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Second Arab-Euro Higher Education Conference focuses on regional mobility

The second Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE) will take place from 10 to 11 June 2014 in Amman, Jordan. The event is hosted by the Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) and organised jointly by the Association of Arab Universities (AARU), the European University Association (EUA) and the University of Barcelona. It will be centred around the theme of student and staff mobility and its impact on higher education institutions and society.

Following the first AECHE that took place last year in Barcelona, the conference will welcome around 250 participants from European and Arab countries, of which 130 are university rectors, presidents and vice-presidents, in addition to representatives from important higher education organisations and regional government.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, whose speech last year inspired the 2014 conference theme, will welcome participants. There will also be keynote addresses from His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Fahid, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Prince Mohammad University, Saudia Arabia, Essam Sharaf, former Prime Minister of Egypt and Robert Quinn (Scholars at Risk/the Magna Charta Observatory).

Given the demonstrable impact of academic mobility policies and programmes on the internationalisation of universities, this event will provide an opportunity for both Arab and European university leaders to discuss this crucial topic with a range of stakeholders. Over the course of two days, several topics will be addressed at length:

- Internationalising universities through regional mobility programmes, such as Erasmus+ in Europe
- Educating global citizens and preparing for a global workforce: the role of EU-Arab higher education student and staff exchange
- Mobility in the context of university-industry partnership
- Joint programmes and their institutional impact
- University leadership and managing mobility policies and strategies

Good practice from both regions will also be shared, and future initiatives to further advance mobility of students and staff between Europe and Arab countries and between Arab countries discussed. This includes the potential for an Arab country “Erasmus” type programme for mobility – a future endeavour of the AECHE platform.

The outcomes of the event and future commitments to be taken forward under AECHE are due to be released in a short report of Conference conclusions after the event.

More information on the AECHE event is also available on the conference website:
<http://aeche.psut.edu.jo/aeche/programme.aspx>

Ends.

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