

ISSUE

05

October 2018



DESIRE

Development of Higher Education Teaching Modules on the
Socio-economic Impacts of the Renewable Energy Implementation



Erasmus+

-561638EPP-1-2015-1-JO-EPPKA-2CBHE-JP

DESIRE Newsletter

"This project has been funded with support from
the European Commission.

This publication [communication] reflects the
views only of the author, and the Commission
cannot be held responsible for any use which
maybe made of the information contained therein"

 www.desire.gju.edu.jo

 desire@gju.edu.jo

DESIRE Participation in the School of Applied Technical Sciences open day at the German Jordanian University



On the 15th of May 2018, the School of Applied Technical Sciences (SATS) organized an Open Day event at German Jordanian University(GJU) where various students organizations as well as students showcased their activities and projects. The DESIRE team participated in the event with a booth dedicated for the project and personnel sharing the aim and objectives of the project to the development of higher education teaching

modules on the socio-economic impacts of the renewable energy implementation.

The President of the German Jordanian University, Prof. Manar Fayyad participated in the event and DESIRE Project's Coordinator Prof. Alaa'aldeen Al-Halhouli covered and explained about the DESIRE project's objectives, results, and achievements.

Training of the Trainers Workshop Hosted by the University of Cyprus, 29-27 June 2018

Starting on Wednesday June 27th, 2018 the Train-of-the-trainers (ToT) workshop was held at University of Cyprus (UCY). In total, sixteen participants attended the sessions.

The audience is made up of teaching staff from MENA countries, i.e. Syria, Egypt and Jordan. In cooperation with the German Jordanian University (GJU) and the University of Damascus (UD), two advanced teaching modules were presented:

- Technological Innovations of Renewable Energy Systems (DU/UCY)
- Job Creation in Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency (GJU/UCY)

The first module was introduced on the first day,



presented by Dr. George Konstantinou. Prof. Alaa'aldeen Al-Halhouli introduced the second module on the second day. The duration of the third day was spent on an open discussion about the innovations and job creation in the RE&EE fields as well as a tour of UCY's labs.

Training of the Trainers Workshop Hosted by the Sapienza Università di Roma, 13-11 July 2018



On Wednesday July 11th, 2018 the Train-of-the-trainers (ToT) workshop started at the Sapienza Università di Roma. In total, seventeen participants attended the meeting. The audience is made up of teaching staff from MENA countries, i.e. Syria, Egypt and Jordan. In cooperation with the University of Jordan (U) and the University of Aswan (AU), two advanced teaching modules were presented:

- Climate effects, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development (TU/UNIROMA1)



- Health, well-being and Environmental Quality (TU/UNIROMA1)

The first module was introduced on the first day, presented by Dr. Katuscia Cipri, Prof. Moussa ALSamara and Dr. Badia Haidar. Dr. Bshar Bdoor introduced the second module on the second day. The duration of the third day was spent in an open discussion and recommendations for making the modules more ideal/relevant to the needs of each institution in future.

Training of the Trainers Workshop Hosted by the Technische Universität Dresden, 3-1 August 2018



On Wednesday August 1st, 2018 the Train-of-the-trainers (ToT) workshop started at the Technische Universität Dresden (TUD). In total, fifteen participants attended the meeting. The audience is made up of teaching staff from MENA countries, i.e. Syria, Egypt and Jordan. In cooperation with the University of Jordan (UJ) and the University of Aswan (AU), two advanced teaching modules were presented:

- Economics of Renewable Energy Systems (UJ/TUD)
- Integration and System Aspects of Renewable Energy Sources (AU/TUD)



The first day introduced the first module, presented by Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh and his team. The participants discussed concepts to evaluate the economics of renewable energy technologies, e.g. the approach of levelized costs of electricity (LCOE). In the evening, a common dinner gave all participants the opportunity to intensify their discussions and exchange. The second day introduced the module No 04, presented by Prof. Salama Abdelhady and his team. This module focus on the grid integration of renewable energy sources.



The ToT workshops give teachers from MENA countries the opportunity to become familiar

with the new developed teaching materials and to transfer the knowledge to their home universities. The host university, Technische Universität Dresden, thanks all participants for their contribution and valuable comments.

Steering Committee Meeting Hosted by the Sapienza Università di Roma, 10-9 July 2018



The faculty of the Sapienza University of Rome (UNIROMA1) hosted the GJU-led Erasmus+ DESIRE project's steering committee (StC) meeting in Rome, Italy. In attendance were representatives from partner universities – German Jordanian University (GJU), University of Jordan (UoJ), Aswan University (AU), Damascus University (DU), Tishreen University (TU), Technical University of Dresden (TUD), University of Cyprus (UCY), and Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy (WI).

Prof. Ala'aldeen Al-Halhoul, of GJU's School of Applied Technical Sciences and the DESIRE project's coordinator, inaugurated the meeting with remarks on the status of the project along

with the short-term and long-term goals. Prof. Al-Halhoul stressed the importance of disseminating the DESIRE project's outcomes to all interested stakeholders.

The DESIRE project is nearing its conclusion with a main objective of creating teaching modules to be implemented by beneficiary institutions in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region under the supervision of their European Union (EU) counterparts. All StC members agreed to request a six-month extension on the current duration of the project to ensure quality production of teaching modules. The request was later approved by the EU's ERASMUS+ Programme.

Launch of DESIRE e-learning platform

DESIRE is launching a new e-learning platform to provide access for faculty and students with course content in the field of socio-economic impact of renewable energy. The e-learning platform utilizes Moodle open source as its learning management system. The e-learning platform was launched in a preliminary stage in late May of 2018. The DESIRE project's partners - German Jordanian University (GJU), University of Jordan (UoJ), Aswan University (AU), Damascus University (DU), Tishreen University (TU), Sapienza University of Rome (UNIROMA1), Technical University of Dresden (TUD), University of Cyprus (UCY), and Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy (WI) - have all signed up and participated in e-learning platform training sessions under ERASMUS+ programme funded from the European commission.

The project consists of two parts; first, preparation of basic and advanced teaching/training modules during the years of 2018-2015. Second, creation of an e-learning platform where smooth and user-friendly access to developed modules is possible. The platform is intended for a wide audience: national and international faculty and students.

The developed basic model is:

- Energy system Transformation Processes and Introduction to Socio-Economic Impacts of

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency
The developed advanced models are:

- Technological Innovation of Renewable Energy Systems
- Job Creation in Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency
- Economics of Renewable Energy Systems
- Integration and System Aspects of Renewable Energy Systems
- Climate Effects, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development
- Health, Well-being and Environmental Quality

Each module on the e-learning platform is divided into several chapters. Supporting documents such as an introduction, a syllabus, outlines, exams, and a handbook are included. An instructor can gain access to the e-learning platform and can manage and use the material for teaching and training purposes.

The DESIRE project aims to raise the awareness on the socio-economic impact of renewable energy and to make the teaching materials, prepared up to EU standards, available to faculty and students in the MENA region.

The e-learning platform was developed by UNIROMA1 in collaboration with GJU where it will be hosted.

You are invited to visit the website: <http://www.desire-elearning.gju.edu.jo>

Implementation of the DESIRE Modules

Spring 2018/2017

University	DESIRE Module	Program	Students
UoJ	Economics of RES	Master	9
DU	Basic Module – Energy Transition & Socio-economics	Master	15
TU	Basic Module – Energy Transition & Socio-economics	Master	7
TU	Health, well-being and Environmental Quality	Master	11
TU	Climate Effects and Environmental Management and Sustainable Development	Master	22

Summer 2018

University	DESIRE Module	Program	Students
UoJ	Climate effects, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development	Master	16
UoJ	Health, well-being and Environmental Quality	Master	16

At associated partner universities

University	Country	DESIRE Module	Program	Students
Almustansuriyah University	Iraq	Basic Module – Energy Transition & Socio-economics	Bachelor	47
Almustansuriyah University	Iraq	Basic Module – Energy Transition & Socio-economics	Master	3
Alnajah University	Palestine	Basic Module – Energy Transition & Socio-economics	Master	3

A Letter from the External Evaluator

I accompanied the DESIRE project as an external evaluator since November 2016. Apart from monitoring the project progress and (interim) results and achievements I also took part at two project meetings – one in Aswan/Egypt in February 2017 and another in Dresden/Germany in July 2017. Furthermore, I was involved in Email and Skype communication of the project team as well as in bilateral meetings. I would like to take the opportunity to briefly report on my experiences and evaluation results in this newsletter.

European projects involving partners from non-EU-countries face additional challenges than “simple” EU-projects. Different languages, cultures, time zones, weekly days-off or administrative regulations are some of the aspects that need additional attention by the consortium and sometimes a lot of effort. Simple money transfers and visa applications can be hard work and very time consuming. These additional challenges have to be kept in mind when evaluating such a project.

In my final external evaluation report, I assessed the overall project implementation as very good. This assessment is mainly based on two aspects:

- Overall project management and cooperation among the consortium: Very soon I realized that the project was managed very well by the coordinator German Jordanian University. The coordinator took care that a sound understanding of the project objectives, structure, interlinkages of WPs, activities to be performed and results to be delivered exists among the project partners. Tasks and responsibilities were clearly allocated, and the work plan followed along the structure set in the project proposal. Thereby, attention was given to details. In addition, I experienced the project consortium acting with real team spirit. Open issues and challenges were discussed openly. I perceived that a high interest in the project as well as the motivation to fulfil the project



objectives. The results of an anonymous online survey I conducted among all project partners at the end of the project support my perception.

- Activities and main results / deliverables: although some delays occurred during the implementation, the deliverables themselves present a good to very good quality and will be of great added value especially for the MENA region. The event evaluation that was performed during staff and student training activities and for the pilot implementation of the Basic Module reveals mainly “excellent” and “very good” ratings. I did not always have detailed insight into the reasons for the delays. Management or administrative issues may have partly caused them and in this context, lessons learnt should be identified by the consortium for upcoming projects. However, the project faced also external challenges caused by the political situation in Syria and partly in Egypt and the project team managed those challenges very well. At this point the commitment of the Syrian partners should be highlighted.

Congratulations to the DESIRE project team from my side! I hope that you can continue and tighten your cooperation in future projects!

DESIRE

Development of Higher Education Teaching Modules on the
Socio-economic Impacts of the Renewable Energy Implementation

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- Steering Committee Meeting, 30 January – 2 February 2018, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- Tender: 16 PhD scholarships in the Boysen-TU Dresden graduated collaegue
- (only in German): <https://tu-dresden.de/bu/wirtschaft/die-fakultaet/news/ausschreibung-boysen-tu-dresden-graduiertenkolleg-16-promotionsstipendien-mobilitaet-im-wandel-herausforderungen-und-loesungen-fuer-technik-umwelt-und-gesellschaft>
- See also: <https://tu-dresden.de/ing/maschinenwesen/iet/boysen/joker1/aktuelles>

PARTNERS



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



الجامعة الألمانية الأردنية
German Jordanian University



**Wuppertal
Institut**



University
of Cyprus



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



DesireGJU



DesireGJU



DESIRE Project



DESIRE Project Group



DesireGJU