Jamar	M			X		Jordan	Jordanian	Training Forum	tyngony@gmail.com	yes	Tyngony Jamar
9	Lina Haddad	F			X		Jordan	Jordanian	Beituna	0797596377	yes	Lina Haddad
10	Rabeca Alnasser	F			X		Jordan	Jordanian	Amalinda	0798545043	yes	Rabeca Alnasser
11	Abdulhamid Basmahkhalil	M			X		Jordan	Jordanian	House of Tales	0775824759	yes	Abdulhamid Basmahkhalil
12	Raed A. Ghann	M			X		Jordan	Jordanian	SEEDS	0796840071	yes	Raed A. Ghann
13	Sahib Daudi	M			X		Jordan	Jordanian	LOT	Jordan Seeds @ ygha	yes	Sahib Daudi
14	Sam Hourani	M			X		Jordan	Jordanian	LOT	—	yes	Sam Hourani
15	Anas Soubari	M			X		Jordan	Jordanian	LOT	anas.soubari@univ.edu.jo	yes	Anas Soubari
16	Ali Hagan	M			X		Jordan	Jordanian	LOT	ALIP live.com	yes	Ali Hagan
17	ANDREW SPATH	M			X		Jordan	Jordanian	—	—	no	Andrew Spath
18	Nidal Abbad	M			X		Jordan	Jordanian	YSC	nidal.abbad@univ.edu.jo	yes	Nidal Abbad
19	Nayla Abad	F			X		Egypt	Egyptian	ALF	nayla.abad@univ.edu.jo	yes	Nayla Abad

Project number: ALF/CFP/2013/MT2/78) "PLACES OF DIVERSITY - Public Spaces as Field for Intercultural Dialog and Promotion of Social Values" - List of Participants
Study visit Jordan -

No.	Name & Surname	gender M/F	age 0-13	age 14-20	age 21-35	age 35+	Country of residence	Nationality	Organisation NAME	Organisation CONTACT details	ALF member? (yes/no)	Signature
20	Zina Ishey					X		Jordanian	Royal Institute of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	www.rif.jo 079-5334422		
21	Maisa Jazav			X				Jordanian	Leaders of Temptation	www.leadersch.org		
22	Lilid Hadad			X				Jordanian	Volunteer/Amman Lilid Hadad			
23	Rabea Al Nasser					X		Jordanian	Volunteer/Amman Rabea Al Nasser			
24	Taher Pini					X	Jordanian	Volunteer/Amman Taher Pini	Volunteer/Amman Taher Pini	077-5824759	YES	
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PROGRAMME OF THE STUDY VISIT



Study Visit Agenda

Study Visit 11-16 March 2014								
	'Day 1" March. 11th Tuesday	'Day2" March 12th Wednesday	'Day3" March 13th Thursday	'Day4" March 14th Friday	'Day5" March 15th Saturday	'Day 6" March 16th Sunday		
Time	Arrival of Participants	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Free Day + Visit public spaces in Amman such as Roman Amphitheatre + Departure		
6:00:00			Head to Petra and visit public spaces in petra	visit Aqaba's popular public spaces				
7:00:00								
8:00:00		Site visit to Russeifeh public space intervention in Zarqaa			Visit and meet up with local NGO's in Wadi Mousa		Meet up with a local NGO in Aqaba + Swimming and Snorkling activity (optional)	Site visit to interventions in Ajloun
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9:30:00								
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12:00:00		Visit Amman Citadel	Lunch break	Lunch break				
12:30:00								
13:00:00		Head Back to Amman	Meet & Greet session and presentations of each partner on their public interventions and workshops					
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