

## Report on the First Virtual Round Table at the Lebanese International Univerity

#### Global Engagement Office and the School of Education

Website: https://sites.google.com/liu.edu.lb/schoolofeducation-liu/home

Date	26th March, 2021		
Time	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Lebanon Local Time		
Venue	ARATOCK - https://aratok.com/		
Virtual	1209 viewers and 1745 tickets booked.		
Attendees			
Diversity	2VPs – 5 Deans- Assistant Deans- Chairs – Course Coordinators		
	Instructors – Staff – Students as well as NEO Coordiantor in Lebaon and		
	Project Coordinator from Slovenia		
Link of the	https://aratok.com/?class=Record&method=attendEventRecording&rec		
event	ording=1080&key=4ecc		
Report	Anwar Kawtharani- Dean of School of Education		
writen by	Melissa Kandil – SoED Graduate Student		

#### **Outcomes**

- 1. Describe the landscapes of accreditation on internationalization within Lebanese universities
- 2. Improve the capacities of the Lebanese International University in terms of internationalization by translating general awareness of the concept of "Internationalization at Home IaH"
- 3. Develop students' intercultural knowledge and their affinity for cultural diversity (through a space for discussion and sharing "Friends Tea House")
- 4. Develop a model at the end of the project, validated by the IaH concept, adapted to the Lebanese context









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Moderator	Ms. Dina Shouman		
Guest Speakers	Time	Speaker	Title
	10:00 A.M -10:15 A.M	Dr. Samir AbouNassif	The Impact of Quality Assurance on the Internationalization of Education
	10:15 A.M -10:20 A.M	Dr. Nada Trunk	Presentation of the MED2IaH Project
	10:20 AM -10:30 AM	Dr. Aref AlSoufi	Feedback on the Monitoring of CBHE project 610107 (MED2IaH) with LIU
	10:30 A.M -10:45 A.M	Dr. Ali Tara <mark>bay</mark>	Internationalization Strategic Planning and Outlook on Students/faculty/staff & Curriculum
	10:45 A.M -10:55 A.M	Mr. Nabil <mark>Kouat</mark> ly & Ms Abir Mahdi	The impact of the Erasmus+ staff mobility period on employment and career development
	10:55 A.M -11:00 A.M	Ms. Melissa Kandil	The Journey of Internationalization at Home in building a student's competence at LIU
	11:00 A.M -11:30 A.M	Dr. Anwar Kawtharani	Summary of webinars 1 & 2 by Partner consortium on MED2IaH Erasmus+ project on: 1. Internationalization of the Formal Curriculum 2. Global Skill Development in Local Contexts
	11:30 AM -12:00 PM	Closing word - Survey Dissemination	



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Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



Report of

## 1<sup>st</sup> VIRTUAL

#### **ROUND TABLE**

## PART OF THE ERASMUS+ MED2I@H PROJECT

## THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES:

**TOWARDS** 

**INTERNATIONALIZATION** 

AT HOME

MARCH 26, 2021 - 10:00 AM 12:00 PM

LIVE ON <a href="https://aratok.com/">https://aratok.com/</a>































IoHE = Internationalization of Higher Education

IaH= Internationalization at Home

MED2IaH = Mediterranean Countries: Towards Internationalization at Home

LIU = Lebanese International University

## Ms. Dina Shouman (Moderator)

- Introduction to the webinar and welcome note.
- IoHE is no longer regarded as a goal in itself but as a mean to improve the quality of education. It has become a key change agent in higher education.
- There is an increasingly attention being paid to the internationalization of the curriculum such as the integration of 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies.
- MED2IaH is dedicated to the capacity building of the key actors, policy makers and the development of the IoHE strategies and regulations for the implementation of IaH.
- Virtual mobility and on-campus intercultural engagement for the benefits of non-mobile students' global competence.

































## Dr. Samir AbouNassif

- Began by thanking the consortium of the 17 universities for all their effort and work that has been done
- Provided a definition of IoHE (Integrating an international component into everything that the university does)
- Internationalization was considered as something out of reach, only about an office on-campus that deals with student mobility. However, this notion is changing: Internationalization is in the mainstream of everything that the university does.
- LIU has positioned itself as a very versatile, future-oriented, and agile university.
- Internationalization has to be integrated at all levels and in all departments.
- Many internationalization initiatives have been taken at LIU, such as student/faculty mobility, MoUs, joint degrees and more.







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- More efforts from all stakeholders are needed to help with the process of internationalization
- LIU is well positioned for internationalization:
  - O It is multi-campus university in Lebanon (9 campuses). However, a challenge that can come up is the need to make sure that when an internationalization policy is set, it needs to be practiced in all campuses.
  - O It has sister international campuses in Senegal, Mauritania, and in Yemen. This has provided a richness in student and faculty members' exchange.
- Quality Assurance is an ongoing process of evaluating and enhancing the quality of higher education system to assure stakeholders that acceptable standards are being maintained.
- Internationalization and quality assurance are inter-related.
- Quality revolves around the fact the university is fit for what it is designed (mission and vision) to do, has excellence and distinction, and is transformative (encourage and embrace change)
- Administrative staff also need to be an active actor in the internationalization process.
- You need a clear strategic plan for the sustainability of quality, which includes an internationalization component.

































- Quality assurance is developmental and needs a regulatory framework
- Quality assurance is a requirement for internationalization and internationalization is a mechanism for quality assurance
- Internationalization is here to stay, let's embrace it.

# Dr. Nada Trunk Presentation of the MED2IaH Project

- The quality assurance issue is very important in the internationalization process.
- Quality has to be everywhere, not only on papers. It has to be on the students, teachers, and institution level.
- In classes, nowadays, and especially with online education, there are students and colleagues from different countries, and therefore bring internationalization to the university.
- Wishes LIU all the best in improving this perspective in all the activities that they are doing (extracurricular, study activities, research...)































#### Dr. Aref AlSoufi

## Feedback on the Monitoring of CBHE project 610107 (MED2IaH) with LIU

- He was really impressed by the large participation in this round table.
- Monitoring is one of the most important tools by which the program can look at the field, how the projects are being implemented, and try to provide assistance and help if needed.
- They usually send a report with a score based on four criteria, them being: implementation, impact and sustainability, quality of partnership and collaboration and the relevance of the project.
- Regarding the implementation, the project has worked out a contingency plan and will exert big effort to ask only for a short extension, and is implanting its activities very well.
- The large participation of LIU in webinars was really appreciated, as it has shown the commitment of the university.
- The way the project was managed is inspiring.







































Regarding the recommendations, they stressed the importance of this round table as an important activity from the roadmap of internationalization. The aim of the round table is to lead an internal discussion at the institutional level in order to work out the institution's strategy for internationalization and to have a work plan for later implementation.

## Dr. Ali Tarabay

## Internationalization Strategic Planning and Outlook on Students/faculty/staff & Curriculum

- LIU gives strong attribution to the value of internationalization
- When it comes to the strategic planning, a continuous process, LIU addresses two pertinent themes to the topic of the roundtable, namely the internationalization of student and faculty staff as well as the internationalization of the curriculum.
- LIU is deeply committed to internationalization and they constantly promote a culture that embraces it as a core to the university's identity.
- They try to establish a more flexible responsive institutional infrastructure that supports their internationalization goals and overcomes barriers to participation in global activities.































- They seek to accomplish this by ensuring that the administrative staff has the expertise and competencies to interpret and implement policies and procedures related to all thing international.
- The need to provide training to faculty and staff on international issues and procedures
- Always trying to participate in international and cross-cultural experiences.
- LIU are always looking for ways to try and invest in targeted and strategic partnerships especially with institutions that have similar sizes, strategic directions to the university.
- The student should be exposed to other cultures and experiences that will provide them with the stimulating and challenging learning experience, which will in turn prepare them to the challenges of life and future career.
- How do we value and reward international work? How do we value the knowledge and expertise
  of international partners we will engage with?































Mr. Nabil Kouatly & Ms Abir Mahdi
The impact of the Erasmus+ staff mobility period on employment and career development

### Mr. Nabil Kouatly

- The aim of the project was to help international students to resume their studies in foreign countries by adapting the curriculum and help them find a proper job.
- The training provided to the staff members of the RSOS unit were given to provide them with information about technology that can be used to help international students in how to be a part in any activity or course offered to local students.
- Many students had difficulties in getting their school grades, which was resolved by referring to the ministry of education for documents verification.
- The language barrier required more work and care from the administrative and staff members.
- As for the economic challenges, it was a common barrier to many students.
- LIU, and regarding the language barrier, the university already had remedial courses that are given
  to all students based on an English placement test.





























#### Ms. Abir Mahdi

- LIU is known to provide financial aid programs, scholarships and tuition fees that suit different financial levels. In addition to that, they have agreements with NGOs that support foreign students.
- As for the psychological part, it affects most of the international students as they tend to feel lonely and that they don't belong to the new community that they have moved to.
- By opening the RSOS unit, they were able to break some of the barriers.
- Students need us to be next to them, they need to feel that the university is next to them and that they are filling the gap students feel.
- One of the universities they visited was in Turkey, where they talked about all the challenges they faced and the processes they followed to overcome them. They noticed that municipalities in Istanbul played an important role in helping the students once they arrive to the country. As for in Spain, the office of international affairs, it was their responsibility to help the students.
- Exchange programs at LIU allow hosting international students as well as send local students abroad to share this experience.





























As part of the staff mobility, the experience was rich with new information that allowed them to bring back to the university. They were exposed to new skills, saw new perspective and expanded networks

## Ms. Melissa Kandil The Journey of Internationalization at Home in building a student's competence at LIU

- Three main ideas discussed:
  - The 21st century competence that students can acquire with I@H
  - The culture of engagement that students experience at LIU
  - Experience and perspective on internationalization.
- What does a globally competent student look like? What are the skills he/she has? From this, we can look at what we need to equip students with, based on an analysis of their current competences, and building on that through a supporting system.
- Student mobility isn't accessible to all thus the importance of bringing internationalisation to students, practicing internationalisation at home.
- From the cross-cultural skills they will gain, to the appreciation of diversity they will acquire, all of this can benefit the students and prepare them to what awaits after graduation.































- When it comes to LIU, students have been presented and introduced to this shift of directions in education.
- This opportunity to register and participate in webinars about internationalization has exposed students to the new paradigm of education.
- The webinars gave a chance to get a better understanding of the future of teaching and learning as well as the current global issues and challenges. This journey has provided students with new networks and new horizons to explore.

#### Dr. Anwar Kawtharani

Summary of webinars 1 & 2 by Partner consortium on MED2IaH Erasmus+ project on:

- 1. Internationalization of the Formal Curriculum
- 2. Global Skill Development in Local Contexts
- The concept of IoHE is a new and a broad phenomenon, driven by a dynamic combination of political, economic, socio-cultural and academic rationales and stakeholders. It has an impact on the EU and MENA region and is not a single that fits all.







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- Many global trends concerning internationalization such as an increase in institutional strategies, challenges of funding, and others
- Internationalization before the pandemic is not the same as after.
- Some misconceptions about internationalization: It's only about the numbers of international students of research publications. It's only about English language. Internationalization is a goal in itself.
  - However, internationalization is not only about English, but the inclusion of other foreign languages. Moreover, Internationalization is a mechanism, it's a mean to an end.
- Context analysis is essential. This includes both external and internal context. This is essential for strategy development and assessment of strategies.
- The three pillars of internationalization are mobility, partnerships, and curriculum.
- Internationalization abroad vs. internationalization at home
- How can we do that? Technological opportunities, development of joint and double degrees, recognition of credits and degrees, outreach...
- To assess internationalization, you need to focus on the intended internationalization, the











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- In webinar 1, it was mentioned that internationalization is like the concept of the iceberg, by which is meant that we should focus on what is deeper.
- We are moving from learning outcomes to competences
- The future of IaH is Open University model, CLUSTER model, liberal ARTS model and partnership model.

































### Q&A

## 1: Does LIU have a model for internationalization or is it adopting a universal one?

#### Dr. Anwar Kawtharani

It is based on the vision and mission. The three important terms are self-actualized learners in LIU, equity for all learners and accessibility. The other part to focus on is the curricula development: the learning outcomes and the development.

#### Dr. Nada Trunk

When talking about the model, it needs the simplification of the reality. It is used when you want to set the concepts. But, in reality, internationalization is everywhere, such as when reading a book that is not in your native language. You have to be aware of the intercultural aspect, the context diversity...

#### Dr. Samir Abou Nassif

Internationalization is a movement, a process...there are models and best practices but internationalization needs to be customised for each university, and every practice.

### Question 2: To what extent does virtual learning affect the communication skills of our students?

Dr. Anwar Kawtharani

You lose empathy in virtual learning. The human touch is missing, and we have to be very careful when overcoming that. There are two new words by Stanford University: zoom fatigue and cognitive load. That's the outcome from virtual learning





































#### Dr. Samir Abou Nassif

In every change that we do, and especially this change that has been imposed on us, there is always challenges and lost things, but also opportunities. There is a new set of skills that students have to learn for the virtual world. We should focus on that because some of the jobs in the future will not go back to the 8 to 4 office working. We need to include virtual soft skills to help students navigate in this world. It is not something that is momentarily.

### Dr. Ali Tarabay

We should not forget that technology has always been a challenge to humans. It creates distributions, but we forget that it is a tool. The human touch isn't there, but empathy has always been in human nature. Technology has not change human nature. The challenges is in how we use technology.

#### Dr. Samir Abou Nassif

Technological advancements are almost always overestimated in the short-term, yet underestimated for the long-term.

#### Dr. Nada Trunk

If in this consortium she didn't know anyone, it would be very difficult. However, since she knows some people and visited Lebanon, this became easier when working online. With the people she didn't meet before, she didn't establish a good contact.





































## Testimonials ftom instructors and students through emails, event platford and social media

#### wajdi.naman@liu.edu.lb

to Samir, ali.tarabay, me -

2:29 PM (9 hours ago)





Dear Dr. Abou Nassif

I am among all those who share you your proudness. Today's round table on internationalization was a great success as to content, attendance, speakers, and mission.

The above proudness extends to LIU academic development under your esteemed patronage, not to forget Dr. Tarabay's valued academic contributions, coupled with the sincerity and devotion of the academic body, which have always been the backbone of this outstanding academic growth, and LIU remarkable national and international image.

I cannot but spell out the quality efforts of Dr. Kawtharani and his respected team, which made today's event a stepping stone to further similar successes

Best regards

#### Wajdi Naaman, PhD

AraTok LIU-MEDIaH Attendance Report > Indox x









12:37 PM (11 hours ago)



فريق أراتوك

Good morning Dr. Anwar.

Congratulations for the successful event, we are impressed by the speakers and the excellent content they presented, we are also impressed by the attendance rate, we are glad to collaborate with LIU and the SoED any time

Please send our greetings to all speakers, and especially to Dr. Samir who accepted to give us the opportunity (thanks to you Dr. Anwar) and the honor to host your event.

Special thanks to Ms. Dina for the excellent moderation.

Please find attached the attendance report, in total there were 1209 viewers and 1745 tickets booked

I am at your disposal if you like to discuss the event and any future plan if you like to continue collaborating with us.

Best regards

Rami



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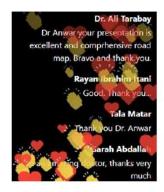
















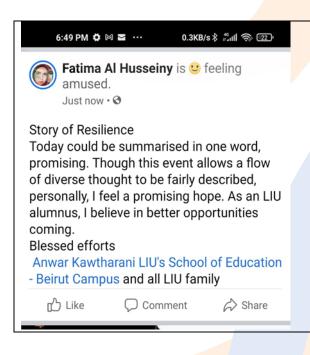


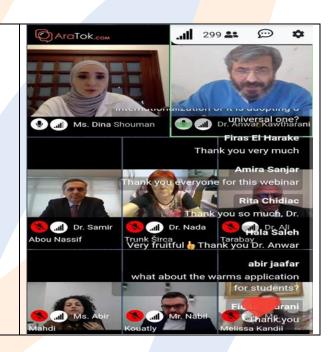












































## **Distinguished Speakers**





































