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PRESS RELEASE

**In Palermo final conference of an international cooperation project among ALDA, Sicily Region, Municipality of Lecce, IPRES and FACM (Algeria) and funded by the European Commission and the United Nations. Conclusion of a project of international cooperation
ALGERIA: HALF OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE DREAMS OF EUROPE**

The main dream of half of the young Algerians is to live in Europe, to improve their standard of living, pursuing a "model" that is forwarded to them by television broadcasts.

This is the result of a survey conducted in Algeria, whose key figures were presented today in Palermo from Nouredine Sbia, President of FACM, Algerian Forum for Citizenship and Modernity, speaking at the final conference of the project "Capitalizing Migrant Capacities - Algeria", funded by the European Commission and UN, managed by ALDA, Association of Local Democracy Agencies, which the partnership of Sicilian Region, Department of Family, Social Affairs and Labour, FACM, Municipality of Lecce, IPRES, Institute of Social and Economic Research of Puglia Region, and Municipality of Douéra (Algeria).

But often these young people choose the underground way to live their country, going in Europe, and they have no way back when, realized that the reality is different from their dreams, decide to return to Algeria, where they will be arrested, jailed in promiscuity with the local underworld.

The phenomenon of migration, which cyclically come back under the spotlight of the media, in reality is never dormant and it needs structural assistance as well as information and training to be managed as a resource and not tackled as a problem, as shown by the conference.

The main instrument to achieve these goals is undoubtedly the cooperation, as demonstrated in the final considerations on the experience of this project, whose aim was to transform in human and economic capital brains and men fleeing from Algeria towards Italy and Europe, creating real prospects for improving social and economic conditions.

The project had three lines of action: guiding potential migrants with right information about what awaits them across the border, facilitate employment and re-employment in Algeria with training on project management for start-up of new activities, provide relevant information to local authorities and technical advice for the management of migration.

"Sicily - states Michele Augugliaro, manager of the Department of Labor of Sicily Region , that deals with transnational cooperation projects with Mediterranean countries - has played in this project a role of guidance and information for those who want to start new activities. "

The project, which lasted about a year, involved about sixty Algerians, equally divided between men and women, in training and guidance activities on the European labor market and start up of new activities in their country.

"The balance of the project - states Antonella Valmorbida, director of Alda - is positive. We have established relationships with Algerian partners to monitor migration and to provide training to potential migrants on the topics of entrepreneurship, of rights and obligations of



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participation in Europe. The best start-up activity projects that will be presented in Algeria will receive economic support. "

Mouloud Meziani of FACM (Algerian Forum for Citizenship and modernity) said: "This pilot project has given some interesting and useful results to raise awareness within young Algerians who want to go abroad and risks to remain without a stable job, and to know employment opportunities existing in their country".

In Algeria, in fact, there are a lot of job opportunities and many workers from China and other countries are employed on big constructions.

After the conference, ALDA, one of the leading and most important NGOs connecting a network of more than 160 local authorities and civil society involved in European active citizenship, human rights, and local democracy, focused with its members of Mediterranean countries on its role and strategy in the MED area for the period 2010-2013, to increase its current projects in Algeria and Morocco.

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