



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2013

& Rectors Seminar "UNICA and the Southern Mediterranean:
Sharing, Learning, Cooperating"

Rome, 7-9 November 2013

hosted by the Sapienza University of Rome in cooperation with the Universities of
Rome "Tor Vergata" and "Roma Tre"

Reader



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Introduction

Higher education has extraordinary capacity to advance change, progress, and renewal in societies. In the principle of solidarity and partnership we have an obligation to support the capacity building of education, research, and community involvement in regions outside the European Higher Education Area. The developments of the Arab Spring are of central interest to many of our members much as Europe is facing its own great economic challenges.

The three sessions of the Rectors Seminar, brought under the title UNICA and the Southern Mediterranean: Sharing, Learning, Cooperating, will gather the representatives of the South Mediterranean institutions that are close partners of UNICA universities, will provide a platform for exploring the collaboration opportunities between UNICA and Southern Mediterranean universities and will seek to foster Southern Mediterranean regional partnerships based on common goals.

About the hosting universities



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Sapienza University of Rome is Rome's first university and among the oldest in Europe, founded in 1303. Thanks to the work of its 11 faculties and 63 departments, it has established a reputation as an

internationally recognized centre for teaching and research, now counting more than 120,000 students, 4,000 teaching staff and approx. 4,000 members of the administrative and technical staff. Sapienza is a high performer among the largest universities in international rankings.

The main campus, opened in 1935, is situated close to the city centre, and is the largest in Europe - a real city within a city, where teaching activities are integrated with libraries, museums as well as comprehensive student services. Faculties and Departments also carry out their activities in decentralized locations in different parts of the city and the region.

Sapienza offers a vast array of courses including degree programmes (153 first cycle courses, 109 second cycle courses, 12 single cycle courses in ay 2013/2014, including courses totally taught in English), PhD courses (76 in ay 2013/2014, including international PhDs), one to two year professional courses and Specialization Schools in many disciplines. With the 2011-2012 academic year, the University inaugurated the School for Advanced Studies and evaluates candidates on the basis of educational merit, that provides students with courses and activities

aimed at encouraging and developing their capabilities through scientific, cultural and interdisciplinary enrichment.

The University is involved in an extensive range of international cooperation projects and actions and has developed sound operational and management experience. Some 8,000 foreign students are regularly enrolled at Sapienza. In addition to this, Sapienza encourages international exchange: there are over 1,100 incoming and outgoing exchange students per year, thanks to several mobility programmes.

Sapienza also enhances research by offering opportunities to academia on a global scale. Thanks to a special programme for visiting professors, many foreign researchers and lecturers periodically visit the University and contribute greatly to the quality of education and research programmes.



Tor Vergata University is a public University, established in 1982, located in the south-eastern part of Rome in a 600 hectare campus. More than 40.000 students study in 6 scientific areas: Economics, Engineering, Humanities, Law, Medicine and Sciences.

In the Italian panorama of Italian Universities, the University of Tor Vergata wishes to be distinguished as a residential university in which professors and students alike live in close contact in an environment that is stimulating for all. The academic staff has many bilateral collaboration agreements with renowned universities around the world. Almost 2000 foreign students have been enrolled in the last academic year and the number of Italian students involved in international exchange programs is still increasing.

The University Hospital, the flagship of the university, is equipped with the latest diagnostic and therapeutic structures and has become a reference model at national and international levels. The University of Rome Tor Vergata is also one of the largest research-based institutions in Italy and an international centre for research and education well known for the scientific studies. In the last years the activity of technology transfer and cooperation with other public and private organizations has obtained an increasingly important role.

Tor Vergata is extremely active in promoting international projects of research. In 2011, Tor Vergata was the unique Italian University which has received funding through the ERC IDEAS programme.

General vision:

- Cooperating with the best partners worldwide in each field and offers attractive living conditions for international students and researchers (incl. funding opportunities).

- Increasing the amount of excellent and particularly suited full-time programme for foreign students and internships abroad as a desirable part of the degree course;
- Implementing research and teaching quality, enhancing the attractiveness of the University as an internationally outstanding setting of research and study.

According to the ranking made by the Italian Ministry of Education (2012), Tor Vergata is placed fifth in Italy for merit. In recent years the University has set up programmes entirely taught in English and in holds third position in the ranking of the Italian Universities (2012) for the number of courses taught in English. According to QS ranking the University of Tor Vergata is among the QS top 50 under 50 (2013).



Roma Tre University is an urban university and its main campuses are located in the Piramide/Ostiense area in the central/southern part of Rome. It is an active cultural lab in the city and internationally: the conferences and seminars it organises as well as its Palladium

Theatre offer valuable meeting points with important personalities in research and culture.

Twenty years after its foundation, Roma Tre is a highly identifiable university within the Italian Higher Education system. This University proves that, in order to make history, a long-standing past is not the only thing you need – despite the fact that its original core, the Faculty of Education, had Luigi Pirandello among its professors!

The vocation of this university, tending to excellence, is defined by:

- its international approach that lead it to becoming the second university in Italy by number and quality of signed agreements, with an equally meaningful number of Erasmus connections, foreign language courses, international PhD programmes;
- the care for students who can rely upon efficient and computerised registrar services, an orientation office, an attentive service network for students with disabilities, a psychological support centre, updated and equipped libraries, and a modern language centre;
- a wide range of extra-curricular activities which, through specialist and interdisciplinary traits, bring added value to bachelor and master degrees;
- a highly efficient technical and administrative organisation;
- the presence of high profile professors and guests.

The architectural structures of its premises – old and discontinued plants in the city transformed into factories of ideas and knowledge, famous for their extraordinary aesthetics, have modified the surrounding territory, bringing urban value to the entire quadrant, synthesising complementarities between form and substance and becoming attractive meeting points for students and Rome inhabitants.

About the Speakers¹

Raimondo CAGIANO DE AZEVEDO, Deputy Rector for Institutional International Relations, Sapienza University of Rome

Raimondo Cagiano de Azevedo is Full Professor of Demography at the Faculty of Economics, University “La Sapienza” of Rome and Director of a Unesco Chair on “Population, Migrations and Development”. He is Director of EuroSapienza Center; Director of CUIA (Italian University Consortium for Argentina); and Deputy Rector for international affairs of the University “La Sapienza” of Rome. After graduating in Economics and Commerce at the University of Rome, “La Sapienza”, he attended post-graduate courses in the Universities of Santander, Paris, Nice, and John Hopkins University, Bologna Center. He collaborated with the Foreign Office for statistical and demographic issues related to the main International Organizations. On several occasions he has drawn up research reports on problems of migrations and population studies for various Administrations and International Organizations. He was President of the European Committee for the Population of the Council of Europe. He was also Scientific Secretary of the National Committee on Population at the Premier’s Cabinet of the Italian Government, Department of Social Affairs.

Isabella CAMERA D’AFFLITTO, Deputy Rector for Mediterranean and Arabic Countries, Sapienza University of Rome

Isabella CAMERA D’AFFLITTO is an Italian academic, translator and critic. She is a professor of contemporary Arab literature in the College of Oriental Studies at La Sapienza University in Rome and a member of the board of Advanced Studies of Naples University. She has written many literary studies and articles, mainly on the theme of contemporary Arabic literature, which have been published in various Italian and international journals. Since 1993 she has edited the series Contemporary Arab Writers published by Jouvens Publishing in Rome and has thus overseen the translation of 40 novels by some of the most famous Arab writers.

¹ in alphabetical order

Ilan CHET, Deputy Secretary General for Higher Education and Research, Union for the Mediterranean

Ilan Chet completed his doctoral work in microbiology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot. He served as the Founding Director of the Otto Warburg Minerva Center for Agricultural Biotechnology (1983 – 1986), as Dean of Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot (1986 –1989) and as Vice President for Research and Development of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1991 – 2001). In the years 2001-2006 Chet served as the President of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot and was nominated Institute Professor at the Weizmann Institute in 2005. After he finished his term he returned to the Hebrew University as a professor. Chet also served as senior scientist at DuPont, Delaware, USA and as a member of the scientific advisory committees of both the European Union and NATO. Chet was appointed Deputy Secretary General for Higher Education and Research in the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (2010). He has been a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities since 1998 and the European Academy of Sciences since 2004.

Guido FABIANI, Former Rector of the University of Rome “Roma Tre” and Councillor for Productive Activities and Economic Development in the Latium Regional Government

Rector of Roma Tre University since 1998, Guido Fabiani's main fields of research include agricultural economics, territorial and environmental planning as well as the development in Southern Italy. He was awarded the titles of Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur of the French Republic, Doctor Honoris Causa by the Universidad Ricardo Palma, Peru, the Grado de Gran Oficial, Orden de Bernardo O'Higgins, Republica de Chile. In 1992 he became the first Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the newly founded Roma Tre University. Between 1997 and 1999 he was President of the Italian National Institute of Agricultural Economics. In 2000 he became the Italian Representative in the FAO Trilateral Mission Evaluation Committee of the First China Agricultural Census; He is President of the Latium Universities Regional Coordination Committee, and member of the Conference of Italian University Rectors, and of the EUA.

Giovanni FINOCCHIETTI, Italian Erasmus Mundus Contact Person

Giovanni Finocchietti is Director of the Erasmus Mundus National Contact Point – Italy. He is Senior Executive at CIMEA (Centro di informazione sulla mobilità e le equivalenze accademiche), the Italian NARIC-ENIC centre for information and advice on mobility and academic recognition issues. He is a sociologist and is the Director of the “Eurostudent survey

on the living conditions of university students in Italy”, a project carried out since 1993 in the framework of the Europe-wide comparative survey Eurostudent - Social and economic conditions of student life in Europe. He has also carried out a number of surveys on different issues related to Higher Education in Italy and in the International scenario. He is a member of the editorial staff of the journal UNIVERSITAS.

Luigi FRATI, Rector, Sapienza University of Rome

Luigi Frati began his academic career as full assistant and acting professor at the University of Perugia (Faculty of Medicine and Science), and later joined the Faculty of Pharmacy, Medicine and Surgery at Sapienza University. Before becoming Rector, he assumed the positions of Head of the Department of Experimental Medicine and of Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. He has been actively involved in numerous scientific and academic associations: Italy's National University Council, National Drug Evaluation Board, European Agency of Medicine, Federation of the European Academies of Medicine. Prof. Frati was President of the National Council for Health and Director of the Molecular Biology and Cancer Programme, National Research Council. He has authored over 500 papers published in international refereed journals with impact factor on the subject of molecular medicine and biotechnologies applied to cell differentiation and proliferation control, with major focus on the clinical applications of antitlastic therapy and regenerative medicine (10,109 citations, H-index 2012: 48).

Franco FRATTINI, President of the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI), former European Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security, and former Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs

Franco Frattini is an Italian politician. He was a junior minister from 1994 to 1996 in the Berlusconi I and Dini cabinets. He later served as Foreign minister in the Berlusconi II and III cabinets. Frattini was nominated Vice President and European Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security in the first Barroso Commission between 2004 and 2008. He then returned as Italian Foreign minister in the last Berlusconi IV Cabinet, between 2008 and 2011. Since 2011 Frattini is president of the Foundation Alcide De Gasperi. Since 2012 he is president of the Italian Society for International Organizations (SIOI), which is a non-profit organization working under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Hany HELAL, former Minister of Higher Education of Egypt, Professor of Cairo University

Hany Mahfouz Helal was the Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and State Minister for Scientific Research. Helal served as the Cultural and Scientific Chancellor in the Egyptian embassy in Paris. He worked as professor in the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University (1993), and the Head of Singor University, Alexandria (October 2004). He was as an expert in Earth Sciences Programs of the UNESCO's regional office in Cairo (1993), and the UNESCO consultant of International Laboratory for Scantron, Jordan (2002). Helal graduated from the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University with a B.Sc. in Engineering (with honours) in 1974, and he holds a PhD degree in Earth Sciences (Rock Mechanics and Engineering).

Elke LÖESCHHORN, head of The International Office, Freie Universität Berlin

Elke LÖESCHHORN is Acting Dean for International Affairs at Freie Universität Berlin, where has worked for 18 years. She is also institutional coordinator for EU Programmes such as TEMPUS, ALFA, and Erasmus. She is also the UNICA Contact Person and coordinator at FUB. She is active in the field of institutional agreements with partners outside EU, FU direct exchange programs (including student and academic staff mobility). She equally serves as FUB Liaison Person for Short Term Programs such as FUBiS and FU- BEST. She is a member of GATE Germany, DAAD, UNICA, EAIE, NAFSA, APAIE, FORUM on Study Abroad, Columbus, RULE.

Mohammad RAFAT MAHMOUD, Assistant Secretary General, Association of Arab Universities

Prof. Mohammad Rafat Mahmoud is an inorganic Chemist who obtained his PhD from Assiut University, Egypt in 1971. At present he is the Assistant Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities in Amman, Jordan. Prof. Mahmoud previously served as President of Assiut University, President of University of South Valley and President of Misr University for Science and Technology in Egypt. He published over 124 scientific papers and supervised 14 M.Sc and 15 Ph.D theses in Chemistry. He also was Governor of Fayoum Governorate from July 2004-January 2006. Prof. Mahmoud was awarded Scientific Innovation from the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research for 2006. He was Chairman of the Binational Fulbright Commission in Cairo. He is member of several scientific Societies and committees.

Renato MASIANI, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture

Renato Masiani graduated in Civil Engineering in 1979. He is the University Researcher since 1984. He is the Full Professor of Solid and Structural Mechanics since 2003, at the Faculty of Architecture of the University La Sapienza of Rome. Since 2007 he is the Head of the Department of Structural Engineering and Geotechnics. His main themes of research, documented by more than eighty scientific publications, are Study of the seismic behaviour of buildings in masonry and in masonry-r.c; Continuous models of heterogeneous linear and non linear materials: masonry, composite; Dynamics of systems with non-elastic constitutive behaviour, and in particular of hysteretic systems; Non linear dynamic behaviour of slender impact elements; Dynamic simplified models for masonry buildings and Characterization of the seismic input. Masiani is also a Coordinator of research teams and responsible for grants on different research themes.

Giuseppe NOVELLI, Rector, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

Giuseppe Novelli graduated in Biology (summa cum laude) at the University of Urbino in 1981. He received his Ph.D. in Medical Genetics at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" in 1985. In 1992 he has been appointed Associate Professor in Human Genetics at the School of Medicine, Catholic University of Milan, then at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata". In 1999 he has been appointed Full Professor in Medical Genetics at the School of Medicine of Rome "Tor Vergata". He has been a Member of the Board of Directors of Anvur (Italian Agency Evaluation of the University System and Research). He assumed the position of Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata" from 2008 to 2011. Since 2001 he is Director of U.O.C. Medical Genetics Laboratory of the University Polyclinic of Tor Vergata and Scientific Director of the Research Centre of Fatebenefratelli Hospital. He mainly focused his research activity on Biochemical Genetics, Human Genetics, Medical Genetics and Molecular Genetics. Giuseppe Novelli is member of the Board of the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) and the American Society of Gene Therapy (ASGT), of the PGWP (Pharmacogenetics Working Party) at the EMA (European Medicines Agency) (London).

Mario PANIZZA, Rector of Roma Tre University

Full professor of Architecture and Urban Design, he was Director of the Roma Tre Architecture Department since its creation in January 2013; he was Vice-Dean of the Roma Tre Faculty of Architecture, Rector's Deputy for Building Planning and Development from 2009 to 2012; He was also Roma Tre Board of Administration Member from 1999 to 2005. Rector Panizza is a

graduate of Architecture, and has taught and lectured at Sapienza University on subjects such as social housing and architectural character. Since 1992 he has taught Architectural Planning Labs in Roma Tre's Faculty of Architecture. His research activities mainly concerned comparative studies between the architectural character and consolidated urban tissue, significant from a historical and architectural point of view. In recent years, the editing of the "L'Architetto italiano" review and of the "Tecnotipo" manuals lead to deepening subjects connected to building concreteness and its translation to real context.

Paolo PARISI, Former Rector of the University of Rome "Foro Italico"

Paolo Parisi is Human biologist and geneticist, Professor of Biology and former Rector of the University of Rome "Foro Italico" (IUSM), where he also served as Vice Rector for International Affairs and President of the Evaluation Committee. Previously, he was Chair of Biology, Department of Public Health, University of Rome-Tor Vergata (1984-2001), and associated with Rome's Mendel Institute (1960-1992) and several other institutions, including the University of California, where he was Regents Professor in Behaviour Genetics in the 1970s. He is an author of science textbooks and essays on biology and culture; editor of some twenty volumes and two international journals on twin research and human growth. He was also Foundation Vice President, International Gymnastics Federation; President, European College of Sport Science (2001-2003). Paolo Parisi is Grant holder and coordinator of three EU intervention projects promoting the university reform and internationalisation in the area of sport and health science, in Egypt, Albania and the Balkans. Golden Star to Sport Merit, Italian Olympic Committee; Doctor H.c. in sport science, University of Tirana; Member, Jerusalem Committee.

Sergio PIAZZI, Secretary General of Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

Sergio Piazzi is an Alumnus of the Nunziatella military school of Napoli. He holds an Honours Degree Doctorate in Political Sciences, University of Naples, Italy, and attended the Diplomatic School in Rome. He also holds a Masters in Economics and Foreign Trade, MFT, Rome, and a Crisis Management Certificate, University of Wisconsin, USA. Piazzi served as Political Officer at the US State Department in the early 1980's. He coordinated UN relief operations in Northern Ethiopia from 1985 to 1988. He conceived and managed the UN Programme on the use of international Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief from 1989 to 1995. In 1996 he was appointed Head of the UN/DHA Regional Desk for Europe and CIS. From 2001 to 2006, he was responsible for UN/OCHA's External Relations. In January 2007, he was appointed Senior Adviser on European Affairs. He has been inter-alia, responsible for policy cooperation with the

Council of the European Union, European Commission, NATO, Arab League, G77, G8, OIC, Council of Europe and OSCE, and their Parliamentary Assemblies. In April 2007, he was appointed Secretary-General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.

António RENDAS, Rector of the University Nova de Lisboa and President of the Portuguese National Conference of Rectors

António Rendas, Rector of the Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, is President of the Council of Rectors of Portuguese Universities. He took office on 9 March 2010. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of Lisbon (1972) and doctorate at the "Cardiothoracic Institute", University of London (1977), in the area of Experimental Pathology. Between 1977 and 1978 was also researcher at Harvard Medical School, USA. António Rendas was Director of the Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine of Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (IHMT), and subsequently Director of the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FCM) in the same University. It is, since 1982, full professor of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, of the Universidade NOVA de Lisboa.

Luciano SASO, Deputy Rector for International Mobility, Sapienza University of Rome, Member of the UNICA Steering Committee

After obtaining his Master's Degree in Chemistry from Sapienza University of Rome, Luciano Saso undertook post-graduate training at the Population Council (Rockefeller University, New York) and received his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Sapienza University of Rome in 1992. Currently, he is Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine of the Sapienza University of Rome (Italy) and equally serves as the University's Deputy Rector for International Mobility and Erasmus Institutional Coordinator. Since January 2012, Luciano Saso is Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA. Within UNICA, he equally holds the function of Member of Advisory Committee and Deputy Chair of UNICA Bologna Lab Coordinators working group, which (since 2005) has been discussing European educational policies and exploring in-depth the trends and challenges in European higher education. He is also Member of the Organising Committee of the UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS Seminars.

Marcello SCALISI, Executive Director of UNI-MED- Mediterranean Universities Union

Marcello Scalisi is coordinator for UNIMED's European, international and national funded initiatives and projects. He is also coordinator of technical assistance activities for all the 93 universities associated to the UNIMED's network. Scalisi heads projects funded for research and

training activities and the research and training Division (since 2000). He is responsible for the overall management of technical and financial activities at UNIMED.

Ramon TORRENT, University of Barcelona, Member of the Steering Committee of the First Arab-Euro University Conference on Higher Education

Ramon Torrent is Professor of political economy and international economic law at the University of Barcelona (Spain). Director of the International Chair WTO/Regional Integration, of the Master Program on International Economic Law and Policy and Co-director of the double diploma Maestría en Relaciones y Negociaciones Internacionales (FLACSO-Argentina, U. San Andrés, U. Barcelona). He is the former Director of External Economic Relations in the Legal Service of the EU Council and acted as an adviser for the European Commission, the InterAmerican Development Bank, the Secretariat for Economic Integration of Central America, the Governments of Peru and Ecuador and other national and international Institutions. He has published extensively in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, from an interdisciplinary perspective, on topics related to the regulatory framework of globalisation, regional integration, EU- Latin America relations, the WTO and the multilateral system as well as international cooperation on higher education.

Didier VIVIERS, Rector of the Université libre de Bruxelles

Didier Viviers is Rector of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) since December 2010. He also assumes the functions of the President of the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (FRS-FNRS) and Vice-President of the Francophone Rectors' Conference of Belgium. Didier Viviers is also Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Letters and Fine Arts of Belgium. As a historian and archaeologist of the Ancient Greek World, he teaches Ancient Greek History and Archaeology at the ULB and supervised doctoral candidates in Belgium and abroad. He was also Director of the Centre of Archaeological Research (CReAPatrimoine) and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University. Member of several Belgian and international scientific committees, Didier Viviers takes frequently part in assessments of scientific projects and institutions.

Session I: Mobility & brain circulation: shifting to new paradigms

Bridging the Research Gap Between the Northern and Southern Shores of the Mediterranean

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) organized during 2007—the “Year of Science” in the city of Barcelona—the International Symposium “Ramon Llull and the Muslim Scientific Universe,” with special regard to this intercultural meeting, circulation of scientific thinking and books and information between the Northern and the Southern shores of our sea. They have also organized—jointly with the Casa Asia—the international meeting on “The transmission of scientific knowledge between Asia and the Mediterranean,” a process that began in ancient times, endures to the present day and, of course, will continue in the future.

On the other hand, since their creation in the Mediterranean area, universities have established the concepts of knowledge along with peace and universality as focal points, and dialogue and scientific exchanges have always been necessary for their contribution to our societies.

The production of knowledge has an important role in development processes, not to mention aspects as important as the weight of education, university cooperation, and the circulation of know-how through the different countries of the Mediterranean area. The central dossier of the Yearbook of the Mediterranean 2007 has been devoted to “The Knowledge Society and Social Modernization in the Mediterranean,” analysing the challenges and opportunities relating to the knowledge society in the Mediterranean Basin in a series of articles dealing with topics ranging from the production of knowledge and education to its role in development processes.

From this analysis, and as Bardak (1) explains, we know that education has been a political priority in the Mediterranean region for the last five decades, attracting a significant public investment from governments, driven by rapidly expanding youth populations and the need to build the new nationalities after independence. With an average investment of 5–6% of the gross domestic product (GDP), a significant but not sufficient increase in the literacy rates and the average educational level of the labor force have been achieved.

(1) Bardak, U. (2007), Brain circulation and knowledge society in the Mediterranean region. In *Med. 2007. 2006 in the Euro - Mediterranean space*. (IEMed/CIDOB, eds.). pp. 97–104, Barcelona.

Senén Florensa, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Barcelona, Spain (2008), *Bridging the Research Gap Between the Northern and Southern Shores of the Mediterranean*. Available: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/iub.79/pdf> . Last accessed 24 September 2013.

The Main Achievements of The Tempus Programme in the Southern Mediterranean 2002-2013

With the start of the Barcelona Process and the signing of the 'Euro-Mediterranean Partnership' in 1995, the European Union (EU) stated its intention to 'strengthen its relations with the countries in the Mashrek and Maghreb regions' by bringing people from both sides of the Mediterranean closer together, through partnerships, aimed at encouraging better understanding between cultures. The EU MEDA programme was thus launched, to enable the EU to provide financial and technical assistance to certain countries outside the EU. Given the Tempus programme's results in Central Eastern Europe, MEDA was used to roll out the Tempus programme to eight countries in the Mediterranean in 2002; Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.

In 2004, two additional Mediterranean countries joined the EU; Cyprus and Malta. Conscious of the need to manage expectations with neighbours further south of the Mediterranean, the EU introduced a new European Neighbourhood Policy and the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) replaced MEDA as the source of EU funding for Tempus in the region. Israel joined the programme in 2008 and Libya, in 2010.

Given the changes in the region following the Arab Spring, two Joint Communications published by the EU in 2011, emphasised the added-value of the Tempus programme in supporting political, economic and social transition in the region. 'A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean' stressed that 'Exchanges at university level are valuable and fuller use should be made of ...Tempus to increase substantially the number of persons from Southern Mediterranean partner countries participating [in the programme]. 'The Communication on a 'New Response to a Changing Neighbourhood' stated that 'structured cooperation for university modernisation (Tempus)... will also be expanded to provide a better support to the youth'. Ten countries from the Southern Mediterranean have therefore been involved in Tempus III and Tempus IV. The total budget allocated to these countries since then has been 222 million Euro. 81 million Euro was allocated between 2003 and 2006 and 141 million Euro was allocated through Tempus IV since 2007. The recent increase in funding reflects the growing importance that the EU places on the region since the Arab Spring started at the end of 2010.

Mc Cabe, Róisín, Ruffio, Philippe, Valle Casanova, Eva (2013), *THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE TEMPUS PROGRAMME IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN 2002-2013*. Last accessed 24 September 2013.

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/tools/documents/tempus_study_issue15_main_achiev_SouthMed_single_en.pdf .

Session II: Sharing, learning, cooperating: linking the two Mediterranean shores with new academic bridges

Final conclusions of the 1st Arab–Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE) University of Barcelona, 30-31 May 2013

Text agreed by the Association of Arab Universities (AARU), the European University Association (EUA), and the University of Barcelona (UB), on the basis of the Oral Rapport submitted by the conference's General Rapporteur, professor Ramon Torrent.

1. The conference and its themes and discussions

On 30-31 May 2013, the University of Barcelona (UB) organised jointly with the Association of Arab Universities (AARU) and the European University Association (EUA) an Arab–Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE) to discuss cooperation possibilities and common challenges between institutions of the two regions. It was the first ever conference between the two associations, which gathered more than 250 participants from 175 Arab and European Universities, including more than 110 university leaders. An inspiring keynote speech was given by Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan of Jordan, founder of the Princess Sumaya University for Technology, who highlighted the critical need for Arab countries to boost their research capacity and underpin growth and modernization with knowledge. European higher education integration project- the Bologna Process- is an important model and vision that should be emulated by the Arab world. The conference addressed a wide convergence, doctoral education array of topics such as frameworks for higher education systems' and research training, employability and university-labour market interaction, and internationalisation of higher education.

Key messages emerging from the conference discussions were the following:

- European representatives emphasized that the Bologna Process has been developed not as a prototype or standard for all higher education systems, but as a European strategy, with common policies and instruments that are adapted and implemented differently in the 47 participating countries. While its success depends on the existence of common frameworks (from degrees, quality assurance, etc), one of its key purposes is to preserve and further enhance diversity in higher education. It can certainly be used in other parts of the world, as examples from countries and institutions in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region prove, but as in Europe, it has to be adapted to the different environments.
- The Arab world has not developed a common framework for the articulation of its higher education systems. In an effort to modernise and internationalise their higher education systems, some Arab countries have adopted elements of the Bologna Process, while

in others there is a strong orientation towards US higher education structures. The point has been made that the frameworks and tools that the Bologna Process has created are not static, but continue to develop. This implies the need for continued information exchange between Bologna countries and institutions and their international partners.

- In this regard, the importance of promoting transparency and compatibility between higher education systems was stressed, as was the need to generally enhance mobility. Interest was also expressed in exploring the possibility for more intra-Arab collaboration and exchange, e.g. through an Arab Erasmus-style programme or a regional protocol for quality assurance.
- The importance of research and innovation to universities and their graduates was highlighted as critical to both regions. It was stated that research training should start early on, and should consider all study levels, including the bachelor. Joint masters programmes and collaborative partnerships in doctoral education were mentioned as one strategic means to both enhance the quality and attractiveness of graduate education and build research capacity. Many Arab and European universities already collaborate with such programmes, but the need to scale up this type of cooperation and share practice was agreed.
- Graduate employability and entrepreneurship was a highly charged topic and a clear priority for both regions, in light of the recent developments both in the Arab world and in Europe. Discussions touched upon university–industry collaboration, incorporation of training and placements into the curriculum, tracking of graduates and enhancement of student career services. Universities from both regions shared some of their creative approaches on this issue.

2. General conclusions

1. The 1st AECHE has been a success, both in terms of participation and in terms of the strategic priorities it addressed.
2. The internationalisation of Higher Education is becoming a pressing need for universities in all countries and regions of the world. For Europe, this means developing collaboration and mobility not only within Europe, but also globally, and in a more concerted fashion with Arab countries; for Arab countries, this would imply a diversification of the traditional study destination, better defined and visible study opportunities for incoming students from Europe, but also more exchange and collaboration within the region. Going forward, Arab and European universities should aim for truly collaborative, mutually beneficial higher education partnerships, through which each region's societal and economic challenges may be addressed.

3. Cooperation between Associations of Universities (in particular regional ones) constitutes a viable instrument to:
 - Build a policy dialogue at the level of the respective higher education communities, which would address higher education developments and how they relate to political links and economic relations between and within both regions.
 - Promote good practice on a wide range of issues such as quality assurance, relevance and recognition of degrees, and strategies for research capacity building and internationalisation.
 - Promote concrete cooperation possibilities between different countries and regions, which should also benefit smaller countries and those with fewer resources.
 - Contribute to achieving systemic impact, which is of particular importance for the EU policies towards the Arab world, as it was underlined by Mr. Xavier Prats, Deputy Director General for Education and Culture of the European Commission, in his address to participants.
4. In this regard, the two associations will seek dialogue with the European Commission on how the results of AECHE and its future initiatives can enhance exchange and collaboration between the Arab world and Europe in the framework of the EU's new programmes for 2014-2021. This should also consider synergies with the pan-Arab mobility programme proposed by Princess Sumaya, aimed at building cooperation and capacity within the region. These efforts should also include the development of new cooperation mechanisms between the two regions, based on a mapping of the rich experience developed under existing programmes such as Tempus, Erasmus Mundus and various bilateral national initiatives.
5. Regular AECHE conferences could contribute to this development and also support the dissemination of outcomes of ongoing initiatives and projects between European and Arab universities. They would strengthen mutual understanding, promote synergies and generate new cooperation. As a result, a 2nd AECHE Conference is proposed to take place in 2014, hosted by an Arab country. A work plan will be drawn up to frame this process, and ensure the proper preparation of this and future conferences through regular meetings and the support of a programming committee. The University of Barcelona, whose commitment has been essential to the 1st AECHE, will support the initiative through the establishment of a Secretariat.

The 2nd Arab–Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE2) will take place in Amman, Jordan, on 10-12 June 2014.

Launching of the EU-Southern Mediterranean Dialogue on Higher Education Policies and Programmes, Brussels, 2-3 July 2012

This event was attended by delegations of 2 to 4 people from 9 Southern Mediterranean countries, around 90 participants in total. The delegations were made up of one vice-minister (Libya), high level civil servants responsible for higher education or international cooperation, rectors, directors of National Tempus Offices, some independent experts on higher education and some representatives of the countries' missions to the EU. Around 15 Member States were represented by permanent representations or national civil servants. Other actors taking part included the European University Association, UNIMED, the European Students' Union and the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association. From the EC family of institutions there were participants from DGs (DEVCO, RTD, EMPL), the European External Action Service, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency and the European Training Foundation.

The main aspects discussed were:

- Massification trends
- Brain drain and brain circulation
- Tuning
- Relevance of degrees
- Employability
- Quality
- Design and sustainability of EU programmes and projects

European Commission (2012), *Report. EU-Southern Mediterranean dialogue on higher education policies and programmes*. Available: http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc/confsouth/report_en.pdf. Last accessed 24 September 2013.

Higher Education: A Bridge Between The Two Shores Of The Mediterranean

More students from Southern Mediterranean countries will benefit from the EU's new programme for education training and youth: this was the message from European Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou at a university 'summit' in Nicosia. The Commissioner said the new programme, due for launch in January 2014, will build on the success of the existing Tempus and Erasmus Mundus programmes. Since 2007, more than €140 million has been allocated for projects involving Southern Mediterranean universities to develop new curricula, retrain teachers, support new teaching methods and invest in equipment. In addition, €150 million has been provided in grants for more than 4,500 students from the region to spend part of their studies in the EU. More than 750 academic staff have also taken part in exchanges organised with European universities.

More than 200 universities in North Africa, the Middle East and the EU are involved in the exchanges. Universities in France, Italy, Spain Germany, Egypt and Jordan are the most active in the scheme. Nearly 800 students and staff from the Southern Mediterranean have also benefitted from funding for joint master and doctoral programmes since 2004.

"Erasmus Mundus has been a great success since its launch in 2004 and I am happy to say that we will be able to support even more exchanges under our new programme. Investing in youth is the best investment of all, in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean. We want to support young people who are the key to social and political change, as well as the future prosperity of the region," the Commissioner said.

The 'information day' event at Nicosia University was an opportunity for the Commission to discuss its future plans with representatives of the academic community from the Southern Mediterranean region. *"We wish to demonstrate our commitment to lasting cooperation with our neighbours in the higher education field,"* added Commissioner Vassiliou. The event brought together more than 150 government officials, higher education staff and stakeholders from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon and EU Member States.

The Erasmus Mundus programme aims to enhance quality in higher education through scholarships and academic cooperation between Europe and the rest of the world. The programme offers financial support for institutions and scholarships for individuals. Funding is available for:

- European joint Masters and Doctorates (including scholarships)
- Partnerships with non-European higher education institutions and scholarships for students and academics
- Projects that promote European higher education worldwide.

The Tempus programme promotes institutional cooperation for reform and modernisation of higher education systems in the Neighbouring Countries, including those in the Southern Mediterranean. Projects typically have a budget of up to €1.5 million and focus on areas such as the development of new curricula, modernisation of teaching and learning, improved partnerships with businesses and better governance in higher education. Since 2003 around €220 million has been allocated through Tempus to support the modernisation of higher education in Southern Mediterranean countries. Since 2007, 110 projects, involving nearly 200 higher education institutions, have received funding through Tempus.

Funding for both Erasmus Mundus and Tempus was greatly increased in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. In 2011, an additional €20 million for Tempus supported the creation of four new university partnerships and nearly 560 extra scholarships on top of the 525 initially planned for Southern Mediterranean candidates. In 2012, the Erasmus Mundus budget was doubled which meant that more than €35 million was available to fund 10 partnerships. Nearly 1,500 non-EU students and 400 EU nationals will receive grants to study or learn abroad thanks to this funding.

The new EU programme for education, training, youth and sport, will continue to promote cooperation between the EU and Southern Mediterranean countries. As well as continued support for joint degrees students from Southern Mediterranean countries will also benefit from scholarships to participate in excellent joint Master programmes. Doctoral fellowships will be financed by the future Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions programme. Erasmus will also be extended to non-EU universities for the first time.

European Commission (2013), *Higher education: a bridge between the two shores of the Mediterranean*. Available: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-582_en.htm . Last accessed 24 September 2013.

Session III: Academic cooperation with the Southern Mediterranean: Opening up for Horizon 2020

EU and Mediterranean States to Deepen Academic Cooperation

European Union and southern Mediterranean partner countries plan to establish a mechanism to enhance collaboration and the response of universities and research centres to socio-economic needs. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, the European commissioner for research, innovation and science, told the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Research and Innovation held in Barcelona, Spain, on 2-3 April: "In terms of research and innovation, the focus is on working towards the development of a 'common knowledge and innovation space' that would pull together policy dialogue, national and regional capacity-building, cooperation in research and innovation, as well as greater mobility for our researchers." The Arab Spring "called for a new vision for cooperation in research and innovation between the EU and Mediterranean countries, which would contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth in the region, and create the conditions for developing a new cooperation partnership", Geoghegan-Quinn said. She said the €80 billion Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme for 2014-20 would be the principal instrument for supporting Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in research and innovation.

The partnership will reinforce the capacity for research cooperation between universities through twinning and networking to promote an exchange of knowledge and dissemination of scientific information. An observatory of scientific cooperation across the Mediterranean will be created under the auspices of MIRA, the Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action. The observatory will focus on developing strategic indicators for measuring international scientific collaboration in the Mediterranean region such as financial and human resources, patents, designs and trademarks, and listing international agreements and programmes, policy measures, institutions and publications. The partnership will support the creation of an electronic network connecting scientists in universities and research centres, and promote the cultural diversity-oriented postgraduate study and research programmes of the Slovenia-based Euro-Mediterranean University.

Sawahel, Wagdy (2012), *EU and Mediterranean states to deepen academic cooperation*. Available: <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20120407105937236>. Last accessed 24 September 2013.

Further Reading

- ***Human Capital, Inequality and Migration in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries: Towards a Coherent Policy Agenda.*** Ayadi, Rym and El Mahdi, Alia (2013). Available: http://www.euromed-economists.org/sites/default/files/EMEA_PP7_Ayadi_Emhadi.pdf . Last accessed 24 September 2013.
- ***Overview of the Higher Education Systems in the Tempus Partner Countries: Southern Mediterranean.*** Philippe Ruffio et al. (2011). Available: <http://www.uni-med.net/images/overviewsouthern.pdf> . Last accessed 24 September 2013
- ***A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean.*** Joint communication to the European Council, the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. European Commission. (2011). Available: http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/com2011_200_en.pdf . Last accessed 24 September 2013.
- ***A Partnership for Democracy and Share. A new response to a changing Neighbourhood.*** Joint communication to the European Council, the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. European Commission. (2011). Available: http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/com_2011_303.pdf . Last accessed 24 September 2013.
- ***Towards a Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education & Research Area: First Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research (Cairo Declaration - 18 June 2007).*** European Commission (2007). Available: http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/cairo_declaration.pdf. Last accessed 24 September 2013.
- ***Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean.*** European Commission (2008). Available: http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/paris_declaration.pdf. Last accessed 24 September 2013.