

## **AFNAMOC Erasmus+ Project**

**Academic Framework for NGO Administrative, Management and Organizational Capacity Building and Development**

**Project Coordinator:** Sham Higher Institute for Islamic Sciences, Arabic Language, Islamic Studies and Researches (SHIARS) - Sheikh Ahmad Kufaro Foundation Branch.

### **1- AFNAMOC Project Introduction:**

Because of current Syrian crisis that most Syrian people are suffering from in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, the role of local NGOs is very crucial for helping refugees and Syrians living all around those countries to be able to go back to their normal life activities and rebuild their society again based on modern social perspectives of trust and respect of each other. As more local NGOs are involved in helping Syrians across those countries, and as most of those NGOs and associations don't have enough knowledge and experience in managing and administrating such operations, the outcomes of activities from those NGOs and charity associations is not optimized to reach their goals and objectives efficiently for helping Syrians.

Moreover, during the Syrian crisis within the last four years, two training initiatives were launched for local NGOs and relevant associations in order to develop management and administrative staff working at those NGOs. Such initiatives were funded by international donors like World Health Organization (WHO) and another international NGO and the training were administrated by local and regional trainers at local and regional training centers. The training targeted only about 1% of total local NGOs and relevant associations in these countries. Yet, as information was gathered from surveys and training feedback from those trained NGOs; the outcomes of such training was not effective enough since the training methodology and training curriculum is poorly developed by local trainers and was not based on relevant academic experience to manage and administer these kinds of associations. Another challenge for such development and training programs was to reach more

NGOs and local relevant associations and to enforce the application of management training in those organizations by training not only the working employees but also the board members of those NGOs and associations since those members are the real decision makers in their organizations in order to let the working staff practice what they have learned from such training.

As a result, **AFNAMOC Academic Framework for NGO Administrative, Management and Organizational Capacity Building and Development** project aims at building capacity for NGOs and other local relevant associations in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan and developing the (KSA matrix) Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes of board members and working employees in these organizations in order to optimize the benefits from their activities that will reach almost all Syrian people in those countries. To be more effective, such training and academic programs should be provided in a standard academic framework for board members, executives and other employees working in these organizations.

*In brief, the need for such project in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan is due to current Syrian crisis to develop NGOs work and activities efficiently for short and long-terms to support Syrians living across those countries.*

## **2- AFNAMOC Project Objectives:**

- a. Creating and developing an integrated training programs for all managerial and governance needs for NGOs and relevant associations.
- b. Creating academic programs specialized in management and governance of NGOs (undergraduate and postgraduate levels) nationally and internationally through joint program studies.

## **3- AFNAMOC Project Goals (Effects and Desired Results):**

- a. Capacity building for academic staff and employees at regional participated universities (Syrian, Lebanese and Jordanian).
- b. Creating joint degree programs (applied and research degree).
- c. Developing related curricula for NGO Management and development studies.

- d. Raising the accreditation level of SHIIASR-AKFB (Ahmad Kuftaro Foundation Branch) and other partner universities as professional higher education institutions locally, regionally and internationally for related NGO management and development studies.
- e. Establishing a specialized career management center for NGO management and development studies at SHIIASR-SAKFB to support students and their career and developing the academic staff.
- f. Developing specialized relevant Executive Program for training NGOs board members and top executives.
- g. Developing specialized relevant academic program for postgraduate studies of NGO management and development studies.
- h. Developing specialized relevant academic program for undergraduate university level of NGO management and development studies.

**4- AFNAMOC Project and Erasmus+ Priorities:**

- a. Related intersection for this project with Erasmus+ national priorities is under Category B (Learning and teaching tools, Methodologies and pedagogical approaches including learning outcomes and ICT-based practices)
- b. Related intersection for this project with Erasmus+ regional priorities is under Category C (access to and democratization of higher education)

**5- AFNAMOC Project Partners:** Seeking interested organizations (Universities, relevant NGOs and associations) in EU countries and LEVANT region (Syria, Lebanon and Jordan) to participate in creating and developing this important project for helping Syrians to get back to their normal life. Some of those organizations might be as follows:

- a. European universities which have similar academic programs for NGO management, capacity building and development studies.
- b. Related international NGOs and associations that can/and already working in MENA region.

- c. Related Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian, Palestinian and Algerian universities which have relevant programs or interested in creating such programs at their universities.
- d. SHIIASR-AKFB (Ahmad Kuftaro Foundation Branch) in participation with its three faculties (Related Academic and Administrative staff).
- e. Local NGOs and relevant associations in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

Finally, we would like your organization to be an added-value to **AFNAMOC Project**. We appreciate your kind response as no longer than Friday 23-01-2015 by sending us your approval via e-mail and then we will send you the form to be filled by your organization including the expected role in this project.

Best Regards

*Ahmad Firas Hamadeh*

HR & PR Director

Sham Higher Institute for Islamic Sciences, Arabic Language, Islamic Studies and Researches (SHIARS) - Sheikh Ahmad Kuftaro Foundation Branch

**About our University:**

**Sham Higher Institute for Islamic Sciences, Arabic Language, Islamic Studies and Researches (SHIARS)**

Sham Higher Institute for Islamic Sciences, Arabic Language, Islamic Studies and Researches (SHIARS) was established according to the legislative decree number (48) dated 4/4/2011 in Damascus city as a private none profit university. The higher institute has three branches in Syria. One of these branches is SHIARS – SAKFB Sheikh Ahmad Kuftaro Foundation Branch.

Sham higher institute aims at preparing qualified students in many scientific fields and spreading the scientific approach for higher education learning which suits the global current era of knowledge dissemination with maintaining the framework of local cultural identity. It also aims at spreading the scientific Islamic intellectual and spiritual approach of higher education learning based on moderation of religion thinking. The higher institute also aims to upward the Arabic language and its sciences and to empower the usage of Arabic language as a modern language of science in order to fulfill the scientific, practical requirements of local society to maintain our nation's development

### **About SAKF Sheikh Ahmad Kuftaro Foundation NGO.**

- It was established by Sheikh Ahmad Kuftaro in the 1950s as one of the pillars of calling to Allah and to the *moderate Islam*, and then Sheikh Ahmad Kuftaro continued to expand the foundation step by step so that it can be a minaret of science, light and guidance to mankind.
- Sheikh Ahmad Kuftaro Foundation contains a number of teaching and higher education institutions like:
  - Sharia institute for calling to Allah and guidance (Dawa'a) for both males and females.
  - Institute of teaching Arabic language for non-speakers of Arabic language
  - Open learning for Islamic studies (part-time learning)
  - **Sham Higher Institute for Islamic Sciences, Arabic Language, Islamic Studies and Researches (SHIARS) as a higher education institution (the first non-for-profit Syrian Privet University) which includes three faculties and has more than 3,000 registered students:**

1- Faculty of Sharia and Law with its three departments:

- Department of Sharia
- Department of Law
- Department of Islamic Economy which has two profound majors of studies:
  - Finance and Islamic Banking
  - Business Administration

2- Faculty of Calling to Allah (Dawa'a) and Islamic Studies with its two departments:

- Department of Calling to Allah (Dawa'a)
- Department of Arabic Language

3- Faculty of Theology

- The foundation provides a number of deep specialized scientific courses for preachers, religion teachers and callers to Allah periodically.
- The foundation incubates an institute of reciting and memorizing the Holy Quran.

The foundation organizes annual competitions for memorizing the Holy Quran, in addition to its specialized scientific training department which provides supporting courses in many different fields of study.