

Erasmus+ HERE Seminar on:
Future of e-learning in Lebanon: launching the debate
Thursday 28 May 2015, Notre Dame University – Louaize

Dr. Ahmad Jammal, Director General of HE, I would like to thank you, not only for being with us this morning and during the day, but also for your positive reactivity to our actions and your support to our National E+ Office and our team of HEREs.

Father Walid Moussa, I am really grateful to you personally and to Notre Dame University for hosting this event in your beautiful campus. Actually, our relationship via Tempus and Erasmus Mundus and hopefully via Erasmus+ is getting stronger and stronger.

Excellency Dr Sami Menkara, President of Al-Manar University of Tripoli, your presence in our events is always encouraging to us, I remember when you were at the head of the Ministry of Education and HE how serious and hard working man you were, thank you for being with us today.

M. Herve Sabourin, Directeur de l'AUF, Bureau Moyen Orient, when we met the first time, it was in the framework of a Tempus project, representing the University of Poitier, and now you are installed in Lebanon and day after day I have the feeling that you are struggling with us to meet the challenges of the Lebanese HE sector, thank you for taking part in today's event.

I extend my thanks and gratitude to all the speakers and presenters of this day, particularly to those who made long distances travelling from abroad, Michael Gaebel from the European Universities Association, Jacques Tardif from the University of Sherbrooke, Canada, Mrs Dakmara Georgescu from the UNESCO, Omneya Shaker, CN, AUF, Alexandria, Egypt.

A special thank to Pierre Gedeon whose passion to the e-learning has triggered this event.

Colleagues and friends.

Actually today's event is the first of a new series of actions planned by our team of HEREs. The second action will be a sort of training workshop on practical issues related to internal QA and will kindly be hosted by the Islamic University of Lebanon and will be held around the end of October.

This will be followed sometime around the end of the year by an action on Civic Engagement in HE and we are looking for a candidate University to host this action but we do not know yet the format of this action.

A national survey on the different issues in HE will also be conducted at the beginning of the academic year 2015-2016.

We have been discussing e-learning internally for some time. It has been a very heated debate. This is also an international trend and so we cannot keep a blind eye on something so emerging and developing everywhere in the world and which has become an integral part of every modernisation agenda. It has many aspects: social, economic, educational, technological and legal.

So we decided to open the discussion at national level,

Please feel free to express yourself in the language you feel easy at. And be active as usual.

This is really a first step in a long debate and process.

Before I finish, I would like to transmit to you the full encouragement of the Head of the EU Delegation to Lebanon. She reiterated the support of the European Union to Education in Lebanon.

Welcome you all and thank you.