

Lebanese Higher Education Modernisation Round Table

June 28, 2008

Recommendations

Major challenges are facing the Lebanese Higher Education (LHE) sector. An important part of those challenges are common at the regional level and also with the challenges facing the European Higher Education. The modernisation of the Lebanese Higher Education structures should help in better facing those challenges and to transform them into development opportunities. After a national survey that covered the major stakeholders of the LHE, a round table took place on June 28, 2008. The following recommendations conclude this round table:

- R1. The modernisation of the Lebanese Higher Education is necessary to respond to the challenges facing this sector and to transform them into opportunities. This modernisation must be in line with Lebanese National Strategy for education.
- R2. The modernisation process should respect a sensitive balance on several issues: autonomy vs. accountability, innovation vs. tradition, “flexibility” vs. quality assurance, productivity and efficient research structures.
- R3. The Bologna Process and the Lisbon Strategy may serve as a model of reference to inspire the modernisation process of the Lebanese Higher Education sector.
- R4. A network of reform experts across the Lebanese Higher Education Institutions is a matter of interest.
- R5. There is a need for a reference and mandatory Lebanese National Qualifications System that would facilitate mobility and recognition. Qualifications levels should be clearly defined and adopted.
- R6. The applied credit-based systems must provide a central role to the students. A transfer and equivalency table is necessary and must be defined as part of the Lebanese National Qualifications System.
- R7. The Lebanese Research Structures must be clearly and well defined and reinforced. Interactions and partnerships between the local, regional and international actors and the universities are needed. This would facilitate the employability of our graduates.

- R8. Quality Assurance processes must be implemented internally to the institutions and externally at the national level. These processes must respect global quality standards. The stakeholders must be assisted in establishing their Quality Assurance procedures.
- R9. A national committee involving the Lebanese Higher Education stakeholders must be formed to study and prepare the Lebanese National Qualifications System (LNQS) and the process to implement it. This committee would assist the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in preparing this LNQS.
- R10. A committee involving the Lebanese Higher Education stakeholders must be formed to help improving Research Structures and to assist in organising and reinforcing partnerships between the universities and social and economic actors. This committee must cooperate with the existing and operating national/regional committees.
- R11. A committee involving the Lebanese Higher Education stakeholders must be formed to study and prepare a National Quality Assurance Agency and to support the different institutions in implementing their quality assurance procedures. This committee must cooperate with existing and operating national/regional/international committees.
- R12. All the above described effort would prepare the lifelong learning on the medium and long term.