

MED2IaH Mediterranean Countries Towards Internationalisation at Home

Report on the Second Virtual Round Table at the Lebanese International University

Global Engagement Office and the School of Education

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

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Date | 16th April, 2021 |
| Time | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Lebanon Local Time |
| Venue | ARATOK - https://aratok.com/ |
| Virtual Attendees | 450 viewers |
| Diversity | 2VPs – 5 Deans- Assistant Deans- Chairs – Course Coordinators Instructors – Staff – Students as well as Director of UNIMED |
| Link of the event | https://aratok.com/?class=Record&method=attendEventRecording&recording=1221&key=38a2 |
| Report written by | Anwar Kawtharani- Dean of School of Education Melissa Kandil – SoED Graduate Student |

Outcomes

1. Identify Virtual Exchange Challenges and Achievements
2. Describe Virtual Mobility Strategies and Requirements
3. Analyze Diversity effects on students' outcomes
4. Engage Students as Partners in academics with the internationalization of the curriculum



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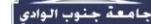
Report of

**2nd VIRTUAL
ROUND TABLE**

PART OF THE ERASMUS+ MED2I@H PROJECT

**THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES:
TOWARDS
INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME**

**April 16, 2021 - 10:00 AM 12:00 PM
LIVE ON ARATOK.COM**



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MED2IaH Mediterranean Countries Towards Internationalisation at Home

Abbreviations

HEI= Higher Education Institutions

IaH= Internationalization at Home

IoHE = Internationalization of Higher Education

LIU = Lebanese International University

MED2IaH = Mediterranean Countries: Towards Internationalization at Home



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Ms. Dina Shouman (Moderator)

- While internationalization has become an impressive form for change, it has also dramatically transformed itself.
- Most schemes that rank universities for their levels of internationalization are based on certain criteria such as the number of international students and staff as well as their mobility.
- Diversity should be meaningful, enhance the quality of education and research, promoting growth.
- Questions to be addressed in today's webinar:
 - How could HEI train and prepare students to be ready to adapt to a constantly changing world and to become global citizens?
 - What lessons can we learn to improve curriculum for lifelong lessons?



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Higher Education remade by COVID-19

Dr Samir Abou Nassif, Senior Executive and HE Expert

- Higher Education after COVID19 will not be the same as it was before COVID19.
- The consequence of a radical change are almost always overestimated in the short term (overreaction), but then we underestimate them on the long term (forgotten)
- COVID19 won't change drastically/completely the way we know Higher Education to be.
- Higher Education needs to prepare for the new world ahead.
- We need to make sure that HEI are resilient and sustainable.
 - In the case of Lebanon, we are going through a financial crisis on top of the pandemic.
- We need to follow the scenario thinking, in order to plan for the uncertain future
- Higher Education opportunities:
 - Internationalization,
 - Virtual mobility
 - Cooperation between universities, south-south and south-north



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- Globalization has demanded from universities the following
 - Improvement of the quality of education
 - Increase in the quantity of graduates (graduating not only for the local market but the world)
 - Efficiency in management accreditation (LIU had 2 accreditation this year, school of pharmacy and accreditation from France)
 - Graduates with a global outlook
- Education starts on national level, and it used to be inward looking, more responsive to national needs and the use of teaching materials that have a local flavour since they were serving only the country.
- Now, at LIU and Higher Education as a whole, they have been moving from nationalization to internationalization
 - It is now outward looking to augment the capacity and focus.
 - Prepare the students for the national context but with an outward looking.



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- Some strategies used are:
 - Cross-border education
 - Due to an increase of the demand for quality education, increase support and initiatives for studies abroad, and increase interest in international study programs.
 - It could happen at three levels students, program, faculty and research.
 - Student mobility: the choice of country is affected by:
 - The quality and reputation of the university, the geography, affordability and accessibility.
 - At LIU, this is why mainly mobility happens, at student's level, in Europe since it applies more.
 - Program mobility:
 - Dual degrees, PhD programs, branch campus etc...
 - Erasmus, Raisd, etc...
 - Pursued more in the future.



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- Faculty mobility
 - Courses with international dimensions
 - Cooperation with research
 - Internationalization of the curriculum
 - Prepare the student to be an international citizen
 - MOUs and cooperation agreement
 - Dual degree programs
- Who benefits from it in Lebanon? Basically, we all gain capacity building, especially from webinars, mutual understanding, global citizenship... internationalization is here to stay.
 - Some problems with internationalization: brain drain, weakened concept of nationalism, migration from public to private....
 - Challenges for LIU is to translate competitive advantage into opportunities. This why they are highly involved in programs such as Erasmus or H2020



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- Virtual mobility at LIU
 - Brain gain challenge is to convert brain drain into brain circulation so that we can have mobility in both ways, “net brain gain”

Virtual Mobility and Interculturality

Dr. Marcello Scalisi, Director, UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union Italy

- Role of virtual mobility and its impact on the intercultural dimension.
- We are forced to move from physical to virtual mobility.
- Before the pandemic, mobility was very limited.
- Certain programs were set such as the ERASMUS project for student and staff mobility.
- The scholarship to physical mobility was very limited. It was not enough.
- Physical mobility remains after the crisis important, but virtual mobility can improve the relationship with students and offer them new opportunities. It is a good way for the first experience with other programs and cultures.



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- ERASMUS mobility program, 30 thousand people had the opportunity to participate in this project: high commitment and participation between the southern and euro-Mediterranean countries.
- The idea through virtual and physical mobility is to contribute and create a more stable region. The use of our differences for a richer experience.
- This is the role of UNIMED, to get international institutions to pay more attention to our region and to our students.
- We are rushed to manage and support members to act locally and think globally.
- The idea of UNIMED is to promote the collaboration among HEI.
- An important issue is the role of student participation in the program and association to support internationalization. It depends in particular on the experience that other students had with mobility.
- Petition for a Mediterranean Erasmus Generation: The idea is to invite the European commission to invest more and more on this program, both virtual and physical mobility and in particular to ask the members to be prepared to manage these opportunities.



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- UNIMED tries to support students in the region in the best way possible.

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange: Providing Meaningful Intercultural Learning Experiences

Dr. Fabio Nascimbeni, Senior Expert, UNIMED - Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo

- ERASMUS virtual exchange project: it has been running for three years and helped us understand how virtual mobility could be designed and implemented later on.
- The focus of the pilot was on youth, both inside and outside of the university, but also on the cooperation between European and South-Mediterranean student.
- It was a good way to test the concept of virtual exchange and also the smoothness and maturity of the region for such a new change.
- It is a people-to-people in real time, facilitated dialogue in a meaningful and sustained way.
- It is student-lead, and still experiential.
- It is an exchange on important topics such as religion, racism, gender equality and so on.



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- This is a new methodology that fits well with the new concept of the intercultural virtual mobility.
- They piloted different kinds of activities such as readymade exchanges, transnational virtual exchange projects, and trainings to learn how to develop virtual exchange activities.
- UNIMED had a task to make sure that the participation of the area was meaningful and as involved as possible.
- The project was a big success. 30,000 were reached, the participants have improved their skills, such as teamwork, problem-solving, digital competencies etc... all in favour of building global citizens
- Lesson learned
 - All piloted virtual exchange methods work and can be adapted to the different contexts.
 - There are four pillars for successful VE: participatory design and integration, professional facilitation, inclusive technology and continuous quality monitoring.
 - It takes time.



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- Long-term impact
 - The project ended and was successful
 - It demonstrated the relevance and importance of this methodology and project
 - It is there as a complement to physical mobility
- It can boost physical mobility but also can add something more for people who cannot travel or are unsure if they want to.
- The future of mobility could be more balance, open to society, inclusive, intercultural and more sustained. With proper implementation, it will become more meaningful.

Enhancing Quality Administration at LIU through Internationalization and Mobility

Ms. Zeina Haidar, Human Resources Administrator

- The aim of the program has been to promote the mobility of administrative staff among LIU and international partners.
- The international experience contribute to the development of hard (academic/ professional competences) and soft skills (by confronting the unknown).



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- You develop your global understanding as well as your respect for other cultures
- The ideal types of international mobility are adventurer, escapee, curious academic and knowledge seeker.
- This experience helped her become more open to new cultures. She went through all the phases, as she seeks new knowledge, as an adventurer and as an escapee.
- We should try to escape our regular routine and promote new habits.
- She especially like the city in Slovenia
- During this mobility, they went through multiple activities, such as ones around education, to improve teaching and programs, through mission and link with society, enhancing research and development.
- She attended the EMUNI conference which was about the future of knowledge in the Mediterranean area.
- We are shifting towards an online university, with new challenges and opportunities.
- How can internationalization increase quality of the university?

- Benchmarking, development of policies, partnerships, creation of an excellent learning

and research environment...



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- Administrative staff mobility has improved the quality and reputation, through the networking and internationalization at home.
- Finally, on the personal level, this mobility was an added value, through promotion, selection, recognition, strategic partnership and increased funding.

Student Empowerment in an International Horizon

Ms. Maya Abdallah and Ms. Fatima AlHusseiny, Graduate Students - LIU

- We are expecting a 7.2 million students for the demand of internationalization of education
- How can students benefit from such programs?
- Internationalization is like a movie, it's a journey from home.
- The differences that we live develop our richness, the actual risk of remaining close to our culture is that we might lose other opportunities.
- Once we come across a new experience, we are being integrated among a global aspect.
- It's a new lifestyle that we have to accept, adapt to, and improve.
- International benefits fall under three categories



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- Social impact
- Personal
- Educational
- There has been a great focus on virtual mobility, but it is just a tool to prepare students for physical mobility.
- It teaches you intercultural competence, especially since all jobs nowadays have an international component.
- What does internationalization at LIU look like?
 - Speech competitions, webinars, international knowledge and skills, heavy alumni involvement, student's involvement (YLP program), School of education E-newsletter: E-Talk.
- E- Talk is a new way to keep students up-to-date with the world news, trends, and offering opportunities to students.
- For the future; we are seeking:
 - Volunteer opportunities,
 - South-south mobility as knowing our culture is a good initiative,



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- Alumni involvement, you can take the student out of the university but not the university out of the student
- Out of the box experiences.

“Students as Partners” in Academic Engagement with Internationalisation of the Curriculum: Transformalists and Transactionists

Dr. Anwar Kawtharani, Dean of School of Education and Acting Director of the Global Engagement Office

- The main questions are:
 - Who are our students?
 - What exactly is inclusion?
 - What exactly is a transformalist?
 - Who are our students? What should they be doing?
- Students should be with us through the planning, acting, evaluating, reviewing...



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- The e-newsletter the students will be working on will be used as a feedback design to improve the curriculum.
- We have to come up as a team to plan, acquire, have publications on both teacher and student levels and finally assess the success through the three learning objectives: cognitive, affective, and psychomotor.
- What is the conceptual framework: look at the experience of students and how the learning, teaching and research process is occurring? We have our students, and they will be the next pillars, they are partners in this university.
- For the past two months, they've been working on the matrix: students need to be inclusive, and co-creators.
- How to do that?
 - Co-learn, co-design, and co-develop, as it will lead to quality enhancement.
- We are growing and training students from within instead of going from the outside to the inside.
- Let students be involved in the surveys, let them do the analysis, recognize them as experts in learning.



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- At LIU,
 - Many conferences run by students
 - Activities promoting healthy competitions between students
 - Education days
 - Community service
- Transformalist in education follows the 5 Es: Exchange, Enrich, Enhance, Extend and Empower our students.
- Approaches:
 - Peer support website
 - Curriculum review and development
 - Academic society,
 - Student academic advisory group
 - Mapping student involvement and contributions
 - Build support for LIU alumni



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Q&A

Question 1

Do you think that LIU will have an online program after COVID19?

Dr. Samir Abou Nassif

In Lebanon, we still don't have the legal framework for this. There is only a temporary law set in place due to the current situation. However, we need to work on it for it to become permanent.

If the law is set, then all universities will have an online component.

Question 2

Will LIU open branches in other countries?

Dr. Samir Abou Nassif

LIU is actively seeking this. Hopefully, in the future, the model is to have an online presence, with the use of technology, in new countries.



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Question 3

Is there a new semester study abroad program?

Dr. Marcello Scalisi

By next October, this project will be launched by the European Commission.

They are working on new scholarships.

It is important to create a regional mutual understanding.

Dr. Samir Abou Nassif

I think the way to go is south-south. At LIU, we had a program for students' mobility. Students had to come to Lebanon and vice versa. This is especially important since there are different cultures within the MENA region.

Question 4

What are some insights on the project scenario?

Dr. Fabio Nascimbeni The project FRAMES.



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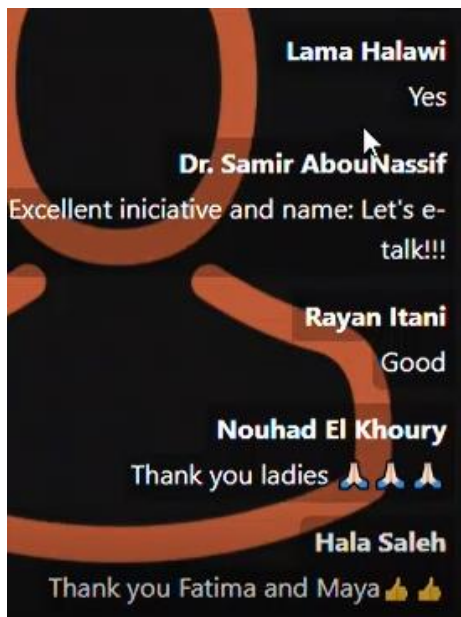
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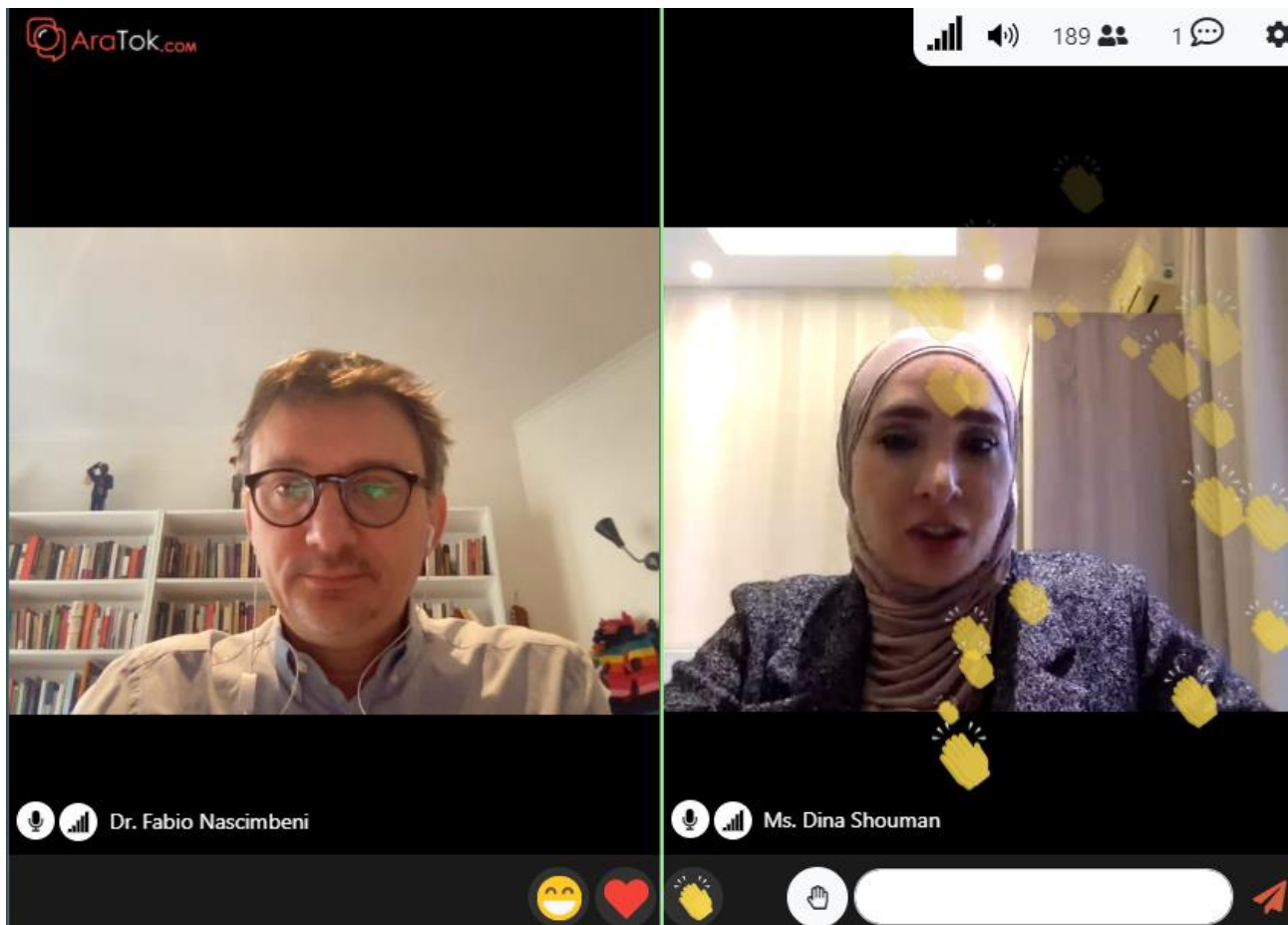
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Ms. Maya Abdallah
always a pleasure listening to your
Project input Dr. Marcello !
h Accredited Mobility for
er Education innovation
Ms. Fatima Al Hussein
I was pleasure and honor listening to
you again Dr. Marcello

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Ibrahim Barakat
morning

نور ازمراد
Hello

Lena Nakadi
Future Looking Event. Tha's the key
vision

Thank you Fatima and Maya 🙌🙌

Prof. Hassan Khachfe
Great job ladies; proud of you

Walid Elhoss
very good presentation

Haissam El-Aawar
Thank you

Ms. Fatima Al Hussein
Thanks for your support LIU family

Ms. Maya Abdallah
thank you for your support! proud to
be part of the LIU family



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A success in terms of participation and impact

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| + 30.000 Persons engaged in 3 years | + 200 Partnerships created with institutions and organisations | 77% Improved their teamwork and collaborative problem-solving skills |
| + 400 Members of the Facilitator community | 44 Countries across which connections were built | 89% Participants reported improved ability to work in a culturally diverse place |
| | 79% Improved their digital competencies | |

8

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Unimed

Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo
Mediterranean Universities Union
Union des Universités de la Méditerranée
اتحاد الجامعات المتوسطية

Thank you Dr. Anwar Kawtharani

Alaa Al Ahmad Naxhar

Thank you Dr. Samir

Laila Khalil

Thank you Dr. Samir.

Dr. Samar Younes

Thank you Dr. Samir

Georges Bellos

Hello Will the session be recorded?

Aratok

The session will be recorded, and



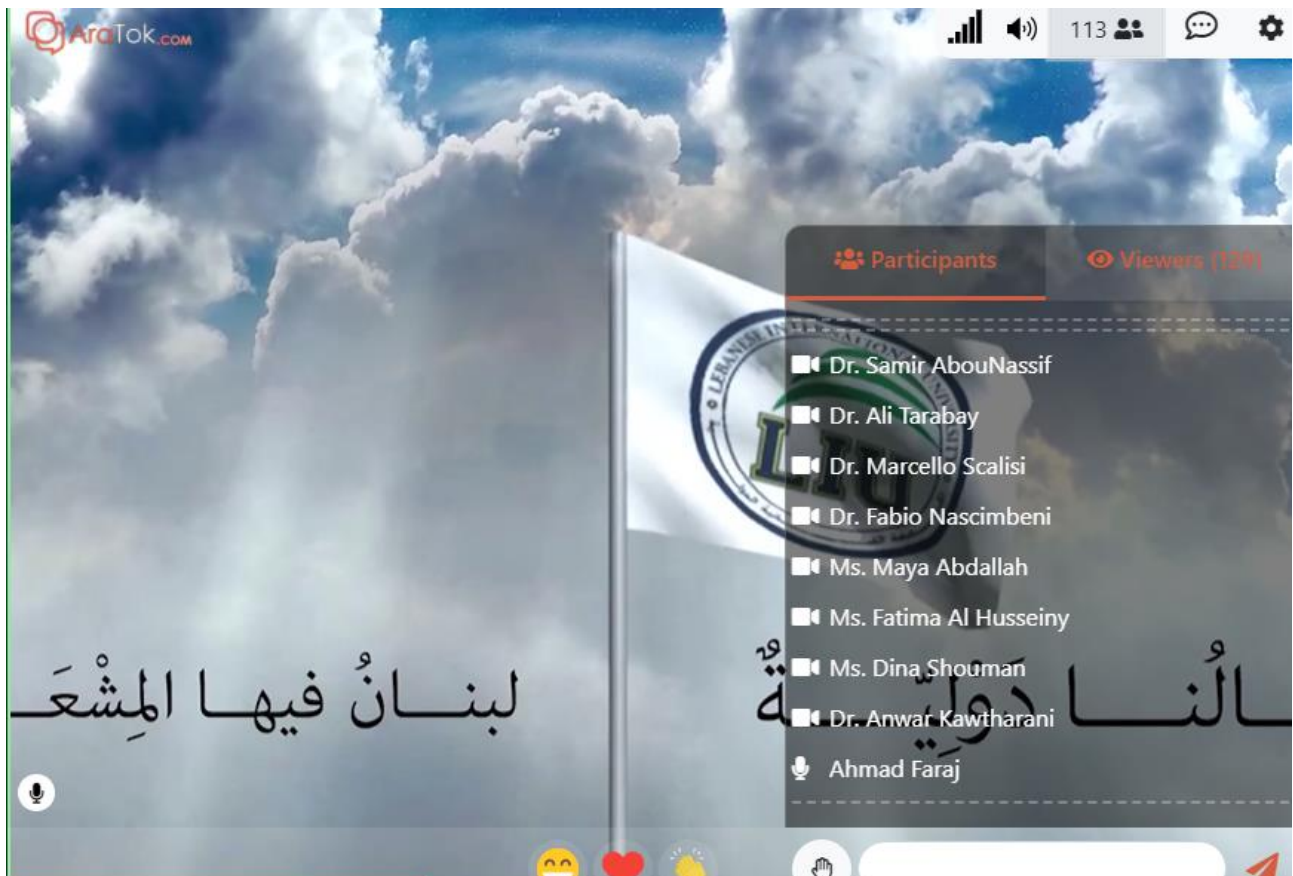
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