

The first delivery of the short course on Research Strategies was hosted by Alexandria University (AU) on 25th and 26th February 2015, with participants from across Egypt, and representatives from both Morocco and Lebanon.



Participants received a certificate after completing the course

The development of research strategies in universities throughout the Middle East and North Africa is a key priority in the region, given that it produces less than 0.5% of all research yet accounts for 6% of the world's population*. The short course produced by BUCUM aims to help universities tackle this problem.

The course, which was developed by Professor Luciano Saso, Deputy Rector for the Development of UNICA Network at Sapienza University of Rome, focuses on the creation of "fertile" environments for researchers and doctoral candidates. Some of the topics included choosing the research topic, obtaining financial and technical resources, and ethical issues related to conducting research.

Following Professor Saso's presentation, Professor El-Naggar, Vice Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Affairs in the Faculty of Science at Alexandria University, presented a summary of AU's strategic plan. The participants were then organised into two teams to complete a SWOT analysis of research at their own institutions. This was followed by an exercise on developing a research strategy which could be developed within the institutions, with participants thinking about the strategies on a national level.

Participants reported that the course was beneficial in helping them develop strategies and they will now work with leadership at their respective universities to implement a research strategy. The course will also now be run by each of the universities involved in the course.

Participants included:

Alexandria University

Prof Mohamed Ibrahim, Prof Moustafa El-Naggar, Prof Prof Sherine Khattab, Prof Yehia Aboushady, Dr Rasha El-Shintey and Professor Mohamed Belal.

Arab Academy for Science and Technology

Dr Dina Tamazin. Dr Ahmed Moussa Elsamadicy and Dr Moustafa Abdel Gellil

Suez Canal University

Prof Amani Waheed, Prof Ibrahim Farris, Dr Amgad Matter, Dr Omar Dessouki and Dr Abdylila Abdel Azeem Hashish

Dr Rachid Dehbi – *University Hassan II of Casablanca*

Dr Nisreen Alwan – *Modern University for Business and Science*



*Time Higher Education, "Arab émigrés 'have a duty' to help their home nations make strides", 19th March 2015

Libyan Partners Travel to Tunisia

BUCUM

Representatives from Zawia University and Misurata University in Libya travelled to Tunisia recently in order to take delivery of the equipment which will form their Governance Centres.

With the on-going political problem in Libya, sourcing an IT company who could supply the necessary equipment for the centres was proving very hard to do. Following special permission from ECAEA, the decision was taken to purchase the equipment from a supplier in Tunisia.



The delegation in Tunis after successfully taking receipt of the equipment for the centres

The partner universities in Libya, along with the Ministry of Higher Education, and the project coordinator, Cardiff Metropolitan University, began the process of obtaining quotations and working with the chosen supplier.

Despite the abandonment of the initial meeting in February following the closure of the Tunisia-Libya border, a delegation consisting of both Libyan universities and a representative from Cardiff Met travelled to Tunis on 7th March to meet the supplier and successfully take receipt of the equipment.

The success of the trip has been a huge boost for the universities, whose participation in the project in recent months has been hindered by travel restrictions in Libya.

With the designated rooms for the Governance Centres ready and furnished, the equipment can be installed without further delay.

The centres are an integral and important part of the project, providing the location for the training courses and also acting as a meeting point for the discussion of management practices.



For further information and updates on the project, please visit

<http://bucum.eu/>

or email

tempus@cardiffmet.ac.uk