

M.A.I.S., Movimento per l'Autosviluppo, l'Interscambio e la Solidarietà is a non-governmental organisation (NGO), established in 1990 in Torino, Italy. It is a nonreligious, independent and non-profit organisation.

M.A.I.S. promotes the cooperation between peoples and fights for a fair and just world, through promoting self-development projects, human rights defence and against any form of exploitation and social exclusion.

M.A.I.S. believes that the condition of dependence and subordination of the underprivileged, the poor and the weak can be overcome through information, denouncement, awareness and interchange campaigns. It communicates with public bodies and institutions, the civil society, national and international organisations and local communities, in order to promote social and democratic economy over the world, encouraging participated and sustainable development of local communities.

M.A.I.S. promotes the participation and the centrality of the most vulnerable social sectors, such as peasants, small and medium-scale producers, women, minors and exploited, socially excluded subjects, for whom freedom and rights are not guaranteed.

M.A.I.S. promotes different forms of interchange of experiences, both within the global South where it works and between the North and the South of the world, with the aim of improving information and reflection about the causes of injustice, exploitation, social and economic inequalities.

For a new project, co-funded by European Commission, we search a **Project Manager**.

Concept note project **“Pharaohs looms - Reinforcing handicraft production as a way to promote employment and development for the most marginalized populations in the Sohag Governorate”**.

The proposed action is based upon interviews with key actors, informal discussions, meetings, etc., and secondary information resulting from the analysis of official documents, activity reports and internet sources. Handicrafts are a part of the culture of a nation or ethnic group and represent a key component of socio-economic life, even if its activities are not fully included in national accounts. It has an interesting socio-economic characteristic: it is a home-based industry which requires minimum expenditure and infrastructure to establish (existing skills and locally available raw materials), therefore it can create jobs at a minimal cost.

Handmade fabric industry is an important art, but it is threatened by extinction because of the modern industrial fabrics and products, despite of the big difference in the quality and originality of products. In Sohag Gov't there is a city called Akhmim described by some as “prehistoric Manchester”, as this British city is famous for its textile industry. Akhmim people still keep using the ancient pharaohs looms in the manufacturing process despite the hardships, and this motivated the concerned organization to provide aid to the Egyptian government for the establishment of «loom houses», to preserve this craft from extinction.

The main objective aims to illustrate the relevance of developing and reinforcing handicraft production to promote employment and development, and it will be conducted in collaboration with concerned parties (vocational workshops and vocational schools). The specific objectives will be achieved: Ob.1) through technical and financial support that will be provided to vocational

schools and handicrafts, Ob.2) with coordination between concerned parties, through dissemination of information on the training facilities and opportunities available to women and youth in rural areas. Workshops and seminars will be organized to familiarize and train on the income generating opportunities of handicraft production.

The stakeholders will be: 1) MAIS (applicant): technical and financial coordination. 2) Gerga Ngo (partner): implementation of handicraft-related activities, including selection of direct beneficiaries and dealing with governmental institutions, 3) Natural leaders and officers of concerned institutions: key actors to attract the young men and women to be trained on traditional crafts in each village. They are also considered as target group, 4) Community (youth and women): it represents the main target group of the project. As audience, it benefits from the action by getting free access to culture and arts, and as stakeholder it participates to the action by expressing views, opinions, and contributing to enrich the artistic life in Sohag Gov't, 5) Well known artisans of the project area: as artisans, they will be invited to present their work out of its usual sphere of influence, acquiring visibility and promoting their work in new areas. As stakeholders, they will be the factor of change, contributing to fill the cultural gap existing between the capital and the remote areas.

Main activities: 1) Providing professional and technical skills to students and teachers in vocational schools and workshops (materials, books and literacy manuals that address the importance of respecting and preserving handicrafts). Talented students at art schools will have the opportunity to work through projects of handicrafts workshops after ending school course. Woman and young artisans would gain confidence to produce and market their products, and ensure the revival and preservation of traditional crafts. 2) Improving the management and organisation capacities of handmade workers: members in the CDAs and workshops will participate in training program that will tackle professional and technical skills of handicrafts, management and organisation capacities for activities and events that promote their preservation. 3) Co-ordination and management of important cultural crafts between different governorates (Sohag, El-Fayum, Sinai): networking is essential in facilitating access to information, technology, markets and raw materials. Women and youth will also gain access to valuable economic opportunities. Marginalized handicrafts operators will network among themselves and open small outlets with the support of governmental institution, with a brand name and set quality standards for their products. They will be supported to make a page on social media and an e-commerce website to promote their products. 4) Creating an awareness-raising program to influence the public policies and private investments: the action is going to increase awareness among school teachers, students/trainees and families in the socio cultural value of crafts and their potential role as an income generating activity. It will also raise awareness on the importance of protecting and preserving traditional cultural heritage. For the adults it will be an opportunity to transmit knowledge to younger. 5) Providing comprehensive training program on communication, management and marketing: it will be planned to strengthen the organizational and management capacities of participants in order to improve their production and marketing systems. The project in collaboration with the specialized center for training on personal skills will organize a 10-day training workshop for marginalized artisans and concerned institutions, vocational teachers and CDAs' members on communication, management, and marketing skills.

The duration of the action will be 15 months. The first two will be devoted to the selection of the working staff and direct beneficiaries. A capacity building need assessment will be prepared by the end of the third month. From the fourth month to the seventh the selected schools and

handicrafts workshops will receive the professional and technical skills through training workshops, regular meeting and curriculums. The awareness program activities will last for 6 months, from the 5th month to the 11th. In the 6th month a local event will be organized to present the level of the trainees and what has been achieved by the target groups. A final event will be organized at the end of the action to present the evaluation and the results that have been achieved. The process of creating the network and coordination between artisans in the three mentioned governorate will last for 3 months.

The action expected results are: R1) Traditional crafts of villages (Akhmim, Geziret, etc.) has been promoted: Upper Egypt's cultural craft heritage is particularly impressive considering the range of different crafts and different culturally identifiable artisans` communities. The Sohag Gov't is famous for Akhmim textiles: cotton, linen and silk textiles are still woven here, enriched with traditional Coptic motifs. Geziret is famous for special loom-embroidered cloth and for "Tally", a unique embroidery technique in silver floss. By the end of the project, at least 4 handicrafts workshops and 4 vocational schools in the targeted area will be supported technically and financially to improve the quality of their products and promote them in well-known markets. This result is referred to the call priority "Culture, Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development: protection and promotion of cultural industries and cultural heritage (both tangible or intangible. R2) Skills of crafts workers on marketing techniques, packaging, labelling, sizing, presentation and color schemes has been improved. This results is referred to the call priority "Support to the configuration of vocational training program or other related activities contributing to the employability of the professionals of the cultural sector". R3)The reach of the handicraft industry is expanded. This result will be achieved by developing awareness raising activities and encourage interest in handicrafts, facilitate monitoring, information-sharing and learning from other experiences, allowing poor and marginalized youth and women to develop marketable skills, protect their cultural heritage and self-confidence. This result is referring to the call priority "Access to Culture: cultural actions that contribute to equal participation in cultural production and distribution of cultural services. R4) A crafts education program for children from 15 years old is provided in the vocational school. The action is targeting at least 4 vocational schools to provide them with a craft methodology and employment-oriented training that could be integrated into the school curriculum. Through this revised curriculum, poor students who could not pursue a formal education nevertheless had access to a viable alternative for future employment. This result referred to recent policy developments and conceptual framework of the call "Culture and Education: actions aiming at including cultural activities in students' curricula or mechanisms that would enable artists to play a role in cultural education in public schools and to extend youth access to cultural activities". R5) Information on the training facilities and opportunities available to women and youth in rural areas has been disseminated.

The direct beneficiaries of the present proposal include:

- 20 artisans (youth and women) who already work in handicrafts workshops. The selection criteria will be based on preparing an application form to be filled by the staff through an interview with at least 50 artisans to evaluate the level of their productions and their experience as they will be trainers for the trainees who want to apply for the training course of different handicrafts
- 20 board members of the partner CDAS' to be selected with cooperation with the partner
- 30 craftsmen and women selected on the basis of specific criteria as a qualitative evaluation of their works and on the capacity to work in a collaborative and cooperative way.
- 200 women, selected in cooperation with partner CDAs among the women heads of households, that will be trained on sewing and embroidery and participate in the awareness-raised activities

- at least 40 students(both male and female) from 4 vocational secondary schools who are studying in textile and painting departments
- 4 CDAs in the villages of the working area that are concerning with youth employment and preservation of traditional handicrafts
- 4 vocational schools that have departments of textile and painting in the working area

LOCATION Sohag, Egypt

Closing date 03/02/2016

DURATION 15 months

JOB DESCRIPTION

The main duty station will be **Sohag**, with field visits within the country.

The PM reports to the Desk Officer (HQ).

The collaboration will start in March 2016.

Main tasks:

-S/he will represent Mais before public institutions in the Country, as well as before private bodies.

-S/he will be responsible of guaranteeing Mais compliance with Egypt law and legislation.

-S/he will represent Mais before Donors, partners, stakeholders, clusters and coordination body and fora, and any other appropriate networks aiming at raising Mais 's profile within the country.

-S/he will be in charge of the identification of possible Donors and proposals development.

-S/he will be in charge of planning and submitting new project proposals, guaranteeing missions to carry out feasibility surveys in the country.

-S/he will actively participate to coordination meetings, clusters and strategic activities in accordance with the HQ.

-S/he will analyse the actual projects and strategies of other stakeholders - NGOs and international organizations - regarding the same sector/geographical area, and draft periodic reports.

-S/he will be in charge of the management of Mais projects, guaranteeing projects' activities fulfil timely the scheduled objectives, meet Country regulations and the donors' guidelines, accomplish Mais procedures and regulations (Security Manual, -Overseas Offices Administration Manual, Logistics Manual, Visibility and Communication Manual).

-S/he will be in charge of supervising administrative aspects of the project (accounting, budgeting, procurement, financial reporting).

-S/he will be in charge of timely project reporting (activities planning, work progress and final reports) as requested by donor, the Headquarters and as agreed with the leading partner.

-S/he will be in charge of keeping proper accountability of Mais expenditures, maintaining proper supporting documentation and guaranteeing timely submission of financial reports to HQ.

-S/he will be in charge of the efficient office management and storage of properties and documentation of Mais in Egypt.

-S/he will be in charge of monitoring level of security inside the country, keeping proper coordination on security with the Desk and Mais security advisor in HQ, updating the security plan and taking prompt action in case security conditions change

ESSENTIAL COMPETENCIES

Master's degree and/or University degree in development, international relations or related field.

Minimum 3 years' experience working in humanitarian/development context.

Proven experience in project identification and in proposal drafting.

Fluency in English and Arabic (written and spoken).

Strong computer skills including Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook.

DESIRABLE COMPETENCIES

Familiarity with the Egyptian context.

Experience/knowledge of main Donors requirements (EU, Italian Cooperation, others Agencies).