

Women in Higher Education Elite Leadership (WHEEL)

WHEEL is a regional women's network seeking to advance, support, develop and connect female leaders in Higher Education across the MEDA region. The name 'WHEEL' is appropriate in terms of steering change in the right direction. In the last meeting that took place in Cardiff, Jacqui Hare, who is the VCB of Cardiff Met, was elected the Honorary Chair; WHEEL will definitely benefit from Jacqui Hare's experience and knowledge in the Higher Education systems in the UK and beyond. The network participants, from Egypt, Tunisia, Italy, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, and the UK, are female leaders or potential leaders in their institutions who have agreed to meet regularly. The consortium aims to disseminate, across universities, a model of social balance with equal opportunities between males and females, in respect of leadership in academia, as well as showing the sustainability of the members' commitment to making change happen in the partner universities.

Latest WHEEL meeting



Marrakesh, Morocco



Marrakesh, Morocco

The most recent WHEEL meeting was held on 29th January until 2nd February 2013 at Caddy Ayad University, Morocco. An overview was made about EU gender equality regulations, best practices and a presentation of the mission of the EOCs. The functions and objectives of the EOCs are to listen to the student problems and identify their needs (social and psychological).

A university staff member who is active in the community and society (involvement in community service is mandatory) can be a coordinator. They must be trustworthy, have neutrality, confidence, be a good listener, respect confidentiality, be interactive, communicative effectively and be persuasive. They must strengthen skills, women competences and self-confidence among women in order for them to control their destiny and disseminate the culture of cooperation among women.

Problem Solving process:

1. Identify the problem
2. Explore information and create ideas
3. Select the best idea
4. Build and test the idea
5. Evaluate the results

Recommendations:

- 1- Organise activities where you can engage with people who could be interesting for EOC
- 2- Engage consultants for collaboration
- 3- Set gender balance structure then social balance structure at each partner university
- 4- Proceed for questionnaire and data collection
- 5- Decide what the EOC is going to be
- 6- Set a ground basis for all EOCs
- 7- Ask for recognition of the coordinators by the university
- 8- By august 2013 come up with a study about the existing situations of women and how we propose change them
- 9- Organise a dissemination event at each university
- 10- Show the achievements of the EOCs in the final consortium





Equal Opportunity Centre (EOC)

WHEEL

Training the trainer

Currently all project partners are engaged in opening EOC Centres.

Mission: the EOC will work for the guarantee of equal opportunities and the improvement of workers' wellbeing against discrimination in Higher Education.

Vision: committed to promoting equal opportunities in Higher Education where everyone is treated with dignity and respect in the work place. Everyone has an equal chance to succeed.

History of EOC: EOC returns to WHEEL, founded during a TEMPUS program meeting at Al-Fayoum University, Egypt, in January 2011, and includes many women leaders, or potential leaders, from Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon and Morocco, plus Italy, Greece and the UK. The network reflects the diversity of its members and aims to promote female leadership, opportunities and equality in academia. During a meeting at Cardiff Metropolitan University, United Kingdom, in July 2012, it was recognised that implementing and disseminating the goals of WHEEL will take time for it to be effective and successful. Therefore, it was decided to set up an EOC in each university in the consortium.

The consortium universities:

Bari University	Caddy Ayad University	University of Sousse
University of Sfax	Fayoum University	MUBS
American Cairo University	Ain Shams University	University of Hassan II
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Beirut Arab University	SIST
Ionian University		

Rules of EOCs:

- Promoting the equal opportunities for all members (staff and students) in each university by means of a variety of actions and measures
- Implementing action plans to prevent discrimination and promote equality
- Promoting the culture of equal opportunity by using scientific research, education and cultural training.

Short term goals of EOC:

- Training leaders
- Disseminating knowledge and plans to others
- Informing others
- Obtaining recognition by becoming an official office in each university.

Future objectives will be to increase coordination among EOCs and keep each other informed about activities that will be carried out. This incentive will stimulate action on the part of each university. Everyone should start working and try to involve as many people as possible.

By working together, we will achieve and succeed.

