

Aqaba, Jordan

17 April 2022

## The EU-funded CROSSDEV project awards the second subgrant for the development of “Shata’e Al Nakheel for Consulting”

On 30th of March 2022, The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS) and “Shata’e Al Nakheel for Consulting” in Aqaba signed a grant agreement as part of the activities of CROSSDEV – “Cultural Routes for Sustainable Social and Economic Development in the Mediterranean” – a project funded by the European Union through the ENI CBC MED Programme.

The project manager, Mr. Mohammed Al-Tawaha in Aqaba, Jordan, stated that this grant is the second to be offered to local community institutions within the Crossdev project, which aims to enhance the creation of tourism products and present them to tourists and visitors in Aqaba, in addition to the possibility of increasing the number of days of stay Visitors and give them the opportunity to enjoy a number of experiences and opportunities available in Aqaba.

The local company has been awarded the subgrant for the " **Aqabawi Art & Culture Studio** " project, aimed to development and improvement of a number of cultural, heritage and tourism experiences offered by Aqabawi Art and Heritage Studio, and create new experiences for the first time through the current support.

Where the idea of Aqabawi Studio was established in 2018, the beginning was by designing cultural experiences and qualifying a number of local artists to be ready to work within short sessions during which tourists are trained to finish memorial art and handicrafts that reflect the heritage and history of the city of Aqaba and show the importance of its environmental and cultural heritage. Through it, Aqabawi addresses the problem of the lack of integration of tourists with the local community of the city of Aqaba and learns about the customs and culture of its people.

The experience of manufacturing and designing glass boats, an experiment of installing miniature pieces of the musical sea instrument (Sesame) and teaching to play it, an experiment of restoring an urn (pottery jars) of the ancient city of Ayla, and an experiment of the traditional dress of the Al-Aqabawi fisherman.

### ABOUT CROSSDEV

CROSSDEV (2019-2022) aims to contribute to the economic and social development of the Mediterranean region and to promote and enhance sustainable tourism practices, with a focus on heritage and common resources, in addition to increasing tourism competitiveness and attractiveness of less-known destinations.



The project is carried on by a partnership of seven organisations in four countries: Italy, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, led by the Italian NGO CISP.

CROSSDEV will create new tourism experiences around the selected areas through a bottom-up approach and a close connection with local stakeholders and small to medium-sized companies.

CROSSDEV Website: <http://www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/crossdev>

Twitter: @CROSSDEV\_Social

Instagram; crossdev\_social

JREDS's website: [www.jreds.org](http://www.jreds.org)

Contacts

Mohammad Al Tawaha, [aqabamanager@jreds.org](mailto:aqabamanager@jreds.org)



