



**XIII General Assembly of the Conference of Rectors
in the Middle East Region (CONFREMO)
September 27 -28, 2021
Online (Lebanon Time)**

Monday September 27

10h00 – 10h15: Opening session

Mr. Tasos Christofides, Rector of the University of Cyprus

Mr. Essam El Kordi, President of the CONFREMO

Mr. Jean-Noël Baléo, Regional Director of the AUF in the Middle East

10h20 – 11h20: Presentation of the works of the CONFREMO thematic committees

Moderator: Mr. Nidaa Abou Mrad, Vice-President of the CONFREMO

Mr. Thierry Verdel, Head of the « strategy and tools for digital governance » committee

Ms. Zeinab Saad, Head of the «internationalization of institutions: setting up projects, university partnerships » committee

Mr. Behrouz Gatmiri, Head of the «research structuring and governance » committee

11h30 – 13h00: Workshop « The entrepreneurial university: taking into account the entrepreneurial approach in higher education structures »

In addition to education and research, the University is invested with complementary missions, including the development of entrepreneurship, a lever for the creation of jobs, value and wealth. The University is, thus, called upon to promote the entrepreneurial culture of its students and equip them with specific skills in order to enable them to be creators of wealth and more competitive in the labor market. In addition to promoting innovation and creativity among young people, student entrepreneurship can foster job creation. It also contributes to train young talents who have integrated the entrepreneurial dimension and developed skills in business creation for the job market.

In order to support universities in the Middle East in this new dimension, which is essential given that the labor market in this region is often sluggish, the AUF has set up several initiatives such as the « Development of Student Entrepreneurship in Lebanon», with the creation of a national student entrepreneur status, the project «Careers and Professional Insertion, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Egypt » and finally, the European SAFIR project, which supports, inter alia, the creation and consolidation of university incubators.

Moderator: Ms. Sabine Lopez, Director of Projects at AUF

« Linking University and Entrepreneurship: a necessity for the development of territories »

Mr. Christophe Schmitt, Deputy Vice-President, University of Lorraine, France

« The role of universities in the development of entrepreneurship: from awareness to support »
Ms Ursula El Hage, Director of the Career and Placement Office and Entrepreneurship Center, Saint Joseph University of Beirut, Lebanon

AUF Middle East actions to support the transition to an entrepreneurial university (DEEL, CIPIEE, SAFIR, CEF)

Ms. Nathalie Bitar, Deputy Regional Director - Projects at AUF, Lebanon

Establishment of support centers for student entrepreneurs within EESRs: Testimonials

Mr. Atef Al Shabrawy, Professor at the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, E-Just University, Egypt

Mr. Rasem Sawan, Director of Business Innovation and Technology Hub, An-Najah National University, Palestine

Mr. Elie Akhras, Director of the Asher Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), Lebanon

14h30 – 17h00: CONFREMO General Assembly closed meeting

- CONFREMO activities for 2020-2021
- Election of the President, the Vice-President and the heads of the 4 thematic committees
- Perspectives on the thematic committees
- Application for CONFREMO membership of the University of Matrouh and E-Just
- Announcement of the next General Assembly

Tuesday September 28: Scientific half-day on Internationalization

Consisting of two round tables led by moderators and followed by discussions among participants.

10h00 – 11h20: Round Table 1 « During the crisis, after the crisis: what challenges and what solutions for internationalization under constraint? »

The Internationalization of Higher Education can have multiple strategic objectives. However, it is above all a direct consequence of the increase in physical exchanges between countries over the past decades, whether these exchanges concern students, teachers, researchers or administrators. Important and major crises increase travel fees or make it very difficult and can have, therefore, a major impact on internationalization strategies. That's why alternatives to travel and innovative solutions, namely virtual ones, are appearing, allowing, thus, exchanges in different forms and formats.

How do these changes and new modalities affect Internationalization strategies of Higher Education and Research institutions? Are there good practices that can be shared and transposed? What are the concrete needs of Middle East universities and what are the opportunities for sharing in common projects to be able to navigate together in times of difficulties and multiple crisis affecting us?

Moderator and Speaker: Mr. Bernard Zuppinger, Director of Institut de la Francophonie pour la gouvernance universitaire (IFGU)

« Study on internationalization among CONFREMO members »

Mr. Nicolas Jarraud, Assistant Vice-President for Institute Affairs, The Cyprus Institute, Cyprus

« Crises and internationalization: challenges and prospects for renewal »

Ms. Carla Edde, Vice-Rector for International Relations, Saint Joseph University of Beirut, Lebanon

« Internationalization at UCY in the COVID era: Lessons and Prospects »

Ms. Elena Avgoustidou-Kyriacou, Acting Director, International Relations Service, University of Cyprus

11h30 – 12h50: Round Table 2 « Open Science and Open resources: Pathway to higher education internationalization »

The Open Resources and Open Science movement aims to build an ecosystem in which science is more cumulative, more strongly data-driven, more transparent, faster and universally accessible. This involves the development of new daily practices for university professors and researchers, the definition of new skills, the development of new training programs and the adoption of new services. Our ambition is to ensure that research results are progressively structured in accordance with the FAIR principles (easy to Find, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), preserved and, when possible, open. We want to do the same for educational resources, learning scenarios and software, among other resources and practices produced by our universities.

In this table we will show how the adoption of the "Open" movement paves the way for internationalization. Concrete measures to adopt this movement will be presented during the round table.

Moderator: Ms. Ghada El Khayat, Chairperson of Computers and Information Systems Department, Head of Pedagogical Innovation and Distance Learning Unit (ADIP), Alexandria University

« Pathways for the internationalization of scientific research and innovation »

Mr. Mouïïn Hamzé, Secretary General of the National Council for Scientific Research – Lebanon (CNRS-L)

« Strategies of Internationalization in Alexandria University »

Mr. Sameh Shehata, Head of Internationalization Bureau of Alexandria University, Egypt

« RELIEFH: a tool for the internationalization of training »

Ms. Mona Laroussi Open Education Expert, Director of the Francophonie Institute for education and training of the International Francophone Organization (OIF), Dakar, Senegal

« Appropriating, remixing and recontextualizing OER: key for inclusive learning and for diversity in science »

Mr. Pierre Noro, Lecturer at Sciences Po Paris and LabXchange Ambassador, France

12h50: Closing session

Mr. Essam El Kordi, the outgoing President of the CONFREMO

The new President elected

Mr. Jean-Noël Baléo, Regional Director of the AUF in the Middle East