

2nd
Edition



Project Newsletter: July 2014



Erasmus
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EPIC

EU Partnerships & International Cooperation

with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria & Palestine

The EPIC Project has had a very busy six months with nominating our Second Cohort and a Call for Extensions!

EPIC's Second Call

The second Call for Applications was open from 30th September to 15th November 2013. This was extended to 1st December 2013 for post-doctorate candidates. As EPIC's first round of applications had been very successful, the second Call was restricted to EU at undergraduate, post-doctorate and staff level, and Lot countries at staff level only, with the exception of Lebanese applicants who could also apply at undergraduate level.

The collage consists of several overlapping promotional materials for the EPIC project. At the top left is a poster titled 'EU FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY/RESEARCH IN JORDAN | LEBANON | SYRIA | PALESTINE'. It lists host universities in Jordan (Jordanian, Petra, Yarmouk), Lebanon (Modern University of Business & Science, Saint Joseph), Syria (Arab International), and Palestine (An-Najah National). Below this is another poster for 'EU FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY/RESEARCH IN EUROPE FOR UNDERGRADUATE (LEBANESE ONLY) | STAFF', listing host universities in Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain, and Lithuania. To the right is a large informational poster with sections for 'FINANCIAL SUPPORT' (listing monthly and travel allowances), 'DURATION' (listing study and research periods), and 'ERASMUS MUNDUS SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN UP A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES'. At the bottom right is another poster titled 'EU DESTINATIONS' and 'THIRD-COUNTRY PARTNER DESTINATIONS', listing partner universities in the UK, Poland, Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, and Lithuania. All materials include the EPIC logo and contact information for the University's International Department.



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Statistics for eligible applications

	Cohort 2
Jordan	11 (9 applicants)
Lebanon	10 (9 applicants)
Syria	36 (23 applicants)
Palestine	10 (8 applicants)
EU	92 (54 applicants)
Target Group 1	82
Target Group 2	15
Target Group 3	6

Successfully evaluated applications

	Cohort 2
Jordan	9
Lebanon	9
Syria	23
Palestine	8
EU	54
Target Group 1	82
Target Group 2	15
Target Group 3	6

The Selection Committee was held via video conference on 7th of January 2014 with representatives from all Lot countries and the EU. The Committee nominated **34 scholars**: 15 Undergraduates, 10 Post-doctorates and 9 Staff.

Some of these Cohort 2 scholars have already mobilised! The post-doctorates and undergraduates will start their mobility by 31st December 2014.

The aim of the EPIC project was to achieve 175 mobility flows which we have now exceeded. The total number currently stands at 214 scholars.



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Call for extensions

As the project had exceeded its target for nominated scholars, it was decided at the Selection Committee to use the small surplus of budget to launch a Call for Extensions.

The Call for Extensions was open for one week from the 13th of February 2014. We received 54 requests for extension and the quality of the applications was very high. We are able to grant 36 extensions from our remaining budget, across all types of mobilities and to scholars of various nationalities.

Thank you to our Partners for all their efforts during this Call!

Coordinator activities



Natasha Bahadur, Erasmus Mundus Project Officer at Cardiff Metropolitan, visited La Sapienza University of Rome in May on a monitoring visit. She met Alaa Shuaeb and Obaida Hanteer, currently studying at La Sapienza as part of the EPIC project.

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International cooperation

In February of this year we successfully submitted our Second Progress Report to the European Commission. As part of this Report, we gathered more examples of institutional cooperation that have developed from being part of the EPIC project. Here are just a few:

- University of Saint Joseph reinforced their cooperation with Sciences Po in Paris
- A staff exchange from German-Jordanian University to La Sapienza University of Rome resulted in a publication of their research work and a Horizon 2020 proposal for further collaboration
- The Faculty of Natural Sciences at Vilnius University is investigating a joint Master programme in the field of cartography with Princess Sumaya University of Technology.

Testimonials

We have been pleased to receive many success stories from our scholars.

"I did a project for one of my courses and they chose to put one on their website's gallery".

Sarah Alqal'awi, undergraduate exchange at Technische Universität Berlin.

"One day I showed in the class of literature a short movie that I'd made in Jordan. I talked in the University Radio about the literature of my country. After these two achievements, people started to recognise me more and it became easier to make new friendships." *Maryam Abdulhadi, Undergraduate exchange at University of Salamanca.*

"I am currently volunteering in Social Erasmus's network where we do some community service activities. One of the very touching experiences to me was presenting a simple presentation about my country; Syria to around 30 high school students. Kinda Dalla, degree seeking Master at Vilnius University.

One of our scholars, Adam Chour from France, even appeared on MTV Lebanon promoting Erasmus Mundus.



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Testimonials continued...

Out of our 214 scholars 120 are currently mobilised and 47 have already completed. Here are some of their testimonials and photos!

"I want to mention that before I participate in this program, I read that Erasmus Mundus is not a year in your life; it is a life in one year. In that moment, I didn't understand what they meant, but now I do really understand what they have meant by this sentence." *Ghadeer Al-Shakhra, undergraduate scholar at Adam Mickiewicz University.*



"It was an experience that opens my mind to the world, and helps me to be an "international" person. I don't want to stop exploring the world, the experience in Jordan makes me "hungry" of the understanding to different cultures." *Patrycja Misiuda-Rewera, undergraduate scholar at German-Jordanian University.*

"Personally, I have found this to be an incredibly rewarding experience and the EPIC Erasmus Mundus programme must have had the same effect on a large percentage of the people who have been able to take advantage of it. It allows you to meet people who you may never have thought of interacting with before on a professional and social basis and to visit places you might only have dreamt of. I can't recommend it highly enough." *Paul Barrett, post-doctorate scholarship at University of Saint Joseph.*



We hope that the next six months will be just as successful for everyone who is part of the EPIC project!



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