



Jordan - Programme Countries Erasmus+ Networking Seminar

Venue: Hotel (tbd), Dead Sea, Jordan

21-22 October 2019

Preamble

Higher Education in Jordan

The sector of higher education in Jordan plays a key role in the process of comprehensive development at various levels and areas. During the last three decades, the sector witnessed a prominent development as well as progress evidenced by the increasing number of institutions of higher education, enrolled students, faculty members, administrative and academic members, and size of expenditures in this significant sector. In spite of the limited financial resources in Jordan, higher education lies within the priorities of the country due to the role it plays in promoting the economic, social and knowledge level of the Jordanian citizen.

Access to higher education is open to holders of the General Secondary Education Certificate, or its equivalent from abroad, who can then choose between public and private universities and community colleges depending on their grades. The universities implement the credit-hour system, which entitles students to select courses according to a study plan. Applicants for Master's degrees must hold an undergraduate (bachelor's) degree. The master's degree is required if they are applying for a Doctorate degree. The structure of higher education in Jordan follows the three-cycle system:

- **The bachelor degree** requires four years to all disciplines except engineering, pharmacy and dentistry, which require five years, and medicine that requires six years.
- **The master degree** requires on average one and half to two years of study. In a number of universities, students have the option to obtain a master degree with a thesis or with a comprehensive exam.
- **Doctorate degree** requires a minimum of 3 years of study and completing a dissertation.

Organization of the academic year: The academic year in Jordan consists of two regular mandatory semesters and an optional summer session. Each semester lasts for 16 weeks (including the exam periods) and the summer session lasts 8-12 weeks. The first semester starts around mid-September and ends towards mid-January. The second semester starts early February and ends early June. The summer session lasts from mid-June to mid-August.

National Policy Statements on Higher Education: The general higher education policy objectives are based on nine pillars defined in the National Strategy for Higher Education (2014-2018). These are: university governance and management, admission policies, finance, accreditation and quality assurance, scientific research and graduate studies, university environment, academic programs, human resources, and technical education.

Higher Education Institutions: Higher education is offered in about 40 community colleges and about 30 universities. More than 300,000 students are enrolled in higher education institutions. Here is a list of universities (<http://rce.mohe.gov.jo/StudyInJordan/en/>).

Public universities: University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Mutah University, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Hashemite University, Al al-Bayt University, Al-Balqa Applied University, Al-Hussein bin Talal University, Tafila Technical University, German Jordanian University.

Private Universities: Amman Arab University, Middle East University, Jadara University, Al-Ahliyya Amman University, Applied Science University, Philadelphia University, Isra University, Petra University, Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan,



Zarqa University, Irbid National University, Jerash University, Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Jordan Academy of Music, Ammon Applied University College, American University of Madaba, Ajloun National University, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts /UNRWA, Aqaba University of Technology and Al-Hussein Technical University.

Mobility

NEO Jordan organized more than **25 seminars and presentations** at Jordanian universities to promote ICM during 2015-2019. Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Deans of colleges, senior members, professors, and students of the concerned universities attended these seminars. More than 2000 participants from staff & students became better aware about Erasmus+ ICM: definition, types, duration, selection criteria and results, eligible activities/participants, individual mobility scheme, preparation, implementation, and follow-up, understanding contractual documents, financial management, and some recommendations were given to Jordanian HEIs.

NEO conducted around **30 ICM monitoring visits** until July 2019. ICM monitoring visits provided universities with guidelines and advice to develop and implement ICM on the long term.

NEO organized annual Clusters on ICM and ICM Management (**total of 4 clusters**) targeting all Jordanian HEIs to help them better understand the importance of mobility, its impact, and how to implement the ICM action. The content focused on the impact of Erasmus+ ICM in Jordan and institutional ways to implement it through the Offices of International Relations. New forms of mobilities (e.g., Erasmus Virtual Exchange), good practices in ICM management, exchanges and testimonials were addressed in the cluster meetings.

In addition to the above, **special coverage of ICM in the annual Erasmus+ Information Days** in Jordan took place. Each year, around 500 persons attend information days (both main days and regional ones) from public and private universities, representatives of some EU embassies, and relevant ministries and organizations in Jordan.

As a result of the above activities, most HEIs established academic international relations offices (IROs) as central units responsible for mobility. Procedures at newly established IROs were improved. Exchange of best practices among IROs is working. Testimonies and networking for individuals through ICM events are increasing. NEO is assisting HEIs to institutionalize the mobilities, especially issues related to tuition and fees, recognition of courses studied in Programme Countries, and to be engaged in more ICM projects. Jordanian best practices are promoted internationally

NEO participated in events and conferences to promote ICM nationally and internationally. As an example, NEO participated in activities organized in Sweden and Poland in 2016, Austria and Germany in 2017, and the HE Baltic Info Day in Latvia and Italy in 2018. These missions helped in increasing the exchanges with Jordan. NEO also promoted the cooperation with Jordan in partner countries Erasmus+ Information Days in Ukraine and Moscow. We discovered that **networking does help in building trust and fostering more projects**.

Number of mobilities with Jordan (students and staff, incoming and outgoing) under International Credit Mobility (ICM) during the period 2015-2018 is **about 3,115**. Students and staff **moving to Jordan** during the same period **represent 37%**. **HEIs in Jordan are much more ready now than ever before to participate in mobility in both directions**. Numbers are growing; nevertheless we aim for doubling the number over the coming few years.

Jordan came third in the region with 84% implemented mobilities in 2015. We have been looking at our cooperation with Programme Countries under the Erasmus+ program. Top ten countries that have ICM with Jordan are: Turkey, Spain, Germany, Portugal, Greece, Italy, United Kingdom, Sweden, Lithuania and Belgium.

There is increasing number of ICM partnerships at public and private Jordanian universities in 2015-2018. Despite all the above, we found **9 countries with little or no participation**, as follows:

- A) Countries with **no projects at all** with Jordan: Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, and Serbia



- B) Countries with ICM but **not CBHE**: Iceland, Latvia, Macedonia, and Norway
- C) Countries with CBHE but **not ICM**: Malta and Netherlands.

To strengthen the cooperation between Jordan and Programme Countries, NEO Jordan sees urgent need to look for new opportunities, and to enhance cooperation with the above 9 Programme Countries and others in having new ICM partnerships, and in turn have larger numbers of mobilities in both directions. NEO encourages **National Agencies** in Programme Countries, **in addition to some selected HEIs from each country, to participate in the networking seminar**, to be held in Jordan during the period 9-10 October 2019. From the Jordanian side, we will invite all 30 universities, mostly represented by the Offices of International Relations, and some senior academicians, to reach a balanced representation. The seminar will last 2 days.

Jordan started participating in Tempus as of December 2002. Jordan participated in 54 Tempus projects (45 JP + 9 SM) and 37 CBHE projects under Erasmus+ programme, out of which Jordan is Grant holder in 16 projects (7 T + 9 CBHE). Tempus and Erasmus+ enabled Jordanians to prepare better projects, and also to manage these projects.

NEO Jordan has dedicated its efforts to improve CBHE projects for Jordanian HEIs through the Info Days, seminars conducted especially to CBHE, and practical workshops on “How to prepare good project proposals”. As a result, and under the first four Calls for CBHE, Jordanian institutions have confirmed their strong interest in this action making Jordan one of the most active countries in the South Mediterranean region. Under the last Call, Jordan submitted the highest number of applications (28) in the South Mediterranean region. Jordan is participating in 26% of the selected projects in the region.

NEO Jordan was invited to facilitate two practical workshops on “advanced CBHE project preparations” in the Italian Info day, Bergamo, Italy, Nov. 2018. NEO Jordan also delivered detailed and comprehensive presentations during Erasmus+ Baltic Info Days, 2018 that took place in Riga, Latvia. NEO Jordan prepared materials to facilitate cooperation with Jordan and SM region, and had active roles in both events.

This networking seminar will not only serve the main objective of strengthening cooperation with Programme Countries and offer a substantial foundation for exchange of best practices, but will also address Jordan’s priorities in CBHE for the last call of Erasmus+ programme, which include:

- the need to encourage the participation of a higher number of Jordanian HEIs currently less involved in the programme,
- diversify the addressed fields to include more projects in humanities and social sciences,
- efforts to be made to encourage more Structural Projects, and
- increase the involvement of non- education stakeholders in these projects.

Wider Objective:

The seminar aims at enhancing cooperation between Jordan and Programme Countries under different actions of Erasmus+, and in particular the International Credit Mobility and CBHE, through organizing a networking event that enables staff from Jordan and Programme Countries to interact, exchange information, and share best practices as well as challenges.

Specific Objectives:

1. To establish links with Programme Countries, especially those with little or no participation in Erasmus+ actions with Jordan.
2. To provide a venue for face-to-face contacts between HEIs in Jordan and Programme Countries.
3. To promote the Jordanian HEIs to their counterparts in Programme Countries.
4. To improve the quality of submitted proposals through exchange of tips for Assessment Criteria.



5. To increase the awareness of NAs and HEIs in Programme Countries about the higher education system and HEIs in Jordan.
6. To increase number of participants in project proposals (ICM & CBHE) to be submitted with Jordan in the next call.
7. To increase submissions of CBHE proposals in less addressed fields.
8. To promote university-enterprise cooperation in CBHE projects and encourage the involvement of non-education stakeholders.
9. To increase the awareness of HEIs in Jordan about the higher education systems and HEIs in Programme Countries.

Participants:

1. National Agencies in Programme Countries, with special attention to the countries with little or no participation with Jordan.
2. Interested HEIs from Programme Countries, and in particular representatives of the Offices for International Relations, to be nominated by the National Agencies.
3. HEIs from Jordan, such as Vice-Presidents, Deans of relevant schools, Directors and selected staff from the Offices of International Relations, and highly interested academicians.
4. Representative(s) from the EU Delegation in Amman, and Cultural Attaches (education officers) of interested Programme Countries in Jordan.

Exhibitions:

Participants will be offered the opportunity to disseminate higher education systems and profiles of their universities.



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Tentative Agenda (Draft 1)

Day 1	Monday 21 October 2019
9:00 – 10:00	Registration to the event and welcome coffee Exhibitions throughout the day
10:00 – 10:15	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Ahmad Abu-El-Haija, Director, National Erasmus+ Office - Jordan • Representative of the European Union Delegation to Jordan (tbc) • Representative of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (tbc)
10:15 – 11:00	Session 1: Introductory overview: Higher Education and Internationalization Chair: HERE Prof. Mahmoud Al-Sheyyab, JUST, Ex-Minister of Health, Ex-President of JUST <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Higher Education System in Jordan, <i>HERE. Prof. Thafer Assaraira, President, Mutah University, Jordan</i> 2) Impact of Erasmus+ and other cooperation programs on the internationalization strategy of HE in Germany, <i>Ms. Beate Körner, Head of Section - EU03, Erasmus+ Partnerships and Cooperation Projects, Erasmus+ National Agency for EU-Higher Education Cooperation, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany (tbc)</i> <p>Q & A</p>
11:00 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Photo • Coffee break and networking, exhibitions
11:30 – 13:30	Session 2: Erasmus+ Call 2020 - KA107 International Credit Mobility (ICM): Roles and Perspectives of National Agencies Chair: Mr. Gerhard Volz, Head, Erasmus+ Higher Education, National Agency Erasmus+ Education, Austria (tbc) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Tips for Jordanian HEIs to improve the quality of submitted ICM proposals, <i>Ms. Coral Martínez Iscar, Director, Servicio Español para la Internacionalización de la Educación (SEPIE), Spain (tbc)</i> 2) Impact of ICM in Jordan: successes and challenges, <i>HERE Dr. Ammar AlMaaytah, Dean of Pharmacy, Middle East University, Jordan</i> 3) Challenges and opportunities in ICM with Jordan, <i>Mr. Mark VLEK DE CONINGH, Dutch National Agency Erasmus+, Netherlands (tbc)</i> 4) Exchange of best practices and opportunities in ICM with Jordan, <i>İlker ASTARCI, Director, Turkish National Agency (tbc)</i> <p>Q & A</p>
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch and networking, exhibitions
15:00 – 16:45	Session 3: Erasmus+ Call 2020 - KA107 International Credit Mobility (ICM): Roles and Perspectives of Higher Education Institutions Chair: Dr. Radi Hamadeen, Director of International Relations, PSUT, Jordan



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ICM management at the University of Jordan, <i>Dr. Hadeel Yaseen, Director, International Affairs Unit</i> 2) ICM management at Lunds University, <i>Mr. Richard Stenelo, International Director and Deputy Executive Director, Division of External Relations, Lunds Universitet, Sweden (tbc)</i> 3) ICM management at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, <i>Dr. Abdulla Zoubi, Director, Internations Office</i> 4) ICM management at HEIs in Portugal, <i>Ms. Carla Martins, Pro-rector Internationalization, Universidade do Minho, Coordinating Institution, JAMIES Project, Portugal (tbc)</i> 5) Presentations by 2 students studying in Jordan through ICM, <i>to be identified</i> <p>Q & A</p>
<p>16:45 – 17:00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of Day 1 (online) • Closing of Day 1
<p>19:00 – 21:00</p>	<p>Dinner and networking</p>



Day 2	Tuesday 22 October 2019
9:00 – 10:00	Registration to Day 2 Exhibition of CBHE projects in Jordan
10:00 – 11:30	<p>Session 4: CBHE Impact, Best Practices, and Opportunities</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Mwaffaq Otoom, Director of International Relations Office, Yarmouk University, Jordan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Impact of CBHE at the Jordanian higher education system and institutes: Achievements and Opportunities, <i>HERE Dr. Ghadeer Shaba'an, Director, E-Learning Center, Balqa Applied University, Jordan</i> 2) Opportunities for cooperation between Jordan and Nordic Countries, <i>Ms. Susanne Suhr Andersen, Special advisor / International advisor, International Educational Programmes, Danish Agency for Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Science, Denmark (tbc)</i> 3) Challenges in establishing CBHE projects with Jordan, <i>Ms. Antra Mengele, Head of Unit, Programmes Management Unit, European Union Education Programmes Department, Latvia (tbc)</i> 4) Opportunities for establishing CBHE projects with Jordan, <i>NA of Malta (tbc)</i> <p>Q & A</p>
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break and networking, exhibition of CBHE projects in Jordan
12:00 – 13:30	<p>Session 5: Expanding the Horizon of CBHE Projects</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Darko Milogorić, Coordinator, Higher Education Unit, Foundation Tempus, Serbia (tbc)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CBHE projects in the fields of Arts, Languages, Journalism and information, <i>Ms. Antonella Ratti, Ufficio gestionale Settore Istruzione Superiore Erasmus+ , Istituto Nazionale di Documentazione, Innovazione e Ricerca Educativa, Italy (tbc)</i> 2. Enhancing university-enterprise cooperation through CBHE, <i>Dr. Mohammed Aljafari, Managing Director Intellectual Property Commercialization Office, iPARK, Royal Scientific Society, Jordan (tbc)</i> 3. CBHE Projects in Structural Measures, <i>Agence Erasmus+ France / Education & Formation (tbd)</i> 4. Role of Jordanian enterprises in Erasmus+ CBHE projects, <i>Mrs. Penelope Shehab, International Company to Support Scientific Research (ASRF), CEO and Founder of MONOJO, Jordan (tbc)</i> 5. CBHE Projects in university-enterprise cooperation, <i>Belgian NA (tbd)</i> <p>Q & A</p>
13:30 – 13:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of Day 2 (online) • Takeaways and closing remarks
13:45 – 15:00	Lunch and networking, exhibition of CBHE projects in Jordan