



**Word of Fr. Talal Hachem
President of USEK
Lebpass National Seminar
March 9, 2021**

Good day everyone!

Mr. Fady Yarak, Director General of Higher Education in Lebanon

Ms. Orla Colclough, from the European delegation,

Mr. Jean Noel Baleo, Director of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie,

Mr. Aref Soufi, Director of the Erasmus Office in Lebanon,

Our European and Lebanese partners...

It is a great pleasure to be e-seeing you all! I wish we could have organized this extremely important event face-to-face but as we all know by now the global situation in general and the situation in Lebanon in particular are having their weight on our activities and events... but I hope we will get to meet in person in the near future.

It gives me a great pleasure also to be welcoming you all for the launching of this National Seminar of our Lebanese Diploma Supplement (LebPass) project, an Erasmus+ funded project through the generous support of the European Union gathering many Lebanese institutions, namely the Directorate General of Higher Education in Lebanon, the Lebanese University, the Lebanese American University, Beirut Arab University, the Lebanese Canadian University and many European partners, in particular Evalag, the AUF, University of Nuremberg, University of Cyprus, Bretagne Sud University, and Espace Mendes France.

The importance of the LebPass project is manifold; first, it is a national structural project with a **national structural impact**. In other words, it is carried out in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, and namely with the Directorate General of Higher Education, **(and here I cannot but thank Mr. Fady Yarak for the organization of this webinar under the patronage of the Directorate General),**

Once implemented, LebPass would lead to a tangible constructive change in Higher Education, as it would contribute to the promotion of the Higher Education system in Lebanon.

Second, again because LebPass is a structural project, if integrated within the Lebanese national education strategy, it would lead to the enhancement of the quality of studies, to an increase in the mobility of not only students, but also employees, with visible and clear qualifications, and would obviously lead to the promotion of cooperation between the different higher education institutions in Lebanon.

Third, this important project is gathering people who share the same interest or I'd rather say the same concern, which is upholding quality education, they are gathered from different countries to brainstorm and put their know-how in the service of education in Lebanon. For that purpose, I would like to thank all the people who are working on LebPass for their invaluable enthusiasm and commitment... Our Lebanese partners for dedicating their vigorous efforts and their great ideas, our European partners for sharing their experience and expertise in the field, and for each member of the project consortium who is sparing no effort to move with the project forward.

Finally, I know there will be many presentations today on the project and its work progress and I wish you all a successful webinar full of discussions and new ideas, and I hope to see also other Lebanese institutions joining this project, always for the best of our students.

Thank you!