

Word of Father Professor Georges Hobeika

Inauguration of USEK LTEC Studio

November 12, 2018

Good morning,

I am delighted today to welcome you all at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, on this very special occasion: the inauguration of USEK LTEC Studio which is developed and equipped within the framework of the E-TALEB Project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

Let me begin by extending a warm welcome to Mr. Clivio Casali Programme Manager at the European Commission and the Project Officer of E-TALEB, to Dr. Aref Elsoufi Coordinator of the National Erasmus+ Office and to all the representatives of E-TALEB partners and USEK faculty and students that are among us here today.

LTEC Studio is the first of its kind in Lebanon as it is equipped with the Learning Glass technology, an innovative approach to lecture capture that has proven to be of great support to traditional classes, hybrid and online courses. The inauguration of this studio will be highly contributing to USEK strategic directions that aim at promoting online education and creating enhanced and digitalized learning approaches that further foster an active learning approach and help modern learners enhance their performance. After all, our main goal is to empower Faculty to improve curricula and enhance the learners' experience.

Back to 2015, USEK launched one of the first centers for Learning and Teaching Excellence in Lebanon and I feel proud that USEK is playing a pioneering role in enhancing teaching and learning in Higher Education in Lebanon, and in promoting the most trending and effective learning technologies.

This center is among 8 other centers that are being inaugurated across the E-TALEB partner universities in Lebanon, all together aiming to promote faculty professional development and student learning experience.

Also, many other achievements have been accomplished within the framework of E-TALEB, which had a powerful impact in capacity building in the Lebanese Higher Education Sector, such as:

- The National Framework for the Lebanese Professional Standard Framework (LBPSF), which is approved by the Directorate General of Higher Education and **recommended by the Lebanese Higher Education Council**.
- And the National certificate in Teaching and Learning that will be offered in the partner universities starting 2019.

In addition to E-TALEB, USEK is leading two other Erasmus+ capacity building national projects that aim to sustain the quality of higher education in Lebanon: **StEER-Leb**, Student Empowerment, Engagement and Representation in Lebanese Universities and **LEBPASS**, the Lebanese Diploma Supplement.

All these impactful initiatives and achievements have been realized thanks to the European Commission and the National Erasmus+ Office support and fund, and to all E-TALEB partners that shared their best practices and experiences within this project. Together, we have succeeded to set the teaching and learning excellence on the national agenda of the Lebanese Higher Education System.

I would like to also thank Dr. Faten El Hage, the Deputy President for Teaching and Learning at USEK. Through her various initiatives, Dr. Faten is always passionate and persistent to promote teaching and learning excellence and online education at USEK. I would like thank her for creating this amazing atmosphere that is stimulating the faculty professional development.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your presence and cheering with us this very special occasion.
