



European project design and management In the South MediTerranean Region

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D 1.1: Needs Analysis Report



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Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network



Cause

- Some HEIs are partly aware of the opportunities available to them to participate in EU cooperation projects (Erasmus+, H2020, ENI) and how to access information about these opportunities

HEIs lack qualified human resources with skills/expertise in international cooperation projects, planning and implementing activities.

EU project design and management units generally do not exist in the majority of HEIs in the targeted partner countries

The internationalisation strategy of HEIs in the targeted partner countries does not give high enough priority to EU project design and management

The MENA region has been deeply affected by conflict and countries become less stable. There are less opportunities available for young people and less regional cooperation in education

Impact

- Some HEIs in the South Mediterranean region are not benefitting from the opportunities available to them to develop international cooperation initiatives in line with their international strategy

The potential of HEIs to develop further on an international scale and be involved in initiatives which could be highly beneficial to their students and staff in terms of research and exchange is curtailed

HEI personnel that would like to design and submit project proposals to not have the apt equipment nor the support of skilled staff to complete applications, limiting the HEIs potential to build solid international partnerships

Human and financial resources in HEIs are not dedicated to activities linked to EU project design and management

HEIs focus more strongly on international cooperation outside of the MENA region and do not benefit from regional cooperation opportunities

Need

- Awareness raising and communication of important information to members of staff / training them how to participate in EU cooperation projects (Erasmus+, H2020, ENI) and how to access information about these opportunities

Dedicated members of trained staff with skills in project design and management so that HEIs can effectively develop their ideas and apply for funding

EU project design and management units with sufficient staff, equipped with computers, videoconferencing equipment, printers, etc.

Collaboration with Ministries of Higher Education to generate (1) a more widespread understanding of the importance of participation in EU projects across the region (2) provision of human and financial resources in order to do so, and (3) common strategies and standards regarding EU project management to be implemented in HEIs in the targeted partner countries

More exchange between these countries in order to contribute to more stable development across the region. EU cooperation projects offer the possibility to study abroad, develop curriculum and improve teaching methods. Thus, enabling HEIs in Partner Countries to participate further in EU projects should help to generate new opportunities for youth in the targeted Partner Countries

Cause

- The majority of HEIs in the targeted partner countries depend on participating as a partner in projects that are designed and initiated by EU partners

Some EU partners do not participate in EU projects as the South Mediterranean region has been deeply affected by conflicts

The majority of HEIs in the stable targeted partner countries are overwhelmed with managing and dealing with a large number of refugee students from unstable countries

The majority of HEIs in the targeted partner countries have a problem with developing effective partnerships for project-based proposals

Impact

- There could be a lack of uniformity between the real needs in HEI partner countries and the information EU partners have to design projects as they are not fully aware of the needs of the partner countries

This will limit the interaction of some EU countries with HEIs in the region where there is a potential for interesting collaboration and exchange

Limiting the number of EU projects that can be handled by the HEIs

Struggling to identify suitable partners and often forming partnerships with little preparation and very poor mutual understanding

Need

- Awareness raising and communication of the importance of initiating project proposals by HEIs in targeted Partner Countries that well-suited the needs and priorities of their countries, and the importance of choosing the appropriate EU partners for their projects.

Encouraging HEIs in the South Mediterranean region to solicit EU partners more often for their collaboration on EU projects and finding solutions to work together despite sometimes difficult conditions linked to conflict

More opportunities to design EU projects that help the partner HEIs to manage such situations and guarantee the involvement of such students

Enhancing the sustainability of partnerships after each granted project and establishing country-based university database including transnational university networks to search for partners that are willing to participate in EU projects