# **Reconstructing Israel's National Narrative: From a Melting Pot to Constructive Sectorialism**

**Concept Paper and Proposal**

The following paper outlines an initiative of Atchalta (commencement / restart in Hebrew) that is based on the belief that the melting-pot social model is no longer viable. To preserve Israel's existence, a new social framework embracing its diverse society must be established.

**Background**

Israel's social cohesion is collapsing amid mass protests against judicial reform plans. This situation highlights deeper tensions regarding Israel's core identity and values. The melting pot has been criticized for failing to address minority needs, leading to increased identity politics and sectorialism.

This tension fuels the current crisis surrounding judicial reform, creating a zero-sum game between those distrusting the current system and those fearing changes will undermine democracy.

**Conclusions and working assumptions**

* The melting pot is irrelevant and irreversible.
* Sectorialism is a fact, and should be acknowledged and embraced.
* The Israeli political system has limited capacity for significant structural changes.

**Our Approach**

Atchalta proposes transitioning from the melting pot model to a regional constructive sectorialism model, allowing each region to adopt policies based on its demographic composition.

**Constructive Regional Sectorialism**

This model shifts discourse from national to regional levels, promoting fair public space and easier resolution. It empowers local authorities and organizations through limited authority transfers and regulatory adjustments, customizing policies for each region.

**Process**

Atchalta's process includes stakeholder mapping, expert interviews, framework drafting, public events, and regional sectorial model implementation to address local needs and reduce national inter-sectoral tensions.

**Advantages**

The regional sectorialism model offers several benefits:

* Utilizes existing regional economic infrastructures and potentially Cohesion Centers.
* Studies have shown that regionalism is linked to increased political participation and alignment with multicultural societies, due to higher levels of trust and attention.
* Reduces sectorial tension on marginal issues (e.g., Hametz law). • Leverages natural integration of various sectors in local settings like hospitals, malls, and workplaces. • Addresses local population needs, fostering a more equitable and just society.
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**National level**

Besides regional efforts, Atchalta aims to develop a renewed Zionist-Democratic center and social covenant aligned with Israel's Declaration of Independence. We are involved in two behind-the-scenes initiatives with influential Israeli leaders and plan to create a strategic framework and campaign with tailored messages for different sectors and stakeholders.

**Budget and KPI**

Atchalta seeks $287,000 yearly for three years to fund the discussed project.

During the first year of operation, Atchalta will lead stakehoolder mapping, a series of interviews and roundtable discussions with experts, the writing of a conceptual framework, organizing public events aimed at creating a regional sectorial model, and spearheading a campaign and effort to implement it

This year, The project timeline includes stakeholder engagement, launching a regional pilot, and expanding it to three regions. The grant supports building an inclusive, equitable Israeli society through constructive sectorialism.

On year 2, we will launch a regional pilot as the primary goal and KPI. On year 3, we will expand the pilot to at least three regions (detailed workplans for the 2nd and 3rd years will be presented at the time.

**Budget for 12 first months**

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| Human resources | $120,000 |
| Roundtable Disucussions | $15,000 |
| Printing and Materials | $1,500 |
| Public Conference | $75,000 |
| Communication and Stakeholder Engagement | $55,000 |
| TOTAL | **$287,500** |