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Work package 2: Cultural and dialogue activities to address past misconceptions and grievances

المسار 2: نشاطات ثقافية وحوارية في التعامل مع شكايا\مظالم\آلام الماضي والمفاهيم والروايات الخاطئة

UPDATE

In track 2 of our multi-level dialogue project, we formed an advisory committee that supports local dialogue initiatives in addressing past grievances and overcoming prejudices or misunderstandings in different communities.

Deep-seated divisions from civil war times remain mostly unaddressed within Lebanese society and past grievances, as well as stereotypes and misconceptions about others can be reactivated more easily in times of crisis. Since the end of the civil war, a fundamental reconciliation process was launched in order to protect a fragile model of coexistence and a delicate balance of interests of different communities and parties. Raising awareness and addressing societal division is an integral part of the future-oriented discussions that we implement as part of WP2.



For this purpose, we formed an Advisory Committee (DwP-AC) composed of a diverse group of experts, which published a call for proposals soliciting projects to be considered for funding. 40 project proposals were submitted. Consequently, the group held a selection meeting in 2022 in which the group chose six winning submissions, based on a set of previously agreed-upon criteria.

The groups with winning groups were invited to the Berghof office last week to kick off the implementation phase, due to be concluded in early 2023. At the of next year, a new round of selections of 6 new projects will be carried out to nominate 6 new projects.

Following are the winning groups, with a very short summary of their projects:

Action Research Associates	Creation of a multimedia module that juxtaposes multiple narratives on events of the past, without seeking their resolution nor seeking a unified national narrative, but recognising the legitimacy of diverse stories and weaving them into a common national tapestry. First stop will be the Black Saturday massacre of the start of the Civil War.
Academic University College for Non Violence & Human Rights	Producing an academic course, in Arabic, of 45 hours of teaching, corresponding to a 3-credit college course, featuring “Dealing with the Past” as a concept and its details and application.
Broummana High School	As part of “Memory Work” and “Inter-generational Dialogue”, high-school students will conduct interviews with survivors of the Civil War, to be discussed and critically analysed in schools. The results will be safeguarded for future reference in audio-visual mediums, short documentary and online blog.
Mina Image Center	The collective history of intergenerational cycles of occupation, displacement, violence, and refugee-return in the south of Lebanon will be reanimated through a process of visual storytelling centered around three abandoned colonial sites in



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	the city of Khiam including a military barracks (which became the infamous Israeli prison), a bunker, and an airbase.
Minds for Community	A psycho-social support programme for middle-school students in the school zone of Tayyouneh which witnessed a lethal mini “re-enactment” of the Civil War in 2021, which also hit that area. The themes include “healing fears”, “memory and closure” and “forgiveness as a self-care mechanism”.
Youth for Peace	The empowerment of Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian housewives aged between 40 and 60 in the almost forgotten Dbayyeh Refugee Camp (Metn District) with skills leading to true reconciliation with their past, and with the “other”, through a plan of advocacy for reconciliation, social cohesion and peace-building while linking-up with a USEK University student club.