



AID DEVELOPMENTS

Italy reiterates support for SMEs in Lebanon through the allocation of an additional fund for CELEP

On 30 August 2012, on the occasion of the second Steering Committee of the Community Empowerment and Livelihoods Enhancement Project (CELEP), co-implemented by UNIDO and the Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria (ICU), the allocation of an additional fund equal to Euro 950,000 in favor of the above mentioned project was announced. The contribution, available on the Italian Trust Fund of the UNIDO, was approved on 30 May 2012 during the UNIDO/Italy Earmarking Meeting in Rome. The CELEP aims at improving the performance of the private sector in terms of compliance with standards in order to enhance competition in the global markets. Italy attaches great importance to the establishment of international standards in food processing and goods manufacturing, in particular focusing on EU Standards on market access.

European Union promotes human rights in the prisons of Lebanese women

On 3 July 2012, the European Union and the Chief of the Gendarmerie launched the EU-funded project Promoting Human Rights Policy and Practice in the prisons of Lebanese Women in the central prison of women in Baabda. The project aims to improve the quality of legal, social and health support provided to female prisoners in four prisons for women located in Baabda, Tripoli, Zahle and Beirut (Barbar el Khazen), in close cooperation with the prison authorities. It aims specifically to improve the conditions of prisons of women in order for them to meet international human rights standards by developing the competence of prison authorities to uphold the human rights of women detainees and prisoners, enhancing the legal and social support to women detainees and prisoners to claim their rights and report abuses, mobilising civil society stakeholders on gender equality and human rights considerations, and promoting regulatory improvements by proposing changes in legislation. The project will be implemented over a 30-month period by the non-governmental organisation Diakonia in close collaboration with its counterparts Caritas, Dar Al Amal and Rassemblement Democratique des Femmes.

European Union inaugurates six legal electronic compendiums

On 6 July 2012, the Minister of Justice, the European Union and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) inaugurated at the House of Lawyers six electronic legal compendiums for the Ministry of Justice and the Institute of Judicial Studies. The project is funded by the European Union in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and is implemented by the UNDP. The project amounts to Euro 1.1 million and is part of a larger EU initiative (Euro 10 million), which aims to improve access to justice. It provides all judges with electronic access, allowing them to obtain important legal information, including law cases since 1940, the Official Gazette since 1920, and all Lebanese laws.



AID DEVELOPMENTS

World Bank signed a loan agreement to support cultural heritage

On 9 August 2012, the Minister of Finance, the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and the World Bank signed a \$27 million loan agreement as additional financing for the Cultural Heritage and Urban Development project. The project objectives are (a) to create the conditions for increased local development and enhanced quality of life in the historic centers of the cities of Baalbeck, Byblos, Saida, Tripoli and Tyre; and, (b) to improve the conservation and management of the cultural heritage in the country. The Council of Ministers approved the loan on 2 August 2012, decision No. 48.



AID COORDINATION

European Union Managing Director for North Africa, Middle East, Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq visited Lebanon

During August 26-28 2012, the European Union Managing Director for North Africa, Middle East, Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq at the European External Action Service visited Lebanon to advance the discussions on the new EU-Lebanon Action Plan, which will define the objectives of cooperation of Lebanon with the EU for the years to come. The visit included the Prime Minister to discuss the new Action Plan together with the Minister of Economy and Trade, and with the participation of a number of high-level officials from a broad range of ministries and Lebanese institutions involved in the institutional cooperation with the European Union. Earlier, the main priorities of the new Action Plan were discussed with civil society in Lebanon and in Brussels.