

# INVESTING IN PALESTINIAN CULTURE IN ISRAEL AND THE OPT

A civil society oriented project to protect  
a minority's cultural and citizens rights

## Investing in Palestinian culture in Israel and the oPT

- Beneficiary: Mossawa Centre -The Advocacy Centre for Arab Citizens in Israel, Haifa, Israel
  - Country: Israel and Palestinian territories
  - Total project amount: 500 K€
  - EU subsidy: 400 K€
  - Starting date: December 2011
    - On-going
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## Investing in Palestinian culture in Israel and the oPT

- ▶ Beneficiaries: The Palestinian Arab minority, which comprises more than 20% of the population in Israel
  - ▶ It faces discrimination, most notably in state budget allocation and political representation
  - ▶ The Ministry of culture of Israel allocates 3% of its budget to the Palestinian Arab minority
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- ▶ Loss of identity and language among youth in particular that correlates with a rise in social troubles such as violence, substance abuse and deterioration in academic achievements
- ▶ Cultural organizations in the oPT are living under occupation conditions that limit their mobility and decreases their impact. International funding going to the oPT are mostly allocated to the humanitarian situation.

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- ▶ The Mossawa Center : Advocacy Center for Palestinian Arab citizens in Israel, established in 1997
  - ▶ Aims to promote the economic, social, cultural and political rights of the Palestinian Arab citizens in Israel
  - ▶ The Center develops programs to promote a democratic society, and acts against all forms of discrimination based on race, nationalism, religious affiliation, social status, gender, and disabilities.
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- ▶ Mossawa Centre, a strong, experienced and effective structure promoting human rights has launched and implemented a project focused on cultural associations
  - ▶ It understands the capacity of cultural organizations to influence the citizen's rights situation
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## **Objectives**


- ▶ To build the capacities of the Palestinian culture organizations and actors in order to work towards their sustainability
- ▶ To promote cultural rights for Palestinian community
- ▶ To promote regional cooperation via the establishment of a culture network between Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line

## **Activities**

- ▶ Trainings and consultations for Palestinian culture organizations in human resource management, resource development and advocacy,
- ▶ Public awareness seminars nationwide,
- ▶ Annual celebration of Palestinian Culture Day and launching a month celebrating Palestinian culture,
- ▶ Organisation of joint culture events between the Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line,
- ▶ Creation of a Palestinian cultural organisations' network,
- ▶ Creation of a culture website.

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### ***Results***

- ▶ Over 100 cultural structures have had their management capacities improved
  - ▶ Creation of a network of Palestinian Arab cultural organizations
  - ▶ Reinforced management and organizational capacities
  - ▶ Reinforced collective action and lobbying potential
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### ***Results and impact***

- ▶ Mossawa Center and the heads of local Arab authorities and the Forum for Arab Culture organizations, petitioned in 2013 the Supreme Court of Justice
- ▶ Supreme Court issued an order to the Ministry of Culture to complete a comprehensive survey of the needs of the Arab culture in Israel, within the next three months.
- ▶ First step to an ongoing process to obtain a fair budget allocation to all communities

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- ▶ The network of Arab culture organizations located over both sides of the Green Line organizes an annual celebration of Palestinian Culture Day
  - ▶ Over 15 localities
  - ▶ Over 20 000 participants
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