



Female Academic Role Model Empowerment, Equality and Sustainability at Universities in Mediterranean Region: towards 2030 Agenda – FREE



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

## FREE and Civil Society

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FREE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

“Female Academic Empowerment in Mediterranean Region: FREE Roadmap”

Amman, June 21-23 , 2022



# Free- Project Overview

- Free Project aims at establishing capacity building in higher education institutions in three countries in the Mediterranean region: Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, through empowerment of female academics in higher education. Its main activity is equality and sustainability.
- Coordinated by the National Distance Education University-UNED- (SPAIN), FREE (Female Academic Role Model Empowerment, Equality and Sustainability at Universities in Mediterranean Region: towards 2030 Agenda) Erasmus+ project aims at enhancing the role of female academics in Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria through increasing the number of women present in decision making and senior management level.



# Dissemination and Implementation (1 of 3)

According to European Commission, dissemination can be defined as the **planned process** of providing information on the quality, relevance and effectiveness of the project activities to relevant actors. It is an **on-going** transversal activity of transmitting project activities and outputs beyond the project consortium that requires a strategically planned approach. Through dissemination one achieves also a higher objective of **facilitating** exploitation of project results in development of new and improvement of existing adjunct initiatives.



# Dissemination and Implementation (2 of 3)

This suggests that the dissemination serves a threefold purpose of **raising awareness** about existence and nature of project, **disseminating its results** as they are achieved and exploiting results in further initiatives through **involvement of stakeholders**. Together, these three outcomes of dissemination form pillars of sustainability of activity and pave the way for its maximum reach.



# Dissemination and Implementation (3 of 3)

The project dissemination plan was an integral part of the overall management strategy of the Free project. It is applicable to all communication, dissemination, promotion and sustainability activities foreseen in the project application and implemented by the Free consortium. The aim of the plan is to **provide guidelines** for highest possible visibility of project activities and their reach to representatives of all target groups including **CSOs** in order to **raise awareness** and interest of stakeholders and other target groups about project results.



# FREE Dissemination Plan Focus

## Internal

Through the partners' activities



## External

Through contacts with

- Ministries
- CSOs
- National Erasmus+ Office
  - Policy Makers
  - General Public



# Civil Society Organizations- CSOs

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are voluntary **non-state institutions** which mostly operate on non-profit basis. They are formed and led by the citizens to champion their **collective or common interests**. The main focus of CSOs is often service delivery particularly **access, quality and accountability**.

CSOs play integral roles in the **successful functioning of democratic governance systems**, and are **active stakeholders** in the social, economic and cultural activities.



# CSOs - Academia Collaboration (1 of 3)

- Universities and CSOs collaborate on **development efforts** in order to achieve **greater impact and influence**.
- Work and **expertise complementarity** as CSOs focus mainly on **field implementation**, capacity strengthening and responding to urgent basic needs, and universities normally take a longer view with a focus on **research and training**.



# CSOs - Academia Collaboration (2 of 3)

- Mutual **Knowledge Transfer** by organizing, creating, and distributing knowledge and ensuring its availability for future relevant users from both parties.
- Securing **grants** has become a highly competitive process requiring a significant investment of resources and deep knowledge of technical subject matter, along with the ability to demonstrate a track record of results. Accordingly, CSO-academic partnerships will be **mutually beneficial**.



# CSOs - Academia Collaboration (3 of 3)

This trend toward greater **CSO-university engagement and research** is being reinforced by almost all of the major donors, including the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

University-based research programs are under increasing pressure to demonstrate **field-level impact**. This pressure is leading them to develop more **joint programs with CSOs** due to their strong field presence and local relationships essential to scaling and sustainability.



# Collaboration with CSOs

The Equality and Sustainability (E&S) centers established with the support and co-funding of the Free Erasmus+ project, will serve as a platform to a continuous collaboration with the partner NGOs and other CSOs.



# Collaboration with CSOs

Universities through their E&S centers will seek to provide equal opportunities to all its students, staff members, and instructors as well as increase women visibility and engagement in decision-making committees and managerial roles.



# Collaboration with CSOs

The E&S centers will assist CSOs in their work towards better gender equality, diversity and female empowerment and support their sustainable pledge to generate and to encourage an inclusive and diverse community.



# Collaboration with CSOs

We shall review each university's collaboration by country

We start with our host universities in **Jordan**



Princess Sumaya جامعة  
University الأميرة سميرة  
for Technology للتكنولوجيا



# Free and Civil Society-PSUT



Princess Sumaya جامعة  
University الأميرة سميرة  
for Technology للتكنولوجيا

NAME OF UNIVERSITY Princess Sumaya University for Technology "PSUT"

NAME OF PERSON FILLING THIS FORM Meena Al Dawaher

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FREE ERASMUS+ PROJECT ACTIVITIES, DID YOUR UNIVERSITY SIGN MOUS WITH RELEVANT NGOS? Yes

PLEASE LIST THE NAMES OF NGOS AND THEIR MAIN FIELDS OF ACTIVITIES:

- 1- International Women Forum
- 2- Orange Telecommunication
- 3- Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation
- 4- German Jordan University

IN ADDITION TO SIGNING THE MOUS, PLEASE DESCRIBE VERY BRIEFLY ANY JOINT ACTIVITY WITH THE ABOVE NGOS (IF ANY): Meetings held with Orange and Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation discussing women empowerment topic.



# Free and Civil Society-UoP

NAME OF UNIVERSITY

University of Petra

NAME OF PERSON FILLING  
THIS FORM

Ali Al Maqousi

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK  
OF THE FREE ERASMUS+  
PROJECT ACTIVITIES, DID  
YOUR UNIVERSITY SIGN  
MOUS WITH RELEVANT  
NGOS?

In Progress



# Collaboration with CSOs

Collaborations of partner universities in **Syria**



# Free and Civil Society-DU

NAME OF UNIVERSITY	Damascus University
NAME OF PERSON FILLING THIS FORM	Abdul Salam Zidan
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FREE ERASMUS+ PROJECT ACTIVITIES, DID YOUR UNIVERSITY SIGN MOUS WITH RELEVANT NGOS?	Yes



# Free and Civil Society-DU

NAME OF UNIVERSITY

Damascus University

PLEASE LIST THE NAMES OF NGOS AND THEIR MAIN FIELDS OF ACTIVITIES:

- Higher Institute for Demographic Studies and Research: Access to an important database to support gender research
- Syrian Computer Society: Capacity building of digital skills of DU staff
- National Energy Research Center: Collaboration in research and applications for sustainability
- Syrian Organization for Persons with Disabilities: Supporting persons with disabilities



# Free and Civil Society-DU

NAME OF UNIVERSITY    Damascus University

NAME OF PERSON  
FILLING THIS FORM        Abdul Salam Zidan

IN ADDITION TO  
SIGNING THE MOUS,  
PLEASE DESCRIBE  
VERY BRIEFLY ANY  
JOINT ACTIVITY WITH  
THE ABOVE NGOS (IF  
ANY):

- Conducting training and workshops.
- Awareness and consulting sessions.
- Providing DU researchers with data and statistics.
- Social and psychological support



# Free and Civil Society-AIU

NAME OF UNIVERSITY

Arab International University

NAME OF PERSON FILLING THIS FORM

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FREE ERASMUS+ PROJECT ACTIVITIES, DID YOUR UNIVERSITY SIGN MOUS WITH RELEVANT NGOS?

In Progress



# Collaboration with CSOs

Collaborations of partner universities in **Lebanon**



# Free and Civil Society-AUB

NAME OF UNIVERSITY American University of Beirut

NAME OF PERSON FILLING THIS FORM Rida Elias

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FREE ERASMUS+ PROJECT ACTIVITIES, DID YOUR UNIVERSITY SIGN MOUS WITH RELEVANT NGOS? Yes

PLEASE LIST THE NAMES OF NGOS AND THEIR MAIN FIELDS OF ACTIVITIES: Women Arab Organization

IN ADDITION TO SIGNING THE MOUS, PLEASE DESCRIBE VERY BRIEFLY ANY JOINT ACTIVITY WITH THE ABOVE NGOS (IF ANY): Planning to exchange experts and creating courses together



# Free and Civil Society-LU

NAME OF UNIVERSITY

Lebanese University

NAME OF PERSON FILLING THIS FORM

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FREE ERASMUS+ PROJECT ACTIVITIES, DID YOUR UNIVERSITY SIGN MOUS WITH RELEVANT NGOS?

In Progress



# Free and Civil Society-MUBS

NAME OF UNIVERSITY	M.U.B.S
NAME OF PERSON FILLING THIS FORM	Bassem El Kaissi
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FREE ERASMUS+ PROJECT ACTIVITIES, DID YOUR UNIVERSITY SIGN MOUS WITH RELEVANT NGOS?	Yes



PLEASE LIST THE NAMES OF NGOS AND THEIR MAIN FIELDS OF ACTIVITIES:

\***Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** :WILPF ([www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org)) envisions a world free from violence and armed conflict in which human rights are protected and women and men are equally empowered and involved in positions of leadership at the local, national and international levels. WILPF aims to improve the understanding of gendered power and participation of women, through advocacy and activism at global and local levels.

\***Fifty-Fifty** :Fifty-Fifty (<https://fiftyfiftylb.com/>) is a Lebanese NGO involving women and men , aiming at promoting gender equality in private and public sectors , focusing mainly on political decision-making positions. Fifty-Fifty vision for Lebanon is women and men involved in promoting gender equality to create a gender-balanced Lebanon.

\***The Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action (CRTD.A)** :CRTD.A (<https://crtda.org.lb/>) is a non-governmental organization registered in 2003 (registration number: 68) and based in Beirut, Lebanon. CRTD.A is committed to values of gender equality, respect of diversity and strives for social justice. CRTD.A endeavors to take actions of the highest international standards that reflect the needs and opportunities of a challenging and changing world.



# Free and Civil Society-MUBS



NAME OF UNIVERSITY M.U.B.S

NAME OF PERSON FILLING THIS FORM Bassem El Kaissi

PLEASE LIST THE NAMES OF NGOS AND THEIR MAIN FIELDS OF ACTIVITIES:

**\*MIDAL Association** : Established in 2004 by a team of activists, professors, social workers, and volunteers, MIDAL Association is a Lebanese non-profit organization, based in the south Lebanon and officially registered at the Minister of Interior in 2005, under the number 273.A/D. MIDAL works to build the capacity of community participants to activate their roles in influencing social awareness through programs aimed at promoting a culture of human rights and gender equality. Midal Association goals include activating women's participation in the economic social and political fields and delivering a range of projects to promote women leadership development, positive participation, and positive change in the local and national policies.

**\*AMURT** :Since its inception in 1965 its original objective was to help meet the needs of the affected population after disasters. Over the years AMURT has established teams in thirty-four countries, to create a network that can meet disaster and development needs almost anywhere in the world. In 1985 AMURT broadened its goals to include long-term development. One of its main principles is to show respect for women and ensure their integration and active participation in the development process, so that a harmonious growth of the family, community, and society as a whole can be achieved.



# Free and Civil Society-MUBS



NAME OF UNIVERSITY	M.U.B.S
NAME OF PERSON FILLING THIS FORM	Bassem El Kaissi
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FREE ERASMUS+ PROJECT ACTIVITIES, DID YOUR UNIVERSITY SIGN MOUS WITH RELEVANT NGOS?	Yes
PLEASE LIST THE NAMES OF NGOS AND THEIR MAIN FIELDS OF ACTIVITIES:	<p>*<b>CREADEL</b> : CREADEL was established in 1998 as a non-profit NGO that works on several programs to promote the concept of community development and to increase its impact on the local community stakeholders. The main fields of interest for CREADEL include: women empowerment and gender issues, youth programs, economic &amp; social activities, and local governance.</p>
IN ADDITION TO SIGNING THE MOUS, PLEASE DESCRIBE VERY BRIEFLY ANY JOINT ACTIVITY WITH THE ABOVE NGOS (IF ANY):	<p>*<b>Free Erasmus+ project Virtual Stakeholders Workshop</b> :The office of International Affairs in MUBS organized on March 11, 2021 a virtual stakeholders workshop as part of the dissemination events of the Erasmus+ project “Female Academic Role Model Empowerment, Equality and Sustainability at Universities in Mediterranean Region: towards 2030 Agenda (FREE)”the virtual event serving the dissemination of FREE is a way to showcase the work that has been done as part of this Erasmus+ project. Sharing results, lessons learned and outcomes and findings to enable the project internal stakeholders (students, admin staff, faculty members, and senior management...) and external stakeholders (national authorities, NGOs, students and faculty from other Lebanese universities...) to benefit from the FREE Erasmus+ project that has received EU funding. This dissemination activity will contribute to a positive internal/external perception, extend the impact, and encourage wider participation and engagement in the FREE Erasmus+ project. 83 MUBS faculty, staff, and students and relevant NGOs representatives attended the event.</p>



# Free and Civil Society-MUBS

NAME OF UNIVERSITY M.U.B.S

NAME OF PERSON FILLING THIS FORM Bassem El Kaissi

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FREE ERASMUS+ PROJECT ACTIVITIES, DID YOUR UNIVERSITY SIGN MOUS WITH RELEVANT NGOS? Yes



IN ADDITION TO SIGNING THE MOUS, PLEASE DESCRIBE VERY BRIEFLY ANY JOINT ACTIVITY WITH THE ABOVE NGOS (IF ANY):

**\*Webinar on “Women in Lebanon: Challenges and Opportunities”** : MUBS Office of International Affairs in collaboration with MUBS School of Health Sciences organized on March 17, 2022 a webinar about “Women in Lebanon: Challenges and Opportunities”. The webinar was attended by 84 participants representing the relevant public authorities in Lebanon, university representatives, MUBS faculty members and students, and relevant international organizations and NGOs...The webinar speakers included Mr. Mohamed Gabris (ABAAD– Resource Center for Gender Equality), Mrs. Assala Jawhary (ABAAD– Resource Center for Gender Equality) Dr. Aziza Khalidi (The Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action CRTD.A), Dr. Noha Ghosseini (The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom –WILPF-), and Dr. Batoul Yahfoufi (CREADEL)



# Thank you for your attention

**Acknowledgement: This Power Point Presentation is part of Project FREE, a Capacity Building in Higher Education by the title: “Female Academic Role Model Empowerment, Equality and Sustainability at Universities in Mediterranean Region: towards 2030 Agenda”. This Project is co-funded by the European Commission and part of Erasmus + Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices.**