

## EC Partners

Syrian universities:  
Damascus, Aleppo,  
Tishreen, Al Baath and  
Al Fourat Universities,  
among other.

Ministry of Higher  
Education (Syria)

European universities

## Facts and Figures

- EC contribution:  
€15.8 million  
(2003-2010)
- Duration: 2003-2013



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

# Education

## Supporting the modernisation of higher education in Syria

Trans-European Mobility Programme and University Scheme (TEMPUS)

*"TEMPUS promotes a 'people to people' approach. Through international and regional co-operation, it generates better communication and new personal and professional networks between the academic worlds of the EU and partner countries."*

Dr Rami Ayoubi, National TEMPUS  
Office Coordinator, Syria



## Context

In the process of opening its economy, Syria needs a greater number of graduates to further develop specific economic sectors. Only a competitive higher education system can meet this demand. The current highly centralised system faces the challenge of developing relevant programmes and curricula which meet labour market needs. To this end, the Ministry of Higher Education and Syrian higher education institutes are in the process of modernising higher education management, institutions and curricula.

## Objectives

- Support the modernisation of higher education in Syria.
- Foster international and regional higher education cooperation whilst enhancing understanding between cultures.
- Build academic networks to exchange good practices through training courses, seminars, conferences, visits & study programmes.
- Support the transfer of know-how on curriculum development, university management and institution-building.

## Impact

- 39 Tempus projects have been implemented or are ongoing.
- 65 Syrian faculty members have benefited from individual mobility grants.
- Syrian higher education curricula and teaching methods have been modernised, quality insurance has been improved and 15 faculties have been upgraded with several becoming centres of excellence.

# Education

## Supporting the modernisation of higher education in Syria

Trans-European Mobility Programme and University Scheme (TEMPUS)

### Syrian-French-Italian project to enhance and simplify universities' working procedures

*"The biggest result will be the simplification of universities' working procedures. There will be more efficient management due to the increased use of Information Technology (IT) tools,"* predicts **Dr. Marei, Project Manager at Damascus University.**

Through a TEMPUS-funded partnership with **Pierre et Marie Curie University (France)** and the **University of Genova (Italy)**, Damascus University is using new administrative tools, methods and rules of functioning, including a newly established intranet mailing system for staff.

French and Italian experts trained ten IT officers and 12 academics in the intricacies of the intranet over one month, with three weeks in Paris and one in Genova. Upon returning to Syria, the IT officers and academics in turn trained their fellow colleagues. Damascus University was thus equipped, both technically and in terms of human resources, to design its own mailing system. The staff now benefit from a tool with which to better organise their work and to get rid of the heavy procedures which previously entailed a lot of extra paperwork.

The project has been extended to virtually all Syrian universities. *"We went to universities all over the country and always had a very warm welcome. People were very happy to receive our IT skills and tools,"* recounts Dr. Marei. One IT officer was selected from each university to be in charge of the new tools, whilst the university management staff were trained to use them. *"We basically managed to build an IT culture among universities' staff"*, Dr. Marei proudly concludes.