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**University of Natural Resources
and Life Sciences, Vienna**
Department of Water, Atmosphere
and Environment

WP 2 Research at the universities - Summary

(BOKU leading partner)

Loiskandl Willibald, Svat Matula and Strauss-Sieberth Alexandra

Institute of Hydraulics and Rural Water Management

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Aims:

1. propose measures to modernize and improve research structures
2. quality assurance indicators to control effectiveness of measures

Prerequisites:

strong involvement of all partners, especially the Syrian partners

Outcome:

1. Conclusions from best practises of partners are drawn and used for discussion of the Syrian requirements
2. Quality and quantity of research activity in the partner universities are analyzed, compared and presented during a workshop

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Outcome continued:

3. Research funding within EU model for Syria?
4. Building on strength and weaknesses → structural improvements and new mechanism are proposed
5. What special methods for fund raising (external funds) are possible?
6. The final workshop sums up the discussion and aims to bring the proposals structures usable for policy and decision makers

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Deliverables:

2.1 Comparison of research to quality and quantity – Report

2.2 Workshop

2.3 Developing of research structure in SY universities – Report

2.4 Workshop

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Research structure included in curricula!

- Research visibility improved
- awareness of research needs raised
- new research topics are addressed
- workload for research in curricula defined

New challenges in education and research arose due to present situation in Syria!

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Analysis of research activities of Syrian partners

Summarized outcomes and needs are:

- Building interdisciplinary research cooperation inside universities (building of centres of excellence, scientific centres)
- Establish on national and international level interdisciplinary research cooperation among universities (networking, EU projects).

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Analysis of research activities of Syrian partners continued

- Adapt to new challenges by the development of new research activities in combination with traditional sciences (trans-disciplinarity).
- New pathways for research by building on tradition will be explored.

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New research activities (challenges); the following are named by Syrian partners

- Climate change issues and drought risks are of major concern for the region.
- Mitigation strategies and adaptations are an urgent need
- Rehabilitation of water infrastructure. This research need arose during the course of the EDUWAT-Project due to the specific situation of Syria.

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New education in relation to research activities (challenges);
the following are named by Syrian partners

- Specific modularization, allows a fast reaction to this research challenges (as before)
- Provision of well training young people
- Parts or modules could be arranged and utilized for this needs in

short courses

post graduate training programs.

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Final evaluation

Deliverables	Achieved	Format	Remark
2.1	✓	report	Built on task 1.2 (questionnaire); workshop in Vienna
2.2	✓	workshop	Presentation Plauen 29/06 - 04/07/2014
2.3	✓	report	Study visit of TiU in Vienna and all other interim meetings
2.4	✓	workshop	Presentation Dresden 14/09 - 19/09/2014



Contact

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Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (BOKU)
Department für Wasser-Atmosphäre-Umwelt
Institut für Hydraulik und landeskulturelle Wasserwirtschaft

Willibald Loiskandl
Muthgasse 18, A-1190 Wien, AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 47654 5451, Fax: +43 1 47654 5499
Willibald.Loiskandl@boku.ac.at
<http://www.wau.boku.ac.at/ihlww.html>

Thank you for your attention