

## Concept Note

### Regional Seminar for Local authorities and professional associations

Lebanon, 7-8 March 2023

- About SOLiD II:

The EU co-funded project “Promotion of Social Dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood” is the continuation of the SOLiD Pilot project, which aims at promoting multipartite social dialogue practices in the Southern side of the Mediterranean.

The SOLiD pilot project targeted Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia and the second phase includes three new countries Algeria, Lebanon, and Palestine. The goal is to support the efforts of the beneficiaries in building an inclusive and structured social dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean Countries, reinforcing economic and social councils and gradually opening up the dialogue to civil society organizations.

To achieve this, the SOLiD Secretariat planned to conduct several field activities and exchange of best practices in each target country to build a common understanding of challenges related to social dialogue and to work towards harmonizing social development goals across the region. To further this effort, a second regional seminar is being planned in Lebanon that will bring together the main partners from local authorities, professional associations, and social and economic councils to continue working and cooperating on specific aspects highlighted in the solid charter and related to socio-economic challenges at national and regional levels.

- Structure of the event:

The next regional seminar is scheduled to take place in Lebanon on March 7th and 8th , 2023.

During this, participants will have the opportunity to delve deeper into the specific challenges related to their respective sectors and organizations practicing the social dialogue process as a tool to ensure effective negotiations and relevant work plans.

This seminar aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to come together, share their experiences and ideas, and develop practical solutions to the most pressing issues.

The event will be a two-day seminar featuring interactive sessions with the support of experts to reinforce the role of local authorities, economic and social councils, and professional associations from the six targeted countries in developing effective negotiations and recommendations related to various points outlined in the solid charter.

It will be an opportunity to support the efforts of the different stakeholders to reach common ground on various challenges in order to build an inclusive and structured social dialogue and ensure effective interactions with primary target groups (social partners and CSOs).

● **Main objectives of the Regional seminar:**

- Bring together the key actors of social dialogue in the targeted Southern Mediterranean countries to improve the overall environment for social dialogue.
- Identify the specific needs and priorities of social partners related to collective bargaining and sustainable development.
- Explore a variety of topics related to social dialogue outlined in the SOLiD charter, as they pertain to the target groups' areas of influence.

● **Target beneficiaries:**

- The seminar will target representatives of local authorities, professional associations, and relevant institutions from the six countries of operation, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan.

● **Methodology:**

SOLID II project team will invite 40 participants from the six target countries that were involved in the first regional seminar. It will be an opportunity for them to network and strengthen connections with other participants from across the region. This can be invaluable in terms of gaining new perspectives and building a sense of community among those working towards similar goals.

It will be a two-day seminar for representatives of local authorities, professional associations, and economic and social councils to reinforce their role in the social dialogue process and policy reforms.

● **Find and be found by partners:**

- Strengthen the capacity of 40 representatives of local authorities, professional associations, and economic and social councils, from 6 target countries

- Enhance collaboration among local authorities, professional associations, and economic and social councils by identifying areas of collaboration and developing a shared action plan related to the themes outlined in the SOLiD Charter.
- Facilitate communication and exchange among social partners, experts, and secondary target groups (local authorities, professional associations, and ESCs) and ensure continuity with issues identified in the capacity-building program.

• Draft Agenda:

**Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Registration and morning coffee	9:00 – 9:30 AM
<p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of EU delegation</li> <li>• Representative of ILO</li> <li>• Representatives of ATUC</li> <li>• Representative of BUSINESSMED</li> <li>• Representative of ANND</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderated by:</u></p>	9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Coffee Break	10:30 AM – 11:00 AM
<p><b>Session 1:</b> Disseminating the culture of social dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on the importance of social dialogue and the role of local authorities and professional associations in promoting it</li> <li>• Summary of the first Regional seminar</li> <li>• Group work to identify strategies for raising awareness about social dialogue and expanding it to all active parties in the community</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderated by:</u></p>	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Lunch	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
<p><b>Session 2:</b> Techniques for monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of social dialogue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• group work to discuss and develop techniques for monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of social dialogue at the local, national, and regional levels.</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderated by:</u></p>	2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Registration and morning coffee	9:00 – 9:30 AM
<p><b>Session 1:</b> Institutionalization of social dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presentation on the importance of the support of political actors and decision-makers in implementing social dialogue reforms</li> <li>● Discussion of the SOLID charter and its application</li> <li>● Group work to develop strategies for institutionalizing social dialogue in the target countries</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderated by:</u></p>	9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Coffee Break	11:30 AM – 12:00AM
<p><b>Session 2:</b> Strategies for building a community of practice for social dialogue that involves a wide range of stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Group work to discuss and develop strategies for building a community of practice that includes local authorities, professional associations, and other stakeholders in the social dialogue process.</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderated by:</u></p>	12:00 AM – 2:00 PM
<p>Wrap up and closing ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Summary of key points discussed during the seminar</li> <li>● Next steps and follow-up actions</li> </ul>	2:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Lunch	2:30 PM – 3:30 PM