



Press release
Ramallah
18 November 2015

The National Erasmus + Office in Palestine hold an open information day



The Minister of Education & Higher Education in Palestine Sabri Saidam and the European Union Representative Ralph Tarraf opened today the Erasmus+ information day in Palestine. The event took place at the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Ramallah and was connected to the Islamic University of Gaza through video conference link. The Prime Minister advisor Kherieh Rassas together with the representatives of a number of Palestinian universities and beneficiaries of the programme attended the event.

The National Erasmus+ office in Palestine organized the information day to mark 7 years of successful work in Palestine. It has played an important role in the Palestinian higher education sector. Most academic institutions have benefited and are successfully participating in implementing Erasmus+ projects. Since 2008, Palestine has participated in 34 projects, of which 29 were Joint Projects and 5 were Structural Measures projects. Erasmus+ is viewed as a mechanism for modernizing higher education in Palestine.

Speaking at the opening, **Minister Sabri Saidam** thanked the European Union for funding Erasmus+ office in order to build the capacities of higher education institutions, he said "The contribution of Erasmus+ in creating new opportunities for the systems of higher education, enhancing the network between the universities and bridging the gap between the Palestinian, Arab and European higher education systems, played significant role in upgrading the quality of higher education institutions in Palestine "

"When it comes to Palestine, cooperation in higher education has special meaning. Geographically and historically the Palestine and the European Union have very close ties on many levels. Economically, their links to each other are also evolving. Erasmus+ offers a unique platform to deepen Palestinian-European relations in the field of education," said **the European Union's Representative Ralph Tarraf**. " Erasmus + and its predecessor programmes already have a successful track record in Palestine. Palestinian universities were awarded seven grants in the latest call for proposals under the *Erasmus+* - a remarkable achievement reflecting the increasing professionalism of the Palestinian higher education sector, "he added

The Minister and the EU Representative congratulated the winners of the 2015 call for proposals from the Palestinian universities calling on them to continue their successful engagement in the Erasmus+ programme for the benefit of the Palestinian students and academic institutions.

During the one day workshop, Nidal Jayousi the director of the National Erasmus+ office in Palestine and Beatrice Campodonico the task manager at the Office of the European Union presented the new call for project proposals within the European Union Erasmus+ program which includes information and guidelines of how to apply to capacity building for higher education, Erasmus Mundus, Jean Monnet and Marie Curie programmes. The event introduced the opportunities to benefit from the different EU programmes; along with genuine experiences from successful projects.

By the end of the day the participants were able to know how to apply for the different programmes, benefit from the grant, network with different universities in Palestine and be aware of national priorities in Higher Education.

Background

Erasmus+ is a broad programme offering European opportunities in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. It replaced several programmes with one, making it easier to access. The programme also adopts a single, unified structure with three clear key action areas: Mobility, Capacity Building in higher education and Jean Monnet Activities.

For more information, visit: www.erasmusplus.ps