

## Title of the project

### FORT- Forging Ties and Building Bridges between Mediterranean Higher Education Institutions

Duration : 34 months

#### Description of the project :

The aim of the project is to **Forge Ties and Build Bridges between Mediterranean Higher Education Institutions** in order to stimulate students exchange and to develop long-term partnership in line with the external dimension of the Bologna Process and the last Euro-Mediterranean cooperation initiatives especially the building up of the Euro-Mediterranean Higher Education & Research Area.

More specifically the objectives of the project are:

1. To break barriers to facilitate Southern students access to the European Higher Education
2. To share criteria, evaluation methods and QA schemes in order to facilitate the mobility of students between Mediterranean HEIs
3. To promote comparability and readability of higher education systems in the Euro-Mediterranean Area
4. To contribute to the consolidation of long term dialogue and mutual understanding between the two Mediterranean shores
5. To disseminate the project results

The target groups are: 1) Students, families and other stakeholders (society, enterprises, etc...) that do often lack information on the existing opportunities about studying in Europe and the benefits of such an experience. 2) The university managers, the personnel dealing with the implementation of international students exchange and quality assurance mechanisms.

The main activities of the project are as follow:

- Seminar "Good practices in service provision and university preparation for international students"
- Workshop: "To analyse the criteria, evaluation methods and QA processes in Mediterranean Basin and trends in cooperation in the quality management of universities"
- Conference: "The use of ECT, Qualification Framework and Diploma Supplement"
- Conference to enhance the attractiveness of European Higher Education Area and students mobilities in selected regions
- Stimulate the interest for a shared culture in Higher Education within the Mediterranean Basin by the creation of a Web Site for the dissemination of International Cooperation Initiatives, expert database, project results...
- Final Conference to enhance the attractiveness of European Higher Education.

Expected outputs:

- Upgrade knowledge and tools of university managers to facilitate Mediterranean Students integration
- Creation of methodology for the practical implementation of overseas students services
- Adoption of common working papers on Quality Assurance; Study trends analysis in quality management cooperation
- Upgrade knowledge and skills in the use of ECTS, QF and DS
- Increased understanding and interest of partner Mediterranean students on the EHEA
- Creation of Web Site to foster Intercultural exchange and dialogue
- Promotion of EHEA in the Mediterranean region
- Enhance awareness' and increase interest for EU partner universities and European universities in partners' institution and in the Mediterranean region

#### Coordinator:

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**Partners:**

- University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal
- Link Campus University of Malta, Malta
- Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo, Rome, Italy
- Hellenic Republic Technological Educational Institution of Athens, Greece
- Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey
- Ege University, Izmir, Turkey
- Université Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah, Fes, Morocco
- Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Amman, Jordania
- Tehnology Studies Institute of Sousse, Sousse, Tunisia

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