



**ERASMUS+ E-TALEB Project and Third Quality Assurance Workshops on  
Excellence in Teaching and Learning**

**Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

**The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon - Auditorium Jean El Hawa**

**Word of the President, Rev. Fr. Professor Georges Hobeika**

Dear Professor Ahmad Jammal, Director General of Higher Education,  
Dr. Aref Al Soufi, Coordinator of the National Erasmus+ Office,  
Mr. Hervé Sabourin, Regional Director of AUF Moyen-Orient,  
Professor Jethro Newton, Emeritus Professor and Former Dean of Academic Quality  
Enhancement at the University of Chester,  
E-Taleb Lebanese and European Partners,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished guests,

The Ceremony and workshops of today have a very special significance, as we mark the launching of the *Lebanese Professional Standards Framework for Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education (LBPSF)* and the jointly organization of “*Ateliers de la Qualité*” with AUF and the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

As President of USEK, I feel very proud leading an Institution committed to Excellence in Governance and Quality in Education, and which mission is to make from each student a visionary with all the skills and knowledge needed to lead in tomorrow's economy. As an eloquent illustration of this idea, I find very appropriate this definition of different types of teachers, masterfully given by America's most quoted writers of inspirational maxims William Arthur Ward: "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." And this can only be achieved through continuously developing the teaching and learning methods. I quote here John Dewey, American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer "If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow".

We are in the midst of a revolution in the teaching and learning to which the Erasmus+ E-TALEB Project is actively responding.

Fourteen Partners are working together with USEK in this national project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union:

- The Directorate General of Higher Education (DGHE)
- Beirut Arab University (BAU)
- University of Balamand (UOB)
- Holy Family University (USF)
- Jinan University (JU)
- Lebanese American University (LAU)
- Lebanese University (UL)
- Al\_Manar University of Tripoli (MUT)

And the European partners, who are present with us today:

- University of Roehampton (UoR), United Kingdom
- Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA), United Kingdom
- Evalag, Germany

- Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences (HsKA), Germany
- Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 (UCBL), France

14 partners have transformed the differences between the Institutions into a similar and unique vision: Empowering the Lebanese Higher Education Standards. The LBPSF does not constitute an exclusive achievement for each E-Taleb partner, but it has also a great benefit on the national, regional and European levels; including the Lebanese Higher Education sector, all the Higher Education Institutions in Lebanon, University leaders, Faculty members, students, researchers, policy makers and experts in the field. After all, the *Lebanese Professional Standards Framework for Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education (LBPSF)*, inspired by the UK Professional Standards Framework for Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education (UKPSF), will serve as a benchmark for all these target groups.

My Congratulations go to the E-Taleb Consortium: **“Let the LBPSF mark a success story in your journey of Excellence!”**

My Special acknowledgements and thanks go to the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union for co-funding this project and for making a difference in Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education.

My Appreciations go to all the Presidents and leaders of the partner Universities and organizations who decided to undergo the challenges and believe in this project. My Appreciations also go to the partner of today’s workshops and activities, AUF, leading the Tempus Project ADIP “Apprentissage à distance et innovation pédagogique”.

I would also like to extend again special thanks to Prof. Ahmad Jammal, Director General of Higher Education, Dr. Aref As- Soufi, Coordinator of the National Erasmus+ Office and Prof. Hervé Sabourin, Regional Director of AUF Moyen-Orient for putting together great efforts in supporting Lebanese Higher Education Institutions.

Je termine par un mot en français en l’honneur de notre partenaire l’AUF et de nos amis francophones ici présents. Loin de la complexité des concepts pédagogiques, Jules Michelet, philosophe, historien et poète français du XIXe siècle, disait

« L'enseignement est avant tout une amitié ». Une amitié qui ne se limite pas à l'ellipse enseignant étudiant, mais qui se prolonge dans une dimension humaine se nourrissant sans cesse de nos valeurs institutionnelles, voire sociétales et nationales.

Merci !