Standing Up for Palestinian Higher Education: Building Partnerships

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Palestinian Higher Education





• Emerged after the 1948 Nakba under Israeli military occupation

Universities evolved from teacher training institutes and colleges in the 1970s

Currently, there are around 54 higher education institutions



Role of Palestinian Universities

Provided access to higher education

Became vital institutions despite occupation and restrictions

Preserved national identity and social resilience

Maintained a significant level of academic autonomy



- Current Challenges and Urgent Needs
- Destruction of higher education infrastructure in Gaza
- Ongoing pressures on universities in the West Bank
- Ensuring continuity of students' education







Call for Renewed and Expanded Cooperation

Urgent need for coordinated international action

Rebuilding Gaza's higher education sector

Safeguarding scholars and students

Investing in the future of Palestinian society



Long-Standing European/Spanish-Palestinian Cooperation

Decades of academic collaboration

Faculty exchanges and joint research

Capacity-building initiatives and scholarships

Strong engagement through Erasmus+ programmes



Partnering with Palestinian Higher Education: Strategic Actions

Building and Sustaining Partnerships

- Develop long-term frameworks for collaboration that foster academic exchange, joint research, and institutional cooperation.

Supporting Students and Staff

- Provide scholarships, fellowships, and mobility opportunities for students and academics.

Defending Academic Spaces

- Advocate globally against scholasticide by defending academic institutions and upholding the right to education, especially in times of crisis.



- International Support: Models of Collaboration
- In Norway, 14 institutions have formed the Norwegian Consortium for Palestinian Higher Education (NorPal), which provides a model for collective, structured engagement. NorPal aims to establish an organisational model and funding structure that is adequately resourced yet flexible, non-bureaucratic, and scalable.
- Strengthen cooperation with Palestinian universities through Erasmus+ programmes





What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. Erasmus+ funds academic mobility and cooperation projects that involve partners from "Programme Countries" and "Partner Countries" throughout the world. The 33 programme countries comprise the 27 EU Member States plus five other European countries.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the EU's priorities for cooperation policy with partner countries and regions.



International Credit Mobility (ICM)

Student and staff mobility between EU MS or associated countries and non-associated third countries. A study period or traineeship abroad must be part of a student's study programme to complete a degree

Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)

Support to modernise and reform higher education institutions and systems in the eligible countries worldwide

Capacity-building in the field of youth (CBY)

Support for non-formal learning and mobility, and activities to raise capacities of youth organisations in partner countries covered by the action.

Mobility in the field of youth

Exchanges for 13-30 year-olds for a recognised non-formal learning experience; activities to develop participatory skills and experience; mobility for youth workers

Capacity-building in the field of sport (CBS)

Projects support sport activities and policies as a vehicle to promote values as well as an educational tool to promote the personal and social development of individuals and build more cohesive communities.

Capacity Building in VET (CBVET)

Support the relevance, accessibility, and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems.

Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDM)

This project contributes to the costs of collaboration activities to design and set up joint programmes.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM)

High-quality international integrated master degree programmes with EU-funded scholarships to attract the brightest students.

Jean Monnet Actions (JMA)

Excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union studies worldwide, at higher education level.

Virtual exchanges in higher education and youth

Dialogue between young people to develop soft skills in a safe, moderated online environment An Erasmus+ intercultural experience without mobility.

Palestinian Higher Education Institutions

54



- Examples of Collaborative Partnerships between Palestinian and Spanish Universities under the Erasmus+ Programme
- □ Erasmus+ Capacity building in Higher Education (CBHE) & Vocational Education and Training (CB VET) (2023, 2024, 2025) and ICM
- Reforming the Governance of PhD Programs at Palestinian Higher Education Institutions (PhDGov), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)
- Open Educational Platform to Accelerate Market Adoption of Sustainable Energy Research Outcomes around the Mediterranean (SERMED), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
- Improving the Digital Skills of the Workforce in the Shoe and Leather Goods Industry in Jordan and Palestine (DISHOLEA), Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche
- University Centers for Neurodevelopment (NeuroDev), UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA
- Sologna for Science Education in Palestine and Jordan (BASE), Universitat de Barcelona
- Promoting Education for Entrepreneurs on Blockchain (PEEB), Universidad Rey Juan Carlos
- Technical Green Engineering Skills for Mediterranean Region (TECGREMED), Polytechnic University of Valencia
- Academy4EU, UNIVERSIDAD DE VALLADOLID
- Tigital Bridges, UNIVERSIDAD DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA













- Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM)
- University of Almeria
- University of Granada
- University of Barcelona
- University of Deusto
- University of Málaga
- Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
- University of Santiago de Compostela
- UNIVERSIDAD DE MURCIA
- UNIVERSIDAD DE LEÓN
- UNIVERSIDAD DE HUELVA
- University of Cádiz
- Pompeu Fabra University (UPF)
- University of Jaén













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Thank you

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