



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



## ELEGANT Erasmus+ CBHE project

Enhancing Teaching, Learning and Graduate  
Employability through  
University-Enterprise Cooperation

610265-EPP-1-2019-1-HR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Erasmus+ KA2 – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education

# NEWSLETTER |

## December 2022

The project aims to enhance university enterprise cooperation in Jordan and Lebanon in order to improve teaching and learning in partner universities, enhance the employability of graduates and create conditions for applied research cooperation and knowledge transfer between partner universities and enterprises.

The general objectives of the project are:

- To stimulate the development of an enterprise cooperation culture at partner universities.
- To promote the sharing of good practice for establishing university-based Enterprise Liaison Offices, and developing new forms of industry-oriented education in a number of Jordanian and Lebanese Universities.
- To improve the ICT curricula and upgrade the capacities of academic and technical staff of partner universities.
- To develop a coherent information and communication strategy for the University communities within the local business environment.
- To develop a programme-strategy to support students to develop their master theses and internships with enterprises to enhance their employability

### Disclaimer

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# ELEGANT Kick-off Meeting - Dead Sea Resort, Jordan

09-10 February 2020

Enhancing Teaching, Learning and Graduate Employability through University-Enterprise Cooperation (ELEGANT) was officially launched on 9–10 February 2020 at the Hilton Dead Sea Resort, Jordan.

The event was an opportunity for all project partners to come together to discuss and exchange ideas about the project activities and building the road map to secure the success of these activities.

Partners introduced their institutions and described their specific objectives in the ELEGANT project. They also presented the upcoming activities of the project which would enable partners to have profitable exchanges and benefit from their collaboration. The upcoming activities were discussed in detail and the role of each partner clearly identified.



# Seminar on University-Industry Links at PSUT

11 February 2020

## The Experience of EU Universities and Lessons for Partner Country Universities, PSUT - Amman, Jordan

The first event of the ELEGANT project aimed at highlighting the EU partners' experience of University-Enterprise Cooperation and the specific examples of this cooperation. Representatives from each of the EU partner institutions took the floor and presented a summary of different forms of cooperation between their universities and industry and commerce in their countries. They also discussed the benefits of such cooperation for the University, for students and for the members of staff. It is hoped that these experiences will guide the partner universities in Jordan and Lebanon to develop their own links with local, regional and international companies for the benefit of their universities and their students.



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**Seminar on University-Industry Links:  
The Experience of EU Universities and Lessons for Partner Country Universities**

**Hosted by Princess Sumaya University for Technology  
Louay Shammout auditorium  
Tuesday 11 February 2020**

9.30 Registration and Coffee

10.00 Opening the Seminar (Prof. Mashhoor Al Refai, PSUT President, Prof. Nebojša Stojčić-Vice Rector, University of Dubrovnik)

9.45 Introduction to the ELEGANT project (Prof. Iraj Hashi)

10.00 University Enterprise Links at Staffordshire University (United Kingdom)  
Prof Abdel Hamid Soliman

10.30 University Enterprise Links at Università Politecnica Delle Marche (Ancona, Italy)  
Prof Giuseppe Canullo

11.00 University Enterprise Links at University of Dubrovnik (Croatia)  
Prof Nebojsa Stojcic

11.30 University Enterprise Links in Portuguese universities  
Dr Marina Ventura

12.00 University Enterprise Links at Princess Sumaya University for Technology  
Dr. Ahsraf Ahamd Dean of IT School

# Organizational Meeting at JUST

12 February 2020

Organisational meeting at Jordan University of Science and Technology staff with EU partner Universities. The event included a meeting with the President of the University, the Vice President, the Dean of the IT school and ICT department staff, to learn about the areas of expertise of staff and also inform them of the opportunities that can be offered to them through the ELEGANT project. The visiting group also met the career office representative. The event also included visiting the Library of the University and computer laboratories and learning about the equipment needs of the Faculty which can be upgraded through the project.



# Organizational Meeting at ABAU

13 February 2020

Organisational meeting at Al-Balqa` Applied University. Representatives from EU partner institutions visited ABAU and held meetings with Vice President of the University, Dean of IT school and ICT department staff, to learn about the areas of expertise of staff. The visiting group also met the career office representative. The event also included visiting computer laboratories and learning about the equipment and the equipment needs of the Faculty which can be upgraded through the project.



# Project Website

April 2020

Project Website has been launched and is operational: <https://www.elegant-project.eu/>

**ELEGANT**

Project Partners WPs/Activities Events Document Repository More Log In

**AIM**

The general aim of the project is to enhance the cooperation between partner country universities and enterprises in Jordan and Lebanon in order to improve the teaching and learning experience of their students, strengthen the employability skills of graduates, and create conditions for cooperation in the areas of applied research and knowledge transfer between partner universities and enterprises.

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

# Appointment of Liaison Officers

April - May 2020

Five colleagues were appointed as the Liaison Officer of the ELEGANT Project at partner universities



**Ms. Hikmat Ghanem Daou**

**MUBS**

Liaison Officer at Modern University  
for Business and Sciences)



**Eng. Samer Suleiman**

**JUST**

Liaison Officer at Jordan University of  
Science and Technology



**Dr. Ammar Odeh**

**PSUT**

Liaison Officer at Princess Sumaya  
University for Technology



**Eng. Mustafa Bizri**

**BAU**

Liaison Officer at Beirut Arab  
University



**Dr. Mohammed Weshah**

**ABAU**

Liaison Officer at Al Balqa Applied  
University

# Virtual Management Meetings

May – June 2020

The Covid 19 pandemic meant that many of the important activities of the project requiring international travel had to be postponed and some meetings and activities rearranged. The Management Committee prepared an emergency plan according to which online arrangements replaced face to face meetings for the foreseeable future.

It also arranged a number of Virtual Meetings with different groups of partners in order to discuss the emergency plan and provide alternative mechanisms for different Work Packages of the Project in order to ensure that the Project activities will continue online. The main meetings were:

- Jordanian partners of the Project (PSUT, JUST, ABAU and INT@J) – 21 May 2020
- Lebanese partners of the Project (MUBS, BAU and SCSL) – 28 May 2020
- Meeting on Improving the Project Website (UNIDU and PSUT) – 9 June 2020
- Meeting with EU partners of the Project (UNIDU, SU, UNIVPM and Psicoglobal) – 19 June 2020



# Virtual Induction Meeting for Liaison Officers

6 July 2020

Given the restrictions on international travel and the inability of the Project's Liaison Officers to travel to EU host universities for training, a Virtual Induction Meeting was held on 6 July 2020 to discuss their role in the project and their responsibilities. The meeting also provided the opportunity for the Liaison Officers to meet each other.

Professor Nebojsa Stojcic (University of Dubrovnik) started the session discussing the overall aims and objectives of the Project. Professor Iraj Hashi (University of Dubrovnik) made a presentation about the project focusing on the role of Liaison Officers (LOs). The newly appointed LOs of the project gained an understanding of the project and their role within the project. LOs are crucial personnel of the Project and responsible for completing the activities of WP 1 and WP2 of the project. Prof. Hashi has maintained his contact with the project Liaison Officers throughout the project and advised them on their activities.

# Monitoring Visit - Jordan

26 August 2020

Monitoring Visit by the National Erasmus+ Office in Jordan - PSUT, Amman, Jordan 26 August 2020. The National Erasmus+ Office in Jordan organised a virtual Monitoring Meeting to assess the progress of the ELEGANT project. Princess Sumaya University for Technology formally hosted the virtual meeting. All Jordanian partner universities represented by their Contact persons were present at the meeting.

Mr Yazan Abuyaghi, the coordinator of the Project in Jordan and the representative of PSUT made a presentation outlining the progress of the project in all Jordanian universities. Dr Ammar Odeh the Project's Liaison Officer at PSUT made a presentation on the work of the Liaison Office at PSUT.

Prof Fahmi Abu Rub (Jordan University of Science and Technology) and Prof Tareq Azab (Al Balqa Applied University) also contributed to the discussions and responded to the questions by the NEO Team. Prof Nebojsa Stojcic and Prof Iraj Hashi (University of Dubrovnik) also participated in the Monitoring



# Zoom Webinar at MUBS

## 23 September 2020

### Zoom Webinar at MUBS: Enhancing IT Graduates Employability through Skills Development & Curricular Innovation – 100 Participants

Within the framework of the Elegant Erasmus+ project Modern University for Business and Science hosted a webinar on September 23, 2020 exploring how to enhance IT graduates employability through Skills development & curricular Innovation.

Dr. Bassem Kaissi (VP for International Affairs at MUBS and National Project coordinator of the Elegant Project) highlighted that with the changing context of both higher education and the labor market, enhancing graduate employability has become one of the central priorities of most higher education institutions today. Dr. Kaissi mentioned that the webinar will serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, tools, and best practices related to IT curriculum update to embed employability skills from one side and industry expectations from fresh IT graduates from the other side.

The topics discussed during the webinar included : IT curriculum development to embed employability skills - Share best practices to enhance the employability of graduating students - Final Year Project industry-related ideas initiatives - Integration of online courses/certificates in the IT curriculum - Industry expectations from fresh IT graduates - Industry recommendations to improve IT graduates' employability.

In addition to the project partners, around 85 participants attended the event representing major universities in Lebanon including the American University of Beirut, Lebanese American University, Lebanese University, Beirut Arab University, University of Balamand and major IT companies in Lebanon including CISCO, Microsoft, Saugo 360, Torch Academy, Potech.

An Event Evaluation Form was sent to the participants after the Webinar.

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

ELEGANT

نقابة العلوم المعلوماتية في لبنان  
Syndicate of Computer Sciences in Lebanon

MUBS  
Modern University for Business & Science

Zoom Webinar

MUBS is organizing a webinar entitled

“Enhancing IT Graduates Employability through Skills Development & Curricular Innovation”

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 • 11:00 AM • facebook.com/mubslebanon

# Training Session for Liaison Officers

30 September 2020

On September 30, the University of Dubrovnik organised a Training Workshop for the Liaison Officers of the ELEGANT project. The project had envisaged that the training will take place at two of the EU partner universities (Staffordshire University and University of Dubrovnik). But given the restrictions on international travel, it was decided that a series of Workshops will replace the visit to the host universities. Further training will also be provided either on line or face to face depending on the progress of the pandemic and the easing of international travel.

Professor Iraj Hashi conducted the Training Workshop, highlighting and elaborating two aspects of LO's activities: the organisation of University-Enterprise Cooperation Network and developing a programme of activities around Enterprise-Oriented Education.



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# Curriculum Development Workshop

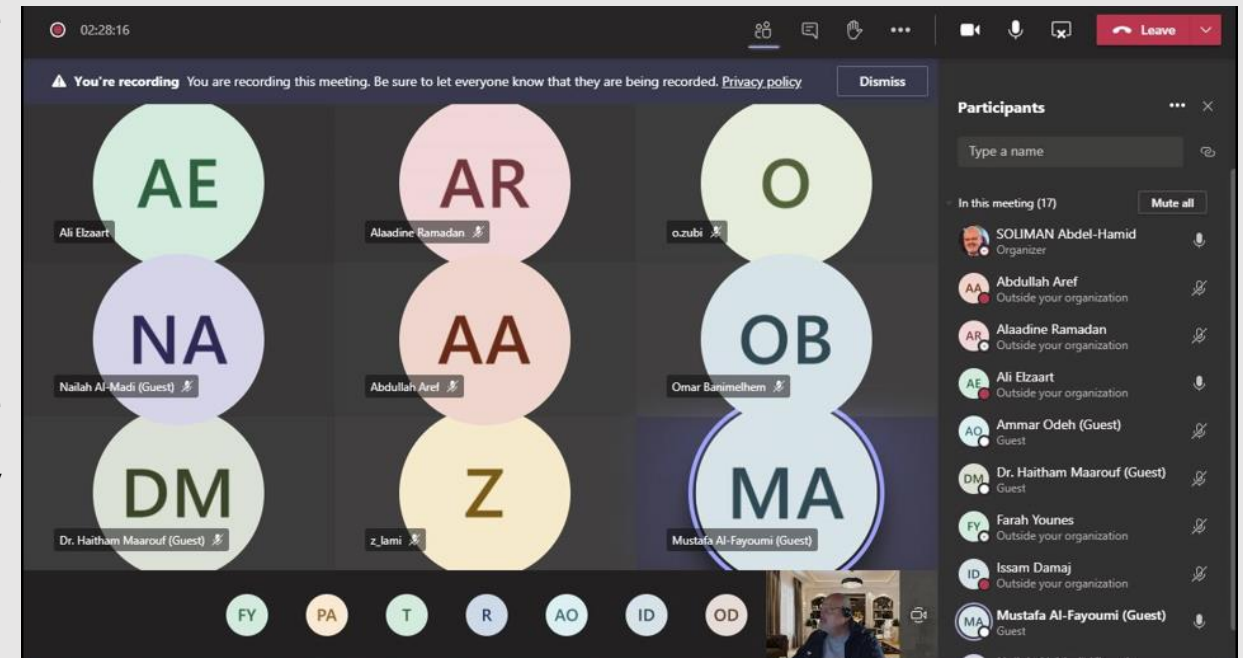
5 October 2020

The first Curriculum Development workshop of the ELEGANT Project on the topic of Smart Systems Design took place at Staffordshire University on 5 October 2020. Dr. Abdel Hamid, Associate Professor of Signal Processing and Telecommunication at Staffordshire University conducted this Workshop. Twenty colleagues from partner universities attended the Workshop.

The main aim of the workshop was to introduce practical real-life systems design and how different aspects of technology and computer science and engineering can contribute to the systems design for a variety of applications. The application areas, including the existing challenges which can be harnessed by existing technologies, were introduced to produce solutions for the challenges in the proposed area. The workshop was conducted by Prof Abdel Hamid Soliman.

The workshop lasted three hours (10.00-13.00).

Number of participants: 20



## Launch of Enterprise Survey

8 October 2020

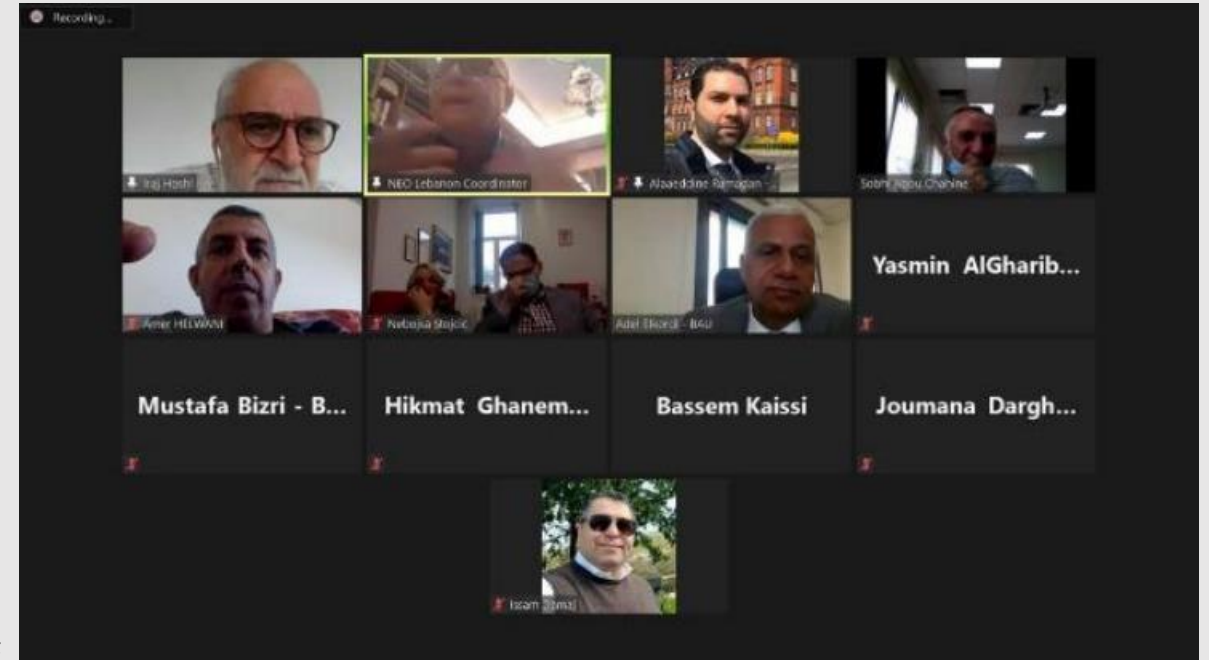
The Enterprise Survey (activity 1.5 of the Project), aimed at identifying the knowledge and skill gaps of ICT graduates, was launched in Lebanon on 8 October 2020.

The Survey Questionnaire was prepared by colleagues from the University of Dubrovnik and Modern University for Business and Sciences and after consultation with project partners, it was sent to companies in Lebanon. The Survey was an online survey and was completed by over 100 enterprises employing ICT graduates. The Survey was conducted by an External Expert, Prof Ayman Kayssi, according to the terms of the contract signed by MUBS and the Expert. The Report of the Survey was published in June 2021.

# Monitoring Visit to CBHE Project ELEGANT - Lebanon

12 October 2020

A monitoring visit to the CBHE project ELEGANT "Enhancing Teaching, Learning and Graduate Employability through University – Enterprise Cooperation" was conducted on October 12, 2020 through Zoom. ELEGANT project aims to enhance university enterprise cooperation in Jordan and Lebanon in order to improve teaching and learning in partner universities, enhance the employability of graduates and create conditions for applied research cooperation and knowledge transfer between partner universities and enterprises. ELEGANT is a 3-year regional project, coordinated by Sveuciliste university Dubrovniku, Croatia and involves from Lebanon: BAU, MUBS and the Syndicate of Computer Science SCSL; and other partners from UK, Italy and Jordan. This monitoring visit was an occasion for the team to meet representatives from the Lebanese and EU partners and to learn more about the progress made by the project and its results achieved so far.



# MUBS Webinar – Recent Trends in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

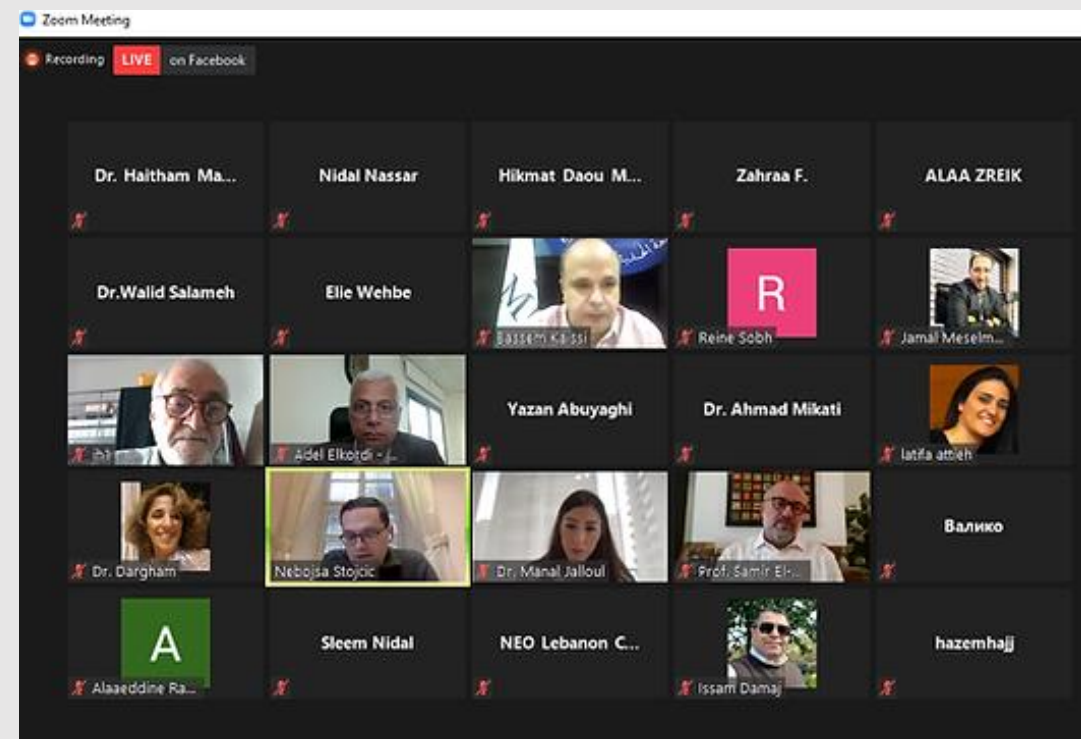
11 November 2020

Modern University for Business and Science (MUBS) - Lebanon organized a webinar entitled "Recent Trends in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning" on November 11, 2020. Professor Bassem Kaissi (VP for International Affairs at MUBS and National Project coordinator of the Elegant Project) highlighted in his opening speech that the scale and the surge in attention to artificial intelligence is not a new concept as the ideas behind the human-machine collaboration has been floating around since the 1960's but various factors contributed to the idea being put on hold for a while especially the lack of attention and funding in what we call now the "AI winters". However, now billions of dollars are being annually invested in the industry for its research and development efforts. The evolution of hardware and software and the innovation in cloud computing have created the right environment for artificial intelligence and machine learning to flourish.

The webinar featured 16 high profile speakers in AI and Machine learning representing universities from Italy, Germany, Croatia, Tunisia, UAE, Jordan, and Lebanon in addition to IT companies and AI communities from Lebanon and UAE.

The topics discussed during the webinar included: AI in Higher Education – Preparing graduates for AI - AI in infrastructure – Society 5.0 - AI in Business - AI in Health.

In addition to the project partners, around 130 participants attended the event representing major universities in Lebanon including the American University of Beirut, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Beirut Arab University and major IT and AI companies and communities including Digitalization, NVIDIA, IBM, Klango, Beirut AI, Ideatolife.





# Virtual Lectures: Experts from Industry Speak to Students at JUST

16-20 November 2020

During the Global Entrepreneurship Week (16-20 November 2020), the Centre for Excellence for Innovative Projects (CEIP) at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), in collaboration with the ELEGANT project, organised a number of events for experts from the industry and commerce to give lectures and run workshops on the latest developments in a number of ICT areas and the implications for University students. Due to the Corona Virus restrictions these events were held online.



# BAU Webinar – Modern Cybersecurity: Educational and Technical Perspectives

25 November 2020

Beirut Arab University (BAU) - Lebanon organized a webinar entitled "Modern Cybersecurity: Educational and Technical Perspectives" on November 25, 2020. As part of the Erasmus+ project "Enhancing Teaching and Learning and Graduate Employability through University-Enterprise Cooperation (ELEGANT)," Beirut Arab University (BAU), Lebanon, organized an event on "Modern Cybersecurity: Educational and Technical Perspectives" on November 11, 2020. The event featured webinars on modern cybersecurity from the educational and technical perspectives. The event comprised three main tracks, namely, cybersecurity in higher education, cybersecurity in research, and cybersecurity in industry.

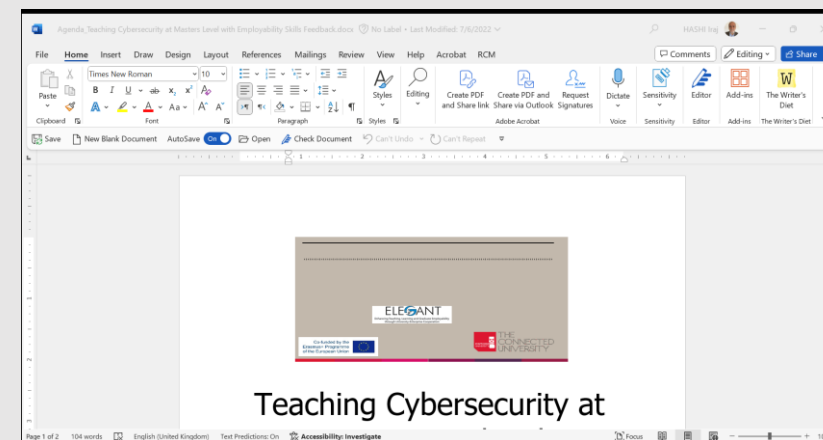
The event featured 13 high-profile speakers (academicians and industrialists) from six different countries, namely, Croatia, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom. The event hosted more than 200 attendees from Europe and the Middle East with 135 from Lebanese partner universities. Due to the Corona Virus restrictions the events were held online.



# Staffordshire - Teaching Cybersecurity at Masters Level with Employability Skills

2 December 2020

On December 2, 2020, a workshop titled 'Teaching Cybersecurity at Masters Level with Employability Skills' was held online by Staffordshire University, bringing together a diverse group of 22 participants from higher education institutions in Jordan and Lebanon. Mr Chris Howard and Dr Tomasz Bosakowski led this workshop with contributions from Prof Abdel Hamid Soliman.



# BAU - Lebanon organized a webinar entitled "Emerging Trends in ICT for Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Educational and Industrial Perspectives"

9 December 2020

This webinar event featured the emerging trends in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for entrepreneurship and innovation: educational and industrial perspectives. The event comprised three main tracks and a panel discussion. The tracks were digital transformation and entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship in education, and innovation and Technology. The event was part of the project ELEGANT that aims at enhancing teaching and learning and graduate employability through university-enterprise cooperation.



**IN ICT FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION  
EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL PERSPECTIVES**

**EMERGING TRENDS  
EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL PERSPECTIVES**

**DECEMBER 9, 2020**

**10:00 - 15:00 (GMT +2)**

Microsoft Teams

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

**ELEGANT**

Beirut Arab University logo



**WEBINARS**

**EMERGING TRENDS IN ICT FOR  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION  
EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL  
PERSPECTIVES**

**DECEMBER 9, 2020**

Beirut Arab University logo

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

**ELEGANT**

## Curriculum Development and Curriculum Revision Process Workshop at UNIDU

30 March 2021

An online workshop was held on March 30, 2021 under the title "Curriculum Development and Curriculum Revision Process" the workshop brought together 19 participants from universities in Jordan and Lebanon. A dynamic team of University of Dubrovnik professors led engaging sessions that covered a range of crucial courses, including Intellectual Property Management, Business Communication, Integrated Marketing Communication, and Strategic Management. The participants discussed the relevance of these subjects, or parts of their contents, to computer science and computer engineering programmes at partner universities and the need for the inclusion of some of these topics.

## Two New ICT Labs Established at MUBS

30 April 2021

Within the framework of the Elegant Erasmus+ project, two new ICT labs were established at MUBS School of Computer and Applied Sciences in April 2021. The ICT labs are co-funded by the ELEGANT Erasmus+ Project as part of the WP3 “Improving the human capacities of University staff and revise/upgrade the ICT Curricula in partner universities” activities.



# Innovation HUB and Liaison Office Established at BAU

30 April 2021

Within the framework of the Elegant Erasmus+ project, Innovation HUB and Liaison office were established at BAU in April 2021. These were co-funded by the ELEGANT Erasmus+ Project as part of the WP3 “Improving the human capacities of University staff and revise/upgrade the ICT Curricula in partner universities” activities.



# Computer LAB and DSP LAB Established at BAU

30 April 2021

Computer LAB and DSP LAB were also established at BAU in April 2021. These were also co-funded by the ELEGANT Erasmus+ Project.





## Online Workshop on Cybersecurity - UNIVPM

06 April 2021

Elegant consortium successfully delivered another workshop. UNIVPM provided intensive training in Cybersecurity on 6th of April 2021 online. Led by Professor Marko Baldi, this workshop was attended by 20 participants from Jordanian and Lebanese universities. Over the course participants delved deeply into the realms of Cybersecurity and its teaching methods.



## Online Workshop on Artificial Intelligence

27 April 2021

Elegant consortium successfully delivered workshop in Artificial Intelligence on 27th of April 2021 online. This workshop was attended by a group of 24 participants from Jordanian and Lebanese universities was led by Prof Emanuele Frontoni of UNIVPM. Over the course of the workshop, participants elaborated and engaged in the discussion of the principles and applications of Artificial Intelligence and how it is taught at UNIVPM.

04 May 2021

As part of a series of events organized by the Faculty of Engineering at UNIVPM for the ELEGANT project, a Workshop on Big Data, conducted by Prof Domenico Potena, took place online on 4 May 2021. This workshop was attended by a group of 24 participants from Jordanian and Lebanese universities. Over the course of the workshop the participants discussed the most recent developments in the field of Big Data, its applications and the best method of teaching this subject.

# MUBS Hosts a Seminar on Digital Job Capacity of the Future

11 May 2021

Technological advancements, the pandemic, and recent changes that impacted the job market have resulted in major shifts in the ecosystem of information technology and computer science fields. To highlight these changes, and explore the emerging trends in the field, MUBS hosted on May 11, 2021 Mr. Samih Ajrouch, "Future Ready Skills Manager" at Microsoft Education as part of the Elegant Erasmus+ Project activities.

The poster is a promotional graphic for an online seminar. At the top, it features logos for the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, ELEGANT, Microsoft, and MUBS. The central focus is a circular portrait of Mr. Samih Ajrouch, a man in a dark suit with his arms crossed. To the right of the portrait, the text reads: "Online Seminar — GUEST SPEAKER — MR. SAMIH AJROUCH Future Ready Skills Manager at Microsoft". Below this, a blue banner contains the title "DIGITAL JOB CAPACITY OF THE FUTURE" in white, enclosed in quotation marks. At the bottom right, there are two small icons: one for "17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS" and another for "8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH". The footer of the poster provides the date and time: "Tuesday, May 11, 2021 • 4:00 PM" and the website "mubs.edu.lb" along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

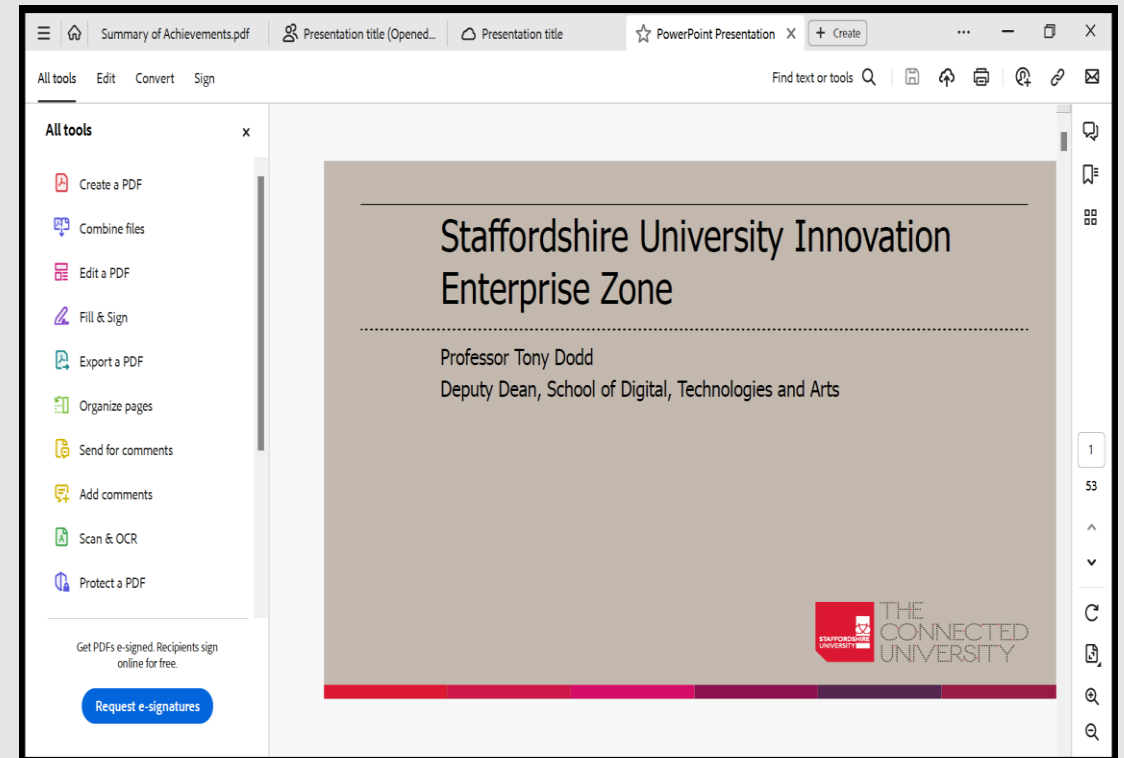
# Workshop on Staffordshire University Innovation Enterprise Zone: How to Engage Students, Industry and Academics

19 October 2021

Presenter: Professor Tony Dodd, Associate Dean  
Research And Enterprise - School of Digital  
Technologies and Arts.

Time: 11.00 am to 01.00 pm

Aim of the workshop: To present Staffordshire  
University's efforts to develop its industry relations  
for the benefit of students through its Innovation  
Enterprise Zone.



# Second Annual Planning and Monitoring Meeting

22-23 November 2021

After almost two years of online meetings, and with the relative decline in Corona Virus cases in partner countries and the EU, the second Annual Planning and Monitoring meeting of the ELEGANT project was held at the Università Politecnica Delle Marche in Ancona, Italy on 22-23 November 2021.

The meeting, in which all but one members of the Steering Committee participated, reviewed the activities of the project since the kick-off meeting, discussed the challenges facing the project caused by the pandemic and made provisional plans for a big push in achieving the delayed activities of the project in particular staff Mobilities and the purchase of equipment in Jordan.



# Dissemination Activities

10 December 2021

On Friday, 10th December 2021, Professor Nebojsa Stojcic from University of Dubrovnik, the Coordinator of the ELEGANT project, was invited by Croatian National Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes to take part in Erasmus+ higher education national conference.

The invited speech of Prof Stojcic took place in Capacity Building in Higher Education section where Elegant was presented as example of good practice. Speaking about synergies between different project programmes with emphasis on Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education and Strategic Partnerships, Prof Stojcic reflected on challenges faced by Elegant consortium and shared with participants the learned lessons which helped our team to meet planned tasks and overcome obstacles during turbulent Covid times.

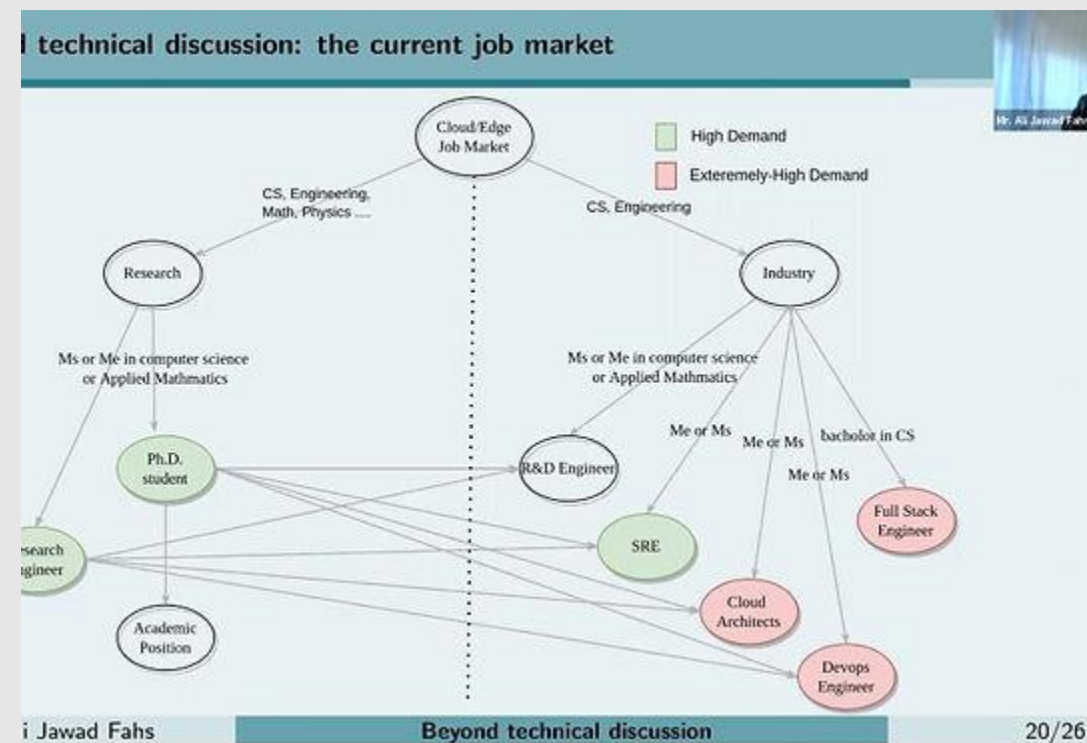
The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting with several participants at the top: UNIDU - Nikola Potrebica, Nebojsa Stojcic, Katarina Bilonic, Ivana Bijacic, Agencija Za Mobilnost, and Andreja Majhen. The main content is a slide titled 'ELEGANT' with the following information:

- ELEGANT Partners:** 4 European Partners, 4 Jordanian Partners, 3 Lebanese Partners.
- Partners:** UNIDU (University of Dubrovnik - Croatia), SU (Staffordshire University - UK), PSICOLOGIA (Psicologia - Portugal), PSUT (Princess Sumaya University for Technology - Jordan), int@j (The Information and Communications Technology Association of Jordan - Jordan), ABAU (Al-Balqa Applied University - Jordan), MUBS (Modern University for Business and Science - Lebanon), BAU (Beirut Arab University - Lebanon), SCSL (Syndicate of Computer Sciences - Lebanon).
- Project Details:**
  - 36 mjeseci (11/2019 – 11/2022)
  - 968.000,00 EUR
  - 1 od 2 HR koordinirana CBHE projekta u 2019
  - Modernizacija nastavnih programa u svrhu bolje zapošljivosti studenata IT sveučilišta u Jordanu i Libanonu kroz suradnju s gospodarstvom
  - Usvojeno interim izvješće (10/2021)
- Funding:** Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

# MUBS Hosted a Webinar on "The Impact of On-Demand Computing on Today's Job Market"

07 March 2022

63 faculty, staff, students, and alumni from MUBS Computer Science department attended the event. After an overview about the ELEGANT project presented by Professor Bassem Kaissi, Dr. Fahs highlighted the impact of On-Demand Computing on today's job market. The topics discussed included the history and characteristics of On-Demand computing, its effect on the current industry and job market, and why the cloud and fog/edge computing positions are currently the second most requested in the market in the fields of computer science and engineering. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Khaleel Mershad (chairperson – Computer Science Department).





# MUBS Hosts a Webinar on "Building a Cybersecurity Ecosystem"

14 March 2022

51 faculty, staff, students, and alumni from MUBS Computer Science department attended the event. After an overview about the ELEGANT project presented by Professor Bassem Kaissi, Mr. Abi Najem highlighted the diverse participants, processes, and cyber devices that interact for multiple purposes in the cyber ecosystem.

Topics discussed included the economic, psychological and human challenges associated with the cyberspace, the zero trust security model, the importance of awareness to become cybersecurity compliant, the future of work after COVID-19, and building a cybersecurity ecosystem. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Nabil Abdoun (Assistant Professor – M.U.B.S Computer Science Department).

The screenshot shows a Zoom webinar interface. The main content is a slide titled "The future of work after COVID-19". The slide features a central circular diagram with icons representing various work scenarios: "Clearance and testing", "Transportation of goods", "Lecture and travel", "Outdoor protection and maintenance", "Medical care", "Home support", "Live physical proximity", "Indoor production and warehousing", "Personal care", "Computer based office work", "Disable customer interaction", and "High physical proximity". To the left of the diagram, there are three text blocks: "Remote work" (20-30% of workers in advanced economies could work remotely 2+ days a week on a long-term basis), "Digitization" (2-10 growth in e-commerce, as a surge in digital platforms is underway), and "Automation" (upside in use of robotics, robotic process automation, etc.). Above the diagram, it states "Work areas with high physical proximity were most disrupted short term during COVID-19, and some will see enduring effects." The Zoom interface includes a video feed of Mr. Roland Abi Najem in the top right, a video feed of Dr. Nabil Abdoun in the middle right, and a name tag for Dr. Bassem Kaissi in the bottom right. The bottom of the screen shows the Zoom control bar with icons for mute, stop video, participants (51), Q&A, chat, share screen, raise hand, and pause/stop recording.

# MUBS Hosts a Webinar on “Best Practices for Computer Science Internship Programs”

21 March 2022

91 faculty, staff, students, and alumni from MUBS Computer Science department attended a webinar organised by MUBS Office of International Affairs in collaboration with MUBS Computer Science Department on March 21, 2022. The webinar was about “Best Practices for Computer Science Internship Programs”. Webinar speakers included Ms. Nour Assaf (Murex), Ms. Rania Makhoulf (New Horizons), Mr. Rabih Baalbaki (Lebanese Association for IT Professionals), Mr. Rami Zarif (Ciment De Sibling), and Mr. Ihab Nasr (Khattar Group).

The banner features the MUBS logo on the left, followed by four colored boxes with icons and numbers: 4 (red), 5 (orange), 9 (green), and 10 (purple). To the right are the logos for ELEGANT and the COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT. The main title is "BEST PRACTICES FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS". Below this, the "GUEST SPEAKERS:" section lists: Mr. Rabih Baalbaki | President, Lebanese Association for IT Professionals; Ms. Nour Assaf | Product Manager, Murex; Ms. Rania Makhoulf | Project Director, New Horizons; Mr. Rami Zarif | IT Manager, Ciment De Sibling; and Mr. Ihab Nasr | IT Specialist, Khattar Group Company (KGC). The background shows a hand interacting with a digital interface of hexagonal icons. A dark blue box in the bottom right corner contains the event details: "Monday, March 21, 2022", "6:00 PM", and "ZOOM Webinar".

# MUBS Hosts a Webinar on “Bitcoin, Cryptocurrency and Blockchain”

29 March 2022

121 faculty, staff, students, and alumni from MUBS Computer Science department attended a webinar about Bitcoin, Cryptocurrency and Blockchain. Topics covered included the importance of the digital currency and blockchain in modern financial systems, the various operations and usages of Bitcoin, advice to the attendees on the best practices to participate and engage in the digital currency world and topics related to the bitcoin and blockchain technologies, such as Ethereum, smart contracts, DApps, and tokenization.

The banner features a blue and white color scheme with a background of glowing circuitry. At the top left is the MUBS logo. To its right are four small icons: a book (4), a female symbol (5), a person with a gear (9), and a Bitcoin symbol (10). Further right are the logos for ELEGANT and the COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT. The main title is "BITCOIN, CRYPTOCURRENCY AND BLOCKCHAIN" in large blue letters. Below it, the guest speaker is identified as Randa Al Rifai, a Blockchain Consultant. A circular badge in the bottom right corner provides the date and time: Tuesday, March 29th, 2022, at 6:00 PM, and indicates it is a ZOOM Webinar. A large Bitcoin symbol is centered in the lower half of the banner.

# Big Data Workshop at Psicoglobal

16-20 May 2022

Elegant consortium is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the "Big Data" workshop which took place from 16-20 May, 2022 in Lisbon Portugal.

This workshop, organized by Psicoglobal Lda., one of EU project partners of the project, brought together seven dedicated participants from Jordan and Lebanon. The workshop marked a significant milestone as being the first staff and curriculum development workshop since the start of the Pandemic. It was also an important workshop in our collective pursuit of enhancing teaching competences for the purpose of higher graduate employability as it included sessions on employability skills. Over the course of five days, participants engaged in rigorous discussions, practical exercises, and collaborative curriculum development, with a specific focus on integrating Big Data concepts into the computers science or engineering programmes in their own institutions.

We are exceptionally proud of the progress achieved during this event and anticipate its enduring impact on participants and their home institutions. Stay tuned for further updates as we continue our mission to organise other capacity building workshops.



# Internet of Things, AI & Cyber Security Workshop at Staffordshire University

10-14 June 2022

Elegant consortium successfully delivered another staff and curriculum development workshop. Four academic staff from Staffordshire University provided intensive training in "Internet of Things, AI and Cybersecurity" from 10-14 June, 2022, in the United Kingdom.

This workshop was attended by a group of nine dedicated participants from Jordanian and Lebanese universities. The event was one of the instrumental components of the Elegant project (Activity 3.1). Over the course of these five days, participants, together with ten academic staff from SU, delved deeply into the realms of Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Cybersecurity and explored the current state of knowledge in these areas. The workshop provided invaluable insights, fostering a collaborative environment wherein theoretical knowledge was translated into practical skills, thereby equipping our participants with the expertise needed to prepare their students for the dynamic landscape of today's job market. Employability skills of graduates, developed during the teaching of these subjects, was one of the focal points of the workshop.

We extend our gratitude to all participants, instructors, and Staffordshire University for making this workshop an exemplary success, further reinforcing our commitment to advancing graduate employability as we continue our journey to bridge academia and industry.

# Employability Academy and Training for Mentors from Industry (Led by Psicoglobal Ltd - Portugal)

31 AUG 2022 – 1 Sept 2022

Attended by staff from partner institutions in Jordan and Lebanon, the two Workshops were organised by Psicoglobal Ltd at Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT). After three on line workshops on Employability Academy, the participants (mainly the Liaison Officers of the project) joined an in person finale with Dr. Marina Ventura and Ms Joana Costa from Psicoglobal Ltd conducting the final workshop of the programme. The event aimed to develop new strategies for Liaison Officers to get students involved in coming up with advanced ideas, train them on recruitment selection processes and organise projects that establish effective communication between employers and universities.

The two Portuguese colleagues then conducted a workshop on Training Industry Experts as Mentors for students projects for another group of colleagues from partner universities. These colleagues would in turn organise workshops in their own universities for mentors from Industry.



# Curriculum Development Workshop on Entrepreneurship at University of Dubrovnik

19-23 September 2022

The "Curriculum Development Workshop on Entrepreneurship" was successfully concluded at the University of Dubrovnik in Croatia, the coordinating institutions of the Elegant project.

This workshop, an essential part of the Elegant project, reflects our steadfast commitment to enhancing graduate employability through effective collaboration between academia and industry. With eight enthusiastic participants the workshop provided a platform for refining the skills necessary for developing, modernizing, and delivering entrepreneurship-focused courses. Through intensive sessions and collaborative efforts, participants explored the intricacies of curriculum design and innovative teaching methods.

Participants were introduced to topics such as defining learning outcomes, best teaching practices and resources but also had the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences of teaching entrepreneurship. With this workshop Elegant consortium continues its agenda of curriculum development workshops for teaching staff of HEIs from Jordan and Lebanon.



# Curriculum Development Workshop on Games, Computer Science and Robotics at Staffordshire University

19-23 September 2022

Curriculum Development Workshop on Games, Computer Science, and Robotics was delivered by Staffordshire University in the United Kingdom, from 19 to 23 September, 2022. The workshop took place in both Stoke on Trent and London campuses of the University. With a team of 11 academic staff and a cohort of 8 participants from Jordanian and Lebanese partner universities, this workshop provided a conducive environment for refining the knowledge and skills necessary to develop, modernize, and effectively deliver courses in the fields of games design and development, computer science, and robotics.



# Raising Awareness and Training Replication of Elegant and DeCAIR Erasmus+ Projects

25 October 2022

Within the framework of the Elegant Erasmus+ project, the first Raising Awareness and Training Replication of Elegant and DeCAIR Erasmus+ projects workshop was held at BAU in October 2022.



Logo of Beirut Arab University (BAU) and logos for ELEGANT and DeCAIR projects, along with the European Union flag. The text reads: "Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union".

**Raise Awareness and Training Replication of DeCAIR and Elegant Erasmus+ Projects**

DeCAIR: Developing Curricula for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics  
Elegant: Enhancing Teaching, Learning and Graduate Employability through University-Enterprise Cooperation

**25 October 2022, Auditorium, A2**

**Computer Engineering Program**  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Covered Areas:**

- Computer Hardware and Embedded Systems
- Software Systems and Mobile Applications
- Modern Trends in Computer Engineering

**Tracks:**

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Network and Cybersecurity

[www.bau.edu.lb](http://www.bau.edu.lb)



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**Raise Awareness and Training Replication of DeCAIR and Elegant Erasmus+ Projects**

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# Education Transformation: Computer Science and Games Design & Programming

28-30 November 2022

"Education Transformation: Computer Science and Games Design & Programming" was title of a workshop organized by the UK project partner, Staffordshire University, at Princess Sumaya University for Technology in Amman from November 28th to November 30th, 2022.

An engaged cohort of twenty six participants from Jordanian and Lebanese universities was introduced to the skills that are imperative for the development, modernization, and effective delivery of courses in the realms of games design and computer science.

Over the course of these three days, participants immersed themselves in intensive sessions, collaborative dialogues, and hands-on interaction with technology used in the delivery of courses within this area under supervision of three experts from Staffordshire University.



# Raising Awareness and Training Replication of Elegant and DeCAIR Erasmus+ Projects

20 November 2022

Within the framework of the Elegant Erasmus+ project, the second Raising Awareness and Training Replication of Elegant and DeCAIR Erasmus+ projects workshop was held at BAU in November 2022.

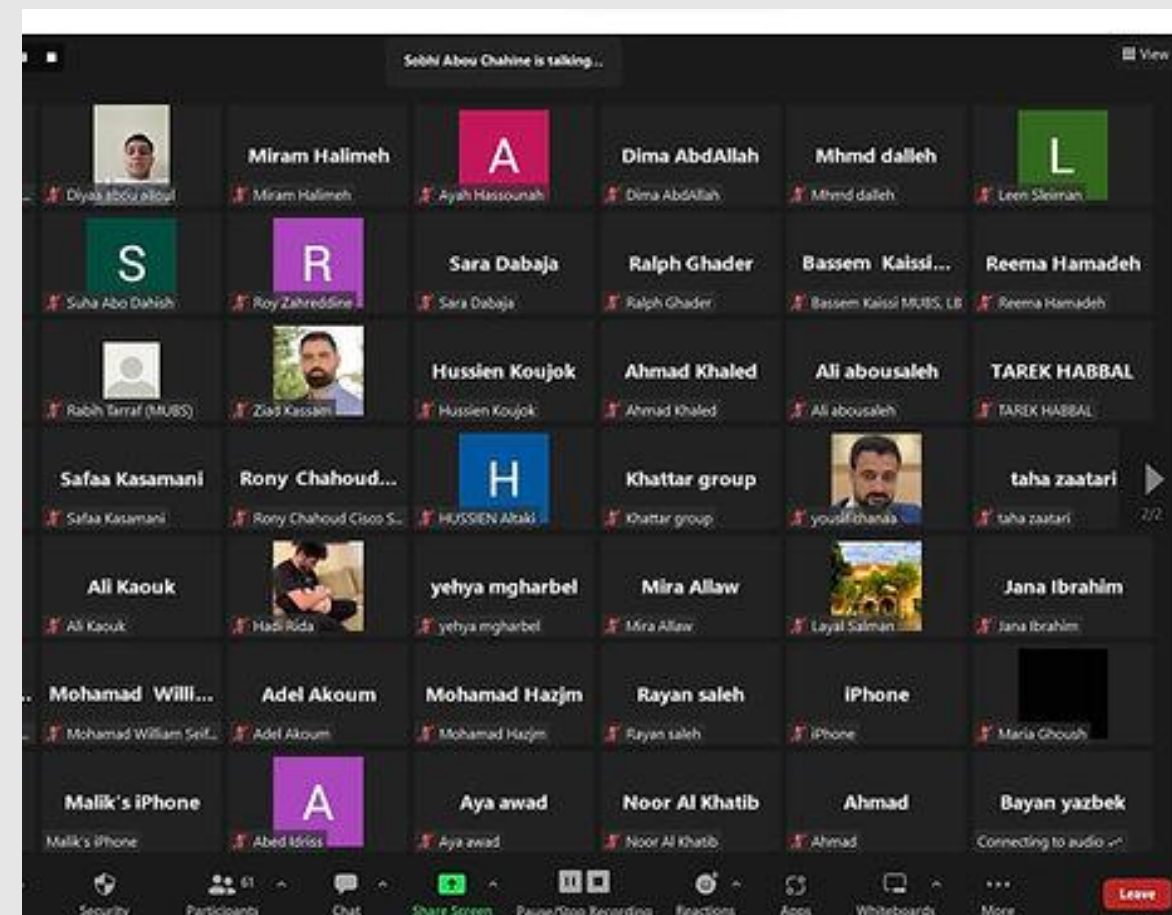


# BAU and MUBS Organised a Mentor Training Workshop for Experts from Industry

23 November 2022

Within the framework of ELEGANT Erasmus+ CBHE project and based on the experience obtained in EU universities and the results of intercommunications with IT-enterprises, BAU and MUBS jointly organised a Workshop on Mentoring Students for Experts from the Industry on 23rd November 2022 at BAU premises. Around 100 participants attended the training.

The event was in hybrid form with some participants present in person and others making their presentations online. The event was recorded and can be found on the project website together with the Agenda of the Workshop and some of the presentations.



# Monitoring Meeting of the 'ELEGANT' Project with the External Evaluator of the Project

6-8 December 2022

The Monitoring Meeting of the project with the External Evaluator and the Project Manager took place in Jordan from 6-8 December 2022. A meeting of all partners took place on 6 December at Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) with representatives of all partner universities in Jordan and Lebanon. The External Evaluator of the project, Mrs Jenny Herbert, also held discussions with PSUT colleagues and inspected the computer labs. On 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December, the External Evaluator and the Assistant Project Coordinator (Prof Iraj Hashi) visited Jordan University of Science and Technology and Al Balqa Applied University respectively. They held discussions with some of the participants in project activities as well as the Contact Person and Liaison Officer at each partner institution and also visited the computer labs at each institution.

# CONTACT US

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جامعة الأميرة سميرة  
Princess Sumaya  
University for Technology  
للتكنولوجيا



جامعة بيروت العربية  
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