

# Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS

## Governing Board and Annual Conference Report



23rd and 24th May, 2016  
School of Engineering, University of Cádiz

PRESENT

**Algeria:**

- **University Abderrahmane Mira of Bejaïa** Mrs. Aida BENHAMIDA, Vice-Rector in charge of external relations, cooperation, events, marketing and scientific exhibitions, representing Mr. Boualem SAIDANI, Rector
- **University Larbi Ben Mhidi Oum El Bouaghi** Mr. Ahmed BOURAS, Rector
- **University Mohamed Khider of Biskra** Mr. Abdelouahed CHALA, Vice-Rector in charge of Graduate Studies, representing Mr. Selatnia BELKACEM, Rector
- **University 8 mai 1945 of Guelma** Mr. Mohamed NEMAMCHA, Rector
- **University 20 août 1955 of Skikda** Mr. Salim HADDAD, Rector

**Cyprus:**

- **University of Cyprus** Mr. Athanasios RAFTOPOULOS, Professor, Erasmus Mundus manager, representing Mr. Constantinos CHRISTOFIDES, President

**Egypt:**

- **University of Alexandria** Mr. Mohamed EL RIWINI, representing Mr. Roshdy ZAHNAN, President
- **University of Assiut** Mr. Joseph JOACHIM, representing Mr. Ahmed ABDEL-HAFEZ GEAIES, President

**France:**

- **Aix-Marseille University** Mr. Michel KASBARIAN, Honorary President of the Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS  
Mr. Pierre FUENTES, President of the Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS  
Mr. Michel AUTRIC, Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS  
Mrs. Emeline GRONDIN, Project Manager, Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS  
Mrs. Francine BEVAN, Project Manager, Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS  
Mr. Loïc OROFINO, Project Manager, Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS

**Italy:**

- **University of Genova** Mrs. Rita CIFARELLI, Professor, TETHYS correspondent, representing Mr. Paolo COMANDUCCI, Rector  
Mr. Alessandro VERRI, Professor
- **University of Palermo** Mr. Pasquale ASSENNATO, Vice-Rector in charge of International Relations, representing Mr. Fabrizio MICARI, Rector
- **University of Turin** Mrs. Lorenza OPERTI, Vice-Rector in charge of Didactics, representing Mr. Gianmaria AJANI, Rector

**Lebanon:**

- **Antonine University** Mrs. Micheline GHATTAS, Vice-Rector in charge of Innovation, representing Mr. Germanos GERMANOS, Rector
- **University of Balamand** Mr. Antoine ABCHE, Professor, Erasmus Mundus manager, representing Mr. Elie A. SALEM, Rector

- **Saint-Joseph University** Mr. Antoine HOKAYEM, Honorary Vice-Rector in charge of International Relations, representing Mr. Salim DACCACHE, Rector

**Morocco:**

- **University Mohammed First of Oujda** Mr. Abdelhafid CHAFI, official representative of Mr. Mohammed BENKADDOUR, President

**Spain:**

- **University of Barcelona** Mr. José Luis ARAUS ORTEGA, Vice-Rector in charge of International Policy, representing Mr. Dídac RAMIREZ I SARRIO, Rector
- **University of Cádiz** Mr. Eduardo GONZALEZ MAZO, Rector  
Mr. Casimiro MANTELL SERRANO, Vice Rector in charge of Research  
Mr. Juan José DOMINGUEZ, Director of School of Engineering  
Mr. Juan Carlos GARCIA GALINDO, Director of International Relations  
Mr. Carlos RIOJA DEL RIO, Vice Dean in charge of International Agreements, School of Engineering  
Mr. Jesús GOMEZ MORALES, Technician of the AUE (Aula Universitaria del Estrecho)  
Mr. Eduardo ROMERO BRUZON, Secretariat Director of University Foundations and Cooperation  
Mrs. Alecia REID, IT Engineer, School of Engineering
- **University of Santiago de Compostella** Mrs. Almudena HOSPIDO QUINTANA, Vice-Rector in charge of Internationalisation, representing Mr. Juan M. VIAÑO REY, Rector
- **University of the Balearic Islands** Mr. Llorenç ROTGER HUGUET, Rector  
Mr. Ricardo SAGRERA, Director of International Relations

**Palestinian Territory:**

- **Islamic University of Gaza** Mr. Mohsen ALAFRANJI, Professor, representing Mr. Adel M. AWADALLAH, President

**Tunisia:**

- **University of Sfax** Mr. Abdelwahed MOKNI, Vice President of Programmes, Training and Professional Integration, representing M. Rafik BOUAZIZ, President

**GUEST PARTICIPANTS**

- Mrs. Patricia POL, Policy Advisor "Bologna-Paris 2018" and Vice President of the Bologna Follow-up group, Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research, France
- Mrs. Amelia GUYOT, Regional Marketing Manager, Maghreb Office, Francophone University Association (AUF), Morocco
- Mrs. Laura HOWARD, President, European Association for International Education, University of Cádiz
- Mr. Michael CHOWANETZ, Professor, Nuremberg Institute of Technology, Germany
- Mr. Pekka MAKKONEN, Professor, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

**EXCUSED**

- **University of Alger 2 Abou El Kacem Saâdallah, Algeria** Mr. Hamidi KHEMISSI, Rector

- **University of Oran, Algeria** Mr. Larbi CHAHED, Rector
- **University of Split, Croatia** Mr. Šimun ANDELINOVIC, Rector
- **University of Corsica, France** Mr. Paul Marie ROMANI, President
- **University of Toulon, France** Mr. Eric BOUTIN, President
- **Technological Institute of Aigaleo, Greece** Mr. Lazaros BRYZIDIS, Rector
- **University La Sapienza Rome, Italy** Mr. Eugenio GAUDIO, Rector
- **Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan** Mr. Mahmoud AL SHEYYAB, Rector
- **University of Jordan, Jordan** Mr. Elkleif TARAWNEH, Rector
- **Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Jordan** Mr. Mashoor Abdullah AL REFAI, Rector
- **Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon** Mr. Hady MAHFOUZ, Rector
- **University of Zawia, Libya** Mr. Khaled ELOZI, Rector
- **University Abdelmalek Essaâdi of Tangiers-Tetouan, Morocco** Mr. Houfaïda AMEZIANE, President
- **University Cadi Ayyad, Morocco** Mr. Abdellatif MIRAOU, President
- **University Sidi Ben Abdallah of Fez, Morocco** Mr. Omar ASSOBBHEI, President
- **University College of Applied Sciences, Palestinian Territory** Mr. Rifat RUSTOM, Rector
- **University of Murcia, Spain** Mr. José ORIHUELA CALATAYUD, Rector
- **University of Sousse, Tunisia** Mr. Faysal MANSOURI, President
- **University of Tunis-El-Manar, Tunisia** Mr. Fethi SELLAOUTI, President

#### ABSENT ET NON-REPRESENTED

- **University Badji Mokhtar of Annaba, Algeria** Mr. Ammar HAIHAEM, Rector
- **University Mentouri Constantine 1, Algeria** Mr. Abdelhamid DJEKOUN, Rector
- **University of Constantine 2, Algeria** Mr. Mohamed El Hadi LATRECHE, Rector
- **University of Constantine 3, Algeria** Mr. Hosni BOUKERZAZA, Rector
- **University of Zagreb, Croatia** Mr. Damir BORAS, Rector
- **MUST University Science and Technology, Egypt** Mr. Muhammed EL AZZAZZI, Rector
- **French University of Egypt, Egypt** Mr. Hassan Nadir KHAIRALLAH, Rector
- **University of Cairo, Egypt** Mr. Gaber Gad NASSAR, Rector
- **University of Helwan, Egypt** Mr. Yasser SAKR, Rector
- **University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis, France** Mrs. Frédérique VIDAL, Rector
- **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece** Mr. Pericles MITKAS, Rector
- **University of Piraeus, Greece** Mr. Nikolaos GEORGOPOULOS, Rector
- **University of Cagliari, Italy** Mrs. Maria DEL ZOMPO, Rector
- **University of Messina, Italy** Mr. Pietro NAVARRA, Rector
- **University of Sienna, Italy** Mr. Angelo RICCABONI, Rector
- **University of Tuscia, Italy** Mr. Alessandro RUGGIERI, Rector
- **Philadelphia University, Jordan** Mr. Mutaz Sheikh SALEM, Rector
- **University of Yarmouk, Jordan** Mr. Refat ALFAOURI, Rector
- **University of Mutah, Jordan** Mr. Rida A. SHIBLI, Rector
- **Lebanese University, Lebanon** Mr. Adnan Al-Sayyed HUSSEIN, Rector
- **University of Malta, Malta** Mr. Juanito CAMILLERI, Rector
- **University Chouaib Doukkali El Jadida, Morocco** Mr. Yahia BOUGHALEB, President
- **University Mohammed V of Rabat, Morocco** Mr. Saaid AMZAZI, President
- **University Hassan 1, Morocco** Mr. Ahmed NEJMEDDINE, President
- **University Hassan 2 Casablanca, Morocco** Mr. Idriss MANSOURI, President
- **University Ibn Tofail Kenitra, Morocco** Mr. Azzedine EL MIDAOU, President

- **Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez, Morocco** Mr. Mostapha BOUSMINA, President
- **University of Evora, Portugal** Mrs. Ana Maria COSTA FREITAS, Rector
- **New University of Lisbon, Portugal** Mr. Antonio Manuel BENSABAT RENDAS, Rector
- **University Complutense of Madrid, Spain** Mr. Carlos ANDRADAS HERANZ, Rector
- **Arab International University of Damascus, Syria** Mr. Maher KABAKIBI, Rector
- **University of Tunis, Tunisia** Mr. H'maied BEN AZIZA, President
- **University of Monastir, Tunisia** Mr. Mahjoub AOUNI, President
- **University of Carthage, Tunisia** Mr. Lassaad EL ASMI, President
- **University of Kairouan, Tunisia** Mr. Ahmed OMRANE, President

## THE EVENT

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April

Welcome speeches were given by Mr. Eduardo GONZALEZ MAZO, Rector of the University of Cádiz and Mr. Pierre FUENTES, President of the Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS.

Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS Governing Board

### *Review of activities*

Mr. Loïc OROFINO, Project Manager at the Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS, presented the activities of the TETHYS office in Marseille highlighting in particular the latest projects that have been selected and submitted for evaluation. For more information about these projects please see the PowerPoint presentation found on the TETHYS website. Mr. OROFINO stressed that the staff of the TETHYS office collaborate with partners in the TETHYS network who wish to design cooperation projects and are available to offer support to partners carrying out these project design procedures.

### *New Website*

Mr. OROFINO also presented the new TETHYS website: <http://tethys.univ-amu.fr/en> which partners are encouraged to use to communicate information about international activities (conferences, summer schools, thematic workshops, etc.) carried out by their institutions.

### *New cooperation framework agreement for 2017-2022*

A new interuniversity cooperation framework agreement will take effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2017 for a period of 5 years which may be renewed. This agreement will be approved during the next annual meeting in Cyprus. All current partners will be solicited and invited to sign the TETHYS membership form before the end of 2016.

The framework agreement foresees the constitution of a Bureau, “presided by the President of the network” and “composed of a qualified representative for each country involved in the agreement”, an attempt to designate the members of a new Bureau was made.

The deliberations of the Council must be carried out with the absolute majority (art. 4.5.4.) and as the quorum was not reached during the meeting at the University of Cádiz, it has been decided that the designation of these members will be postponed until the next Governing Board in 2017.

Reminder of the constitution of the Bureau until the 31st December 2016:

- Algeria: University Badji Mokhtar of Annaba
- France: Aix-Marseille University
- Italy: University of Genova
- Lebanon: University of Balamand
- Morocco: no representative
- Spain: University of the Balearic Islands
- Tunisia: University of Tunis-El-Manar

#### *TETHYS Representatives*

The Marseille office has asked that the rectors from the 78 partner universities give the names and contact details of **at least 2** TETHYS representatives within their university. Their roles as TETHYS representatives will be defined as follows:

- A. 1 representative appointed to act and speak for the Rector, communicate his/her opinion and vote in his/her name when necessary (e.g. during TETHYS Annual Governing Board Meetings, other relevant meetings, etc.),
- B. 1 or more (if applicable) representatives appointed to participate in the actions of the network, impel the network, disseminate information about the network within their university and act as a key point of contact for other members of the network.

An official letter to this regard will be sent to the partnership.

#### *New candidates – Presentation of Universities*

- **Antonine University, Lebanon** Mrs. Micheline GHATTAS
- **University of Santiago de Compostella, Spain** Mrs. Almudena HOSPIDO QUINTANA

The presentation of these universities is available on the TETHYS website. These universities are now partners of the Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS.

#### *New Presidency of TETHYS*

The President of TETHYS Mr. Pierre FUENTES, active since 2012, would like to pass on the role to another figure. The President of Aix-Marseille University, Mr. Yvon BERLAND, has suggested that Mr. Michel AUTRIC, who will end his role as Director of TETHYS at the end of August 2016, be designated. The new Director of TETHYS is currently being recruited.

#### *Hosting of the next TETHYS Annual Conference and Governing Board in 2017*

The University of Cyprus will host the TETHYS Annual Conference and Governing Board in 2017 by invite of Mr. Anthanasios RAFTOPOULOS, representing the Rector of the University of Cyprus, Mr. Constantinos CHRISTOFIDES.

## *Various Questions*

### **Participation in the TETHYS Annual Conference and Governing Board**

The observation has been made that the level of participation in the annual meeting is weak. Several cancellations (around a dozen) were made at the last minute, even by some conference speakers.

The reasons given are mainly due to the global cost of the trip and logistic complications (length of the trip).

A comparison was made by a partner with another University network which visibly cover certain costs of certain participants for meetings similar to those of the TETHYS annual Governing Board.

The President of TETHYS, Pierre FUENTES, reminded partners that the TETHYS network has not collected annual subscription fees since 2011 as only 40% of partners paid this subscription fee and the non-payment of these foreseen amounts caused great problems in terms of accountancy at Aix-Marseille University, the network's principal financier.

Thus, TETHYS can no longer contribute to the cofinancing of participants.

The President Mr. FUENTES also reminded partners that some of them, thanks to projects financed by the European Commission (including those initiated and designed by the TETHYS service of Aix-Marseille University), benefit from significant funds. These are large amounts dedicated to interuniversity cooperation which should encourage and facilitate the participation of partners in the annual meeting.

Mr. FUENTES suggested re-establishing a rule whereby the Rector/President of each partner university officially commits to paying a subscription fee. After several exchanges, the Board did not come to a decision.

This weak participation causes problems as regards representation and the visibility of the Network which equally affects the legitimacy of decisions that need to be made.

Reminder: The interuniversity cooperation framework agreement which binds us, stipulates, in article 4.5.4. that "the failure to participate or the non-representation of a partner to two consecutive Governing Boards will force the President-in-office to refer to the Council. After discussion, the Governing Board, following advice from the Bureau, may suspend or remove the institution's rights to participate in the TETHYS network".

This point needs to be considered in more depth.

*After the meeting the participants were invited to a Gala dinner at the Hotel Parador Atlantico of Cádiz by the University of Cádiz.*

## Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Welcome speeches were given by Mr. Michel KASBARIAN, Honorary President of the Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS and from Mr. Carlos RIOJA DEL RIO, Vice Dean in charge of International Agreements, School of Engineering, University of Cádiz.

Mr. Michel KASBARIAN also had the opportunity to pass on a message from Mr. Jean ROATTA, Deputy Mayor at the Ville de Marseille, in charge of International Relations and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

### *1<sup>st</sup> Conference: An International Outlook for Training and Research*

3 presentations were given by Mrs. Claire HERRMANN, Mrs. Patricia POL and Mrs. Lorenza OPERTI about perspectives for international training and research. These presentations targeted the Mediterranean area in particular. They are available to be consulted on the TETHYS website.

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Conference: How student and staff mobility contributes to the Internationalisation of Euro-Mediterranean Universities*

4 presentations from 4 representatives of member universities of the TETHYS network; Mrs. Aida BENHAMIDA, Mr. Pasquale ASSENNATO, Mr. Mohamed ELRIWINI and Mr. Antoine ABCHE, were given to demonstrate the variety of mobility activities across the partnership. The HERMES project, coordinated by the TETHYS network in Marseille was evoked as well as the development of extra-European mobility within the Erasmus+ 2014-2020 programme. They are available to be consulted on the TETHYS website.

### *Round Table: The advantages of the exchange of good practices in the design and management of international cooperation projects*

3 presentations were given by 3 representatives of member universities of the TETHYS network; Mrs. Almudena HOSPIDO QUINTANA, Mr. Alessandro VERRI and Mr. Llorenç ROTGER HUGUET. They can be consulted on the TETHYS website.

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Conference: Curriculum for Employability: From Theory to Industry*

The European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI) was presented as well as the European Association for International Education (EAIE). 6 presentations were given by Mrs. Linda MEBUS, Mr. Pieter DE VRIES, Mrs. Laura HOWARD, Mr. Mohamed NEMAMCHA, Mr. Michael CHOWANETZ and Mr. Pekka MAKKONEN about curriculum development. Questions regarding the employability of graduates and new, innovative teaching methods were raised during this conference. The presentations can be viewed on the TETHYS website.



### *Closure of the meeting*

The meeting was brought to a close by Mr. Michel AUTRIC, Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Universities Network TETHYS and Mr. Juan José DOMINGUEZ, Director of the School of Engineering of the University of Cádiz. A reminder was given about the relations that have been created over the years, amiable and friendly relationships which have been created between partners. We need to take advantage of these privileged relationships to continue collaborating efficiently and contributing to creating a youth that is fundamentally “Euro-Mediterranean”. Universities wishing to design potential new projects have been invited to get in contact at the beginning of September to prepare for the calls for proposals for European projects at the end of 2016. All participants were thanked for taking part and for ensuring fruitful exchanges during the meeting. The University of Cádiz was also thanked warmly for the organisation of the conference and the kind and high quality welcome that we received. The partners will meet next year at the University of Cyprus in Nicosia, Cyprus.