

Promoting the modernization and strengthening of institutional and financial autonomy in Southern Neighbouring Area HEIs

Project background

Due to the economic recession, many HEIs seek a balance between academic excellence and effective resources management, with a growing emphasis on Financial Management (FM). For complex institutions on minimal budgets, FM represents serious challenges as well as needing strategies for greater autonomy and transparency in the four target countries of the project, Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian Territory and Syria.

Hence, the HEIs now strive for a balance of efficient and quality FM management.

Objective

Overall objective:

Lend specific support to institutional demands for increased efficiency, autonomy and transparency in FM in partnering Southern Neighbouring Area (SNA) HEIs, in line with national schemes & regional Tempus priorities.

UNAM seeks support mechanisms to existing ideas in target HEIs with specific objectives:

- To develop transparent financial culture promoting decentralisation & financial autonomy
- To create a platform for dialogue through a recognised regional network of HEI Managers to exchange good practice in FM;
- To sustainably strengthen managerial, strategic, admin & technical capacities in eight SNA HEIs through targeted trainings, development of strategies & technical support systems for effective FM by 2013.

Outcomes and outputs

UNAM commences with an analysis via benchmarking to compare FM methods, and evaluate training needs to tailor HR development. Targeted training takes place based on this for various stakeholders to assist effective FM, later converted to e-modules for wider dissemination.

In parallel, planning institutional capacity building including interdepartmental dialogue and upgrading of IT systems for FM takes place. This leads to improved knowledge, modernization plans and system development in target HEIs. A small-scale pilot action in select departments will test and provide feedback.

Furthermore, policy and strategic planning is the key in UNAM. National roundtables and supra-regional conferences take place, whilst the development of FM Action Plans in each HEI adds sustainability and structures.

Finally, outputs are consolidated and 2 publications are produced, a policy-oriented and a practical handbook.

