

# Opening Speech for Workshop on Fundraising and Project Management

## Tempus Project

### Towards an Internationalization of Higher Education Network for

### MEDA Region "TIES"

Beirut, April 19, 20, 2012

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen

First, I would like to welcome you all to BAU in Lebanon. We are pleased to host the workshop entitled: “Fundraising and Project Management” in the framework of the tempus project “Toward an Internationalization of Higher Education Network for MEDA Region TIES” in Beirut.

I would also like to thank the European Union for its efforts to support and finance this tempus project, the university of Alicante for coordinating this project, and to welcome participants from partner countries, Spain, Italy, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Jordan as well as the Lebanese participants.

Beirut Arab University (BAU) is one of the top and largest private higher education institutions and one of the oldest Universities in Lebanon. The university celebrated its 50th anniversary two years ago. Beirut Arab University, founded in 1960, includes ten academic faculties (Arts, Law & Political Science, Commerce & Business Administration, Architectural Engineering, Engineering, Science, Pharmacy, Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences) with 35 departments representing a diversity of disciplines.

At BAU we have different centers such as the Academic Development & Quality Assurance Center, the Center of Consultation, the Media Center, the Language Center, the Human Rights Center, the Center for Entrepreneurship and the Center for Environmental Researches.

The university has two campuses in Beirut and Debbieh, and one branch in Tripoli as well as the Bekaa campus which is under construction.

Beirut Arab University (BAU) has been committed to promote quality education since it was established. We continuously look to improve the academic and administrative services by consistently upgrading these services to conform with international standards.

One of the strategic plan objectives of BAU is to enhance the activities relevant to internationalization. Our main priorities are to:

- Strengthen the relations of academic cooperation with international institutions concerned with higher education;
- Enhance research funding from international organizations;
- Increase both the number and proportion of international students;
- Encourage the organization of international conferences;
- Develop a wider marketing campaign to improve recruitment internationally; and to
- Encourage participating in international projects like Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, FP7 and Cèdre.

Within the framework of this project, an International Relation Office IRO has been created; the main mission of the Office is to oversee the University's international strategic development. The IRO at BAU manages, coordinates and supervises all international relations, initiatives and programs. It facilitates both student and teacher exchanges and manages the funding for international partnerships. Actually, the IRO manages seven running tempus projects about International Relations, Financial Management, Leadership in Higher Education, Entrepreneurship Education and Quality Assurance, in addition to an Erasmus Mundus project.

Regarding the topic of this workshop, the IRO will play a major role in fundraising on the international level

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the attendance of experts and people with different backgrounds, more beneficial ideas and experiences can be shared in this workshop. I look forward to the positive outcome of this event and I hope you all will enjoy your stay in Lebanon.

Thank you.