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Introduction

According to the WP 1 Task 1.4 of MUREE project which foresees the dissemination of knowledge and understanding of the Bologna Process in Jordanian Universities, a 3-day meeting was held in Jordan in the period 8-11 of July. During the visit, Prof Luciano Saso, Deputy Rector for International Mobility, and Dr. Katiucia Cipri, MUREE coordinator for Sapienza University of Rome, took part in meetings and seminars in order to provide information on the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area encouraging Jordanian Universities to harmonize their education system in order to favour exchanges of Students and Scholars. The presentations were based mainly on information available on the following websites:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/bologna_en.htm

<http://www.ehea.info/>

<http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/about/>

<http://www.enqa.eu/>

<http://www.esu-online.org/>

<http://www.eua.be/Home.aspx>

<http://www.unica-network.eu/>

<http://www.sgroup.be/glowna.html>

This report aims at informing MUREE partners on activities carried out during the visit, the discussed topics and the reached results.

Monday, 8 July 2013

Visit to Princess Sumaya University of Technologies (PSUT) – Prof Abdullah Al-Zoubi

Welcome of Prof Al-Zoubi who presented the agenda and scheduled visits.

Meeting with Prof Issa E. Batarseh, President of PSUT

Main topics of Bologna Process, the integration into the PSUT didactic model and future opportunity of collaboration with European Universities were discussed during the meeting. Prof Issa E. Batarseh underlined the interest of PSUT to improve the relationship with Europe, not only through European Commission schemes (Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, ...) but also through bilateral agreements and MoUs. Fields of interest are ICT (internet security), management and business, engineering.

Meeting with Prof. Mustafa A. Al Adwan at the Ministry of Higher Education

Prof Luciano Saso presented the Bologna Process and the European Mobility programmes (Erasmus Mundus which will be integrated soon in the new Erasmus+ programme, etc.) to the “Accreditation Committee” of the for Ministry of Higher Education (about 15 Professors from several Jordanian Universities). Most of the questions of the participants focused on the difficulties to apply some of the Bologna Process criteria in Jordan, the need to see recognized the training activities in Europe and the interest in receiving more information and support during the reforms. Among the most active participants there were Prof. Adnan Al-Smadi (Yarmouk University) and Prof. Dr. Zeidan A. Kafafi.

Tuesday, 9 July 2013

Visit to Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) – Prof Abu Al-Rub and Prof Suhil Kiwan After the welcome speech by Dr. Qais Khasawneh, Dr Katuscia Cipri illustrated the TEMPUS programme and the MUREE project (main aims, activities, partnerships and results) to Prof Ahmed M. Elbetieha, Vice President of JUST, Deans, Professors, Students and other participants. Some questions were asked on the different renewable energy technologies trained during MUREE courses and the recognition of didactic products also in EU. Prof. Saso made another presentation clarifying the objectives of the Bologna Process and the state of development in Europe and in particular in Italy. Mobility seems to be a common topic of interest: both Italian and Jordanian universities are increasing the exchange of students, not only in the humanities (literature, archeology, foreign languages and Arabic science) but also in scientific and technological fields, such as engineering. It emerged that a close collaboration exists with American Universities due to the adoption of the same didactic model (credit-hours) and the language that sometime become an obstacle for collaboration with some countries in Europe.

After the seminar, Prof Saso visited the Faculty of Pharmacy establishing new interesting collaborations with Prof Feras Q. Alali, the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Prof. Karem Al-Zoubi and Prof Saied Jaradat.

Wednesday, 10 July 2013

Visit to the Hashemite University (HU) – Prof Mohammad J. Mismar

Even though not included in the original agenda, a short visit to the Hashemite University was organized. Prof Mohammad J. Mismar welcomed and introduced us to Prof Kamal Bani-Hani, President of HU who underlined the interest of his university to establish new collaborations with EU universities, also in the scientific fields such as medicine. In particular an MoU with the University of Chieti and Pescara was mentioned, asking for the possibility to sign a similar agreement with Sapienza. Prof. Kamal Bani-Hani confirmed the interest in the evaluation of a process for the recognition of Jordanian programmes also in Europe, starting from a better knowledge of Bologna Process.

During a short meeting Prof Mohammad J. Mismar described the international activities of HU, focused on mobility of students and European projects as MUREE. Prof Marwan M. Obeidat,

professor of American literature, pointed out the easiness of collaboration with American Universities, not only in his field. Several professors in Jordan have spent years in the USA for study and research. Moreover the university model is the same and it favours the exchange of students, the recognition of credits and the collaboration.

Dr. Nijmeh M. H. AL-Atiyat, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, confirmed that no collaborations are available between her Faculty and European Institutions.

Thursday, 11 July 2013

Visit to the University of Jordan (UJ) – Prof Ahmed Al-Salaymeh

The last visit in agenda was coordinated by Prof Ahmed Al-Salaymeh Director of Water, Energy and Environment Center. During the meeting with Prof Ekhleif Tarawneh, President of UJ, in presence of Dr. Ziad Alrawadieh, Director of Media, Public & Cultural Relations Unit and Sinaria Adbel Jabbar, Assistant to the Director Office of International Relations, the following topics seem to meet the interest of both the Universities: 1) Internationalization and Quality, improving UJ international office competences; 2) Research, promoting collaborations and exchange of students; 3) Tourism with projects which contribute to the valorization of Jordanian and Arabic archeological sites, to the promotion and diffusion of historical information, to the training of tourism police.

Meeting with Prof Dr Hala Khyami-Horani, Vice President for Scientific Research, Graduate Studies and Quality

Prof Dr Hala Khyami-Horani expressed her high interest in Quality and in the Evaluation Processes. In particular she recognized the difficulty to receive a wide internal evaluation also matching and crossing the different data, storage in databases. A new internal questionnaire is working in progress, and suggestions by Sapienza, also sharing the evaluation form is welcome. At the meeting, Dr. Amjad Hudaib, Director of Accreditation and Quality Assurance Center was also present.

Meeting with Prof. Dr. Sultan Abu-Orabi, Secretary General of Association of Arab Universities

The Association of Arab Universities is an organization working within the framework of the Arab League. The objective is to support and connect universities in the Arab world, and to enhance cooperation among them. During the meeting, Prof Saso explained the activities of Sapienza University within UNICA (network of UNiversities from the CAPitals of europe) a network of 44 universities from 33 capital cities of Europe, inviting Prof Dr. Sultan Abu-Orabi, Secretary General, to participate in the next UNICA General Assembly 2013 that will be held in Rome in November.