Press Release – January 9th 2017 - Award ceremony of the competition "Enhancing the rights of students with disabilities in Education" in the framework of the promoted project "IN-DEPTH: Inclusive Development in Education, Protection and Health" implemented by the Italian Ngo AISPO.

Hebron - On January 9th 2017, the award ceremony of the competition "Enhancing the rights of students with disabilities in Education" realised in the framework of the three-year project "IN-DEPTH: Inclusive Development in Education, Protection and Health" funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, took place at Al Hussein Ben Ali School in Hebron in the presence of the H.E Sabri Saidam, Minister of Education and Higher Education, the Hebron Governor Kamel Hemaid, Ms. Cristina Natoli, Representative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Jerusalem and Ms. Lana Bandak, Director General of QADER for Community Development.

The project – implemented by the Italian Ngo AISPO in partnership with the Palestinian Ngo Qader, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and with the Ministry of Health - promotes inclusive education at both institutional and social level in order to strengthen the rights for people with disabilities and facilitate their access to quality education in an inclusive environment. The project supports the introduction of the MOVE Programme - an innovative therapeutic path for children and adults with severe and complex disabilities - in 30 schools in Hebron and Bethlehem Governorate with the aim of transforming the world of disable individuals from inaccessible and hostile to accessible, interesting and bursting with opportunity and choice.

The ceremony has been the occasion, as underlined by the representative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Jerusalem – Cristina Natoli - to highlight Italy's role as EU Lead Donor in the Health sector and in particular in the Disability sector so much that Italy has been one of the first 50 countries to sign the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006).

Italy - she added - has issued both the Guide Lines for Disable Persons in line with the UN Convention and an Action Plan aimed at introducing a mainstreaming approach grounded on the conviction that all persons should be equally valued: an approach focusing on the need to adapt society so as to enable people with impairment.

Finally, Cristina Natoli has recalled in her statement that Italy is strongly committed in Palestine through a number of promoted and emergency initiatives for a total amount of 5.5 M Euro aimed at promoting the rights of people with disabilities and facilitating their integration and participation to social life.







