

Editorial

In the last edition of our 2020 newsletters, we closed the year with a very gloomy expectation without excluding the hope that 2021 would bring some light at the end of the tunnel. It seems that in 2021, the worst is yet to come at all levels with no exception for the higher education sector. Lebanese universities working in a complete void in terms of state vision and policies are struggling to survive with all kind of challenges and calamities.

The Lebanese HE sector is facing one of its most serious and existential challenges of its history. The financial crisis that has been hitting the country continues to inflict its clear and painful impact on the sector and creates a strained relationship between the different stakeholders of each HE institution, namely the administration, the staff and the students. This crisis has been leading to an escape of Lebanese brains and skills out of the country in the search for a better condition of survival.

[Read more](#)

Interview with Director of Centre MINE

Centre MINE is a very active unit established at the Lebanese University in December 2018 with the support of the EU-funded Erasmus+ project RESUME about a Mediterranean Network for Employability. The Centre has proved itself despite the difficult circumstances of Lebanon and of the Lebanese University as a supporting unit for advising, training and capacity building. The NEO Newsletter has interviewed Professor Riad Makdessi, the Director of this Centre to learn more about its activities and future perspectives.

[Read more](#)



Prof. Riad Makdessi, Director of MINE Centre
riad.makdissi@ul.edu.lb

NEO Activities

Monitoring CBHE project EduBioMed (22 March 2021)

A monitoring visit to the Erasmus+ CBHE project EduBioMed "Capacity Building for Education and Applied Research in Mediterranean UNESCO's Biosphere Reserves" was conducted virtually on March 22, 2021. EduBioMed is a 3-year project, it involves from Lebanon: USJ, AUB and the Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa, from Morocco: Université Cadi Ayyad and Université Mohamad V and from Europe: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (coordinator), MAB France, Université d'Aix Marseille and UNIMED.

[Read more](#)



All Girls Code information event (27 February 2021)

NEO Lebanon participated in a virtual event organised by the All Girls Code Team on February 27, 2021 in presence of up to 40 participants.

All Girls Code is a Lebanese award-winning initiative, based at the American University of Beirut, that immerses young girls in STEM fields in an empowering environment, provides them with mentorship and access to the All Girls Code Connect network, and connects them with local and international opportunities and scholarships.

[Read more](#)



Monitoring CBHE project CONECTE (23 February 2021)

A monitoring visit to the CBHE project CONECTE took place virtually on February 23, 2021.

CONECTE project offers innovative solutions to support the education sector in general and Lebanese universities in particular in their transition to digital and in adapting their training offers to the challenges of the professions of the future.

Coordinated by the University Saint-Joseph and its Faculty of Economics, CONECTE is an EU-funded project with a budget of 932,641.67 euros.

[Read more](#)

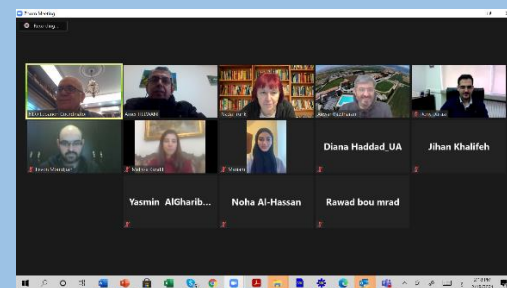


Monitoring CBHE project MED2IaH (19 February 2021)

A monitoring visit to the CBHE project MED2IaH took place virtually on February 19, 2021.

MED2IaH (Towards Internationalisation at Home) project is designed to have an impact at system level and trigger reform processes at national level in Mediterranean Partner Countries. Policymakers will receive support for evidence-based policy development and better regulation to move towards the modernisation of framework conditions for Higher Education in Partner Countries. HEI managers and other stakeholders in the sector will be able to feed their expertise into the reform process and articulate their needs already at the stage of policy development.

[Read more](#)

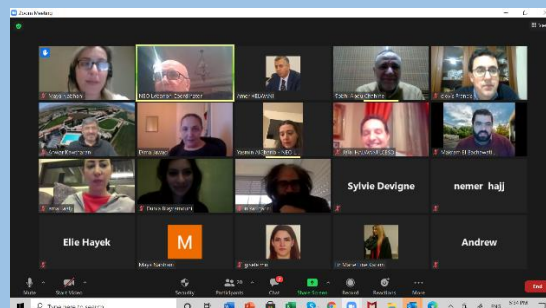


Cluster meeting for newly selected CBHE projects (22 January 2021)

The National Erasmus+ Office in Lebanon organised a training session on January 22 targeting all Lebanese higher education institutions involved in the 11 Capacity Building projects selected in 2019 and 2020.

The aim of this training was to provide the participants with tips and advices on how to successfully implement their projects whether they are coordinators or partners. During the session, each project was given the opportunity to present its partnerships, objectives and main expected outcomes.

[Read more](#)



HOPES-LEB Regional Seminar Meeting (21 January 2021)

A Regional Stakeholder Meeting around the EU MADAD Fund's Regional Alumni Network for Higher Education was organised online on January 21, 2021 by HOPES-LEB.

HOPES-LEB is an EU-funded project implemented by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Campus France and Nuffic as part of the MADAD EU Regional Trust Fund launched in 2014 in response to the Syrian crisis.

[Read more](#)



Monitoring CBHE project FREE (15 January 2021)

A virtual monitoring visit to the CBHE project FREE "Female Academic Role Model Empowerment, Equality and Sustainability at Universities in Mediterranean Region: towards 2030 Agenda" was conducted on January 15, 2021.

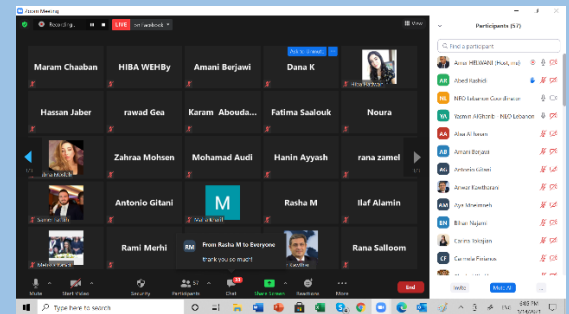
FREE project gathers 11 partners : 3 from Lebanon (Lebanese University, American University of Beirut and Modern University for Business and Science),

[Read more](#)



Webinar on Erasmus+ Students' opportunities (14 January 2021)

The National Erasmus+ Office of Lebanon organised a webinar on January 14, 2021 for students to learn about opportunities offered under Erasmus+ programme particularly Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD) and International Credit Mobility (ICM). Up to 500 students registered for the webinar and around 220 from different Lebanese Higher Education Institutions attended the webinar while many others followed it through a Facebook web-streaming.



[Read more](#)

Programme Activities

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) info-session (23 March 2021)



MSCA is the European Union's flagship programme to support scientific excellence and cooperation across countries, sectors and research fields.

An online information event on the MSCA under Horizon Europe was organised on March 23 to encourage organisation and researchers to apply. The event was open to researchers, higher education institutions, research institutes, research funding

[Read more](#)

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange webinar (17 March 2021)



On Wednesday March 17, an exciting webinar on "Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange" by the consortium that implemented the project between 2018-2020 was held online.

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange is a ground-breaking project enabling youth in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean to engage in meaningful intercultural experiences online, as part of their formal or non-formal education.

[Read more](#)

Grantholders Meetings for Capacity Building projects selected in 2020 (25-29 January 2021)



NEO Lebanon participated in the Erasmus+ CBHE Grantholders meeting that took place online between 25 and 29 January 2021. The event this year took a different format. The opening session included the intervention of the keynote speaker Professor Muhammad Yunus, Founder of Grameen Bank and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (2006).

[Read more](#)

The first call for proposals under the new Erasmus+ 2021-2027 was published on 25 March 2021.

The international dimension of the programme is only partly reflected in this first call: in Erasmus Mundus Actions and Jean Monnet Actions.

The National Erasmus+ Office Lebanon is going to organise an online information session about this call very soon. More information for applicants on how to apply to these actions will appear on the [EACEA website](#) in April.

Key links

[2021 Erasmus+ Programme guide](#)

[2021 Erasmus+ Call for proposals](#)

A full call for proposals covering all the international actions of Erasmus+ is expected around October 2021.

CBHE Projects Activities

CONNECTE: First public dissemination (30 March 2021)



The CBHE project CONNECTE conducted its kick-off meeting on March 30. The meeting is the first public event of the project exposing it to stakeholders from Lebanon, Belgium, France and Austria.

The project was opened with interventions by the Rector of USJ, the Directorate General of Education, the Bassil Fuleihan Institute, the EU Delegation to Lebanon, the National Erasmus+ in Lebanon, the Regional Directorate of the AUF and the Chamber of Commerce.

[Read more](#)

MED2IaH CBHE project events



A- The MED2IaH CBHE project organised its four capacity building webinars on February 16, February 23, March 16 and March 23. The webinars discussed the following topics: Internationalisation of formal curriculum (webinar 1); Global skills in a local context (webinar 2); virtual mobility (webinar 3); and campus diversity and intercultural engagement (webinar 4).

[Read more](#)

LEBPASS CBHE project National Seminar (9 March 2021)



NEO Lebanon attended a National Seminar under the Erasmus+ CBHE project LEBPASS on March 9, 2021. Under the patronage of the Directorate General of Higher Education, the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) organised the LEBPASS National Seminar in presence of Fr. Talal Hachem, the president of the USEK; Mr. Fadi Yarak, Acting Director General of Higher Education; Ms. Orla Colclough from the EU Delegation to Lebanon and Mr. Jean Noel Baléo, Regional Director of AUF Moyen-Orient.

[Read more](#)

MENA-Preneurs CBHE project kick-off meeting (17-18 February 2021)



NEO Lebanon attended the MENA-Pr “Technology-based Entrepreneurship for Supporting Sustainability in MENA region” project kick off meeting on February 17-18 via ZOOM in the presence of all partners.

The project aims at creating an inter-disciplinary diploma degree and training activities in technology-based Entrepreneurship aiming at building a robust entrepreneurship ecosystem that can foster and allow the start-ups and SMEs to play a leading role in economic development and job creation in MENA region.

[Read more](#)

I Care CBHE project kick-off meeting (12 February 2021)

NEO attended the kick-off meeting of the CBHE project ICare that was held virtually on February 12, 2021 in presence of all partners. A total of 28 participants attended the meeting. This project aims at developing inter-professional student-run primary care clinics that provide education, training, research and primary health care patient treatment and community engagement.

[Read more](#)

SWaTH CBHE project kick-off meeting (8-9 February 2021)

NEO Lebanon attended the SWaTH “Sustainable wastewater treatment for Hospitals” project was kick off virtual meeting on February 8 and 9 via Cisco Webex in presence of all partners. A total of 67 participants attended the opening session on day 1 including stakeholders from the Lebanese community outside the project consortium.

[Read more](#)

GLOB-SM CBHE Project kick-off meeting (11-12 February 2021)

NEO attended the kick off meeting of the CBHE project GLOBE-SM “Global Supply Chain Management” that was held virtually on February 11-12, 2021. The project will advance CBHE objectives of supporting modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of higher education institutions by developing a highly demanded, technology intensive, and need based curriculum that is new for not only Lebanese and Jordan, but also the Middle East and implementing innovative strategies and tools.

[Read more](#)

DeCAIR CBHE project activities

A- NEO attended the kick-off meeting of the CBHE project DeCAIR that was held virtually on January 19, 2021 in presence of all partners. A total of 31 participants were present in the meeting. The project aims at developing curricula in the area of Artificial Intelligence and robotics through new master’s and bachelor programmes.

[Read more](#)

Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) Activities

The HERE team is preparing a national webinar on international rankings, which is an important and timely topic, with a focus on the European ranking system U-Multirank.

The webinar which is expected to take place this spring will host Professor Ellen Hazelkorn as a keynote speaker in this webinar in addition to many interventions showing the Lebanese universities perspective regarding the international rankings. The event will be an opportunity for Lebanese higher education institutions to learn about the European U-Multirank system.

National Erasmus+ Office Lebanon,
5th. Floor,
Ministry of Education and Higher Education,
Habib Abi Chahla Sq. (Unesco Palace Area)
Beirut – Lebanon

Tel. +961-3-654 180

Fax: +961-1-804 310

www.erasmusplus-lebanon.org

The National Erasmus+ Office NEO Lebanon is represented by Dr. Aref Alsoufi.

Funding Source: This Newsletter has been funded within the framework of the European Union Erasmus+ programme.

Disclaimer: This Newsletter reflects the views only of the authors, and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.