

Workshop 6. Conversations at the Café: Learning and Innovations

THE FORTNIGHT
Tunisia-Canada
Municipal Exchanges
May 17-28, 2021



Objectives

The objective of the session was for Canadian and Tunisian municipal partners to share successes and innovative initiatives around three main themes.

Pilot Projects

Within the framework of the IMLP, the partner municipalities in Tunisia are implementing gender-specific pilot projects. These projects use a participatory approach to identify initiatives that contribute to greater equality between women and men and that consider the specific needs of women. Six projects grouped under three themes were presented during the session.

Economic Integration of Women

Rehabilitation and redevelopment of the municipal "Habib Karma" kindergarten in Nabeul: The municipality has improved an existing kindergarten. The kindergarten offers a fun and safe space for children and will be open outside of traditional business hours to promote family-work balance, in particular for mothers. A component on parental education will also be offered to parents in the municipality.



Rehabilitation and redevelopment of the municipal covered market of Borj Cédria in Hammam Chatt: The project was chosen by a joint municipal council (12 male councillors and 12 female councillors), which took into account the needs of women. The aim is to rehabilitate an old heritage building in the Borj Cédria area, a fairly poor area, into a municipal market. To promote parity, eight kiosks are reserved for women and eight for men. Women's safety considerations, such as appropriate lighting, were also taken into account.

Inclusive Public Spaces

Development of a leisure space in a park in Sidi Bourouis: Following a consultation process where women expressed their need to have a park for families, the town decided to develop a space for this purpose in an existing park. The park will include a small cafeteria, a play area, and a place to accommodate groups of women and children.

Innovative Municipalities

Construction a sports hall for women and children in Menzel Abderrahman: Until recently, there was no space for women to play sports – only a football stadium for the men. The municipality has chosen to set up a sports hall under the bleachers for women and their children. The site will offer childcare and entertainment for children, so that women can devote their time to sports. This activity will also generate additional income for the municipality.



Territorial Marketing

Organization of a cultural and sporting grape festival in Fondouk Jédid-Seltène: Fondouk Jédid-Seltène is a town known for the production of many agricultural products, especially wine. A festival was organized to promote agriculture, vines, and wines produced in the region. The festival also includes sporting and cultural components, in order to better position the region as a tourist destination.

Development of Barkoukech beach in Ain Sobh-Nadhour: This is a newly created municipality with few public spaces for the population, except the beach. The beach is being redeveloped to provide a safe space for entertainment, physical activity, and family well-being. Sanitary services, including showers for women and men, will be included. The beach will become a main attraction of the municipality.



[Workshop recording](#)

[Presentation Nabeul project](#)

[Video Nabeul project \(short\)](#)

[Video Nabeul project \(long\)](#)

[Video Sainte-Martine, QC](#)

[Presentation Hammam Chatt project](#)

[Video Hammam Chatt project](#)

[Presentation Sidi Bourouis project](#)

[Video Sidi Bourouis project](#)

Additional Resources

[Presentation Menzel Abderrahman project](#)

[Promotional video Menzel Abderrahman](#)

[Video Menzel Abderrahman project](#)

[Presentation Ain Sobh-Nadhour project](#)

[Presentation Fondouk Jédid-Seltène project](#)

[Promotional video Fondouk Jédid-Seltène](#)

[Video Fondouk-Jédid-Seltène project](#)

Lessons Learned

In addition to being spaces appreciated by the population, these projects have a significant impact on governance and inclusion. The main lessons that emerged are:

- ⇒ These projects strengthen the capacities of local governments in participatory planning. They make it possible to improve the proximity to citizens.
- ⇒ The projects are a process of inclusion. By consulting women, men, and vulnerable groups, the projects identify the problematic that responds to the needs of the entire population.
- ⇒ They promote parity by creating spaces for women and children, since traditionally public spaces are more for men.
- ⇒ They help strengthen the leadership of elected women. Female councilors and mayors lead the consultative processes and are part of decision-making.
- ⇒ Projects increase collaboration and partnership. They are implemented with the technical and financial support of various actors. The projects that work best are those that bring together a greater number of actors.
- ⇒ The projects lay the foundations for cultural changes. They contribute to greater social cohesion, challenge stereotypes, and promote equality.
- ⇒ There is high potential for sustainability because the municipalities are responsible for the spaces and projects.
- ⇒ When we allow people to work in their environment, they feel belonging and pride, and become ambassadors of their community.