



## Aid Developments

### **European Union supports the research facilities of the Ministry of Agriculture**

On 21 February 2014, the European Union signed two contracts to upgrade the Ministry of Agriculture's laboratories through supplying technical and analytical equipment and relevant technical agricultural and veterinary tools. The upgrade will include the warranty and after sales maintenance. The first contract, Lot One, with GLOBE CORPORATION BV amounts to EUR 878,494, and serves to supply, deliver, unload, install, configure, test and provide certification, implementation and documentation of Laboratory Technical and Analytical Equipment. The second contract, Lot Two, with TECHNICAL ENTERPRISES CO SARL for EUR 69,907, serves to supply, deliver, unload, install, configure, and test the Technical Agricultural and Veterinary Tools. The two contracts are procurement activities that are part of one project.

### **European Union supports environmental governance**

On 18 February 2014, the European Union signed a contract with the GFA Consulting Group GMBH to provide the Ministry of Environment with a Technical Assistance Team to help with the implementation of the project "Support to Reforms - Environmental Governance". The provision of a Technical Assistance Team is one part of the project, whose overall objective is to improve the environmental performance of the Lebanese public sector through reforming environmental governance in order to create effective capacity at the Ministry of Environment to plan and execute environmental policies, including enforcement and mainstreaming by coordinating with key line-ministries. The project started on 31 May 2012. The duration of the contract with GFA Consulting Group GMBH is 36 months. The contribution of the EU of EUR 3,435,060 is part of a grant agreement.

### **French FASEP initiative finances solar photovoltaic educational platform**

On 17 February 2014, the French Ministry of Economy and Finance approved the financing of a project entitled "Educational and Demonstration Platform for Renewable Energies in Lebanon". The project is a joint initiative between the French company Transenergie and the Ministry of Energy and Water, represented by the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC), with the direct support of the Industrial Research Institute (IRI) and UNDP Lebanon. The project aims to establish an educational platform to be used by researchers, educational institutions, university students, as well as professionals in the solar photovoltaic sector. As part of this initiative, LCEC will also strive to create the needed link between graduating technical students and companies working in the ever-growing Solar Water Heaters (SWH) market.

### **European Union supports irrigation development in Qaa, Lebanon**

On 29 December 2013, the European Union signed a contract with the association Institut Libanais pour le Developpement Economique et Social Integre (ILDES), with an EU grant contribution of Euro 1,034,087. The project entitled "One Drop for Peace" was selected through a call for proposals in May 2013 and aims to mitigate the environmental, economic and social impact of the presence of Syrian refugees on livelihoods in Qaa, northern Bekaa through increased beneficial use of irrigation water resources. The project will be carried out over 18 months starting from 1 March 2014.



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### **European Union supports Circus for Unity and Solidarity - CIRQUS II**

On 27 December 2013, the European Union and the Association Arc-en-Ciel signed a grant agreement of Euro 29,166.06 to promote exchange and intercultural dialogue between young people from different communities and nationalities in Lebanon through circus arts. During introductory workshops in a multicultural environment young participants will learn together cultural and artistic skills as well as how to perform and help others accessing those skills. The trained participants will collaborate closely with local authorities and institutions in order to give the opportunity for disadvantaged youth to benefit from circus performances in five regions.

### **European Union provides emergency shelter assistance to Palestine refugees from Syria in Lebanon**

On 20 December 2013, the European Union and UNRWA signed a new Euro 5,000,000 contribution agreement to provide emergency shelter assistance to Palestine refugees from Syria in Lebanon. The overall objective of the new intervention funded by the EU Instrument for Stability is to strengthen the resilience of Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) families and mitigate the risk of conflict in Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon. Its specific objective is to provide housing assistance to PRS families through cash subsidies. It is expected that as a result of the cash subsidies, Palestine refugee families from Syria will be able to secure adequate accommodation during the time of their displacement.



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### **Aid Coordination**

#### **European Union supports the reorganization of the Ministry of Finance and development of its institutional capacity**

On 20 February 2014, the European Union launched a Euro 2.8 million project aimed at reorganizing the Ministry of Finance in Lebanon and developing its institutional capacity (Newsletter issue 68, July 2013, approval of the grant 17 June 2013). The project objectives range from improved performance of public financial management to increased transparency of the overall budget and the improvement of the budget execution, the improvement of forecasting and enhanced control of expenditures. The project, named Institutional Capacity Development and Reorganization of the Ministry of Finance of Lebanon, will be implemented by the Directorate-General of Finance twinned with the French Government through ADETEF agency for technical cooperation in economic and financial departments of the French Republic as a management agency for this project and with the Treasury Department and the General Department of Public Accounting of the Italian Ministry of Finance and Economy, supported by Formez PA, a public agency of the Italian Ministry of Public Administration. The project started in October 2013 and will cover a period of 28 months.



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For further information, contact:

**Ministry of Finance**

Donor Coordination Unit

Tel: 961 1 981057/8

Fax: 961 1 981059

E-mail: [dcu@finance.gov.lb](mailto:dcu@finance.gov.lb)

Website: [www.finance.gov.lb](http://www.finance.gov.lb)