

REPORT FROM RICCARDO SEVERI / MINERVA PROJECT / ESWATINI

1) IAAD 2019 – ESWATINI. UNDER MINERVA INITIATIVE, SWATI AUTHORITIES ATTENDED THE EVENT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

The IAAD was organized by Minerva, with the support of the Swati organization Siphilile, under the EU funded Project “ALBINISM IN eSwatini. HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FOR THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN A JUST SOCIETY. *Governance, capacity building, the first national Mobile Hotline Service and the first News Agency/Monitoring Center in support and to protect Persons Living with Albinism in eSwatini for the full recognition of their human and civil rights, for their empowerment and to legitimate their inclusion in the Swati Society*”.

The Event, which is the occasion to launch the Minerva/EU Programme “EUNITED ALBINISM FOR A JUST SOCIETY. ESWATINI”, was financially supported also by the Bible Society in Eswatini; a support that have been strongly encouraged by Minerva in the last months through the Swaziland Association of Persons with Albinism (SAPA) and which we consider relevant for the sustainability of the Action.

In the past years no Swati central and local Authority has ever attended any initiative organized by Persons with Albinism, IAAD included. However, the IAAD 2019 – still standing strong was a great success the celebration of the International Albinism Awareness Day, organized by the Swaziland Association of Persons with Albinism (SAPA) and Stukie Motsa foundation, under the coordination of Minerva, with the support of the European Union and the Bible Society.

The DAY was also the occasion to launch the EUROPEAN UNION funded Project “EUNITED ALBINISM FOR JUST SOCIETY. ESWATINI”, designed and headed by MINERVA in partnership with SIPHILILE, to support Persons with Albinism in the Kingdom and their Organizations.

Impressive the number of Authorities who attended the Event under Minerva/EU initiative and to whom go our gratitude:

EU Ambassador, H.E. Esmeralda Hernandez Aragonés, Deputy Prime Minister, Senator Themba N. Masuku, Minister of Education and Training, Hon. Lady Howard Mabuza, Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Makhosi Vilakati, PS Ministry of Tikhundla and Development, Mrs Nonhlanhla Z Dlamini, Manzini Regional Administrator, Chief Gija Dlamini, Representatives of the Ministry of Economic Planning and of the National Commissioner of the Royal Police of Eswatini.

Civil Society organizations, persons with albinism and not, artists and kids attended the event in large number.

Minerva Photo Story on FACEBOOK “Minerva EUnited Arts of Swaziland”.

2) THE DPM'S OFFICE IN SUPPORT OF MINERVA/EU PROJECT ON ALBINISM (ANNEX II ATTACHED / INTERNAL DOCUMENT TO DO NOT MAKE IT PUBLIC AT THIS STAGE).

We are proud to announce the formal institutional and operative support provided to Minerva by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office in support of the ongoing EU funded project to protect and empower Persons With Albinism (PWA) in Eswatini .

Under Minerva/EU initiative, the first Swati Inter-ministerial Committee to support PWA, chaired by the DPM's Office and Coordinated by Minerva, will be established in the coming weeks.

The agreement with the DPM's Office has been signed under the framework of the Project “EUnited Albinism in a Just Society. Eswatini”, funded by the European Union, headed by Minerva and implemented in partnership with SIPHILILE. The project, which aims to support persons with albinism in the Kingdom, has the valuable collaboration of the first Swati Organization to empower PWA, the Swaziland Association of Persons with Albinism (SAPA), and Stukie Motsa Foundation.

Minerva expresses its deepest gratitude to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office and its support which is a pillar to jointly achieve the international and national goal to protect and empower Persons with Albinism in the Kingdom of Eswatini and their Organizations.

3) ONGOING SELECTION OF 120 BENEFICIARIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY (4 REGIONS) TO BE TRAINED IN OCTOBER AND ENGAGED IN THE ACTION (AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS AND HOTLINES SERVICE).

Taking into account the rigorous system following the Thinkhlunda leadership, the first step was to sensitize and engage constituency leaders illustrating the Action, introducing a Training Session to raise awareness on Albinism health and social conditions. Then the recruitment process started in May/June 2019.

120 Trainees will be selected by mid September 2019 to be trained at the end of October:

- 10 Trainees for each of the three Tinkhundla in the Region,
- 30 Trainees per Region
- 120 Trainees in total in the four Regions of Eswatini

In order to strengthening networks among PWA and communities in the four Regions of ESwatini, the total number of 120 trainees will be separated in 5 GROUPS OF 24 TRAINEES.

- a) Each group of 24 Trainees will be composed by 6 Trainees per Region (2 per Tinkhundla).
- b) Each group of 6 Trainees per Region will be composed by 2 members coming from the 3 (abovementioned) Tinkhundla per Region involved in the Activity through the Local Authorities / Inner Council Members.
- c) Therefore, each of the 5 groups of 24 Trainees will be equally represented by each of the 4 Swazi Regions.

The beneficiaries will be invited in Mbabane from their regions to attend 2 training days on the health and social condition of PWA, on their human and civil rights and on their engagement to be part of **awareness raising campaigns** (dissemination of informative pamphlets in their areas) and the first **Hot Line Service in Eswatini and the first Monitoring Centre on Albinism which will be operative in January 2020**.

4) AN ALBINISM/PROJECT OFFICE, WHICH WILL BE THE HOT-LINE SERVICE AND MONITORING CENTER IN ESEATINI FROM 2020, HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT THE REDCROSS HEADQUARTERS IN THE CAPITAL, MBABANE.

Thank you in advance for your kind support,

Best Regards,

Riccardo Severi

Minerva Project Manager

Minerva Soc Coop

Sede Legale: Via G. Volpato, 4. 00146, Rome, Italy

P.IVA: 03659011005

Tel/Fax: +39 06 55302532

Mobile Eswatini: +268 78136033

Mobile Italy: +39 3386554330

E-mail: minervasoccoop@gmail.com

Website: www.minervaonline.org

•