



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

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME Project Number: 610238-EPP-1-2019-1-JOEPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Project Title: traditional craft Heritage training, design and marketing in Jordan and Syria

Report on: HANDS – Quality Visit by TH-OWL Team to the Syrian Universities

Event Type	HANDS – Quality Visit Quality Visit by TH-OWL Team to the Syrian Universities
WP Number	WP 7
WP Leader	WUSMED
Event Date	3-4/10/2023
Number of Participants	
Total number of pages	10

Project Coordinator

Dr. Loai Dabbour,
Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan (ZUJ)
Airport Street
Tel: + 962 6 4291511 Ext. 112 | Fax: + 962 6 4291432
Email: HANDS@zuj.edu.jo
Project website: <https://www.zuj.edu.jo/HANDS/>



Al-Zaytoonah
University of
Jordan



The University of Jordan



Jordan University of
Science and
Technology



The Hashemite University



Karmeh Design Studio



Tishreen
University



جامعة
المنارة
Manara University



Al-Baath University



World University Service
of the Mediterranean



Blue Room Innovation



CESIE



Università degli Studi di
Firenze



Università degli
Studi Guglielmo
Marconi



Technische Hochschule
Ostwestfalen-Lippe

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME Project Number: 610238-EPP-1-2019-1-JOEPPKA2-CBHE-JP

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Event: HANDS Quality Visit by TH-OWL Team to the Syrian Universities

Date: Tuesday and Wednesday, 3-4/10/2023

Organizer: TH-OWL and WUSMED

Location: Syrian partner Universities

The latest of the foreseen activities about quality control of HANDS project was to visit the partner country universities with the aim to corroborate on the field the collected information during the project life.

This activity was planned to be done by the WUSMED team, the leader of Quality Work package, but due to the Spanish government advice, based on the political situation, this has been not possible. To solve the situation, the project steering committee agreed on the following:

WUSMED to visit the Jordanian universities, and the TH-OWL University team to visit the Syrian ones.

These visits have been done on the previous days of the HANDS final event in Amman. And the results of these visits will be discussed in the final Steering Committee meeting on 12/10/2023 in Amman.

TH-OWL, represented by Dr. Salman Ajib visited Syria on 3rd and 4th of October, 2023, and Dr. Magüi Pérez and Dr. Josep Juandó, of behalf of WUSMED, visited Jordan the 9th and 10th of the same month.

The results in both cases were satisfactory in high level and the conclusions were presented during the Steering Committee Meeting on the 12th of October at the Al-Zaytoonah University. In the following pages we can see the presentation used for this occasion about both, the summary of the quality control report and the quality control visits to the universities.

Such events play a crucial role in fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and ensuring the success of the project. The Quality visit provided a platform for fruitful discussions and a deeper understanding of the work being done at the Syrian Universities.

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME Project Number: 610238-EPP-1-2019-1-JOEPPKA2-CBHE-JP

OBJECTIVES AND WORKPLAN

The main objective of the quality control visits to the partner's country universities was to collect information about the project and its impact in person. In consequence the main difference in between the quality information collected during the project life and the information collected on the field is the face to face contact, that gives the opportunity to see the places and the people who was involved in the project. Special importance had the conversations with professors, craftsmen and students who didn't have the opportunity to explain face to face, during the meetings of the project, its own impressions about the project, what HANDS represented for them.

The visits were designed under the following scheme:

*- Questionnaire on the main expected results of HANDS project (the week before the visits):

Quality control visit.

Quantitative items foreseen in the application form University

Item	No.	Comments
New HANDS courses established		
Existing courses adapted to HANDS project		
Methodology publications		
University teachers trained within HANDS project		
University teachers teaching in HANDS courses		
Students participating in HANDS courses/subjects		
Participants from craft community in HANDS project directly		
Trained unemployed people		
Participants found job after courses		
Agreements with stakeholders		
Adoption of developed methodology and legal documentation by the Arab educational ministries.		
Other (which one)*		

*Other relevant quantitative indicators that you consider interesting to show, about the impact of HANDS Project in your university.

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME Project Number: 610238-EPP-1-2019-1-JOEPPKA2-CBHE-JP

AGENDA

Meetings face to face in each Syrian university with the following visit plan:

TH-OWL Visit to Syria timetable

Day	Time	Morning	Afternoon
4 th October		MU	TU
5 th October		ABU	

WUSMED Visit to Jordan timetable

Day	Time	Morning	Afternoon
9 th October		HU	JUST
10 th October		UJ	ZUJ

Morning:

10:00-10:15	Registration
10:15-10:30	Welcoming Speech from the Project coordinator at hosting university
10:30-11:30	Visit to the workshop and Quality discussion
	Interview, staff, students, craftsmen

Afternoon:

13:00-13:15	Registration
13:15-13:30	Welcoming Speech from the Project coordinator at hosting university
13:30-14:30	Visit to the workshop and Quality discussion
	Interview, staff, students, craftsmen
14:30-15:30	Lunch

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME Project Number: 610238-EPP-1-2019-1-JOEPPKA2-CBHE-JP

ANALYSIS OF THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE (Information that the visitors knew before the visits in Syria and Jordan)

COURSES	
New courses established	5
Existing adapted courses	19
Existing adapted vocational courses	14
Courses in total related to HANDS	38

TEACHERS	
Teachers participating in HANDS trainings	54
Teachers TEACHING in HANDS courses	43
STUDENTS	
Students participating in HANDS courses	>1600
Students participating in HANDS VOCATIONAL courses	>660
CRAFTSMEN	
Craftsmen participating directly in HANDS activities	54
UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE	
Unemployed people graduated in HANDS courses	165
FINDING JOB	
Participants who found job after finishing HANDS courses	>120
SIGNED AGREEMENTS WITH STAKEHOLDERS	
	48

INTERESTING COLLECTED COMMENTS ON HANDS EFFECTS:

- Increasing number of students interested in HANDS and Crafts.
- Reducing the lack between market requirements and academic offers.
- Increasing of the collaboration among universities (ex. students from one university coming to another to attend specific courses.)



ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME Project Number: 610238-EPP-1-2019-1-JOEPPKA2-CBHE-JP

ABOUT THE VISITS

All the universities were visited (The Syrian ones by Pr.Salman Ajib from TH-OWL University and the Jordan ones by Dr. Magüi Pérez Cabaní and Dr. Josep Juandó Bosch from WUSMED, as planned.

The development of the visits was in a mixing way, with conversations with professors, students and craftsmen simultaneously but following the script agreed previously:

Interview script for teachers, students and craftsmen.

Teachers:

Your field of knowledge (specialization)

Your Faculty /Department

In which kind of activities of HANDS project have you participated?

Did you teach in any HANDS subject?

Your opinion

Did you collaborate with any craftsmen in the context of HANDS project?

Your opinion

Did you participate in any HANDS training?

Which ones?

Your opinion.

What is in your opinion the feeling of the students about HANDS project?

What is in your opinion the feeling of craftsmen about HANDS project?

Other comments that you consider relevant.

Students:

What are you studying?

How did you receive information about HANDS project?

In which kind of activities of HANDS project have you participated?

Did you enrol in any HANDS subject?

Your opinion

Did you have contact with any craftsmen in the context of HANDS project?

Your opinion

What is in your opinion the feeling of the professors about HANDS project?

What is in your opinion the feeling of craftsmen about HANDS project?

Was your participation in HANDS project profitable? Comments.

Other comments that you consider relevant.

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME Project Number: 610238-EPP-1-2019-1-JOEPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Craftsmen:

Your speciality

In which kind of activities of HANDS project have you participated?

Did you teach in any HANDS subject?

Your opinion

What is in your opinion the feeling of the students about HANDS project?

What is in your opinion the feeling of professors about HANDS project?

Do you think that HANDS project will have any impact in the world of craft?

Other comments that you consider relevant.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE VISITS

The information collected previously has been corroborated. No significant differences appear in between the information collected during the project life trough meetings and questionnaires and collected during the quality control visits.

Each university applied hands proposals on its own positive way, from a common basis. Visiting the different universities, you can see that each one put the emphasis of HANDS project in different points, actions, activities, departments, but the main goal on HANDS, the spirit of the project, is present in all of them.

All the actors have been involved: teachers, students, craftsmen and community. The foreseen interviews with craftsmen and with students were often replaced by collective conversations about the main topics of the project life, the impact of the project and its sustainability. The participation in these conversations, often done during the visit to classrooms and labs, was significant in both cases: students, professors and craftsmen. This was a proof that all these actors have been really involved in HANDS.

Hands equipment is used intensively, with students and some stakeholders. In all cases the equipment provided by the European Commission were explicitly shoved with the right sign of the Commission. Is remarkable the how the users of this equipment value it.

The self-occupation of the future graduates appears in all the universities as a horizon. Several life stories of students were explained in this sense. The sustainability and the impact of the project are realistically hopeful, since the clear involvement of the university and labour community and the valuation of the training centres specially. The general impression after the visits was very good.

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME Project Number: 610238-EPP-1-2019-1-JOEPPKA2-CBHE-JP

SELECTION OF COMMENTS EXTRACTED FROM THE INTERVIEWS TO THE ACTORS OF THE PROJECT.

Additionally, to the comments of the visitors, we would like to highlight some relevant comments of the actors involved in the Hands project, that were recorded during the quality visits. All of them are comments supporting the conclusions of the visits.

Teachers:

The machines are necessary to be able to continue with our objectives.

The machines allow the students to arrive to another horizon, obtain different shapes with different materials, different mechanisms and with different goals.

Design studio: Hands project has been a rich experience for me and for the students because the students have the possibility to play with materials, have different experiences with handicraft and explore with new technology. 3D printers, etc. Now we live in a technology era and it is not a choice, we have to do it. Integrate technology in the design and the handicraft process. Great experience.

The students have visited the craftsmen in their workshops as a part of the subject Design 3. So, the student understands the mechanism of handicraft. They have many questions and obtain many answers from them. The materials, the mechanisms, the tools of handicraft. The students have a chance to develop their experiences and their projects when they finish their studies.

Students:

They consider that ceramic and photography workshops were interesting but also finances and marketing workshops to learn how to manage our own small business.

Handcraft professionals:

They have shown to the students how to use natural materials to design products (textile, ceramic and stone, furniture, buildings...), copying the structure of the natural materials and also taking into account to design for sustainability. Also designing taking into account their heritage, using the same shape of the old Roman mosaics, the structure of the old buildings, etc.

There is a big problem of unemployment in Jordan. The Hands courses help the students to improve their techniques.

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME Project Number: 610238-EPP-1-2019-1-JOEPPKA2-CBHE-JP
PHOTOS



ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME Project Number: 610238-EPP-1-2019-1-JOEPPKA2-CBHE-JP



ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME Project Number: 610238-EPP-1-2019-1-JOEPPKA2-CBHE-JP

