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THE ACADEMIC ALLIANCE FOR RECONCILIATION
PEACEBUILDING STUDIES IN
THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH

AARMENA

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The European Union



Strengthening the Academic Alliance for Reconciliation in the Field of Higher Education in Peace, Conflict Transformation, Reconciliation studies in the Middle East and North Africa

(AARMENA)

Terms of reference

The project key objectives are:

Develop researchers' skills and capabilities on Reconciliation, conflict transformation, and peace studies in a transdisciplinary approach.

Strengthen strategic partnerships and networking with leading conflict resolution centers, political strategists, and institutions.

Promote Transdisciplinary research related to conflict resolution and Reconciliation (e.g., political science, international relations, politics, law, etc.)

Developing curriculum on Reconciliation, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding as Transdisciplinary research.

Capacity building at the partner country universities.

Pilot or a framework for a Master's Program at the partner countries.



Partners are:

1. Friedrich Schiller University (Germany)
2. University of Innsbruck (Austria).
3. University of Jordan(Jordan).
4. Petra University (UoP).
5. Alltiqlal University(Palestinian Authority).
6. Al-Azhar University (Palestinian Authority).
7. Elouda University (Algeria).
8. Setif 2 University. (Algeria).

More specifically,

-- WP1: Preparation Stage & Development of curriculum building and Research Strategy

WP1 will be led by (FSU). The WP seeks to investigate the status quo of research in partner countries (related to Reconciliation, conflict transformation, and peace studies) while benchmarking EU institutions to identify best practices and resources. An institutional research strategy will be developed at the end of the WP.

-- WP2: Development 1: Strengthening of Research and Institutional Capacities

The deliverables of WP1 will be used in WP2 (Strengthening of Research and Institutional Capacities). This WP is two-fold. Firstly, it seeks to strengthen both academic staff and graduate students' research capacity while reinforcing research quality standards. Secondly, it seeks to establish a resource center at the institutional level, specialized in reconciliation and peace studies development and conflict. Workshops by an expert will be given to researchers in Partner countries. The workshops will address state-of-the-art research studies and recent trends in research methods (Reconciliation, conflict transformation, and peace studies). In addition, a more tailored research capacity building on Reconciliation will be given, which is an important aspect due to the conflict between the different political parties in the partner countries. The WP leader will be responsible for delivering a research handbook manual and a curriculum. At the institutional level, Reconciliation and peace studies Resource will be developed. Equipment, books, journal articles, and other resources will be bought (including the purchasing and archiving historical documents). Developing a resource point for both policymakers and researchers.

WP3: Development 2: Networking and Reinforcing of National and International Cooperation.

WP3 (Networking and Reinforcing of National and International Cooperation) seeks to strengthen national and international cooperation. It seeks to bring different experiences and mindsets in one place, e.g., through International Conferences. It also provides an approach to learn from the



experience of other countries. This network will bring expert speakers and policymakers to share experiences and provide a recommendation. Finally, besides the online platform to share experience and strengthen cooperation, networking and mobility visits will be established to strengthen the status of research quality in Palestine.

- WP4: Project Quality & Evaluation

The first cross-cutting aspect of each project is WP4 (Project Quality and Evaluation). This WP aims to ensure that different activities are implemented within the assigned budget and timeframe while assuring that the overall goal and specific objectives are achieved. A dedicated internal quality team will be nominated to ensure that activities are performed adequately and precisely. The team will be responsible for drawing up a detailed quality plan and evaluation survey. The plan includes the procedures to monitor the project activities, the procedures to evaluate the quality of deliverables. A quality and evaluation report will be issued periodically to indicate the project's status, make recommendations, and corrective actions. In addition, the External Formative Evaluator and the Financial Auditor will submit two mid-term reports and a final (evaluation/financial) comprehensive report

-- WP5: Dissemination &Exploitation

The second cross-cutting aspect is the Project Dissemination and Exploitation (WP5). The dissemination of the project will start from the early stages of the project. Vision and mission will be prepared. Web presence will be used to distribute related information and to introduce partners and beneficiaries of our objectives. A detailed dissemination plan will be prepared, addressing the multiplication aspects of the project results and objectives. In addition, a final dissemination conference and workshops will be held in the program, gathering several stakeholders, decision-makers, and other partner countries to encourage them to take significant steps on this important topic.

-- WP6: Management & Coordination.

The final cross-cutting aspect is Project Management (WP6). Is concerned with issues related to the operational and financial aspects of the project. Several meetings will be held to discuss the project management (progress, products, financial and operational activities). In between these meetings, urgent (virtual) meetings will be utilized to discuss new trends and issues. A partnership agreement will be prepared to manage the project partners' technical, financial, and operational aspects.

The percentage distribution of budget across the different types of WPs is as follows:

- Preparation: 4.2 % (WP1)
- Development: 8 % (WP2, WP3)
- Quality: 5 % (WP4)
- Dissemination and Exploitation: 2.6 % (WP5)



-- Management: 11 % (WP6)

The incidence per grant heading is:

-- Staff Costs: 31.4 %

-- Travel Costs: 24.4 %

-- Cost of Stay: 32.6 %

-- Equipment Cost: 3.6 %

-- Subcontracting Costs: 8 %

The project partners will co-finance some of the activities in the project:

1. Printing and publishing:
2. Organization of conferences/meetings (e.g., halls/auditorium, institution's resources)
3. Other costs include bank transfers and management of the budget account, stationery, photocopying, supplies, telecommunication costs, and other indirect costs.

Organizations

Leading part	Friedrich Schiller University	1-FSU will manage and coordinate the project 2- FSU will ensure the widest dissemination of the project activities and outcomes 3- the university will be involved in other work packages and participate in other activities with project partners.	Dissemination and Results Exploitation Plan Project Website Project Management and Risk Handbook Project Kick-off Meeting First Management Meeting Project Materials (brochures, presentations, etc.) First Interim Financial Report.
PARTNER COUNTRIES		The university will form a quality assurance team, and this team will prepare a quality assurance plan and supervise the internal and external evaluations and the implementation of the evaluation report's recommendations. They will be involved in all other project activities, such as the gap analysis and the development of institutional research strategy (WP2 & WP3). The	Self-evaluation Survey First Interim Evaluation Report



		university will also contribute to disseminating projects and networking with other Palestinian universities and project stakeholders.	
Partner countries		The university will collaborate with other project partners to prepare the project's literature, including the review of the most recent relevant researches and reports and existing frameworks on Reconciliation and peacebuilding in a transdisciplinary approach. It will also support the activities of the project's various activities, such as capacity development work packages, mainly identifying training needs and the institutional research strategy. The university will also contribute to the dissemination activities.	Situational Analysis Report Comparative Analysis Report Institutional Research Strategy WP1 Report
Program Countries		Design and implementation of training programs. Provides and experts, FSU and Innsbruck, will collaborate with the WP2 leader to prepare the action plan for each Palestinian university and lead the after-development assessment and refining activities. All these activities will be accomplished in collaboration with other program countries' universities.	Research Training Materials (academic staff Research Training Materials (Young researchers graduates) Research Training Materials on Reconciliation
Program Countries		The partner countries' universities will coordinate with FSU (leader of WP3) to execute the training needs assessment so; there will be able to design the content of the training modules in WP2 and arrange the study visits and the 1 st and 2 nd international conferences. They Will also contribute to other work packages; their experts will participate in the evaluation of Palestinian universities and contribute to preparing institutional research strategy and contribute to the dissemination of the project activities and outcomes.	Research Training Materials (academic staff Research Training Materials (Young researchers & graduates) Research Training Materials on Reconciliation

Activities		Total duration	Duration
Work plans	Title	(number of weeks)	
WP1	Preparation Stage & Development of Institutional Research Strategy		



1	to understand the status quo of research in policy and conflict resolution	12	14/01/2021 -14/1/2022
.2	Provision of comparative understanding to European research processes, practices, and state-of-the-art research activities,	12	14/01/2021 -14/1/2022
.3	Development of institutional research strategy	8	14/01/2021 -14/1/2022
.4	WP1 Report	4	1/6/2022
WP2	Development 1: Strengthening of Research & Institutional Capacity		
.1	Establishment of tailored research capacity building targeting academic staff	8	1/6/2021-1/8/2022
.2	Reinforce research quality standards. (including research methodologies for young researchers and graduate students)	8	1/8/2021-1/10/2022
.3	Development of research capacity in Reconciliation, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding	4	1/8/2021-1/10/2022
WP4	Project Quality and Evaluation		
.1	Formation of the project's quality assurance team	6	1/11/2021
.2	Generation of project quality assurance and monitoring plan.	12	1/12/2021
.3	Identification of project's milestones and KPIs	12	1/11/2021-1/4/2022
4	Establishment of progress & self-evaluation framework (Survey)	12	1/11/2021-1/4/2022
.5	The hiring of the formative evaluator	6	1/11/2021-1/4/2022
.6	Follow-up project progress & self-evaluation	12	1/11/2021-1/4/2022
.7	Preparation of first interim evaluation reports	6	1/11/2021-1/4/2022
WP5	Dissemination and Exploitation		
1	Formation of dissemination and exploitation team	6	1/11/2021
.2	Generation of a dissemination and exploitation plan	12	1/12/2021
.3	Development of project website	16	1/2/2022
.4	Management of project's materials and media work on the website	12	1/2/2022
.5	Dissemination of project's activities and outcomes (radio, TV, presentations, etc.)	12	1/2/2022
.6	Preparation, dissemination, & publishing of brochures, handbooks, etc.	12	1/2/2022
Pilot	Third-year pilot project.	12	14/1/2023