

To: Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) Erasmus Plus Program, Higher Education- International Capacity Building.

Subject: To Request for the prolongation of the AARMENA Erasmus Plus Project additional **six consecutive months** and to **amend the Erasmus Plus partnership agreement** by including the withdrawal of the Algerian Partners (Setif 2 University & Eloude University) from the Project.

From: Dr. Iyad Muhsen Aldajani - Coordinator of the Erasmus Plus project titled, The Academic Alliance for Reconciliation in the Field of Higher Education in The Middle East and North Africa Field of Higher Education. (AARMENA)

Partnership Agreement number:		
6 I 9258-E P P -1 -2020-1 -DE -E P P KA2-C B H E -J P		
Title: The Academic Alliance for Reconciliation in the Field of Higher Education in The Middle East and North Africa Field of Higher Education. (AARMENA)		
Applicant Organization: Friedrich Schiller University		
	Initial situation	Requested prolong date
Start of the Project:	14/01/2021	
End of the Project	14/01/2024	14/07/2024

Dear Mr. Ralf,

Due to unforeseen tensions and circumstances with partner countries, we will need more time to fully complete the implementation of project deliverables because the remaining time frame will not meet our required plan for deliverables. The current grant has ended on January 14, 2024. We want to request a six-month extension to complete our project activities and achieve the Project's ultimate goals; starting from 15.1.2024 – 31.7.2024 our next requested ending date would be **14.07.2024**.

This request was made after consultations with project partners via a steering committee meeting at the University of Jordan (Aqaba—campus) held on 29.05, 2023. They agreed to request the extension to fully achieve the Project's core activities, with unanimous voting on accepting to prolong the Project until **14.07.2024**.

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REASONS OF EXTENSION

Several challenges were encountered within project implementation. A summary of these challenges is listed below:

- 1- Works active Pilot Phase: Most activities were conducted online due to the coronavirus pandemic in 2021. Nevertheless we were successful in developing the master's programs, and it is time to conduct the master program pilot phase, face-to-face and in hybrid form, and the doctoral program and in parallel co-coaching program for staff members of the partner countries as they are part of the proposed activities and tasks. The pilot has started with partner countries and is predicted to end by the start of 05.07.2024, which is the end of the co-teaching period.
- 2- Regarding the situation of Palestinian partners, many activities were not conducted with Palestinian partners in Palestine due to the **War on Gaza for Al-Azhar University**. Nevertheless Al-Azhar University members requested to attend the activities which will be conducted in Jordan, Austria, and Germany, For the other Palestinian partner, Al-Istiqlal University at Jericho, which has full accreditation of the master program in communal peace and reconciliation studies from the Ministry of Higher Education, we continue teaching, and finish the semester with them in 5.7.2024.
- 3- For the Jordanian partner, we could work with the University of Jordan, due to restrictions of the pandemic, to work online and teach some of the courses and lectures online, we were able to conduct face to face lectures for the master student and doctoral student at the Information Technology Collage in Jordan, attending 2 students master and 15 doctoral students. The program was accredited as a master's program at the Information Technology College at the University of Jordan titled Digital Humanities in Digital Peacebuilding; we got some publications in scientific journals, which strengthened our deliverables, but the pilot phase is not finished. Petra University got the Professional Diploma in Cyber Security, Strategies in Reconciliation and Peace accredited a few months 1.5.2023. We started teaching the pilot phase predicted to end at 20.07.2024.
- 4- Students have registered in four master's programs at the partner countries and registered at the doctoral school at the University of Jena. The impact is that each master has about 15 master's students, and the doctoral school accepted eight Ph.D. students at the University of Jena. We have over 25 pre-conditioned doctoral students applied at the University of Jena. Therefore, we must continue until 31.07.2024, the end of winter -2023 and the Summer Semester of 2024 fiscal year.
- 5- We were able to develop measured impact and indicators in the master programs and in the doctoral school.

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Number of Students at Al-Istiqlal university 20 Students, master students.

Number of Students at University of Jordan 10 graduate master students.

Number of students at Petra University 10 master students.

Doctoral School at University of Jena: 8 accepted PhD candidates. Applied 42 PhD precondition students.

- 6- The difficulty in issuing European entry visas for staff and students, especially those from Palestine and Jordan, some activities the Palestinians and Jordanians could not attend from both countries due to visa regulations.
- 7- The long process of issuing the security approval for Gaza to enter Jordan or vice versa for the partners to enter Palestine due to war in Gaza and complications in Jericho simultaneously.
- 8- Quality Assurance and Dissemination Package: The withdrawal of the Algerian Partners and we must conduct their activities as part of dissemination and quality assurance packages, we will do them as a team. It was decided that the Palestinians would become the lead with the dissemination package of the Project. The University of Jordan will dedicate its work to the quality assurance of the total Project and finalize all activities by 31.0.7. 2024.
- 5- Pilot phase as co-teaching program: We have planned the pilot phase in parallel; when the Semester starts, the students will be taught by both staff professors from the program and partner countries, and in parallel, there will be activities in the program countries as part of a co-coaching mechanism done by the program country for the staff at the partner countries at the same time teaching will be held at the third year of the Project. The pilot phase is very important as it is the means for exchanging knowledge and Expertise.
- 6- The project extension is important to complete the pilot phase until 31.07.2024.
- 7- The main issue that ended up prolonging the Project was the pandemic and closures that are nearly one year, the end of most activities being online, the withdrawal of the Algerian partners from the Project, the war on Gaza, and the closure on Jericho. The Pilot phase was postponed due to the need for ministries' accreditations, as teaching without accreditations was forbidden.
- 8- Need the extensions to finalize the following:
 - a The Pilot Phase needs to finalize the teaching of five master programs and one doctoral school.
 - b Dissemination of working package activities.
 - c Quality Assurance working package
 - d To hire an external auditor by the program and partner countries.
 - e Final symposium 2024 to show the project deliverables.

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9- The Project was successfully obtained in the third year of the accreditation for the master programs, including upgrading a diploma program to an academic master program fully accredited at the Innsbruck University. And fully accredited doctoral program under the graduate academy at the University of Jena in Reconciliation, conflict transformation, and peace studies. Still, few partners could implement the pilot phase in the second year, and the others started in the third year. Therefore, extending the program until 31.07.2024 is crucial for the success of finalizing the Project.

Timeline for Tasks and Activities :

The activities started at the third year but need to finalize those activities within six months consecutive extension until 31.July.2024

The remaining packages and leaders:

1. Working Package Management leader University of Jena
2. Working package on Development and Implementation : Innsbruck University
3. Dissemination working Package: Al-Istiqlal University and Petra University
4. Quality Assurance Package : University of Jordan and University of Jena.

After consulting with Al-Azhar University in Gaza, they want to continue being part of the program and they will try to participate if possible, with the activities, in the common tasks of the project and attend the events in Jordan, Austria and Germany, we were successfully through Innsbruck to give them Visas, thanks for Professors from Innsbruck University that made this possible.

Timeline for activities:

Activity N°	Activity Title	Start Date	End date	Place	Description of the activity to be carried out	Specific and measurable indicators of progress
WP5-T3	Accepting students of the master program into the AARMENA Ph.D. program	5.1.2023	1.07, 2024	Jena	Connecting the AARMENA Ph.D. program at the University of Jena with the master programs at the partner countries.	We have accepted Mr. Wael Dokhan from Al-Azhar University in Gaza to continue his Ph.D. at the University of Jena.

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WP2-T7	Co-teaching with staff and students	19.5.2024	26.5.2024	Jordan	Co-teaching with staff and students	The materials of teaching and photos of the lecture, checking the master program
Wp2-T8	Co-teaching with staff and students	12.05.2024	18.05.2024	Palestine - Jericho	Pilot phase teaching, participation in teaching the courses, cooperation between the program countries and the partner countries at the master programs and in the doctoral school	The materials of teaching and photos of the lecture according to the master program
Wp3	Quality Assurance plan	1.5.2023	30.7.2024	University of Jordan	Quality assurance plan with the lead of the University of Jordan	Click on the Link for documentation
WP5-T5	AARMENA Joint Publication Lunch	04.4.2024	10.05.2024	University of jena	Springer published the first and second books, and they are peer-reviewed	Publishing two books of AARMENA as part of the deliverable
WP5-T10	Finalizing the development of the web presence and social media for all partners.	1.05.2023	1.7.2024	For each partner and program country	Each partner will develop a web page and connect it to the website of www.aarmena.uni-jena.de for all partners.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uni -Jena Website 2. Innsbruck website 3. University of Jordan 4. Al-Istiqlal Website 5. Al-Azhar website Petra Web presence
WP2-T9	Co teaching with staff and students	24-06.2024	28.06.2024	UIBK	Pilot phase teaching, participation in teaching the courses, cooperation between the	Open collaboration with experts in the field – get confirmation if extra can

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					program countries and the partner countries at the master programs and in the doctoral school	be added in Jordan.
WP5-T10	Management of project materials and media work the social media	1.07.2023	14.7.2024	Hybrid (online and face-to-face)	Worked on managing the website and administration of the summer and winter schools.	The reports will be published on the report web page.
WP5-T10	Dissemination of the Project's activities and outcomes (radio, TV, presentations, etc.)	8.6.2023	31.07.2024	Hybrid (online and face-to-face)	We will make events for disseminating the Project, one event in each program and partner countries.	Each partner will make an event for dissemination in Jordan, Palestine, Innsbruck, and Jena.
WP3-T11	Quality assurance report formation for the Project	1.1.2023	31.07.2024	Hybrid (online and face-to-face)	We are developing a quality assurance plan to work on and check the evaluation plan for our work.	The University of Jordan will be responsible for finalizing the quality assurance report.
WP1-T12	Formation and development final report for the Project	1.6.2023	10.07.2024	Hybrid (online and face-to-face)	We will work together on the Project's final report and check the evaluation and results.	All reports will be uploaded online on the website.
WP5-T5	AARMENA Joint Publication Lunch	08.07.2024	14.07.2024	Event	Springer published the first and second books, and they are peer-reviewed	Publishing two books of AARMENA as part of the deliverable
WP5-T6	Dissemination and Exploitation	08.6.2023	15.06.2024	In Person with all partners.	Knowledge exchange workshop on transdisciplinary approach in reconciliation, conflict transformation, and peace studies.	Dissemination activities and exploitation at the University of Jordan and Petra University. And co-teaching and management

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						meetings with Aqaba.
WP4-T9	Final Symposium	8.07.2024	14.07.2024	Jena	The final AARMNEA Symposium is at the University of Jena and student graduate ceremony	The scientific articles presented at the Symposium and sustainability procedures to continue AARMENA after the ending of the projects.
WP5-T5	Operative and financial management for the Final Report	1.7.2024	31.07.2024	Jena	The finance department at the University of Jena will regulate the project finance and assign an external auditor.	Progress report on the event that will be published online and on the social media of AARMENA
WP5-T6	5 th and Final management meetings	8.6.2024	15.6.2024	Amman an Aqaba	The final management meeting is to take place at the University of Jena.	Progress report on the event that will be published online and on the social media of AARMENA

The pilot phase for the Exchange of knowledge and Expertise for each program and partner countries

(16 Weeks, 2023/2024)

1. University of Jordan Pilot Phase: AARMENA –Master Program in Digital Humanities - Cooperation between the University of Jordan & Freidrich Schiller University – Jena, Germany and Innsbruck University, Innsbruck, Austria.

First Semester – (16 Weeks, 2023/2024)

classroom	teacher's name	Course Name	Time	Day	Module number
Hybrid	Dr. Iyad Aldajani & Prof. Dr. Martin Leiner	Introduction to Peace and Reconciliation Studies	TBD	Sunday	2
KASIt101	Basel Mahafzah	Theory of Algorithms	TBD	Monday	1

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KASIT101	Mohammad Alshraideh & Dr. Iyad Muhsen Aldajani	Computational Intelligence Model in Applied Transdisciplinary Research	TBD	Tuesday	2
KASIT101	Mohammad Qatawneh	Operating Systems	TBD	Sunday	1
online	Mohammad Alshraideh & Iyad Aldajani	Thesis in Digital Humanities	TBD	Online	5

Second Semester: (16 Weeks, 2024)

classroom	teacher's name	Course Name	Time	Day	Module number
Hybrid	Dr. Iyad Muhsen Aldajani	Applied Phronesis In Digital Humanities	TBD	Tuesday	2
KASIT101	Mohammad Alshraideh & Dr. Iyad Muhsen Aldajani	Digital Humanities for Peace & Reconciliation Studies	TBD	Sunday	2
KASIT101	Saleh Al-sharaeh	Computer Networks	TBD	Monday	1
KASIT101	Fawaz Zgoaul	Data Base	TBD	Wednesday	1
Online	Mohammad Alshraideh & Iyad Aldajani	Thesis	TBD	Online	5

2. Petra University Pilot Phase, cooperating with Jena University & Innsbruck University, Innsbruck, Austria. Duration: First Semester – (16 Weeks, 2023/2024) 150 h start 15/5- ends 1.7.2023.

<u>classroom</u>	<u>teacher's name</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>University</u>
<u>Continuing Education Center</u>	<u>Dr. Ali Al-Maqousi</u>	<u>Introduction to Cyber Security</u>	<u>16-19</u>	<u>15/5/2023</u> <u>Monday</u>	<u>University of Petra</u>
<u>Continuing Education Center</u>	<u>Dr. Omar Emar</u>	<u>Introduction to International Law</u> <u>"Cyberspace & Sovereignty"</u>	<u>16-19</u>	<u>19/5/2023</u> <u>Friday</u>	<u>University of Petra</u>
<u>Continuing Education Center</u>	<u>Continuation Education Center at Petra University</u>	<u>English language</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>27/5/2023</u> <u>Saturday</u>	<u>University of Jena, Germany</u>

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<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Dr. Iyad Dajani</u>	<u>Mixed method research design</u>	<u>18-21</u>	<u>2/6/2023</u> <u>Friday</u>	<u>University of Jena, Germany</u>
<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>By Prof. Martin Leiner - and</u> <u>Dr. Iyad Dajani</u>	<u>Introduction to Social Reconciliation in the Middle of Conflicts</u>	<u>15-18</u>	<u>10/6/2023</u> <u>Saturday</u>	<u>University of Jena, Germany</u>

<u>Duration: second Semester – (10 Weeks, 2023/2024) 150 h</u>					
<u>3/11/2023 – 15/4/2024</u>					
<u>classroom</u>	<u>teacher's name</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>University</u>
<u>Continuing Education Center</u>	<u>Dr. Omar Omar</u>	<u>Rights and Liberties in the Technology Era, and</u> <u>Dispute resolution in the virtual environment</u>	<u>16-19</u>	<u>3/11/2023</u> <u>Friday</u>	<u>University of Innsbruck</u> <u>University of Petra</u>
<u>Hybrid</u> <u>Continuing Education Center</u>	<u>Engineer Haitham Farid -</u>	<u>Cyber Security Crimes</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>9/12/2023</u> <u>Saturday</u>	<u>Center for Continuing Education and Community Service</u>
<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Dr. Iyad Dajani -</u>	<u>Mixed method research design</u>	<u>12-15</u>	<u>15/12/2023</u> <u>Friday</u>	<u>University of Jena, Germany</u>
<u>Continuing Education Center</u>	<u>Dr. Kamal Al-Awamleh</u>	<u>E-Commerce Law</u>	<u>18-21</u>	<u>23/12/2023</u> <u>Saturday</u>	<u>University of Petra</u>
<u>Hybrid</u>	<u>Dr. Iyad Dajani</u>	<u>Applied phronesis on Social sciences</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>29/12/2023</u> <u>Friday</u>	<u>University of Jena, Germany</u>

3- Al-Azhar University pilot phase program

Pilot phase schedule of the master of conflict and Reconciliation studies Duration: First Semester – (16 Weeks, 2023/2024)

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classroom	teacher's name	Course Name	Time	Day	University
M2-432	Dr. Ayman shaheen	Transdisciplinary Research Methodology	15-18	Sunday	Al_Azhar
via zoom	Dr. Iyad Muhsen Aldajani	Introduction to Conflict Studies and Reconciliation	15-18	Tuesday	FSU
M2-430	Dr. abdrabou alanzi	International Relations	15-18	Wednesday	Al-Azhar

Duration: Second Semester: (16 Weeks, 2024)

Classroom	teacher's name	Course Name	Time	Day	University
via zoom	Prof. Dr. Martin Leiner	Case Studies in Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation	15-18	Monday	FSU
M2-432	Dr. Mkhaimar Abusada	Reconciliation Practices in English	15-18	Wednesday	Al-Azhar
M2-430	Dr. Abdrabou alanzi	Transitional and Restorative Justice	15-18	Thursday	Al-Azhar

4. Al-Istiqlal University

First Semester 16 Weeks (2023/2024)

Classroom	teacher's name	Course Name	Time	Day	University
GS6101	Dr. Iyad muhsne Aldajani & Prof. Martin Leiner	Approaches to Scientific Research – Transdisciplinary approach (University of Jena)	TBD	TBD	FSU
GS6104	Martin Leiner & Iyad aldajani	Reconciliation Studies and Conflict Transformation (University of Jena) & Innsbruck University	TDB	TDB	FSU
GS6201	Andreas.Oberprantacher	Human Security and Communal Peace - Innsbruck University	TDB	TDB	IBU

Second Semester 16 weeks (2024)

Classroom	teacher's name	Course Name	Time	Day	University
GS6101	Dr. Iyad muhsne Aldajani & Prof. Martin Leiner	Approaches to Scientific Research – Transdisciplinary approach (University of Jena)	TBD	TBD	FSU
GS6104	Martin Leiner & Iyad aldajani	Reconciliation Studies and Conflict Transformation (University of Jena) & Innsbruck University	TDB	TDB	FSU
GS6201	Andreas.Oberprantacher	Human Security and Communal Peace - Innsbruck University	TDB	TDB	IBU

5. **Innsbruck University:** they have gained accreditation of the master degree in conflict and peace studies, and they are operating with cooperation with AARMENA at Jena university assisting more in co-teaching of staff and students.

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6. **University of Jena:** has established a doctoral school in reconciliation, conflict transformation and peace studies, accepted 8 doctoral PhD candidates, and affiliated 31 preconditioned doctoral candidates in progress and attending the doctoral school. The doctoral school convenes once a week on Friday from (14:00 – 17:00) consecutively for the last three years, in seminars workshops inviting guest speakers' professors from different universities, in Europe, MENA, and Latin America and USA.

Under the points above, Friedrich Schiller University and the AARMENA partners consider the **31.07.2013** extension necessary to complete and finalize all working packages in the Erasmus Plus project. Other considerations were to conduct some activities and deliverables (student internships, improved course implementation, and external evaluation) and to promote the project results. Training and info days for students by partner and program countries and co-coaching conduct on the staff of the partner countries.

Please consider the importance of entirely accomplishing the Project to support its validity and sustainability at the local and international levels and to the good results regarding students' involvement and expectations and the staff of the partner countries and the program countries.

Friedrich Schiller University and AARMENA partners know that the extension will remain the same budget amount. Furthermore, we understand that we are allowed only one extension per grant. In addition, we did not consume the budget of the Algerian partners, which will benefit AARMENA Staff from both the program and partner countries by the extension and dissemination of the budget fully to all partners.

DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

I, the undersigned, declare that the information attached is accurate and by the facts. This information has been approved by the authorities representing the beneficiaries involved in the Project detailed within this request.

Name: DR. IYAD MUHSEN ALDAJANI

Position: Project Coordinator

Place: Friedrich Schiller University - JENA, GERMANY

Date: [25 / 01 / 2024]



Iyad Muhesen Aldajani, February 4, 2015, 1:13 PM

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