



MEDITERRANEAN  
REGION



SOCIAL  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# PEER EXCHANGE PROGRAM



# ABOUT THE SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PEER EXCHANGE PROGRAM



As part of the SEE Change project that is funded by the European Union, and implemented in Lebanon by OXFAM, COSV and BEYOND GROUP, **COSV Lebanon** is leading the **Social Justice Incubation Program** (SJIP) to understand how different types of social economy organizations can promote social justice in the country.

For that reason, COSV has incubated 21 selected collaborative initiatives that are categorized under community enterprises, NGOs in transition, public private partnership, and school enterprises. In addition to the running incubation program, COSV Social Economy Unit research team is conducting impact4policy analysis to understand the impact that the selected initiatives can have on policy in Lebanon.

Thus, COSV in collaboration with Catalyst 2030, is conducting a short-term peer exchange program to engage social entrepreneurs operating in the MENA region with the Lebanese incubated collaborative initiatives to share their experiences, challenges, and success stories and to contribute to a policy paper entitled "The Role of Social Enterprises in the advancement of SDGs in Lebanon and in the MEDITERRANEAN Region".

The participants are divided into five different groups based on the SDGs that they promote within their activities and each group will participate in three sessions during April, May, and June 2023. The online sessions will support the research team to identify how the scope of action of the participating social entrepreneurs helps in the advancement of SDGs while considering the economic and social values of their businesses. They will also help in explaining the place that their organizations occupy within their environment, community, and the State, and they will allow the research team to draw recommendations based on their experiences.



**SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
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SEE CHANGE

# THE SCHEDULE OF THE SESSIONS



Online Sessions I The Framework of Action	Dates - April 2023
Group of SDG2	28th of April
Group of SDG4	27th of April
Group of SDG8	19th of April
Group of SDG11	26th of April
Group of SDG12	25th of April

Online Sessions II The Organization Dynamics	Dates - May 2023
Group of SDG2	22th of May
Group of SDG4	18th of May
Group of SDG8	24th of May
Group of SDG11	16th of May
Group of SDG12	23th of May

Online Sessions III Obstacles and Recommendations	Dates - June 2023
Group of SDG2	27th of June
Group of SDG4	22th of June
Group of SDG8	19th of June
Group of SDG11	27th of June
Group of SDG12	20th of June

# THE SOCIAL ECONOMY UNIT TEAM AT COSV – MENA



## **Annalisa Contini - Senior Social and Solidarity Economy Expert**

Senior Social and Solidarity Economy Expert, brings forth an extensive background spanning over ten years in social cooperatives and social entrepreneurship networks within the Italian landscape. Holding a university degree in Philosophy and a postgraduate specialization in European Policies and EU Project Management, she has played pivotal roles as a social worker, project manager, and policy architect. Her influence has extended to European spheres as she represented interests at the European Social Business Initiative. In 2016, she initiated her consultancy endeavours, primarily focused on international development cooperation programs aimed at advancing social entrepreneurship in the MENA Region. Founding member and current director of COSV's social economy unit, Annalisa is tasked with orchestrating programs and action-research initiatives concerning the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in regions like Lebanon, Syria, and the Balkans. Her specialization lies in devising innovative programs that amalgamate the framework of development cooperation with SSE. This includes the implementation of action-research, incubation and acceleration programs. In 2021, in collaboration with COSV, Annalisa Contini was instrumental in establishing Co-Profit, a benefit corporation. This entity is duly registered in Italy and Lebanon.



## **Mohammad Makki - Social and Solidarity Economy Expert and Research Coordinator**

Social and Solidarity Economy Expert and Research Coordinator, as well as a faculty member. Mohammad is an economist with a Master's degree in financial economics and a PhD in sustainable development and policy. He has intensive experience in research and has published in different areas including economic public policy, digital economy and sustainable development. He serves as a national consultant for an INGO and conducted a series of financial mechanism reports for Lebanon to identify the possible routes for entities to perform financial transactions given the country's failing banking sector. He was also assigned as a national consultant and generated an economic map for the Ministry of Economy and Trade in Lebanon. Besides his consultancy work, he co-founded the innovation centre at the Lebanese International University and trained a great number of students on ideation to startup process. He coached many SMEs and then focused his research and activities on fostering social entrepreneurship in young economies like Lebanon and Syria.

# POLICY EXPERT AND REPORTERS



## Ryan Haykal - Policy Expert

Dr. Rayan Haykal is the Vice-President for Academic Affairs at La Sagesse University, Lebanon. He holds a PhD in economics from Paris-Panthéon-Assas University and has a 25-year experience in academia. He has previously served as Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration and Head of Registrar at La Sagesse University as well as member of the Quality Assurance committee - Universities Association of Lebanon.



## Mira El Khalili

Mira Khalili is an experienced economics instructor with over 7 years of academic experience. Currently, Mira works in the School of Business at Lebanese International University (LIU) in Lebanon, moreover, Mira's involvement in the COSV Social Economy-Unit research program includes delivering Reporter Services.



## Hashem Ramadan

Hashem Ramadan has a bachelor's in electrical engineering and a master's in philosophy. Apart from his work in engineering, Hashem has also done work in translation, tutoring, and surveying. His role in the program consists of reporting a few of the online sessions to be conducted by COSV and deliver the documents containing the discussions and members' feedback to the session facilitator after the session.



## Klimentina Gjorgjoska

Klimentina Gjorgjoska is a graduate of Political Science of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece and a Master student of Policy Studies and Marketing and Management. She has been always interested in the res publica and the positive societal changes. In addition, she is working as a project manager in the COSV branch North Macedonia. The project she has been involved in, intends to foster inclusion, equal chances and educational trajectories for the vulnerable groups.



## Goufran Abudayyeh

Ghufran is the MENA Chapters Coordinator at Catalyst 2030. Before that, she worked in monitoring and evaluation, research, international relationships, and project coordination. Eight years of experience gave her the communication and coordination skills she needed for the position. She is a natural listener and a curious individual who's motivated by new challenges and new learnings.

# FACILITATORS



## Rana Dajani - SDG2

Rana Dajani is a professor of molecular biology at the Hashemite University in Jordan. Her area of expertise is epigenetics and biomarkers of trauma among refugees. Rana has also been recognized as a Fulbright fellow, Eisenhower fellow and Ashoka fellow and by joining the list of the 100 most influential Arab Women and receiving the Nansen UNHCR refugee award, and the Schwab Social Entrepreneur Award.



## Sarah Ramadan - SDG4

Sarah Ramadan joined the education sector in 2012 as a Marketing instructor and then proceeded to provide Management courses at both graduate and undergraduate level. Sarah worked with an NGO as a consultant providing a work plan based on a research conducted on eco-tourism in South Lebanon. She also held the position of a consultant to provide technical assistance to MMEs.



## Sarah Hariri Haykal - SDG8

Sarah Hariri Haykal from 2000 till the present day, is teaching and doing research in the field of economics, at Saint Joseph University. She is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics in the fields of Macroeconomics, Public Finance and Environmental Economics. Sarah compiles data and do research on Lebanon and MENA region's economic situation. She is, also, engaged in continuous training in Network setting, Research methodology and educational skills.



## Abbas Sibai - SDG11

Abbas is an experienced Social Stability Expert, Policy Advocacy Specialist, certified project manager, soft skills trainer, and an experienced campaigner with professional practice in Lebanon, the UK, the USA, & Russia, where he worked with governments, NGOs, and the private sector. Abbas has an advanced degree in global public policy and a strong track record in participatory action policy design and methodology.



## Jackie K. Maalouf - SDG12

Dr. Jackie K. Maalouf is president of DiaLeb, National Diabetes Organization, Lebanon and was elected Vice President of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) for 2023-2025. She is the MENA and Lebanon chapters Co-Chair at Catalyst 2030 since 2021, and has been granted several awards of appreciation for her work and social impact from local, regional, and global institutions. Dr. Maalouf is also board member for the Lebanese American Renaissance Partnership (LARP).

# PARTICIPANTS



## Mohamed Yaman Alsabek - SDG 2 - Syria

Mohamed Yaman Alsabek is the CEO & Co-founder of SANAD Youth for Development Foundation; and Project manager for more than 25 projects, activates and events with UNICEF-UNDP-UNFPA –Damascus University and many companies in private sector. He represented the Syrian Youth at the international events and conferences such as fundraising meetings of the EU Office in the Mediterranean region in Beirut 2017.



## John Wabwire Shikuku - SDG 2 - Nigeria

John Wabwire Shikuku is a social entrepreneur, project coordinator community based organisation Bunyala Agr Climate Action solution. He has worked on Community led initiatives, farms, and helped to promote sustainable farming for his county of Busia; also, he has helped parents in the communities to access free inoculations and vaccinations to help combat epidemic health issues. John also used his education to offer tutoring services to young people as SDG champions.



## Alghaith Al-Shikh Yassen - SDG 2 - Syria

Alghaith Al-Shikh Yassen has been working in the community field for more than eight years with several groups of society, and has experience in market and needs study. He has managed many development projects in Aleppo, Damascus, Deir Ezzor, and Homs during the previous years, the most important of which is the Nabta project in partnership with the FAO; and has studied the generation chains and available resources within the region.



## Faten Al-Mamari - SDG 2 - Yemen

Faten Sultan is a community activist from Yemen - Taiz, who is interested in human rights and works in the field of translation. Member of Women's Imprint for Peace Initiative, member of women's Voices for peace network, member of Arab Federation for Volunteering, and member of the Civic Agglomeration Taiz Youth. Faten works at the Centre as a volunteer in the field of translation and public relations, translating all documents, and communicating with the authorities.



## Ali Assaf - SDG 2 - Lebanon

Ali Assaf, MEAL officer at the Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST), representative of LOST in the Social Justice Incubation Program (SJIP) implemented by COSV. Ali comes from a political and administrative background where he studied Public Administration at the American University of Beirut and Political Science at the Lebanese University.

# PARTICIPANTS



## Atef Ahmed - SDG 4 - Egypt

Atef Ahmed is a Senior Education Advisor at EgyTEFL Company, based in Cairo, Egypt, where he is in charge of developing the knowledge, the skills and positive attitudes for Egyptian students who are willing to pursue their study abroad. He was previously assisting European Union, World Bank, USAID, and American Institutes for Research and MTC International Development Holding Company in running their education programs in Egypt.



## Zeyad Daradkeh - SDG 4 - Jordan

Zeyad Darakeh is the chairman of the Jordan Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Association. One of the most important works he does is to support the social entrepreneurship sector to reflect on the standard of living of local communities and marginalized groups in society. He is now seeking to strengthen efforts aimed at creating a law for the social entrepreneurship sector so that social entrepreneurs can improve the economic and social impact of their projects.



## Mohammad Issa - SDG 4 - Palestine

Mohammad Issa has worked as a community development specialist since 1997. As a former employee of different local and international organizations, Dr. Issa has a wealth of experience and knowledge. He has trained, coached, and mentored thousands of children and youth. Additionally, he has represented his country on other global platforms. Dr. Issa has facilitated virtual and physical workshops as part of Creativity Lab's program for over 15 years.



## Kais Hidoussi - SDG 4 - Tunisia

Kais Hidoussi is an IT teacher in secondary schools. Being a dynamic, respectful and professional teacher which makes the perfect combination for an interactive and adjusted teaching which takes into consideration the needs of each learner. Teaching is Kais' devotion and building future generations is his daily objective.

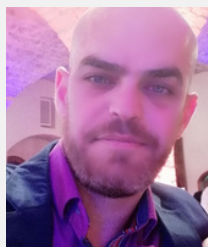


## Sari Bou Karroum - SDG 4 - Lebanon

Sari Bou Karroum is a Lebanese renowned entrepreneur and food enthusiast. Sari is the founder of "La Belle Blanche", a company that specializes in producing high-quality cheese and dairy products. He works in close collaboration with the young local farmers while focusing on women producers. As one of the cheese-makers, he brings his passion and expertise to every step of the process, ensuring that each product is of the highest quality.



# PARTICIPANTS



## Nasreddine Khattar - SDG 4 - Lebanon

Nasreddine is a supervisor & Teacher at the Batloun technical institute, and also a Teacher at the Shwaifat technical institute. With extensive experience in institute administration, and passion for working with students and teaching professionals, his priority is to obtain a technical or administrative position and help the educational establishment and its students progress towards a better tomorrow.



## Wael Bilal - SDG 8 - Syria

Wael Bilal has over 10 years of experience in project management, finance, and marketing roles. As a Projects Manager with Sanad Team, he has successfully managed multiple projects by defining objectives, predicting resources, preparing budgets, and tracking costs. Bilal has also developed and maintained detailed project schedules, provided regular updates to stakeholders, and ensured adherence to industry best practices.



## Samar Mohammed AlSadeq - SDG 8 - Palestine

Samar Mohammed AlSadeq is a Projects' Officer at the Business & Technology Incubator (BTI) at the Islamic University of Gaza, Palestine. BTI is one of the leading business start-up incubators in Palestine, that aims at revitalizing entrepreneurship and innovation so that Palestinian entrepreneurs and youth can get sustainable jobs. BTI helps potential entrepreneurs to develop their ideas towards actual business concepts, reaching the stage of a start-up.



## Lamya Karkour - SDG 8 - Lebanon

Lamya Karkour is the Co-Founder and the Program Director of Tri-pulley Lebanon, an initiative that is trying to "pulley" vulnerable families in Tripoli and those affected by the Beirut explosion by matching unemployed skilled individuals to other vulnerable families and small enterprises. She has a Master in Development Studies and a huge experience in the Socio-Economic Development & Humanitarian field.



## David Sacca - SDG 8 - Lebanon

David Sacca received his BS in Architecture and MA in "International Peace Operators" in Italy. Through his humanitarian experience he worked in the mediation and integration of migrants, shelter programs, conflict analysis, and strategic vision development. Since 2022 he co-founded and lead a collective in his neighborhood in Geitawi, Jesuit Garden Neighborhood Gathering JGNG known as Liqaa.

# PARTICIPANTS



## Guglielmo Mazzà - SDG11 - Italy

Guglielmo Mazzà is an environmental engineer and social entrepreneur. He is the co-founder and CEO of ReFuse, a social enterprise based in Beirut. He has worked in development initiatives and humanitarian response in the field of water, sanitation and financial inclusion. As a member of the Green Inclusive and Climate Smart Finance Action Group, Guglielmo focused on the development of sustainable microcredit strategies and products for microfinance institutions.



## Leila Ben-Gacem - SDG 11 - Tunisia

Leila Ben-Gacem is a social entrepreneur, Ashoka Fellow; founder of Blue Fish, a consultancy that designs and implements projects that improving the socio-economic dynamics of heritage, culture and local community to improve their resilience. She is also a founder and president of Mdinti, Medina's first economic interest group, and member of the organization committee of UltraMirage El Djerid. Leila was an elected city council member at her native town of Beni-Khalled.



## Abdulwahab Mohammed Abdulwahab - SDG11 - Yemen

Abdulwahab Mohammed Abdulwahab is one of the entrepreneurs in Yemeni society, a young leader and an activist at the local and international level interested in entrepreneurship, peacebuilding and sustainable development. General Director of the Middle East Forum for Development and Peacebuilding, president and general director of the Forum of Youth Diversity Dialogue in Yemen, and member of many local, international and global initiatives, organizations and networks.



## Maha Ali Ahmed Ghaleb Awn - SDG 12 - Yemen

Maha Awn is a passionate Yemeni youth activist and co-founder of the Kayan Foundation for Peace and Development. As a social entrepreneur, her focus lies on addressing women and youth issues and working towards achieving sustainable development goals. Maha was chosen as one of 47 individuals across 13 countries by UN Women to actively work on women's empowerment and gender equality.



## Shahenaz Bamosa - SDG 12 - Yemen

Shahenaz Bamosa is the Program Officer and Board of Trustees Member of "PASS Foundation - Peace for Sustainable Societies" in Yemen. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Architecture Engineering and she is an Ambassador of Yemen as an Alumna of the Youth Exchange & Study Program (KLYES) in the United States of America.

# PARTICIPANTS



## Nibal Bou Hadman - SDG 12 - Lebanon

Nibal Bou Hadman explored the world of education for 24 years between teaching, training, and middle and senior leadership roles in public and private schools in Lebanon and UAE. As a nature-lover and global citizen, she founded the "0-Waste Community", a 3-year-old initiative whose vision is to inspire participatory collective behaviors enforcing sustainable environmental solutions in a circular economy model.



## Laura Jardin Peterson - SDG 12 - UK

Laura is the Founder & CEO of CONCAT - the first web development company solely led by refugees and women from countries of conflict. . Laura is on a mission to create a more inclusive tech sector, one where everyone has equal access to employment irrespective of their nationality, gender or location. CONCAT designs and develops websites for international companies all whilst providing sustainable, long-term employment to some of the worlds most marginalised communities.



## Suzanne Habbus - SDG 12 - Palestine

Suzanne Habbus is a student at the Institute of Social Sciences at the Lebanese University, a social worker the child protection network in Burj al-Shamali camp. Also, she is the secretary of the Diyarouna Association. Suzanne has participated at numerous workshop and training courses related to youth, women and peace. She is a facilitator for for weekly session for women.



## Samar M. Alzeer - SDG 12 - Canada and Jordan

Samar M. Alzeer, founder and Chair Director of Nova Scotia Parent Cross-Cultural Organization NSPCC based in Halifax, NS Canada. CEO of the PARENT community-based module and training program at NSPCC. Research collaborator and partner with We Love Reading WLR, founded by Prof. Rana Dajani. Samar first completed her B.A in Special Education majoring in Learning Disabilities in Autism and Asperger's Syndrome from The University of Jordan in 2007.



## Ghida Braish - SDG 12 - Lebanon

Ghida Braish holds a Masters's degree in Tourism Management, which has provided her with a deep understanding of the industry and its nuances. Over the past three years, she has worked as a project manager in the rural tourism sector, where she has witnessed the transformative power of sustainable tourism firsthand. Through leadership and strategic planning, Ghida implemented initiatives that have positively impacted the local communities, their cultural preservation, and economic growth.

# PARTICIPANTS FEEDBACK

*"I enjoyed the sessions, although they were long and intense, and the most important thing is that there was enough room for everyone to participate."*

**~ Laura Jardin Peterson ~**

*"I was fortunate to participate in the program, and as a researcher who participated in several workshops and online sessions, I can say the program was very well organized and the sessions were perfectly facilitated. The surveys were relevant and complementary to the discussions and the analysis across the region will be helpful and beneficial to all social entrepreneurs, especially in terms of policies, challenges, and solutions."*

**~ Atef Ahmed ~**

*"The program was structured with experienced facilitators, and I personally learned a lot and already gained experience and collaborations."*

**~ John Wabwire Shikuku ~**

*"It was a great opportunity to be part of the sessions and to meet people with diversified profiles. The topics were relevant to our organization where the session on financing made us able to reconsider our practices and benefit from the experiences of others."*

**~ Suzanne Habbus ~**

*"We lack such programs in Syria and this program enabled us to enrich our experience and knowledge on SDGs."*

**~ Mohamed Yaman Alsabek ~**



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# THANK YOU



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