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الصندوق الاستثماري الأوروبي 'مداد'



# MY\_HOPES\_STORY

TESTIMONIALS FROM  
THE HOPES COMMUNITY





# HOPES GIVES HOPE

The European Union supports the HOPES (Higher and Further Education Opportunities and Perspectives for Syrians) project to provide better access to quality further and higher education opportunities to young people in the host communities in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey as well as to refugees from Syria.

This multifaceted €12-million regional project is funded by the European Union's Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the EU 'Madad Fund', and is implemented by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) together with the British Council, Campus France, and Nuffic.

The European Union through HOPES has provided full academic scholarships at different levels, university-based English-language and study skills courses, academic counselling, funding for innovative short-term education projects, and national and regional stakeholder dialogues.

MY\_HOPES\_STORY is the story of hope because 'HOPES really gives hope...'.  


# THE HOPES SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND ACADEMIC COUNSELLING

TO DATE, HOPES HAS PROVIDED 620 FULL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE REGION AND COUNSELLING ON STUDY OPPORTUNITIES TO MORE THAN 26 000 STUDENTS.



Hala Redaide

32 YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN. MASTER'S IN MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN HISTORY AT YARMOUK UNIVERSITY.

'Receiving the HOPES scholarship was my greatest achievement. I am very proud to be a student representative of a European Union's scholarship grant. In addition to providing the financial support I needed during my studies, HOPES gave me strength and psychological support, believing in me and my abilities.'



Khalid Mohamad

27 YEAR-OLD SYRIAN LIVING IN EGYPT. MASTER'S IN PHARMACY AT AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY.

'In the beginning, I faced difficulties getting used to the education system in the Egyptian universities and the language of instruction was my main challenge. It was also difficult to be away from my family and friends, finding an apartment, and ensuring the cost of living. The HOPES project team were always present to give advice about different problems I had faced.'



## Ibrahim Cheikh Buzan

27-YEAR-OLD SYRIAN LIVING IN THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ (KRI). BACCALAUREUS IN AGRICULTURE AT SALAHADDIN UNIVERSITY.

'It was difficult to resume my studies after I had left Aleppo University for four years and worked in the construction field. But I had the will and determination to finish my studies. The HOPES project funded by the EU Madad Fund helped me complete my bachelor and covered my study expenses during two years.'



## Lea Abou Naoum

20 YEAR-OLD LEBANESE. BACHELOR'S OF MEDICINE AT THE LEBANESE UNIVERSITY.

'Today, I am ready to start my fourth year at the Faculty of Medicine, and I am proud to say that the HOPES programme has accompanied me during two years, helped me achieving autonomy and independence, and given me a chance to do the best I can and to build a better tomorrow.'



## Amer El Absi

26 YEAR-OLD SYRIAN LIVING IN LEBANON. MASTER'S IN ARABIC LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE AT THE LEBANESE UNIVERSITY.

'I am about to start my Doctoral thesis in Arabic Language despite all the difficulties. No matter what I say, I will never find the right words to describe how HOPES supported me and helped me continue my academic career.'



## Gofand Khalaf

23 YEAR-OLD SYRIAN LIVING IN THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ (KRI). MASTER'S IN PUBLIC LAW AT SALAHADDIN UNIVERSITY.

'My father fled to the Kurdistan region of Iraq as a political refugee and for these reasons, I could not continue my studies in the universities of Syria after passing my baccalaureate year. I would like to thank the HOPES scholarship that made me and my parents cry with joy, that helped me realise what I used to imagine, that turned my dreams into reality.'



# HIGHER EDUCATION ENGLISH ACCESS PROGRAMME (HEEAP)

MORE THAN 8 500 STUDENTS HAVE BENEFITTED FROM UNIVERSITY-BASED ENGLISH AND STUDY SKILLS COURSES THAT HAVE PROVIDED THEM WITH THE TOOLS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THEIR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND ACCESS OTHER EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.



Samah Kharmanda

26 YEAR-OLD SYRIAN LIVING IN LEBANON.

'I faced many difficulties with the language due to the great difference between the Lebanese and Syrian educational systems. The HEEAP course within the HOPES project gave me a lot of encouragement to speak more English, which helped me to develop my overall language skills.'



Mazen Khaldoun Abou

28 YEAR-OLD SYRIAN LIVING IN EGYPT.

'The HEEAP course offered by the HOPES project helped me by giving me the chance to put into practice what I have learned by encouraging and guiding me on how to make a presentation.'

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

HOPES HAS PROVIDED FUNDING FOR 32 INNOVATIVE SHORT-TERM EDUCATION PROJECTS, IMPLEMENTED BY LOCAL AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS, WHICH TARGET REFUGEES AND VULNERABLE YOUTH IN THE HOST COMMUNITIES.

## MY FIRST DAY ON CAMPUS IS THE BEST DAY AT MY UNIVERSITY: A COMPREHENSIVE PILOT PROJECT ON SOCIAL COHESION AND SUPPORT FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

'I remember our first meeting with students, they were sitting separately. Syrian students were sitting on the one side and Turkish students were sitting on the other side. They did not know each other, but at the end of our last activity, which was the story-telling activity, they were talking and joking with each other... There should be more projects like HOPES for supporting higher education.'

irem Aynagöz, Project Coordinator,  
RESEARCH CENTRE ON ASYLUM AND MIGRATION, ANKARA, TURKEY.

## PROVIDING FUNDAMENTAL ICT SKILLS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES (PFISR)

'With the help of the HOPES grant, we have been able to increase our students' and Syrian refugees' chances of success. Without a doubt, It has played a key role in achieving the educational dreams of many student-refugees.'

Anas AlSobeh, Assistant Professor,  
Yarmouk University, Jordan.

## SCIENCE EDUCATION: A KEY TO UNIVERSITY ACCESS FOR REFUGEE GIRLS

'Conducting experiments in the labs was very useful as it allowed us to put into practice the theory and to understand more. We discovered that learning is fantastic and that we wanted to keep on learning.'

Lubna Karbooj and Rama Rajab, Students,  
**CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICE, AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY BEIRUT, LEBANON.**

## PROVIDING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION FOR SYRIAN STUDENTS IN DOMIZ CAMP 1 SCHOOLS

'I moved to Dirik School for preparatory education. It was difficult for us to adapt because of the language, traditions and study preparation, but the situation has got so much better now. This year the project presented training for secondary education students, as well as training on curricula to make studying easier for us. We thank you for such help, and hope you keep supporting us until we achieve our goals.'

Aya Ramadan Hajo, Student,  
**BISHKOREEN ORGANIZATION, KRI.**



# INFORMATION, NETWORKING AND STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES

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HOPES HAS SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE AND NETWORKING THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION OF TWO REGIONAL CONFERENCES AND 20 NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES.

'For me, HOPES is not just a project for providing Syrian students with services in higher education, it even goes beyond that. Everyone involved in this project has developed one way or another due to the different activities related to it...Meetings with stakeholders, national dialogue events, and regional conferences were all great opportunities for networking and meeting with experts in higher education and civil society actors.'

Samah Elsaid Muhammad, Assistant Lecturer,  
MANSOURA UNIVERSITY, EGYPT.



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#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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