

Editorial

by Aref Alsoufi

No doubt that the education sector, including higher education, is one of the most important sectors damaged by the many crises that have been hitting Lebanon since 2019. This is the most destructive damage that one can imagine for a society as it concerns the future of a total generation. That is true, but it is not a mere exaggeration to say that the education sector in Lebanon, including the higher education, has been suffering from a fundamental deficiency since a long time and that this is well before the current crises that the country is going through. The Lebanese universities surrendered to the illusive idea that Lebanon was the university of the Middle East, exactly as people was convinced that Lebanon had been for a long time the Switzerland of the Middle East. The higher education sector not only failed to protect itself from

the absence of a national strategy for the sector but also failed to counter the attempts of the ruling class to shape the education sector to suit their irrelevance, sectarianism, oligarchy and corruption. At least the UNIVERSITY, which is supposed to be the best source of reflection and thinking, should have predicted the current collapses and alarmed the society about the catastrophic course that the country was taking.

If a crisis is a source of opportunity, there cannot be more severe context than the one Lebanon is getting through currently for rethinking higher education towards a new strategy that can transform the longstanding illusions into realities.

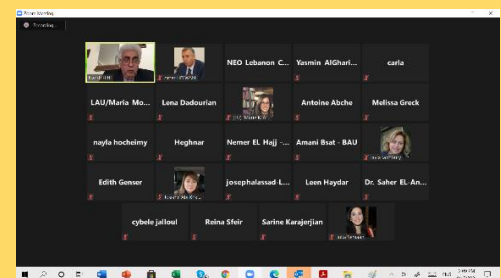
In this, the EU programme Erasmus+ is ready to put all its available resources to serve this objective...

Events: local & International

Info-session on Erasmus+ first Call for proposals

The National Erasmus+ Office of Lebanon (NEO) organised on Thursday 15 April 2021, virtual information sessions on the first call for proposals under the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027. The info-sessions were divided into two parts: one was dedicated to Erasmus Mundus Actions (EMJM/EMDM) and another to Jean Monnet (JM) Actions. NEO presented the new EMJM/EMDM actions and had Ms. Edith Genser from EACEA presenting the JM action. The sessions included also a showcasing of the ongoing JM and EMJMD projects involving Lebanese institutions. NEO was pleased to have, Ambassador and Ex-minister Nassif Hitti sharing his experience with a JM project implemented at USEK. Up to 60 participants attended the event from different HEIs in Lebanon.

For more info about the event and the presentations, please consult our website at: <http://erasmusplus-lebanon.org/event/10592>

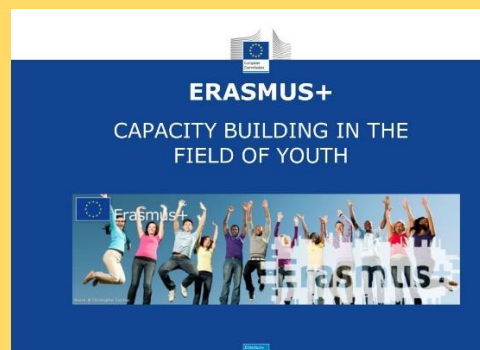


Capacity Building in the field of Youth Event (CBY)

An info-session on Capacity Building in the field of Youth (CBY) was held on Thursday May 27, and attended by NEO LB. The CBY action aims to support the international cooperation and policy dialogue in the field of youth and non-formal learning, as a driver for sustainable socio-economic development and well-being of youth organisations and young people. The 2021 CBY call for proposal is open only to organisations from the EU member states and non-EU programme countries, and to organisations belonging to Region 1 (Western Balkans) and Region 3 (South Mediterranean countries).

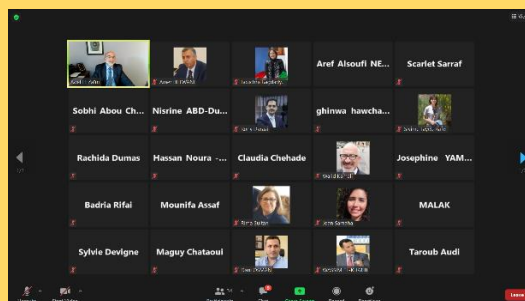
For more information on the 2021 CBY call, we invite you to consult the [Programme Guide](#) as well as the call page available on the [Funding & Tenders \(europa.eu\) portal](#).

Deadline for application: July 1st.



Webinar on the Internationalisation of higher education

A webinar on the Internationalisation of higher education: beyond student mobility was organised on 29 May by the National Association of Lebanese Teachers of French (ANEFL). This webinar which was held in collaboration with French Institute in Lebanon and the National Erasmus+ Office was fully moderated by Professor Adel El Zaïm, Vice-rector Associated International at University of Ottawa, Canada and a leading expert in the field.



Capacity Building in HE (CBHE) Projects News

MED2IaH meeting for NEOs and national coordinators

The CBHE project MED2IaH (Mediterranean countries towards Internationalisation at Home) organised on April 19, 2021 a meeting for Erasmus+ Offices of Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt as well as the national project coordinators. The progress made by the project was discussed in addition to other issues pertaining to the implementation of the different project's activities. The foreseen role of NEOs in the project was the focal point of the discussions. NEO Lebanon will contribute to the Lebanese national report on Internationalisation that the project plans to produce, through disseminating surveys among its large pool of contacts in the higher education sector and through providing data about internationalisation in the Lebanese higher education sector. MED2IaH aims towards internationalisation at home through having an impact at the system level and triggering reform processes at national level in Mediterranean partner countries.

For more info: <https://med2iah.eu/>



MED2IaH visit to NEO LB office

NEO was pleased to welcome on its premises Ms. Ana Sajn and Ms. Tiuana Grlj from the coordinating institution of the CBHE project MED2IaH, the Euro-Mediterranean University EMUNI in Slovenia on May 27, 2021. It was a fruitful meeting discussing the implementation of the project at the level of the two Lebanese partner institutions: Lebanese International University and Antonine University.



Workshop in the framework of LEBPASS CBHE project

The CBHE project LEBPASS (The Lebanese Diploma Supplement) organised on May 17, 2021 a workshop on the introduction of the diploma supplement in Lebanon. During this workshop, a practical example of the Friedrich-Alexander University (FAU) in Germany was presented as a model of Diploma Supplement (DS) implementation. This example was discussed in detail pertaining to the prerequisites of such a diploma, responsibilities, and processes. Based on this model, the Lebanese partners will then be able to develop a model for DS. LEBPASS project aims at enabling academic and professional recognition by increasing the transparency of students' qualifications and modernising the Lebanese higher education system. It is a 3-year national project, coordinated by the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik and involves from Lebanon: BAU, LAU, LCU, LU, Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie AUF, in addition to a number of other partners from France, Germany and Cyprus.



For more information about LEBPASS project you can consult its website at <http://www.lebpass.org/>

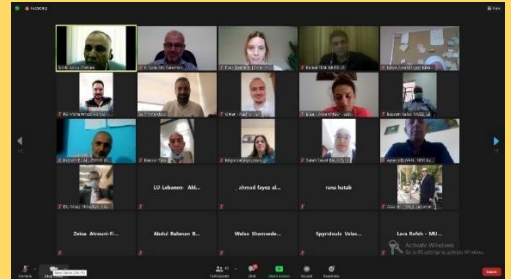
Monitoring visit to LEBPASS CBHE project

The second monitoring visit to the CBHE project LEBPASS was held virtually on June 23, 2021 in presence of the president of the coordinating institution, the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Father Talal Hachem. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education, being a partner in this project, was also represented by two members. Based on the contribution of the Lebanese and European partners, the monitoring team was able to develop a well-rounded understanding of the project implementation, progress made so far and challenges faced.



MORALE 3rd module training

The CBHE project MORALE (Capacity building for curricula modernisation of Syrian and Lebanese HEIs and lifelong learning provision: towards sustainable NGOs management and operation with special focus on refugees) organised the third training of trainers on June 15, 16 and 17. This module of training was focused on NGO project management, fundraising, human management and interaction with actors. MORALE aims at providing the sector of NGOs with high skilled professionals trained to effectively manage and operate in NGO environments by means of modernising social and behavioural sciences curricula and by offering Lifelong Learning courses targeting NGOs professionals at partner universities. The project is coordinated by Beirut Arab University and includes the following partners from Lebanon: the Lebanese University and the Modern University of Business and Science, in addition to 5 partners from Syria and 4 EU partners.



For more information: <http://www.moraleproject.org>

Webinar in the framework of CBHE project CONECTE

Erasmus+ CBHE project CONECTE (Collaborative Network for Career-building, Training, and E-learning) organised a webinar on Digital Culture on June 7, 2021, hosted by Jinane University, and co-organised by the Islamic University of Lebanon. Three panelists, Bruno De Lièvre (University of Mons, Belgium), Salim Mokaddem (University of Montpellier, France) and Stéphane Bazan (University Saint Joseph), were dialogued by Joumana Younis from Jinan University on many issues related to the subject of Digital Culture, questions of public was managed by Sylvie Devigne from Islamic University of Lebanon and woodclap by Sarah Descamps from University of Mons. CONECTE is a Capacity Building project led by the University Saint Joseph and includes in its partnership Jinan University, CNAM Liban, Islamic University of Lebanon, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie-AUF, Bassel Fuleihan Institute of Finance, Chambre of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut and Mount Lebanon, Ministry of Education and Higher Education from Lebanon and Institute for Advanced Studies, Austria, CNAM Paris and University of Mons, Belgium from Europe.



CONECTE aims at improving the link between the universities and the world of work, through supporting the employability of the graduates and by targeting competences required by the labour market in the field of digital education.

Website: <https://www.usj.edu.lb/conecte/> Facebook: conecproject

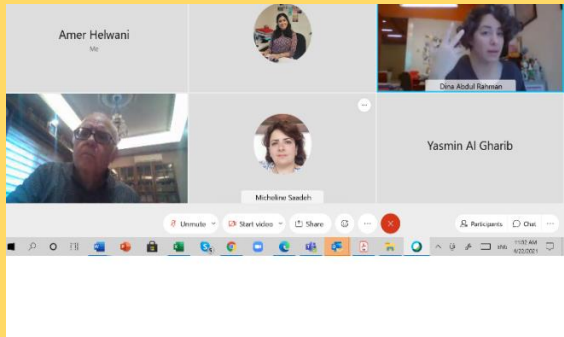
International Credit Mobility (ICM) News

Monitoring International Credit Mobility projects at NDU

The National Erasmus+ Office Lebanon conducted an ICM monitoring via Zoom to the Notre Dame University (NDU) on June 29, 2021 in presence of Professor Ghazi Asmar, the Acting Director of the Office of International Relations at NDU and the Assistant Vice President for Research and Graduate studies.



The meeting was an opportunity to learn about the management and the implementation of international mobilities at NDU and its link to the universities strategic action plan for 2020-2025.



Monitoring ICM projects at LAU

The National Erasmus+ Office Lebanon conducted an ICM monitoring via Zoom to the Lebanese American University on April 22, 2021. The Director of International Services, Ms. Dina Abdul Rahman and the international services program coordinator, Ms. Dima Hamidi Sakr were met. This meeting enabled the NEO to have a better understanding of the management system of ICM at the university, link to internationalisation strategy, policies at the university level pertaining to ICM, organisation of mobilities, selection process of students and staff, recognition process, dissemination of the experience and many other related issues. Testimonies from staff and students who underwent mobilities under ICM enriched the discussion.

<https://www.lau.edu.lb/study/international-students/contact.php>



Monitoring ICM projects at Balamand

The National Erasmus+ Office Lebanon conducted an ICM monitoring via Zoom to the University of Balamand on May 28, 2021. Dr. Antoine Abche from the VP Office of Internationalisation and Engagement was met in addition to a number of professors and students who shared their mobility experience and its impact on the personal and institutional levels.

The meeting was also attended by colleagues from ALBA which has its own share of these international mobilities.

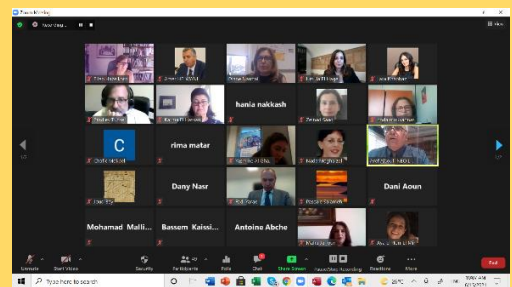
<http://www.balamand.edu.lb/AboutUOB/Vice-President/Pages/Default.aspx>

Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) Activities

Webinar on international rankings and U-Multirank

NEO Lebanon and its team of Higher Education Reform Experts, HERE organised a webinar on June 15, 2021 about the impact of international ranking systems on the Lebanese HEIs with a focus on the EU U-Multirank. The webinar was animated by Professor Ellen Hazelkorn, an international leading expert in the field. The webinar was opened by Mr. Fadi Yarak, DG of Education and Acting DG of Higher Education. Around 60 persons attended the event from 18 Lebanese higher education institutions including VPs for institutional research, international relations officers, experts in quality assurance, Deans, faculty members, and administrative staff.

For more info about the event and the presentations, please consult our website at: <http://erasmus-plus-lebanon.org/event/10969>



Dublin Virtual Study Visit

NEO and members from the HERE team of Lebanon participated in the virtual study visit to Dublin City University on May 27 & 28 with the support of the Irish University Association in Ireland. The visit addressed the topic of employability of graduates and the different university's approaches to employability. The topic of employability was addressed from the following perspectives: Rethinking the university contribution to employability in light of the challenges presented by the global pandemic; Employability considerations in teaching, study programmes & curricula design; Career support services for students; Work placements and internships in a Covid context; Universities supporting inclusive employment; Data systems and quality assurance/ student tracking systems; Collaboration with employers and other external stakeholders etc. and Skilling/re-skilling and the role of micro-credentials.



For more information about the events, visit

https://supporthere.org/universityemployability_dcu/page/presentations-2

Upcoming Events

- 1- **A cluster meeting** that gathers CBHE (Capacity Building in Higher Education) projects coordinated by Lebanese institutions will be held on July 26, 2021. The meeting aims at exploring the implementation of CBHE projects from the perspectives of Lebanese coordinators, learning about the impact of such projects on the coordinating institution and understanding the different challenges that might face a Lebanese coordinator during the implementation of CBHE projects.
- 2- **A virtual fair for CBHE projects** will be organised by the National Erasmus+ Offices and the Executive Agency (EACEA) in October 2021. In this fair, CBHE projects will have the chance to showcase their most relevant outputs among a varied audience of practitioners and stakeholders from different countries.
- 3- **The full Erasmus+ 2022 new call for proposals** is expected to be published in October 2021. NEO will organise national info-day to explain the call when published.

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