

ERASMUS+ LEBANON NEWSLETTER

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Editorial by Dr. Aref Alsoufi, NEO Lebanon Coordinator

On 25 June, two key developments marked Lebanon's education sector.

- 1) The Universities Association of Lebanon (UAOLB) convened at the Beirut premises of the University of Balamand, with the participation of nearly all its members and in the presence of the Minister of State for Technology and AI, along with other MEHE representatives, to discuss the Lebanon Digital Diploma Attestation project aimed at establishing a national platform for the digital authentication of university diplomas. While we commend this gathering of the country's unique such association, we reiterate our longstanding call for the UAOLB to assume a leading role in advancing inter-university cooperation in Lebanon. This crucial responsibility can only be fulfilled by an organization that brings together the nation's most active universities, hosting the majority of Lebanese students. We therefore expect more concrete action from the UAOLB. A logical starting point could be the Ministry's Five-Year Plan for Higher Education, whose term is nearing expiration without notable progress in implementation. It is worth noting that the UAOLB is eligible for Erasmus+ funding paving the way for several opportunities.
- 2) The Council of Ministers has cancelled the 2025–2026 secondary school baccalaureate exams, overruling Minister Rima Karami's advice. The replacement of the certificate with a simple attestation (Ifada) was expected by some but has raised serious concern among others. Once again, populism has prevailed over safeguarding the reputation of Lebanese education. Strikingly, students and parents—those most affected—celebrated this unfortunate ruling. Last Thursday's decision marks yet another sign of decline in Lebanon's education system, as underscored by the Order of School Teachers. As Adnan El Amine noted in his Facebook [article](#) "Official exams under examination", the issue escalated into a fierce showdown between the political class which caused most of the country's sufferings and Minister Karami. The argument of "realism and adaptability," as Chafic Mokbel warned in his Facebook [post](#), risks being profoundly destructive.



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Information and Promotion

Erasmus+ Information Sessions at the University of Sciences and Arts in Lebanon (USAL)

On 15 April 2026, the National Erasmus+ Office in Lebanon delivered an online information session for the University of Sciences and Arts in Lebanon (USAL), bringing together academic and administrative staff to explore the wide range of opportunities offered under the Erasmus+ programme.

The session provided a comprehensive overview of several Erasmus+ actions relevant to higher education institutions, including Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE), Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters, Capacity Building in Vocational Education and Training (CBVET), and Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange.



The presentation was designed as an introductory briefing, to be followed by more targeted sessions on specific opportunities according to the institution's interests and needs.

Erasmus+ Information Sessions at the Arts, Sciences and Technology University in Lebanon (AUL)

The National Erasmus+ Office in Lebanon delivered an info session for the Arts, Sciences, and Technology University in Lebanon (AUL) at the university premises on 19 June 2026 for faculty and staff members to explore the wide range of opportunities offered under the Erasmus+ programme.

An overview of the Erasmus+ actions relevant to higher education institutions was given. This presentation will be followed by more targeted sessions on specific opportunities according to the institution's interests and needs.

This was followed by another session on 25 June 2026 for students at AUL targeting opportunities for individual students and youth including students' exchanges, scholarships for master programmes, training and volunteering opportunities.



Erasmus+ Opportunities Promoted at GNFF Youth Day

The National Erasmus+ Office (NEO) in Lebanon participated in the GNFF (Georges N. Frem Foundation) Youth Day on 30 May 2026, alongside two representatives from the Beirut Erasmus International Club (BEIC), to raise awareness about opportunities available to young people and students through the Erasmus+ programme.

As part of the event, NEO representatives delivered a short presentation on stage with BEIC, highlighting the various Erasmus+ opportunities for youth engagement, learning mobility, and international cooperation. Besides, NEO engaged with the youth participants through an information booth alongside the EU Jeel Connectors.



Erasmus+ Projects related activities

Webinar on Twin Transition

The National Erasmus+ Office (NEO) in Lebanon organised an online [cluster meeting](#) on 7 May 2026, entitled “Advancing the Twin Transition: Green and Digital Transformation through Erasmus+ Projects”, bringing together representatives of five Erasmus+ and EU-funded projects, higher education institutions, and experts in sustainability and digital transformation. Sophia Queckenberg, Policy Assistant, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC), European Commission also joined to present the European perspective on Twin Transition. The meeting focused on the concept of the twin transition, which combines environmental sustainability and digital transformation and has become a key priority within European policies. Participants explored how Erasmus+ and other EU-funded projects are contributing



to this agenda, shared good practices and project experiences, and discussed ways to strengthen synergies and maximise impact.

The event also featured expert insights on the relevance of the twin transition in the Lebanese context, highlighting opportunities and challenges related to green and digital transformation.

The meeting provided a valuable platform for networking and knowledge sharing, reinforcing the role of Erasmus+ projects in advancing sustainable and digital innovation in Lebanon. 110 people registered for the event, out of which 85 actually participated from HEIs and NGOs.

The list of [conclusions and recommendations](#) that came out of the webinar



Co-creation workshop on the CBY project EMPASY

As part of the [EMPASY](#) project– EMotional Literacy and Participatory Approaches to Support Youth Mental Health, implemented by Chabibeh Sporting Club in Lebanon, NEO participated in a co-creation workshop that was organised on 2nd of May 2026 to bring together youth professionals and stakeholders working with young people.

The workshop provided a collaborative

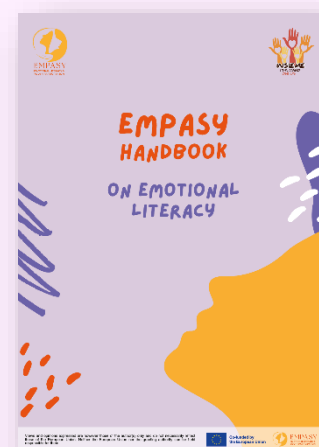


space for participants to exchange ideas,

share experiences, and contribute to the design of a mental health and emotional wellbeing awareness campaign.

The [EMPASY handbook](#) for emotional

literacy was discussed during the workshop. This handbook, developed under the EMPASY project, is a practical resource that combines theoretical foundations with tools, templates, checklists, case studies, and examples to support youth professionals working in non-formal education. Based on needs assessments and pilot training activities in Lebanon,



Jordan, and Morocco, it addresses real challenges faced by youth workers and provides practical guidance to promote emotional literacy and participatory approaches in youth work. A second roundtable gathered NGOs and public authorities to discuss the main challenges and opportunities related to promoting

emotional literacy among young people. The discussions resulted in practical recommendations and collaboration commitments from the gathered bodies aimed at strengthening awareness, youth participation, and cross-sector cooperation.

CBVET project IntexPaL

Beirut Arab University (BAU), in collaboration with the Islamic University of Lebanon (IUL), organised the “Vocational Training Needs & Capacity Building Workshop” on 12 May 2026, as part of the Erasmus+ project Innovative Textile for Palestine and Lebanon (InTexPaL).

The workshop brought together academics, industry representatives, and stakeholders to discuss vocational training needs, digital innovation, and collaboration opportunities in the textile and fashion sectors. Participants were

introduced to the objectives and expected outcomes of the InTexPaL project and engaged in discussions aimed at identifying current challenges and capacity-building needs within fashion design education and the textile industry. The event also featured remarks from representatives of BAU, IUL, and the National Erasmus+ Office in Lebanon, highlighting the importance of Erasmus+ cooperation projects in supporting vocational education and strengthening links between academia and industry.



Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) activities

Webinar on Work-Study Programmes

Within the framework of the Erasmus+ Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) activities, a two-day webinar entitled “Framing Work-Study Programmes” was held on 18–19 May 2026, bringing together 93 participants over the 2 days including higher education stakeholders, students, and experts to discuss the future of work-study programmes in Lebanon.

The webinar explored how work-study programmes can be effectively designed and implemented to support students’ academic achievement, well-being, employability, and inclusion. Participants reflected on existing practices, identified challenges and gaps, and discussed possible frameworks that could be adapted to the Lebanese higher education context.

The webinar represented an important step toward promoting a more structured and inclusive approach to work-study in Lebanon, helping to position it as an integral component of higher education that supports student success while advancing social equity and access to opportunities. A set of conclusions and recommendations can be reached at [this link](#).



Honorary Panelist, Mr. Charles Arbid, President of the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council of Lebanon

HERE international meetings

The team attended and actively participated in 2 online events; the first is a virtual meeting on 1 April 2026 for the network of HEREs in all Erasmus+ partner countries, while the second is a webinar on Values in Higher Education on 2nd and 3rd June.

Liaison with Lebanese Higher Education

As part of its ongoing liaison activities with higher education institutions, the National Erasmus+ Office (NEO) in Lebanon conducted visits to Université Libano Française (ULF), East International University (EIU), Arts, Sciences and Technology University in Lebanon (AUL), and Beirut Arab University (BAU). More visits to other HEIs are upcoming.

The visits aimed to strengthen cooperation between NEO Lebanon and HEIs by engaging with university leadership and academic and administrative staff to discuss institutional priorities and opportunities for funding under the Erasmus+ programme. Discussions focused on enhancing awareness of Erasmus+ opportunities, encouraging participation in the programme, and exploring future areas of cooperation.

Through these liaison visits, NEO Lebanon reaffirms its commitment to maintaining close partnerships with Lebanese higher education institutions and supporting their internationalisation efforts.





SE.TC - Social Entrepreneurship in Time of Crises

Driving positive societal change requires more than just traditional academic learning, it demands resilience, innovation, and local action. Over the past few years, the Erasmus+ Capacity Building initiative, SE.TC, has proven exactly how higher education institutions can step up to serve as catalysts for community resilience during periods of severe economic and social instability.

Coordinated by the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), the SE.TC project united a dedicated consortium of Lebanese and European partners. Alongside USJ, Lebanese institutions included the Lebanese University (LU), Université La Sagesse (ULS), and the Lebanese International University (LIU). They partnered with European experts: UNIMED (Italy) leading dissemination, UNINETTUNO (Italy) heading curriculum development, and the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS, Ireland) overseeing digital platform creation. Together, this cross-border alliance successfully adapted international best practices to fit Lebanon's unique socio-economic landscape.

Shared Objectives & Key Milestones:

The project set out with a clear, multi-tiered mission: map existing educational gaps, equip university instructors with learner-centered teaching methodologies, foster an entrepreneurial mindset among students, and design accessible digital resources for the broader community.

The hard work of this consortium yielded impressive, measurable milestones:

- **6 Specialised Training Modules:** Developed and integrated to strengthen social entrepreneurship education across participating campuses.
- **Accessible MOOCs:** Digital learning opportunities were expanded globally via dedicated Moodle-based platforms, ensuring the program's educational resources remain freely available in the future.
- **500+ Stakeholders Engaged:** Comprehensive baseline surveys were conducted with 495 students and 54 instructors to directly inform and improve the curriculum.

Real Impact at the Local Level:

True to its mission, SE.TC translated academic frameworks into grassroots action through a dynamic series of interactive workshops hosted at all four partner universities.

These collaborative sessions gave students immediate, hands-on experience in identifying complex social issues, designing sustainable business models, and testing innovative solutions to real-life challenges in their immediate communities.

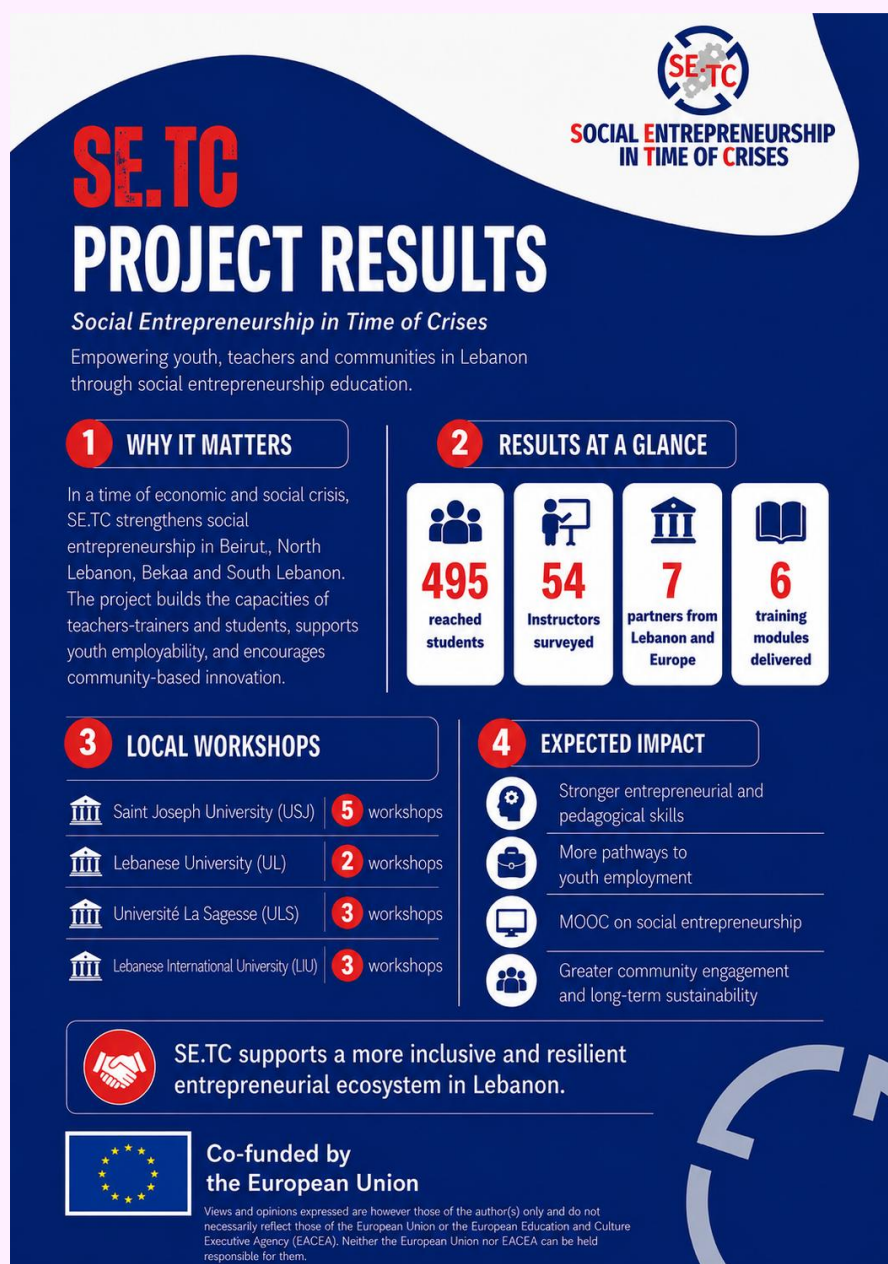
A Sustainable Blueprint for the Future:

The legacy of the SE.TC project goes far beyond numerical indicators. At its core, this initiative has fundamentally enhanced the pedagogical capacities of local educators and expanded critical pathways to youth

employment. By equipping young Lebanese citizens with highly transferable skills - such as critical problem-solving and entrepreneurial thinking - SE.TC has successfully laid the groundwork for a more resilient, confident, and employable generation. As we look ahead, the outcomes of SE.TC offer a sustainable blueprint for

how international cooperation, digital learning, and local engagement can converge to transform education into a powerful driver of social change, even in the face of deep crises.

Thank you to all our partners, educators, and students who made this journey possible!



Digital Tools for the Next Generation of Volunteers

The Erasmus+ Capacity Building in the Field of Youth project **Learn2Volunteer Reloaded**, implemented by Chabibeh Sporting Club in Lebanon, is empowering young people through innovative digital learning tools that strengthen volunteering skills and promote active citizenship. Developed by a consortium of partners from Greece, Italy, Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, and Tunisia, the project offers a free multilingual online platform featuring over 35 interactive learning modules, micro-learning "Learning Nuggets," and a mobile application with access to training resources and volunteering opportunities. Designed for both volunteers and organizations, the platform supports personal and professional development while enhancing the quality of volunteering experiences.



Explore the platform at <https://learn2volunteer.com/?lang=en> and start your volunteering journey today.

Other News

EUA Trends 2027 Survey: Strong Contribution from Lebanese Higher Education Institutions

The European University Association (EUA) has launched its Trends 2027 Survey and opened it to institutions beyond Europe to share their perspectives on key developments and priorities shaping the sector.



As EUA's flagship survey, the Trends initiative gathers comparative data and institutional insights on a wide range of topics, including learning and teaching, social inclusion, engagement with society, values, and internationalisation. The results will inform the Trends 2027 Report and contribute to EUA's policy and advocacy work in the years ahead.

The National Erasmus+ Office in Lebanon supported the dissemination of the survey among Lebanese higher education institutions and encouraged their participation in this important exercise. We are pleased to note the positive response received from the Lebanese higher education institutions, with a good number of institutions contributing to the survey.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all participating institutions for dedicating their time and expertise to this initiative.

Students Testimonials

Elena AbouJaoude, Student Exchange

My name is Elena AbouJaoude, a Communication graduate from the Lebanese American University. In Spring 2024, I packed my bags and headed to the Danish School of Media & Journalism in Denmark for an Erasmus+ exchange semester, and it quite literally changed my life. Not in the way people casually say that. It actually, genuinely, changed my direction in life. Living alone abroad for the first time was scary and exciting all at once, and those six months were the best of my life. I gained so much out of that experience, from traveling across Europe to making lifetime friends; it was a time I will cherish forever. But the real shift happened when I came back to Lebanon. There's this immense loss you feel when it's over, one that only Erasmus alumni get, but instead of sitting with it, a few others and I turned it into something amazing: the Beirut Erasmus International Club. BEIC is a youth association that creates a space for exchange alumni and international students in Lebanon. Being president of BEIC pushed me to keep seizing more opportunities, such as attending an Erasmus+ Training for Youth Workers, working with universities across Lebanon and the National Erasmus+ Office to help support Lebanese and international students, and building a community of 500+ students across Lebanon. And now, once again, Erasmus+ has changed my life. This October, I'm heading to Leipzig for the Erasmus Mundus Global Studies Master's program, then Ghent University in Belgium for year two, on a full scholarship. I attribute all of this to that one exchange semester at LAU, which snowballed into more than I ever imagined. I'm deeply grateful that I had the courage and the support system at LAU to take that leap. So if you haven't experienced the Erasmus+ magic yet, what are you waiting for? Your life is about to change.



Rym Harb, Student Exchange

I have spoken about my Erasmus experience more times than I can count. Yet no matter how many testimonials I give, words never seem enough to capture what this journey truly meant to me.

As an International Relations student at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), being selected for an Erasmus+ exchange was the opportunity to fulfil one of my biggest dreams. I spent two unforgettable semesters at Sciences Po Lyon (from September 2023 to June 2024), an experience that transformed me both academically and personally.



Erasmus+ taught me to dream beyond borders. It showed me that the world is far bigger than I had imagined, full of opportunities, perspectives, and people who challenge you to grow. It taught me to be courageous, to embrace uncertainty, and to pursue my ambitions without letting fear stand in the way. Most importantly, it reminded me that our dreams deserve to take up space and that nothing should come before them. Today, I work in the Admissions Office at USEK, and every time a student asks me about exchange opportunities, I get to share a piece of my story. For a few minutes, I relive those memories, the excitement, the challenges, the friendships, and the growth. And somehow, those few moments are enough to keep the magic alive. The lessons, friendships, and confidence I gained through Erasmus+ did not end when the exchange was over. They remain a part of me, influencing the way I see the world and the path I continue to build for myself.

Lyon may not be my city, but I surely know my way around it. And although I left Lyon behind, I know I left a piece of my heart there too.

Kamil Fakih, Erasmus Mundus scholarship for Master's studies

I graduated last year from the Erasmus Mundus Master's program in Embedded Computing Systems, EMECS. I spent my first year in Torino, Italy, at Politecnico di Torino, then moved to Germany for my mobility year at RPTU Kaiserslautern. I later relocated to Stuttgart for a non-mandatory industry internship, where I gained professional experience on a pre-development team in one of Germany's leading tech regions.



EMECS was both a challenging and rewarding experience. Academically, it gave me the opportunity to learn from leading professors in my field and to collaborate with brilliant students from varying backgrounds. It offered a comprehensive and up-to-date course in Embedded Systems (or "Computer Engineering" for the layman), which was complemented by hands-on experience and group projects in addition to networking opportunities like conferences. Going from my Bachelor's degree at the Lebanese University in Saida to studying in Italy and Germany exposed me to different academic/work cultures as well as teaching styles. It helped me shape my current research interests in computer networks in my current position as a Research Engineer at the University of Strasbourg. EMECS was, in the best way possible, a completely unhinged cultural experience. I made friends from all over the world and learned to see life through different cultures and perspectives. I cherished every moment, even the small ones, like my afternoon coffee chats with my flatmates, the long study sessions, and traveling by train around Europe. I was also involved with international student organizations like the Erasmus Student Network, both as a participant and as a volunteer helping organize events. Today I still carry with me the passion for tech and academia I developed during my Erasmus Mundus experience. I will always be grateful for the opportunity and program coordinators who facilitated the journey. I hope to carry this spirit forward by staying involved in Erasmus communities such as Erasmus Plus Lebanon.

Claudine Zaarour, Youth Exchange

My name is Claudine Zaarour, a PhD Candidate in Law at the Lebanese University and youth worker. In August 2025, I had the privilege of representing Lebanon and my sending organization, Unity Up, at the Erasmus+ Youth Worker Training Course “Hope Beyond Crises” in Copenhagen-Denmark, hosted by the Copenhagen Youth Network.

This Erasmus+ experience was far more than a training course, this mobility was an outside-the-box journey of learning, reflection, and intercultural exchange. Together with youth workers and changemakers from 9 different countries, I explored critical topics such as conflict sensitivity, the cycle of conflict, combating propaganda and misinformation, and supporting communities facing crises and challenges. The training also provided valuable insights into the work of international organizations, including the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the United Nations City in Copenhagen, helping us better understand global approaches to humanitarian action, peacebuilding, and resilience.

Beyond the educational sessions, the experience allowed me to discover Danish culture, and engage in enriching discussions with inspiring participants from diverse backgrounds. These exchanges reinforced my belief that dialogue, cooperation, and mutual understanding are essential tools for building more peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies.

The knowledge, skills, and perspectives I gained continue to influence my work with youth and civil society in Lebanon. Through Erasmus+, I strengthened my leadership, communication, and facilitation skills while expanding my international network of dedicated youth workers and changemakers. Most importantly, the experience reminded me that even in times of crisis, hope can be transformed into action when people come together across borders to learn from one another and work towards a better future.

I am deeply grateful to Erasmus+ for creating opportunities that empower young leaders, foster intercultural understanding, and build bridges between communities. This experience will remain a significant experience in my personal and professional journey.



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