



Press Release

JORDAN-EU Higher Education cooperation day 15TH DECEMBER 2010

Amman- 15 December 2010. Under the Patronage of H.E Minister of Higher Education and Scientific research the Jordan-EU Higher Education cooperation day was held on 15th December 2010 at the University of Jordan.

A seminar was jointly organized by the EU Delegation in Amman, the National Tempus Office and the University of Jordan to review the various EU-funded programmes in the field of higher education, such as TEMPUS, Erasmus Mundus, Jean Monnet (on European studies) and FP7 (seventh framework programme for research) among others. Discussions also focused on the selection process and results of past call for proposals and details on the procedures and guidelines for the currently open and future calls for proposals.

Attending this seminar were over 250 participants, including senior representatives of all the Higher Education institutions of the Kingdom, representatives of EU Delegation and EU member states cooperation agencies and higher education cooperation institutions, researchers and National Tempus office staff.

A special exhibit was set up by 6 European countries (UK, Spain, Italy, Germany, France, and the Netherlands) to provide information on their Higher Education systems, institutions and opportunities for cooperation in the area of Higher Education.

At the opening of the event, EU Delegation Chargée d'Affaires, Irène Mingasson, noted that EU programmes bring Jordanians and Europeans together, and encourage higher education institutions and private and public sectors to work together. "They also foster the interaction between the universities and Jordanian local communities as a way to improve the learning through practice in real situations."

The European Union representative stressed that EU cooperation in the areas related to Human Resources Development is crucial, as human capital is key for the competitiveness and social development of Jordan. The recently acquired "advanced status" for Jordan and the new agreement on research and innovation open wider and new ways for deepening Euro-Jordanian ties and makes more funding available for initiatives that contribute to the well being and advancement of both sides.

BACKGROUND

The European Commission offers Jordan several cooperation instruments in the fields of research and higher education. These include Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and development and others.

Tempus is a program of cooperation in higher education between the European Union and 28 partner countries (including Jordan). It aims to reform and develop their educational systems by submitting specific projects that are directed at improving educational management or creating specific academic programmes.

In the call for proposals in 2010, 5 projects with participation of Jordanian institutions were selected (in 2009 they were 3). The projects are:

1) Master on sustainable development and renewable energy with participation of University of Jordan, Mutah and JUST universities (budget 1,135,176 Euros).

2) Achieving sustainable programmes in regeneration and entrepreneurship: Jordan, Lebanon and Occupied Palestinian Territories with the participation of Princess Sumaya University for Technology and Al-Hussein Bin Talal University (budget 1,203,412.46 Euros).

3) An industry Oriented MSc programme in Telecommunications Engineering-Towards an EU approach with the participation of Jordan German, Yarmouk and Hashemite universities (budget 832,461.24 Euros).

4) Promoting the modernisation and strengthening of institutional and financial autonomy of southern neighbouring area higher education institutions with the participation of Princess Sumaya University for Technology and Al-Hussein Bin Talal University (budget 1,127,505.75 Euros).

5) Reorient University Curricula to address sustainability with the participation of University of Jordan and Hashemite University (budget 759,078.97 Euros).

During the event on 15 December 2010, an assessment of last year's application process and results was made and a summary of the guidelines for the next Call for Proposals was provided: The deadline for submission of proposals is 15 February 2011

Two types of proposals can be presented 1) Joint ventures 2) structural measures.

For more information on the TEMPUS call visit

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/funding/2010/call_eacea_32_2010_en.php

Or the website of the Jordanian National TEMPUS office at <http://www.tempus.org.jo/>

Erasmus Mundus is a *cooperation and mobility programme* in the field of higher education that aims to enhance the quality of European higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through cooperation with Third-Countries.

The results of the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 2010 call for proposals were released in July 2010. The project for Lebanon, Syria and Jordan coordinated by Lund University with a budget of 2,599,700 Euros for 48 months was selected. A total of 49 students, academics, administrative staff, etc from Jordan are expected to go to Europe and neighbouring countries in the context of this project.

The 2011 Call for Proposals will be launched this week and aims to support projects for 1) joint Master Courses or Doctorates, 2) Partnerships and 3) for Promotion of European higher education for Projects to enhance the Attractiveness of European higher education. The Deadline for submission of applications is 29th April 2011.

For more information on this call please visit ERASMUS MUNDUS website at

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/index_en.php

Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe and it will run from 2007-2013 with a budget of € 50 521 million. It is open to European and other countries fostering joint proposals on innovative research projects. Universities, research groups, companies, public institutions among others can apply.

For more information go to: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm

Or contact Raghda Zaid Al Kilani Jordan National Contact Point for FP7 at r.zaid@srted-eujo.org or telephone 5345394

More information on European Union and Jordan at: <http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/deljor/>