



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union
to the Republic of Lebanon



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Press Release

Through Tempus, the EU increases its contribution to Higher Education in Lebanon

The National Tempus Office in Lebanon organised today its annual "Tempus National Information Day" under the auspices of H.E. Dr Hassan Diab, Minister of Education and Higher Education, and Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, Head of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Lebanon. Tempus is a programme of the European Commission, which supports the modernisation of higher education systems in the EU's neighbourhood countries.

Rectors, deans, directors and staff from the Lebanese higher education institutions participated in the event, as well as representatives of the private sector and of Lebanese and international organisations active in higher education.

The "Tempus National Information Day" is held at a time when universities are preparing their proposals in reply to the 6th call for proposals under Tempus IV (deadline: 26 March 2013), and participants were informed on how to prepare competitive proposals. Good practices of Tempus projects implemented in Lebanon were exchanged in addition to testimonies on Higher Education Reform Experts' activities carried out during the last year. The "Tempus National Information Day" was also an occasion to inform about other EU programmes like Erasmus Mundus, Jean Monnet, Marie Curie and the new "Erasmus For All", aiming to provide scholarships to students and academics, and to support researchers, European integration and cooperation between universities. Recently, the European Commission has considerably increased the budget allocated to Tempus from €90 million to more than €140 million. The envelope dedicated to the Southern Mediterranean Region has jumped from less than €28 million to more than €43 million.

Since its start in Lebanon in 2002, Tempus has financed 46 projects with an overall budget of around €13 million. It has supported public and private universities in numerous fields such as Engineering, Technology, Biotechnology, Industrial Engineering, Food science, Tourism, Intercultural studies, Urbanism, Forestry, Neuroscience, Quality Assurance, Accreditation, International Relations, Modern Management, Territorial Development, Entrepreneurship, Institutional Capacity building, Sustainability, Employability and Public Health as well as Institutes of doctoral studies. In addition, Tempus has provided the funding for more than 100 individual mobility grants offered to Lebanese academics from almost all Lebanese higher education institutions.

Only in 2012, Tempus funded 7 projects involving 13 Lebanese universities and other organisations. The projects covered fields of Employability, Lifelong Learning, Students' services, University management, Education, Green Engineering and Partnerships between academia and industry.

BACKGROUND

Tempus was established in 1990, and its scheme now covers 29 partner countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

Tempus finances two types of actions:

1. **Joint Projects** are based on multilateral partnerships between higher education institutions in the EU and the partner countries. They can develop, modernise and disseminate new curricula, teaching methods or materials, boost a quality assurance culture, and modernise the management and governance of higher education institutions.
2. **Structural Measures** contribute to the development and reform of higher education institutions and systems in partner countries, to enhance their quality and relevance, and increase their convergence with EU developments.

Partnerships are made up of consortia of organisations including higher education institutions, businesses, ministries, NGOs, and other organisations working in higher education; both from the EU and partner countries.