

Lebanese National Team of Higher Education Reform Experts

Action Plan for 2011-2012

I. Introduction

The Lebanese Team of Higher Education Reform Experts has achieved several objectives set in its Action Plan for 2010-2011. The Team continued its support to the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education in its modernization Agenda. In addition, the team has undertaken actions in two directions: the association of the Lebanese universities and, the students.

The achievements from the action plan 2010-2011 are related mainly to the tasks 1 and 4:

- The team has continued to actively promote and explain, during scientific and academic meetings and gatherings, the principles of Bologna process and the activities and achievements taking place in the European Higher Education Area. For the 2012 National Tempus Day, the team has overviewed the past 10 years of Tempus in Lebanon and has explained the ET2020 and projected its strategic objectives onto the needs of the Lebanese Higher Education. The training activities will be pursued during the coming year.
- The team has participated to the regional meeting on Governance in higher education in Catania-Italy (March 2011). The team has participated with the Tempus Office to the preparation of Lebanon Report.
- The experts have participated to several training sessions organized by the European Commission. This allowed the team to accumulate knowledge about the European Higher Education system and the Bologna Process.
 - Oslo (June 2011): Modernisation of curricula
 - Lisbon (October 2011): Enhancing Quality through Internationalisation
- The experts participated to the regional meeting in Barcelona (November 2011) on “Towards Equivalence of Higher Education Degrees between Southern Mediterranean and the EU”.
- The experts have participated actively in the modernization process bringing their support to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. In particular, they participated in the revision of the law for the establishment of the Lebanese Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education. Actually, with the change of the Council of Ministers this law has been restudied and revisited and a newer version has been submitted to the Council of Ministers. In addition, the Team has actively participated in the project for the establishment of a Lebanese National Qualifications Framework supported by ETF.
 - The team has actively participated in the National workshop “Towards the Lebanese Qualifications Framework – Degrees and competences in Lebanon” (October 2011).
- The team has also actively participated to the national conference organised jointly by the association of the Lebanese universities and the National Tempus Office. Two European experts participated to this conference as a support from Tempus. The conference was held on 29-30 April 2011.

- Based on the initiative of the Tempus Office the team has supervised the MSc project of Ms. Madonna Moussa Maroun on internationalisation in the Lebanese higher education. A survey has been conducted by Ms. Maroun. Ms. Maroun has participated in the Lisbon conference cited above. This activity is currently in its final stage.
- The new version of the web site is being tested.
- An action plan for the next year has been established and is presented in the current document.

The remaining tasks of the action plan were not executed for reasons independent of the team members including the changes of Ministry cabinets.

This document draws an action plan for the coming year. This plan is in the continuity of the actions undertaken in the first three years of activities.

II. Action Plan

Based on the previous results and achievements, the action plan for the coming year aims at:

- Increasing the awareness about the challenges facing the Lebanese Higher Education and presenting the developments going on in Europe to face similar challenges in particular the ET2020 strategic objectives;
- Increasing the awareness and the participation of the youth, in particular the Lebanese Higher Education students, in the development of the sector;
- Supporting the Lebanese Higher Education official stakeholders in a process towards reform and modernization with a focus on Quality Assurance and National Qualifications Frameworks.
- Starting new action in the domain of Higher Education and Research.

During this year, and in order to achieve the major objectives the Team defined a Strategic Action Plan. The following tasks are proposed:

- Task 1: Support the Modernization process initiated by the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education. This is a mid-term to long-term process. Several proposals and projects are under preparation and the HERE team is involved supporting those projects.
 - Subtask 1.1: Provide the necessary expertise and support for the project of setting up the Lebanese Quality Assurance Agency. A draft law has been proposed but a road is still ahead in order to establish this Agency.
 - Subtask 1.2: Provide the necessary expertise and support for the project of setting up the Lebanese National Qualifications Framework.
 - *Outcomes*: Participation to the different relevant committees and identification of challenges and possible solutions.
- Task 2: Pursue the effort preparing documents and training materials to serve the different tasks. Part of the work will be dedicated to complete the existing set of documentations on the Bologna process and ET2020 and the solutions they would bring to the Lebanese Higher Education problems.
 - *Outcomes*:

- Documents and short presentations covering the Bologna Process and ET2020.
 - Finalize the interactive web site with a specific folder to youth and students.
 - A series of training sessions on the ECTS, the Diploma Supplement and Quality Assurance in the different Lebanese regions.
- Task 3: A regional workshop preferably on financing higher education or research and higher education. One or more European experts would be invited and the topic will be agreed upon according to the results of studies and discussions during the year.
 - Subtask 3.1: Preparation of the workshop.
 - Subtask 3.2: Invitation to the workshop including announcement on the Web.
 - Subtask 3.3: Preparation of the papers by the HERE team.
 - Subtask 3.4: Identification and publication of the Recommendations.
 - *Outcomes*: A workshop and a series of recommendations.
- Task 4: Enhance the involvement of the students and youth in the modernization process. The successful experience of supervising a student in internship encourages the team to repeat and extend it. The results of such studies should form a series of documents. A seminar should also be organised to explain the major findings in these studies.
 - Subtask 4.1: One or more internships.
 - Subtask 4.2: Organize a folder in the Tempus web site dedicated to the students.
 - Subtask 4.3: Co-organise a national workshop with the students.
 - *Outcomes*: Studies and a seminar and resulting recommendations.
- Task 5: Participation to European and Regional events, study tours or training sessions on Higher Education reform and modernization.
 - *Outcomes*: Experts to participate to some of the events or training sessions in Europe and the Region. Reporting on those events will permit a large diffusion of the information within the Lebanese Higher Education institutions especially through the network of reform promoters.

The following table summarizes the action plan.

	Jan 15 – Mar 15	Mar 16 – Apr 15	Apr 16 – June 15	Jun 15 – Jun 30	Jul 1 – Sep 30
Task 1: Support the modernization process					
Subtask 1.1: Lebanese Quality Assurance Agency					
Subtask 1.2: National Qualifications Framework					
Task 2: Documents on Bologna ET2020 and The Reference they define to LHE modernisation					
Task 3: Regional workshop					
Task 4: Involvement of the students					
Subtask 4.1: Internships					
Subtask 4.2: Web folder					
Subtask 4.3: National Workshop					
Task 5: Training and Study Tours					