

1st
Edition



Project Newsletter: November 2013



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EPIC

EU Partnerships & International Cooperation

with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria & Palestine

The Erasmus Mundus Action 2, Lot 1 Project 'EU Partnerships & International Cooperation with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria & Palestine' (EPIC) has had a successful first year. We have had multiple consortium meetings and we are currently open for applications for the third time!

Kick-off meeting

Representatives of partner universities in Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, UK, Italy, France, Spain, Belgium, Poland and Lithuania came together to discuss the project and agree the arrangements for the first call of applications.



Spreading the word

Following the kick-off meeting, the EPIC consortium then began its promotional activities for the 1st Call which was to open in November 2013. The promotional strategy had been discussed and agreed during the kick-off meeting. Project posters and leaflets were created and distributed alongside the launch of the official

project website www.em-epic.eu, which was launched in September 2012. Additionally, the EPIC Facebook site was launched, which proved to be a huge success with currently over 2700 followers! The partner universities used a variety of methods to spread the word about the scholarships, including their own promotional materials, social network sites and events.



Promotion continued with the 2nd round of cohort 1, which opened in April 2013, and the second cohort, which is currently underway, also benefitted from new promotional material and events. The EPIC Project has received an overwhelming amount of interest and is well on its way to awarding over 200 scholarships!



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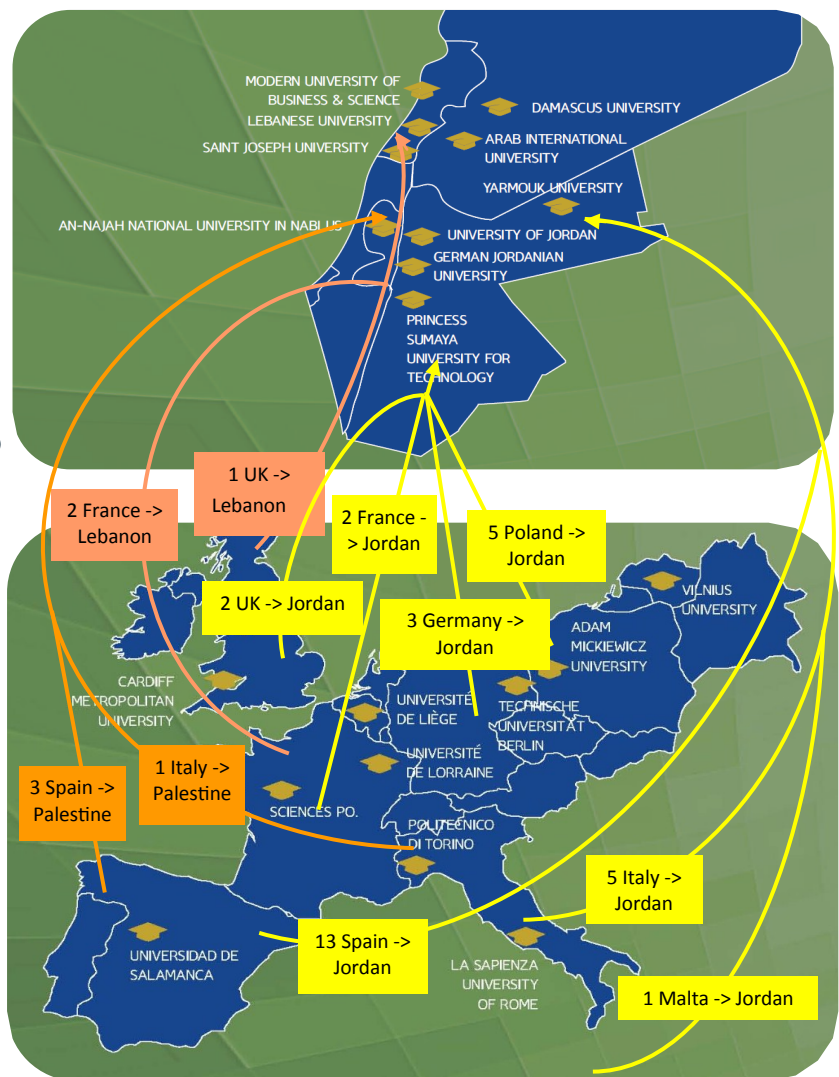
with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria & Palestine

Scores of scholarships

EPIC is proud to have offered scholarships at all levels (undergraduate, master, doctorate, post-doctorate and staff) in both directions, i.e. EU > Non-EU Universities and Non-EU > EU Universities.

With 3 rounds of applications, we are confident that we will be able to pass the 200 scholarship mark, ensuring that as many people as possible benefit from the project.

You can see from the image on the right the number of EU scholars that currently hold nominations.



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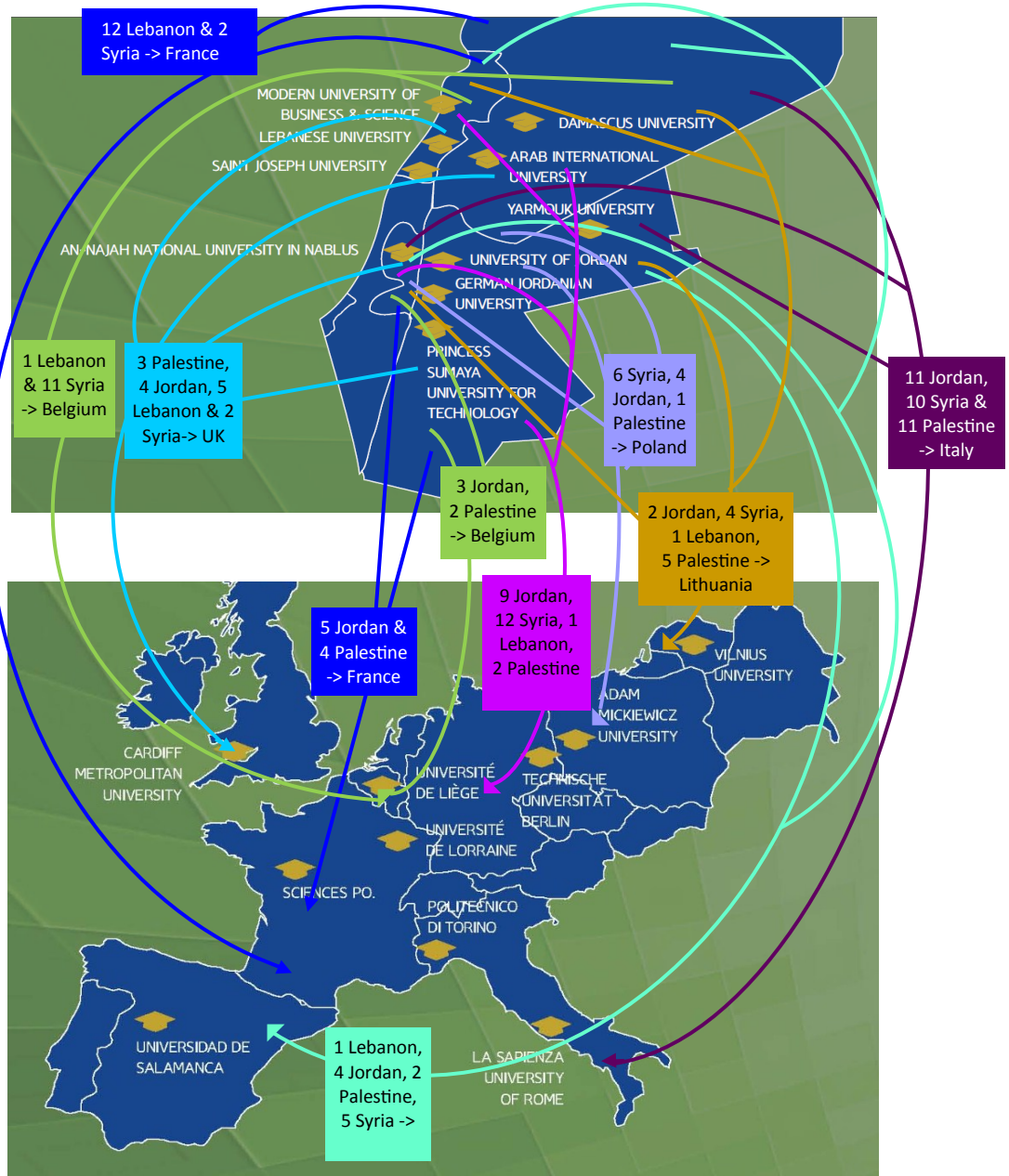
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Scores of scholarships continued...

You can see from the image on the right how many non-EU scholars currently hold nominations.

That makes a total of 185 scholarships from cohort 1. The call from cohort 2, due to close on 15th November 2013 will award further nominations at undergraduate (EU and Lebanese nationals), post-doctorate (EU nationals) and staff (EU, Palestinian, Jordanian, Lebanese and Syrian nationals). We aim to issue the nominations by the end of January at the latest.



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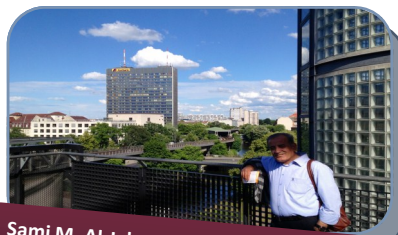
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Hear from the scholars

We ask all our scholars to provide feedback of their experiences during their participation in the scholarship. We already have 13 members of staff who have completed their mobilities.

Dina Habbal, PhD Student gave birth to her daughter last week, and she is already back to work/ research lab. The father is taking care of the baby.



Sami M. Al-Jaber, staff exchange scholar from An-Najah National University to Technische Universität Berlin



Al-Hajaj Y. R. Rasheed, undergraduate exchange scholar from An-Najah National

Scholars at Vilnius University also had the privilege meet the President of Palestine, Mr Mahmoud Abbas, during his official visit to Lithuania in October 2013.

Dear EPIC Team,

Subject: Testimony of my stay in TU-Berlin, Germany

First I would like to thank you for the great effort and commitment for my faculty exchange mobility that I had this Summer (3 June – 3 July, 2013). I consider this opportunity as a great academic experience and it deepened the cultural interaction between the home country and the host one. Your office at CMU is greatly acknowledged for their continuous help and assistance through the whole process. I would like also to thank Mr. Olivier Pfeiffer (EPIC contact person at TU-Berlin) and Dr. Khalid Hlwai (EPIC contact person at home university).

This is the first time for me to visit Berlin (though I visited Germany few times). We (my wife and my two sons) had a great stay. The housing was arranged through my host at TU-Berlin. My host Prof. Ruedi Seiler received me at Berlin airport and drove us to the apartment that we rented. I had a great academic results that I worked at during that month. In addition, I received an invitation, during my stay, from Prof. Volker Bach from University of Braunschweig (an hour and a half by train from Berlin) to give a seminar which I accepted. So I gave a seminar on Monday, June 24 at the group of Mathematical Physics at Braunschweig university. I would certainly love to apply for next Summer and I have in mind your University (CMU) as an option as well as Berlin.

Sincerely Yours,

Prof. Dr. Sami Al-Jaber
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Developing International Cooperation

Exciting international cooperation opportunities developed as a result of the EPIC Project:

- A general Memorandum of Understanding and a student exchange agreement between the University of Jordan and Sciences Po
- The development of Cardiff Met's Transnational Education programmes being offered at Modern University of Business and Science
- Exploration of possible institutional cooperation between Yarmouk University and Adam Mickiewicz University, Sciences Po and Technische Universität Berlin.



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