

Rethinking Lebanese Higher Education

Roundtable 9 November 2017

Concept Note

Several challenges are facing the Lebanese Higher Education and its development. The Erasmus+ Higher Education Reform Experts promoting modernisation of Higher Education are calling for a workshop to discuss those challenges and possible strategic visions to meet the challenges and further develop the sector.

After ten years of the announcement of the strategic plan for higher education in Lebanon there is a clear need to identify the present challenges, to openly discuss the major elements of that plan and the achievements accomplished during the past years. The Higher Education Reform Experts team¹ has also been promoting modernisation and the culture of change since 2008, an action highly inspired from the development in the Bologna process and with the European Higher Education Area. There is a need to conduct an analysis of the impact of these actions and how to proceed in the coming years.

The workshop placed under the title of “Rethinking Lebanese Higher Education” will shed the lights on the latest development in the sector and the different accomplishments. It will also form an occasion to identify the challenges facing the Lebanese Higher Education and to point some of the difficulties that have been felt in the past years in the processes of change. The workshop shall profit from the presence of M. Guy Haug, a well know expert in the Bologna process and modernisation of higher education.

The workshop is divided into two parts. In a first part, a brief review of the strategic plan and accomplishments will be provided as well as a summary of the Erasmus+ HERE’s activities. Then, challenges, perspectives and prospects shall be discussed under the following axes:

- Higher Education and Research
- Higher Education and Quality
- Higher Education and Social Dimension
- Higher Education and Financing Models

¹ HEREs team has been first established under the European Tempus Programme and is continuing under the Erasmus+ Programme.

- Higher Education and Employability
- The Lebanese University

For each item, a short presentation shall be provided by a Lebanese expert and the European perspective shall be drawn by Mr. Haug before debating the issues.

The workshop shall end with a set of recommendations.

It is worth noting that the HERE team will be distributing, as usual in such events, a reader that provides background elements and facts for the workshop.