

LEBPASS ● ● ●



Co-funded by the  
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Dear Mr. Director General,  
Dear Reverend Father,  
Dear representatives of the LEBPASS consortium,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this important milestone of the LEBPASS project, which is crucial in many ways.

First, it is indeed an important project, because in a Lebanese higher education landscape that can be described as composite, the implementation of the European Diploma Supplement System established within the Sorbonne-Bologna process, a tool that enables employers and educational institutions to better understand what a curriculum consists of, which establishes as well a form of normative grammar of skills and qualifications, would be an essential instrument of transparency.

However, for this implementation to happen properly, a guarantee of equity must be put in place, which calls for the intervention of the State or of a regulatory and authenticating system, that must be national wide, durable, and in conformity with European standards.

To achieve this objective, the collective mobilization of universities in Lebanon will be will necessary. It is required to ensure that skills, competencies, and qualifications, are more easily recognized, within and

across national borders, in order to facilitate education and training mobility, and to establish clear standards for the access to the job market.

Second, LEBPASS is an important project because it implies a partnership involving national authorities, and I would like to stress that the AUF is positioning itself as a partner of public authorities to offer its expertise for the setting-up of public policies. LEBPASS implies as well a number of universities in Lebanon that are members of the AUF network. Alongside USEK, the project brings together universities of good will, and I stress as well the essential presence among them, with its weight in the national landscape, of the Lebanese University.

Third, this is an important project because it is a European one. The natural horizon of higher education in Lebanon, regarding mobility, regarding cooperation, regarding standards, is Europe.

The AUF, which is or has been involved in many Tempus, Erasmus+ and other European programs as coordinator or partner, will keep its commitments in this project, in addition to the support it provides through its participation, by providing its expertise on the components related to the platform and the communication.

Lebanese higher education is going through a terribly tough period. Painful adjustments will necessarily occur in the academic landscape. If there is one thing that should never be sacrificed, it is indeed the quality of education. In a context where anything that can contribute to restoring confidence sends a positive signal, this project, because it aims at establishing a kind of collective quality assurance through the set-up of comparative standard of qualifications, sends such a positive signal.

To the Lebanese authorities represented by the Director General of Higher Education, I would like to reiterate AUF's readiness to work with the Ministry to provide expertise and benevolent support, by providing the Ministry with the technical support it may need in defining public policies and the legal environment related to higher education.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the USEK team, who is heading this project with an outstanding professionalism and a remarkable dynamism. I thank you for your attention.