

Project for the Reinforcement of Lebanese municipalities' Governance of Migration (2020-2021)

Mrs. Zoé HALLEY

Project Officer

United Cities Lebanon / Technical Office
for Lebanese Municipalities
zoe.halley@bt-villes.org

Anticipated outcomes:

- The conduction of **surveys** and the organization of **3 online workshops** with representatives of Lebanese municipalities (local representatives, municipal officers, municipal police officers), local associations working in the field of migration, and representatives of migrant and refugee groups, in order to **identify the primary needs** of these authorities with regards to migration,
- The analysis of survey and workshop outcomes in order to prioritize challenges faced by local authorities in the field of local governance of migration and to **draft a roadmap with recommendations** to inform, mobilize, and take action in the field of migration on a local scale,
- The organization of a **national conference** with 100 participants representing groups targeted by participatory workshops and national and international institutions in order to **present and validate the roadmap** and **reinforce dialogue** between different stakeholders,
- **Sharing good practices** in the field of migration with Catalan local authorities.

Context: In Lebanon, the phenomenon of migration, whether economic or political, holds great importance. Economic and political migrations are particularly connected to instability in neighboring countries. With approximately 1.5 million Syrian refugees in its territories, the Lebanese State is overwhelmed. It has been taking action in an inconsistent manner without any clear national policy on migration, which has become a sensible political issue of great magnitude. Thus, local authorities in Lebanon have been left to manage urgent situations as well as the day-to-day lives of migrant workers. The work undertaken by some municipalities has been negatively affected by the lack of cooperation between different stakeholders in migration governance, the ambiguity surrounding the roles of each of them, and local authorities' poor human and financial resources. Many of these municipalities are witnessing increasing poverty and instability which have created tension between host and refugee communities, and consequently feeding a negative discourse on migration.

Main objective: To accompany Lebanese local authorities in the development of a roadmap that improves the governance of migration at a local scale.

Specific objectives: In order to meet the main objective, the project seeks to improve the management of data and knowledge on local policies and actions undertaken by local authorities on the issue of migration by meeting a number of target groups (local representatives, municipal officers, local associations...) and exchanging experience and good practices. In this manner, cooperation and dialogue between stakeholders in migration governance will be improved while promoting a realistic and just discourse on migration.

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