



Synergies and Innovation Linking Europe, the MENA region
and the Gulf in Higher Education & Research
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**Governing Board Meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean
Universities Network TETHYS**

Amman, 02 April 2015

INTRODUCTION

Erasmus Mundus Action 3 - Promotion of European Higher Education:

“promotes European higher education through measures enhancing the attractiveness of Europe as an educational destination and a centre of excellence at world level.”

NB: no student exchange

PARTNERS



EUROPE

- **Coordinator: Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)**
- ANECA – Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y la Acreditación (Spain)
- UNIMED - Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo (Italy)
- EAIE – European Association for International Education (The Netherlands)
- Lund Universitet (Sweden)
- Maastricht University (The Netherlands)

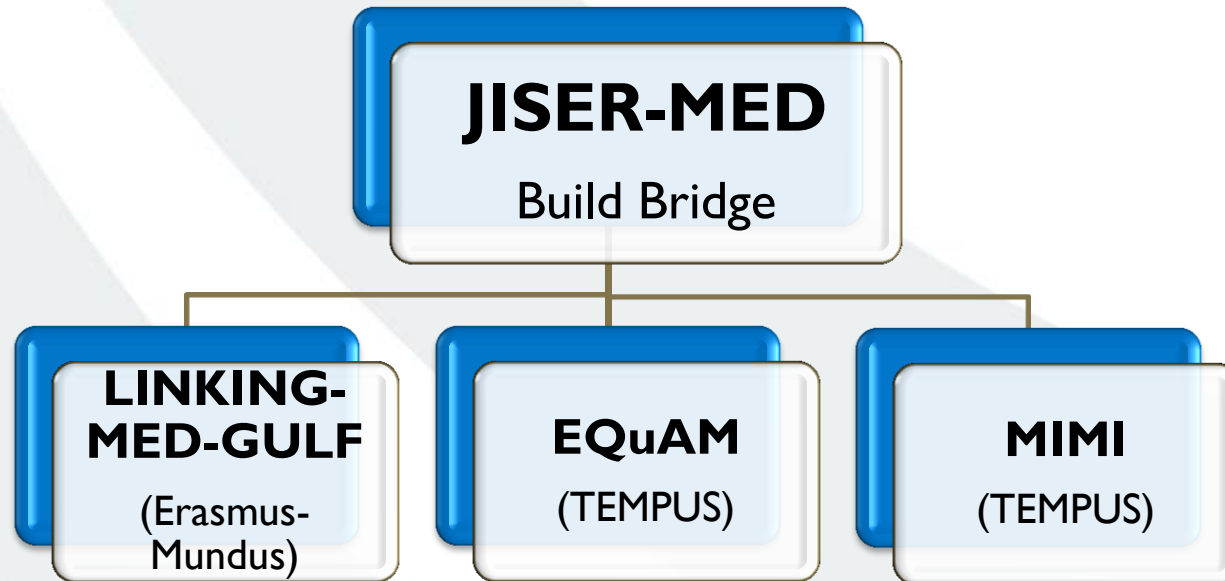
MED-GULF

- Middle East College (Sultanate of Oman)
- University of Jordan (Jordan)
- Abdelmalek Essâadi University (Morocco)
- Ibn Tofail University (Morocco)
- Université de Sousse (Tunisia)
- Université de Tunis El Manar (Tunisia)
- Université Virtuelle de Tunis (Tunisia)

OBJECTIVES

Aims at continuing the path opened by the *JISER-MED* project by consolidating mutual understanding and long term partnerships between the regions

BUILDING LINKS



OBJECTIVES

By:

- Improving the level of awareness of the Bologna Process in the MENA Countries and in the Gulf
- Promoting the discussion between HE&R in the three regions and its links to employability.
- Promoting discussions towards the international dimension of QA in the regions and the current trends in the area.
- Promoting synergies between HE institutions and industry

YEAR I

- The programme aimed at linking 3 overarching themes:

Research led teaching and learning in HE

Employability *from* HE

Quality Assurance *of* HE

YEAR I

Focus on ‘the curriculum’ / ‘teaching and learning’, and the various factors that interact with them. In particular:

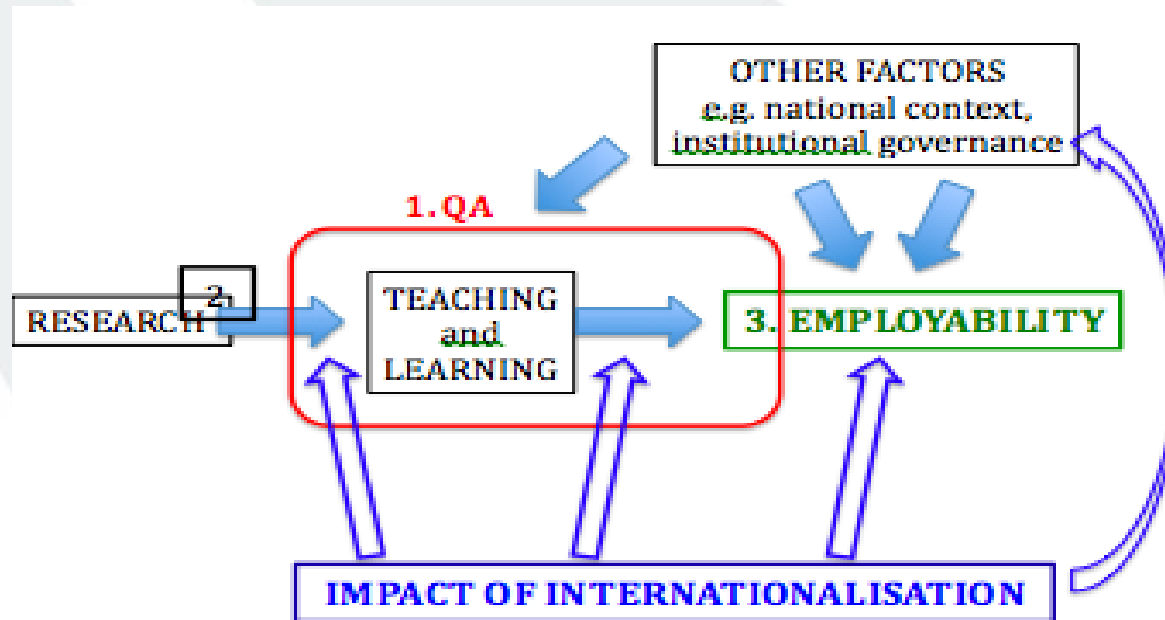
The impact of education needs and research developments

(Changing) employability expectations (and related employment),

The impact of internationalisation, and the links to policy usage across all of the participants

YEAR I

Diagram was developed at the end of the Kick-off meeting:



YEAR I

A simple starting hypothesis on curriculum may be that they are:

1. Regulated by law
2. Dependent on research/scientific
3. Developed **in relation** with the general employment needs or
4. Dependant on employer rationales

HOW?

Workshop + Focus Group involving all partners and external stakeholders:

What is the relationship between universities and employers?

What are the different perspectives?

What are the collaboration links between these regions?

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Improve Employability by:

- Career Service
- Reform of Curriculum
- Closer collaboration between HEIs and business sector
- Overcome cultural issues
- Support to entrepreneurship and creativity

Quality Assurance: WHY?

- Main pillar of HEI internationalisation
- Societies are increasingly knowledge-based, HE is more and more important for the progress of both individuals and countries
- Massification of institutions creates a demand for more transparency and public accountability

FIRST OUTCOMES

- Differences in current QA practices were most noticeable between northern Europe and many of the countries bordering the Mediterranean
- In **many cases** both HE institutions and the programmes they offer are subject to external ex ante accreditation against a set of internal measures

FIRST OUTCOMES

- In a **few** cases there was some ‘follow up’ to assess whether programmes had been delivered as initially planned
- In **very few** cases was QA concerned with ex post evaluation or of the quality of ‘delivery’ of the programme either through:

Feedback
from
students
(that was
acted on)

Or from
alumni,
employers
and other
stakeholders

Supporting documents

- Green Paper (*report best practices on the relation between HE&R in the three regions*)
- White Paper: recommendations based on outputs of Green papers → employability
- Quality Assurance: report on current trends (ANECA)
- Survey on University-Entreprise cooperation and graduate employability (UNIMED)

YEAR 2

Relationship between HE and Research in Europe and to better understand:

- Universities (strategical) approach to the issue
- Universities link with the concerned regions in HE and Research
- Lessons learnt: good practices and challenges

YEAR 2

THROUGH DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES:

- I. Awareness and Dissemination Embedded Event:
2nd Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education
(AECHE - <http://www.ub.edu/aeche/>)
- II. Last Evaluation Consortium Meeting in Morocco
- III. Reports from LU and MU (best practices)

WEBSITE

<http://www.ub.edu/LinkingMedGulf/en/index.html>

THANK YOU!

Questions?