

REPORT

“UNIMED meets Palestinian Universities”

Tuesday, 26th June 2018

An-Najah National University, Nablus - Palestine



OVERVIEW

The An-Najah National University in Nablus hosted on June 26th the event “UNIMED meets Palestinian Universities”, organized by UNIMED with the collaboration of An-Najah National University. This initiative was open to all UNIMED Palestinian associated universities, and also to all other Palestinian universities interested in taking part to the meeting and to know more about UNIMED.

The event, was opened by the speech of prof. Nidal Dweikat, Vice president of Planning and Quality Assurance, on behalf of the University President, and by Dr. Marcello Scalisi, UNIMED Director.

60 participants from Palestinian universities, Ministry of Higher education, research and study centres, NGOs, civil society associations, University incubators, the Municipality of Nablus (see attached the participants list), attended the event at the An-Najah National University to discuss with the UNIMED Director, Dr. Marcello Scalisi, and part of his staff, represented by Dr. Silvia Marchionne, Project Manager, how to strengthen the cooperation with Palestinian universities and to identify together new areas of cooperation and of a more fruitful collaboration in the coming years.

Some of the Erasmus plus funded projects have been presented such as UniGov project aimed at reinforcing the governance system of the HEIs in Palestine and OpenMed project that seeks to expand knowledge and awareness on open education resources. This initiative of UNIMED is organized in the framework of a cycle of meetings at local level in the Southern Mediterranean countries, with the aim of presenting UNIMED’s activities, to allow the universities members of the network to meet each other, and discuss about priorities and new prospects of cooperation.

KEY MESSAGES AND UNIVERSITY PRIORITIES

All the Palestinian Universities that were present at the meeting on 26th June, are interested and very keen to cooperate with UNIMED in the framework of international cooperation namely within the Erasmus plus programme and H2020.

UNIMED has expressed his willingness to organize an international event in Palestine in 2019.

Employability and Entrepreneurship

- Employability is a priority for the Palestinian society: how to be future entrepreneurs to improve opportunities of employability?
- How to implement the spirit of entrepreneurship and to contribute to have students who are also job creators
- Starting the reflection on “future skills” and to better link entrepreneurship to vocational training and private sector
- Reinforce the women component to get access to the labor market, improve women empowerment

Research and Innovation

- How to bridge research to practice: enhance the quality of research, methodology, tools, research some serve as a practical tool for development of society
- (the position of the national research centre at the Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministry)
- Enhance capacity building for research (H2020)

Open Education

- Establishing a national policy on open education and virtual learning

Quality of teaching, doctoral education

- Doctoral education: how to improve governance of PhD students to enter into the labor market and the society
- Improving the linkages between the secondary school and the university
- Improving quality of teaching, through new teaching and learning techniques



- Interest in developing Joint Master Degrees between Palestinian Universities
- interest in developing international cooperation on Social Science and Humanities

INTRODUCTION

UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union- is an association that brings together 108 universities from 23 Mediterranean countries and whose aim is to strengthen cooperation, research and training in the Euro-Mediterranean region. With eleven-member universities, Palestine is the more represented country in UNIMED from the Southern Mediterranean shore and has a seat on the Board of Directors.

Therefore, it is very important for UNIMED to strengthen the cooperation with Palestinian universities and to work together for a more fruitful collaboration in the coming years. It is in this spirit that UNIMED is organizing the above-mentioned meeting, in the framework of a cycle of meetings at local level in the Southern Mediterranean countries, with the aim of presenting UNIMED's activities, allow the universities members of the network to meet each other, and discuss about priorities and new prospects of cooperation. It will be an important occasion to debate on the opportunities offered by the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and to identify new areas of collaboration.

The meeting will focus on the main key points:

- UNIMED introduces itself: networking activities, what we do and how we work
- Some examples of current UNIMED projects
- Overview of Erasmus+ programme and future trends for the Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation
- Presentation of the needs and priorities of the Palestinian Universities and cooperation opportunities within UNIMED network

PROGRAMME

- 8:30 - 9:00 am **Arrival of participants and registration**
- 9:00 - 9:30 am **Opening and institutional greetings**
Nedal DWAIKAT, Vice-President for planning, quality assurance and development, An-Najah National University
Marcello SCALISI, UNIMED Director
- 9:30 - 10:00 am **Sharing experience of Palestinian universities within UNIMED**
Improving Governance Practices at Palestinian Higher Education Institutions: the case of UniGov project
Muhammad NAJJAR, Director of Project Management Unit (PMU), An-Najah National University, Palestine
Riccardo MUSSARI, Professor of Public Financial Management, University of Siena, Italy
Muath SABHA, Professor, Arab American University, Palestine
- 10:00 - 10:15 am *Opening up Education in South-Mediterranean countries: the experience of OpenMed project*
Saida AFFOUNEH, Director of eLearning centre, An-Najah National University, Palestine
Rania QASIM, Center for Continuing Education (CCE), Birzeit University, Palestine
- 10:15 - 11:00 am **UNIMED presents itself: networking activities, what we do and how we work**
Marcello SCALISI, UNIMED Director
Silvia MARCHIONNE, Project Manager
- 11:00 - 11:30 am **Coffee break**



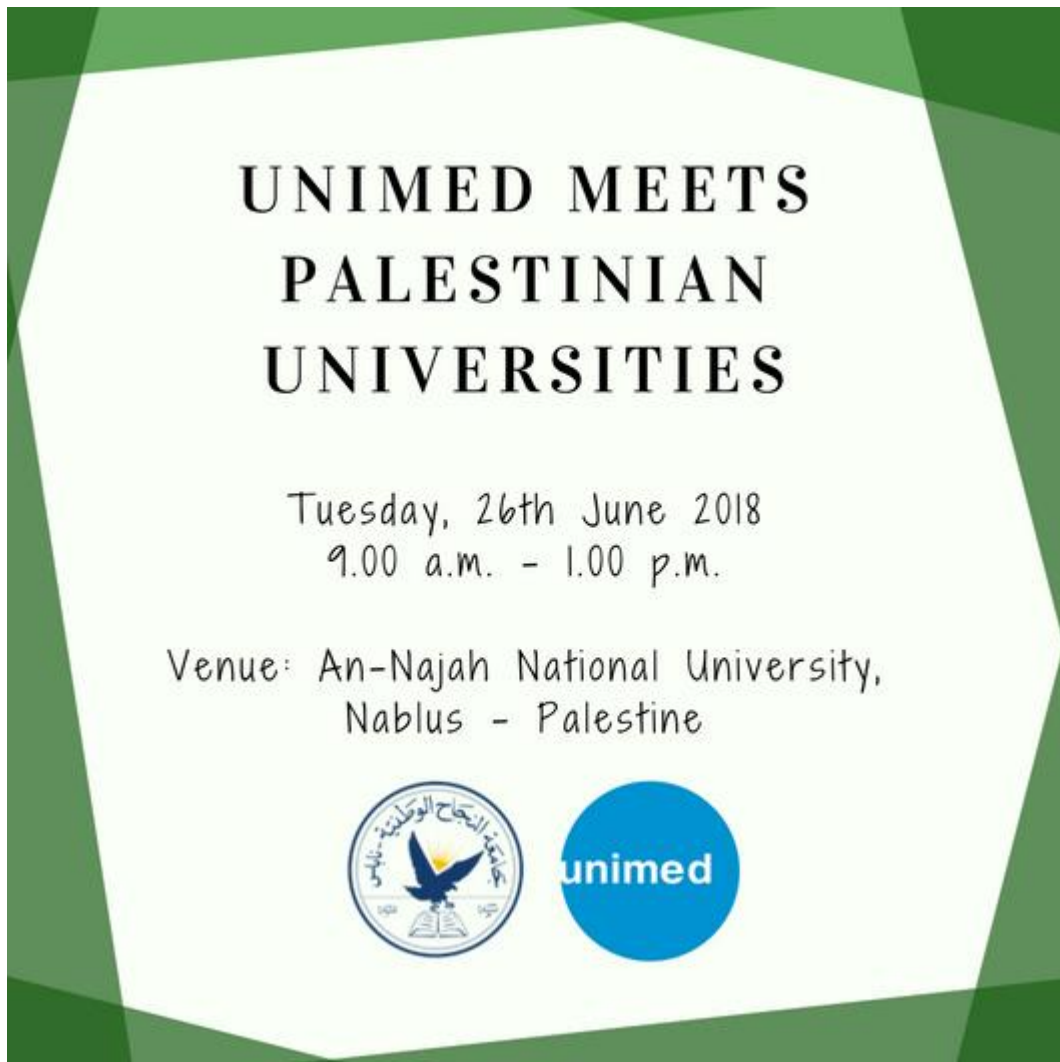
11:30 - 1:00 pm

**Exchanges around opportunities for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation
and the cooperation within UNIMED network**

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Networking Lunch

INVITATION





PHOTOS









