



Ministry of Education concludes first stage of Italian educational project

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BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) -- The Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education have wrapped-up the first stage of the "AEPIC" collaborative efforts to improve education standards, held in Bethlehem and Ramallah.

The joint-effort between the Ministry of Education, and NGO 'RTM', is known as the AEPIC project- 'Alliance for Inclusive and Qualitative Early Childhood Education'- which is aimed at improving the standards of education in the West Bank, and around the world, particularly in early education.

The final two seminars of the project will target directories of education in the districts of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron; including northern and southern Hebron and Yatta City.

RTM, a non-governmental organization says that it is proud of the results of the project, pointing out that the last two seminars carried out on April 26th and April 28th in Bethlehem and Ramallah were a great success that allowed the institution to introduce the project titled "Experience of Change."

RTM has also launched a forum in the project's 7 pilot schools in the Bethlehem district.

The AEPIC project was conducted over three years, and was proposed by RTM, in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Italian Reggio Emilia Municipality and Reggio Children s.r.l., in association with local partners: the MOEHE, the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem, the Greek Catholic Patriarchate in Jerusalem and the Ibdaa Cultural Association.

The project, funded by the Italian Agency for Developmental Cooperation and co-funded by the Italian Episcopal Conference began in 2015, having an important goal and ambition to contribute in increasing the quality of education services in the early childhood in the West Bank.

RTM confirmed that the first goal of the project was to enhance the management and leadership capacities of the MOEHE employees, improving the professional competences of workers in both the private and governmental sectors, as well as working on the participation of parents in schools and the rehabilitation of 25 kindergarten classes in marginalized areas of the West Bank.

The second goal of the project is to strengthen the relationship between the governmental and private sectors of education in the early childhood stages, through active participation in pedagogical ex-changes, follow-ups, project committees, forums and study visits.

Local partner schools have played a significant role in establishing this partnership, as well as the proactive dialogue between the governmental and private parties.

The AEPIC project supported establishing a Palestinian educational system that prioritizes children's rights, while focusing on the quality of education and the professional development of teachers.

Through AEPIC, Palestinian schools were able to be introduced to the Reggio Emilia approach, experience it, and hopefully be inspired by it; which is a highly flexible educational philosophy that gives values to local strengths.

RTM was formed in 1973, and since its inception has operated campaigns to improve the standards of education in a variety of countries such as Brazil, [Kosovo](#), Ukraine, [Madagascar](#), Central African Republic and now, Palestine.



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