

Learning Mobility of Individuals – Staff Mobility for Training

Heliopolis University

Cairo, Egypt

Participant: **Prof. Dr. Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry**

Project reference number: **19-107-060269**

Period of mobility: 26. 9. - 1. 10. 2020

1. Introduction

Heliopolis University (HU) and the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) formed its inter-institutional links in 2010, a year after EMUNI was established. Ever since, we have maintained our relationship through exchanging newsletters and information related to study programmes and research activities. This mobility was a follow-up exchange under the current mobility project between EMUNI and HU. Given the current circumstances with many restrictions on travel, and when most of our communication conducted with partnership contacts is online, a physical presence in the receiving institution has proven to be even more valuable. With the help of this mobility, we managed to upgrade and extend collaboration and networking between EMUNI and Egyptian higher education institutions. The collaboration framework will be further developed in the field of education, as well as in project management. Particular added value lies in the fact that we will further enrich the internationalization process by deepening Egyptian-Slovenian relations, which is aligned with our strategy of further involvement in different study activities with international partners.

Both institutions are also constantly seeking opportunities for the modernisation of study processes and to improve academic excellence. The mobility has thus contributed to the exchange of ideas, good practices and experience. Furthermore, mobility significantly contributed to the relationship between the institutions and in setting up new collaboration frameworks.

2. Activities carried out during the Mobility at Heliopolis University

The mobility started with an orientation day, when HU's staff organised a visit to the new Faculty of Organic Agriculture at HU Sekam Farm in Belbeis. Following an introductory meeting with HU's President, a discussion about cooperation involving two private Egyptian universities took place, along with the director of Taalem Educational Service Company. On the same day, at the HU Sunday Business Forum, a discussion about the development of job-market oriented programmes with links to industry was held.

Further important activity regarding the exploration of potential areas for deepening relations between EMUNI and HU was carried out in the form of organised visits to different schools of Heliopolis University. The main objective of the meetings with the deans was to design activities to be implemented under the EMUNI Intercultural Business Communication programme.

A pedagogy meeting at HU was also organised, where issues related to the modernisation of curricula and the use of ICT technologies in teaching and learning were discussed, while the online activities of HU were also presented.

Participation in the Board of Trustees meeting at Al Alamein University in Egypt represents a new window to cooperation with HEIs in the local area, as well as active involvement in educational processes at the level of top management among local HEIs.

Furthermore, there was an opportunity to meet the Egyptian Minister of Higher Education in order to discuss potential cooperation with the newly established Egyptian universities.

At a meeting with a former minister of HE in Egypt, who is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Senghor University in Alexandria, the possibilities for cooperation within the EMUNI network were also presented.

At another meeting with the President of the Egyptian – Japanese University for Science and Technology (E-JUST), the main purpose was again, to present the EMUNI network, its activities and opportunities for collaboration.

It is expected that this mobility visit will act as an important factor for future cooperation between HU and EMUNI in terms of academic activities and research projects. Mobility has long been an important tool and opportunity for closer collaboration and the establishment of better international relations among other local HEIs and the Ministry of Higher Education in Egypt.