



**President Speech**  
**Launching Ceremony of a Twinning Partnership with Italy**  
**Thursday September 7, 2023**

**Dear Mr. Kalenzi, head of UNIDO Regional Office.**

**Dear Mr. Tarlao, representative of the Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia**

**Your Excellency Mrs. Bombardiere Italian Ambassador in Lebanon**

**His Excellency Mr. Bouchikian, minister of Industry in Lebanon, represented by  
the Mrs. Lena Dergham Director General of the Lebanese Standards Institution  
(LIBNOR),**

Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure for us to receive you all today at USEK for the launching of the project entitled “Twinning partnership for sustainable small and medium-sized enterprises development in Lebanon”.

In a country where the importance of the industrial sector was in the shadow before the economic crisis, we have witnessed an increase in the outcome of this sector post-crisis with the wine being the ambassador of the Lebanese industrial exports.

Allow me to begin by thanking the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, the efforts of UNIDO Italy and the guidance of the minister of industry and the director general a dynamic group of partners who made this project possible.



As USEK, we have been conducting several professional training courses within different fields because we believe in the importance of professional and continuous education as a critical pillar of the improvement of businesses. It happens that within this project it is our honor to collaborate with Udine university,

a leading institution within the field of education and research in the wine-making sector, where we will be looking forward to taking such a collaboration to the next level through why not common programs in enology and viticulture. Collaboration with the private sector is and will remain the distinguishing factor of USEK as a university and today we are more than happy to start a new chapter within this collaboration in the wine sector and looking forward to other sectors for tomorrow.

Thank you and welcome again to USEK, and I wish you successful sessions and fruitful discussions.