



OUR LATEST NEWS

HOPES-LEB awards 292 academic scholarships to Lebanese and Syrian students at the Lebanese University and the Lebanese International University:

The call for scholarship applications for the first intake of the HOPES-LEB Scholarship Programme for academic scholarships was launched between July 14, 2020 and September 8, 2020.



This first intake focused on providing scholarships to Lebanese youth and refugees from Syria of post-secondary age for graduate (Master) and undergraduate (Bachelor) studies for freshmen (study beginners) as well as already enrolled or graduated students at the Lebanese University (LU) and the Lebanese International University (LIU).

Overall, 1,420 applications were received from which 292 Lebanese and Syrian students were selected to access and pursue their higher education for the academic year 2020-2021. The selection was based on both academic quality and personal vulnerability. During the whole application process, HOPES-LEB Education Officers provided intensive counselling to facilitate and address all enquiries related to the scholarship application and available study opportunities at tertiary level.

Within the framework of the scholarship fund, the HOPES-LEB team organised two virtual orientation workshops on 8 December 2020 and 10 December 2020 with the newly selected HOPES-LEB scholarship holders to present the project, the HOPES-LEB agreement and the follow-up process.

Throughout the project, further opportunities for university scholarships and 600 scholarships for short courses will be offered during the upcoming three years to help the students develop the necessary competencies and transferable skills to integrate the labour market and to become successful members of the community.

The selection of training and capacity building projects funded by HOPES-LEB and implemented by local organisations in Lebanon will be the priority in the first quarter 2021

Following several needs assessments conducted in the summer and fall of 2020 to understand the current situation in the higher and further education sector (including challenges and opportunities), both from a student and institutional perspectives, and the labour market situation and opportunities in Lebanon, HOPES-LEB announced the opening of its first round of Call for Proposals to support short-term education training and capacity building projects implemented by local institutions registered in Lebanon.











Through the Call for Proposals launched between October and mid-December 2020, the HOPES-LEB project invited organisations registered in Lebanon to submit project proposals that address the specific needs of vulnerable Lebanese youth and refugees from Syria and to alleviate bottlenecks related to three priority areas, namely access to further and higher education, the completion of studies and access to the labour market.

An information session was organised on November 10, 2020 to present the Call and answer the questions raised by the representatives' interested institutions.

Overall, 45 applications were received of which 38 proposals passed the administrative eligibility check.

Currently the HOPES-LEB Call for Proposal Team is reviewing those 38 proposals to see if they are content-wise in line with the objectives of the call for proposals.

After this second round, those proposals that will pass will be reviewed by a Selection Committee in February 2021, who will make the final recommendation on the projects to be funded.



Preparation is underway for the launching of the EU Madad Fund's Regional Alumni Network for Higher Education

Since 2015, the European Union, through the <u>EU</u> Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'EU Madad Fund', has been committed to providing youth, refugees and host communities as well, in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey with the necessary support to better access quality further and higher education.

In this perspective, a unified regional alumni community and network of former and current EUfunded scholarship holders in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey is being developed.

The EU Madad Fund's Regional Alumni Network for Higher Education is being set up by the HOPES-LEB project, in cooperation with the EDU-SYRIA project led by the German Jordanian University, and with the active participation of alumni and students of other higher education projects funded by the EU Madad Fund as well as Higher Education Institutions and organisations in the region.

In preparation, focus groups meetings and a needs assessment survey were conducted to further understand the needs and priorities of alumni students in the region and integrate their recommendations in the planned activities of the network.

The survey which received 482 responses as well as the meeting with alumni allowed to identify the needs and challenges of graduates to access the labour market and to define suitable measures of support which might help improve the graduates' success in the labour market and to have better livelihood opportunities.

In order to give the alumni a steady role, a Student Alumni Board and alumni working groups were established to contribute to the preparation and implementation of the network.







