



## **EU project Design and management Units**

### **(EuNIT)**

#### **1. Objective**

EuNIT is a European project that aims, over 3 years (2016-2019), to increase international activity in Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in the Southern Mediterranean region. To reach this aim, the project has as ultimate objective to make the universities aware of the role of European programs in enhancing international cooperation mainly between European and south Mediterranean countries.

#### **2. Deliverables**

The goal of the Erasmus+ EuNIT project, as a capacity Building project, is to set-up and install, in each of the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) involved in the project from the partner countries, a design and management unit that deals with the planning and management of European projects. To reach this goal, a team from each HEI shall be equipped with the necessary theoretical and practical skills and expertise in order to run efficiently and successfully such EU unit. Each team consists of three persons, two of them having an administrative profile and the third one a financial profile.

#### **3. General overview**

This project involves 16 partners and 6 associated partners from Croatia, France, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Spain and has been co-financed by the Erasmus+ program for the amount of 1 million euros. Actions were planned to train the teams and build their capacities to manage the targeted units. A first phase involved:



- i. An observation session for two officers from each of the involved HEIs in order to gain the needed knowledge about these future units, their operations and their services.
- ii. Two training sessions, developed according to a need analysis discussed and validated by all partners.

At the end of this phase an evaluation took place in order to take appropriate actions where needed.

Consequently, the trained staff members will perform open sessions to show their abilities to participate and respond to EU initiatives, calls and proposals.

The second phase focuses on developing a guidebook to set-up EU Units. This guidebook is the basis for the creation of such units in HEI.

Finally, and as for all European projects a dissemination phase ensures that the results and the actions proposed by the EuNIT have been properly and adequately disseminated within each institution through internal training sessions, and within its national and international concerned environments through the creation of an appropriate network.

#### **4. Impact on UOB**

The University of Balamand has a long experience in managing and participating in European projects. With time, many new types of programs have been launched within ERASMUS+ and the management of the related projects needs a more sophisticated support from the central administration. This is why UOB decided to participate in this project to develop the colleagues' potential in participating in the different types of European openings such as:

- i. Cooperation Projects: Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM), Capacity Building for Higher Education (CBHE), ENICBC, etc..
- ii. Research Projects: H2020, PRIMA, ERANETMED, etc..

At the University of Balamand, the Unit has been called European Projects Unit (EPU), within the Office for European Projects located in the office of the Vice President for



Planning and Educational Relations. The offices directly involved in the unit are: the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Admissions & Registration and the Office of the Comptroller.

On 21/12/2017 the University President approved the establishment of the EPU. The first task on EPU agenda was to enhance the work on Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM). This important work, that has started before the creation of EPU, is one of Erasmus+ projects that offer exchange opportunities to students, staff and faculty members. EPU is also expected to render services to interested members of UOB community participating, or wishing to participate, in different Erasmus+ projects. This service is expected to become effective at the end of the EuNIT project planned for June 2019. One important task that EPU needs to launch in the near future is to introduce UOB community to different European programs, their richness, their complexity and their importance since they widen UOB international exposure. Actions will be planned to reach this goal before October 2019, mainly:

- i. Information sessions;
- ii. On hand training sessions;
- iii. Meeting with external experts.

## **5. Future perspectives**

Internationalization is one of the important criteria in university ranking. UOB is targeting to evolve in this ranking as part of its academic vision and its opening perspective. Internationalization is a chance given to the HE community to share experience, to gain from other programs and to show the importance and value of our work. Participating in European programs is one of the important axes that help UOB reach its goal of excellence.