



**Address by Rev. Fr. Hady Mahfouz, President of the Holy Spirit University of
Kaslik (USEK)**

Thematic Seminar on the Organization and Profile of Doctoral Studies

March 11, 2013

Excellency Mr. Hassan Diab, Minister of Education of Higher Education in Lebanon

Mr. Diego Escalona Paturel, Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon

Mr. Klaus Haupt, Head of Unit, Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Mrs. Salwa Nacouzi, Director of the AUF regional office

Higher Education Reform Experts in various European countries and in Lebanon

USEK Board and community members

Distinguished audience,

It gives me a great pleasure to extend a welcome word to each and every one of you and to see such a great number of participants who will delve into various topics related to the *Organization and Profile of Doctoral Studies* held under the umbrella of the Tempus Program; this very program that constitutes one of the most effective vessels of institutional international cooperation.

The importance of this seminar takes primarily three forms: First, the topic itself that reflects a main pillar of Higher Education and a springboard for quality education. As a matter of fact, doctoral studies are no more “**a plus**” for individuals nor an evidence of a “**research-oriented**” **label** for institutions; doctoral studies are becoming **a must** as they constitute the groundwork for the creation of a skillful and knowledgeable faculty pool within an institution, and consequently, for the enhancement of teaching and learning quality assurance.

The second important aspect of the seminar is its target: the Higher Education Reform Experts (HEREs) who are entrusted, in different European countries and in Lebanon, with the mission of modernizing and developing the appropriate tools that serve the advancement of Higher Education.

Third, the context within which this seminar takes place is also of a premium importance. In the last few years, Higher Education has been witnessing unprecedented globalization that aims at spreading (let me say) “various cultures” among our youth and constantly creating new “knowledges”¹ inspired from a chromatic spectrum of educational contexts that became not only open to each other but also harmoniously intertwined. Globalization could smooth the progress of higher education and allow the exchange of experiences and expertise. And this seminar is a prime example of such an intertwinement and experience sharing processes.

Being in a Higher education ambiance let me thank the authorities of the ministry who have been working hard to put Lebanon, in the higher education world, on the highest ranks regionally and internationally, namely His Excellency Mr. minister Hassan Diab and Dr. Ahmad Jammal Director General.

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik is aware of the importance of an open environment for higher education in general and for doctoral studies in particular; this explains its interest in hosting this seminar and becoming a platform for the study of the various aspects of doctoral

¹ I used knowledge in plural just to distinguish it from the common or universal conception of a “generalized knowledge”. Just trying to say it is not monochromatic anymore.

studies. Here, I would like to thank the EACEA officials and the National Tempus Office in Lebanon. I would like also to thank all the persons who were involved in the preparation of this seminar from our Doctoral College, International Affairs Office and the Scientific Committee for their devoted efforts in the implementation of this seminar.

I wish you a fruitful seminar in these two days and hope you will be able to undertake dynamic discussions and come up with a broad range of wholesome recommendations always for the best of our generations and for the enhancement of a cutting-edge global education.