



**Modernising Undergraduate Renewable Energy Education:
EU Experience for Jordan
MUREE
TEMPUS project number 530332-TEMPUS-1-2012-1-JO-TEMPUS-JPCR
Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Amman, Jordan
1 December 2013
Monitoring Visit Minutes**

A team led by Ms. Roisin McCabe, Programme Manager, Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), together with Professor Ahmad Abu-El-Haija, Director, National Tempus Office, Jordan, and Mr. Yazeed Taani, National Tempus Office, Jordan, visited Princess Sumaya University for Technology on 1 December 2013 to monitor the progress of MUREE. All Jordanian members of MUREE participated in the monitoring visit as follows:

1. Issa batarseh, Abdallah Al-Zoubi, Wejdan Abu-El-Haija, Yazan Abu Yaghi, Ayman Fazeh, Majd Batarseh, Ayman Qamoh, Mohammad Salameh and Ayesha Al-Omari, Zain DmourPSUT, Jordan
2. Ahmad Salaymeh, Mamoun Dmour and Saana Aqad, University of Jordan
3. Suhil Kiwan, Fahmi Abu Al-Rub, and Qais Khasawaneh, JUST, Jordan
4. Ayman Al-Maaitah and Hussien Al-Majali, Handri Ammari, Mutah University, Jordan
5. Awnai Tradat and Bashar Hammad, Hashemite University, Jordan
12. Mansour Al-Hallaj and Fatahallah Al-Hallaj, NETenergy, Jordan

1. Participants were welcomed by Dr. Abdallah Al-Zoubi, project coordinator, on behalf of Princess Sumaya University for Technology. Then he gave a brief on:

- The project, reporting the status and progress of each workpackage and deliverable.
- Listed previous and upcoming events.
- Listed the selected which were selected by the consortium to be delivered in the proposed BSc programme. These were: Photo Voltaic, Renewable Energy Systems, Energy Conversion, Drive and Machines, Wind Energy, Solar Thermal, in addition to the 2 eLearning courses being designed by Hashemite University (HU).
- Pointed out that the two traditional labs, which will be hosted by PSUT, have been selected. All tendering procedures have been followed internally at PSUT and a complete report was sent to TU-Berlin, leader of the quality workpackage (WP8) for feedback and comments.

2. The audience was then engaged in a discussion about:

- Jordanian partners pointed out that a problem was encountered in deciding on the proper approach to develop the curriculum of the proposed 6 courses because. Jordanian and European partners have two different approaches.
- The questions asked by Ms. Roisin McCabe concerning the curriculum were the following:
- Ms. Roisin McCabe asked about what the consortium has achieved so far to develop the curriculum? And whether all the courses are being developed from the beginning by the team or just updated? The main discussion for this point was on the problems faced, as it is the most important part in the project.
- For this point, Ms. Roisin commented that she will send a recommendation to EU partner to share the materials with Jordanian partners. Some of the partners suggested to take these courses from



existing projects and they can be updated to the programme level, but Ms. McCabe pointed out that this comes under double funding as they cannot pay for courses were paid before.

➤ Ms. McCabe asked how the student from Jordanian partner universities will be able to access labs and equipment hosted by PSUT. The answer was that labs will be at Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) and the entire student from the other 4 Jordanian partner universities (UoJ, JUST, Mutah, Hashemite) will be able to use it. For this purpose an agreement between PSUT and every other partner university will be signed under the supervision of the National Tempus Office in Jordan. All partners confirmed this procedure.

➤ Dr. Abdallah Al-Zoubi informed the consortium about the progress in developing the project Intranet and pointed out that from the beginning of January the Intranet will be the only means of communication and reporting for all partners, including financial reporting. A comment to this point is that documents need to be translated to English for external auditors. Dr. Abdallah Al-Zoubi pointed out that all MUREE documents are in English and all financial transactions are made in Euro.

➤ **Difficulties**

Partners shared a number of concerns about the visa problem, as they cannot get it easily and sometimes miss on very important meetings when they do not have the visa. Here Dr. Al-Zoubi suggested if a special type of visa for partners can be issued (scientific) or if the EU can provide a letter to each contact person to help facilitate the process. Ms. McCabe said that the EU cannot control visas, but they will help by talking with the delegation in Amman.

➤ The second issue was about preparing the timesheets and staff conventions. Ms. McCabe commented on this by saying that the timesheets are obligatory as they need it for auditing. Ms. McCabe also stressed on the fact that timesheets and staff conventions must be signed by the direct manager such as head of department or dean and not the contact person.

➤ The third problem raised by partners was concerned with top management at Jordanian universities including presidents and vice presidents and the need to make them aware of the efforts made by team members working on Tempus projects such as MUREE. Partners suggested if the TEMPUS team can help by explaining the idea behind the project in addition to a call for a meeting with officials in Jordan as they do not think that the RE project is mature enough commercially to be approved. Ms. McCabe said that there is a need to provide a mechanism to share information even between the contact persons if one of them could not be in a meeting for a reason they can send someone else after giving him/her a brief about the situation and when he/she comes back should give appropriate feedback.

➤ The fourth problem was the daily rate for staff cost in Jordan in the TEMPUS project which is extremely underestimated compared to other countries and needs revision. Here Ms. McCabe said that she will take this issue to the delegation concerning the inflation in Jordan.

She also clarified the following: when team members are travelling for a project activity, they get paid unless the work was of the training type. In any case, they need to provide the necessary documents. She also added that the coordinator gets the rate of a manager if he is doing a management task.

➤ At the end Dr. Al-Zoubi pointed out they will produce a white paper and organize a meeting with the government in June 2014 after conducting meetings and seminars in entrepreneurial activities. In addition, a meeting in PSUT will take place in March 2014 with the energy companies in Jordan.



Recommendations

- ✓ Ms. Roisin McCabe will try to solve the visa issue by talking to the EU delegation and looks into the possibility of giving a letter to facilitate the visa process for all partners.
- ✓ The consortium can use some of the staff cost to develop materials for the courses.
- ✓ The courses should be developed in accordance to the ECTS and Bologna Process and Jordanian university partners should make efforts to adopt such system of accreditation.
- ✓ Student should be more involved in the project and perhaps in the development process of the course content.
- ✓ Using the intranet of the MUREE to have a better way of communication between partners and to be able to see the progress of the project by providing detailed information on each activity.
- ✓ All information related to the project should be shared effectively.
- ✓ Staff cost should be proved by providing the needed pay slips.
- ✓ The Ministry of Energy should be invited to be member of the consortium.