

# Fourth Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE 4)

## *Research for sustainable societies – the role of universities*

24-26 April 2017

**Université Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco**

### **The Fourth Arab – Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE 4)**

*The Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE) has been established in 2012. It is an ongoing process, aimed at facilitating debate and collaboration among university leadership from both regions, but also scholars, educational practitioners, university administrators, policy makers and representatives of business and society.*

**The Fourth Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE 4), hosted by the Université Mohammed V in Rabat, focuses on research collaboration and capacity building among Arab and European universities.** It addresses university leadership from both regions, but also heads of doctoral schools, individual scholars and project leaders involved in bi-regional research collaboration in energy, water and sustainability, from sciences, engineering and social sciences, and also, as all AECHE Conferences, policy makers and representatives from enterprise and innovative industries related to the issues.

The conference will explore how universities can develop research capacity and collaboration in research, addressing issues of high national, regional and global priority: water, energy, and the related environmental and sustainability challenges, which also require social sciences. In tackling these specific and strategic topics, the conference will discuss more generally the question how Arab and European universities can work closer together in promoting research and research based education, and will also explore relevant policy and funding frameworks. Involving university leadership along with policy makers, it will seek to provide concrete recommendations for policy making at inter-regional level.

Prior to the conference, a workshop “**Lessons learned from collaborative doctoral education**” will be organised on 24 September, which addresses in particular:

- Scholars / project leaders/ heads of doctoral schools involved in bi-regional research collaboration, in particular in
  - Energy, water and sustainability, from sciences, engineering and social sciences
  - Social sciences contributing to social and economic development
- PHD candidates and Masters from both regions



The conference is also part of the activities held in the framework of a European Union co-funded Erasmus+ project entitled Modernisation of Institutional Management of Innovation and Research in South Neighbouring Countries – MIMIR -, which aims at helping universities understand the nature and the context of their innovation and research performance and practices, and devise pathways to overcome impediments that prevent them from achieving recognised stature in the international landscape.

## About AECHE

The Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education is a joint initiative of the Association of Arab Universities (AARU) and the European University Association (EUA) that brings together both AARU's and EUA's members, with the collaboration of the University of Barcelona, which keeps its Secretariat.

The aim of AECHE is to open a sustainable process of dialogue and mutual understanding, to exchange knowledge and to increase cooperation between Arab and European Universities.

AECHE organises different activities and projects, holds regular leadership conferences, and in addition also thematic events. More recent events were the AECHE 3 Conference hosted by the University of Barcelona in April 2016, which was attended by around 200 participants, and a thematic conference hosted by Technische Universität Berlin at its Campus in El Gouna, Egypt, in October 2015.

The initiative is guided by a Steering Committee which – in addition to AARU, EUA and U. Barcelona- comprises the following permanent members: Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA), Technische Universität Berlin and Union for the Mediterranean. In addition, institutions and organisations involved in ongoing activities participate in the enlarged Steering Committee.

AECHE has been recognised in the 2014 Declaration of the Third European Union – League of Arab States Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meeting.

For more information about AECHE and its activities, refer to <http://www.ub.edu/aecche/>.



## Programme

**24 April**

9.00-16.45	<p><i>Pre-conference workshop: <b>Lessons learned from collaborative doctoral education</b></i></p> <p>(See the Programme for the Pre-Conference Workshop at the end of the Conference Programme)</p>
18.00	<p><b>Setting the stage</b></p> <p><i>Master of Ceremonies: Nadia Motii, Head of International Relations, Université Mohammed V</i></p> <p>Keynotes:</p> <p>Research responding to local needs in the context of global grand/societal challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adnan Badran, Professor and Chancellor, University of Petra; President of the Board of Trustees, University of Jordan</li> </ul> <p>Science Diplomacy in Arab-Euro relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuomo Melasuo, Tampere Peace Research Institute -Mediterranean Studies -, U. Tampere (Finland) / UNIMED</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
19.30	Reception

25 April

9.00 – 10 15	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <p>Organisers and high level authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome to AECHE 4 (Sultan Abu Orabi, Secretary General, AarU; Lesley Wilson, Secretary General, EUA; Ramon Torrent, U. Barcelona and Head of the AECHE Secretariat)</li> <li>• Opening speech by His Excellency Mohamed Hassad, Minister for Higher Education, Vocational Training and Scientific Research of Morocco (TBC)</li> <li>• Opening speech by Mme. Christina Russo, Director for International Cooperation, European Commission, Directorate General for Research and Innovation</li> </ul>
10.15-10.45	Coffee Break – Photo
10-45-12.45	<p><b>Session 1: University research and society: the benefits</b></p> <p>Research is a central mission of universities but not all universities can become research-intensive. Research contributes to the advancement of knowledge as well as serving national and local innovation; it is also a determining factor for the quality of university education. Speakers will very briefly present different perspectives on how universities build research capacity and use research results (maybe from other institutions) with different goals and how they succeed in aligning these different, not always synergetic goals. Themes to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Building and sharing capacity/Nurturing talent</li> <li>○ Trend towards research clustering and concentration</li> <li>○ Contribution to society in different ways: a research based education producing graduates who have the disciplinary and generic skills to take key positions in policy making, industries, etc. to deal with complex problems, some of them of global dimension, in an increasingly interconnected world</li> <li>○ Addressing national and local problems in a global context</li> </ul> <p><i>Very short interventions, followed by discussion.</i></p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesley Wilson, European University Association (EUA)</li> <li>• Sylvie Daviet, University of Aix-Marseille, France</li> <li>• Turki Obaidat, Al Zaytoonah University, Jordan</li> <li>• Marwan Awartani, Palestine Technical University, Palestine</li> <li>• Amina Benkhadra, Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM), Morocco</li> </ul> <p><i>Chair: Ramon Torrent, U. Barcelona, AECHE Secretariat</i></p>

12.45-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	<p><b>Session 2: Addressing global challenges through research collaboration</b></p> <p>The session will demonstrate the global nature of these challenges, and the need to address them through interdisciplinary, interregional research collaboration, and propose lessons learned and good practices for discussion with other participants. It will be an interactive panel discussion.</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water and peace studies: Jauad EL Kharraz, MEDRC (Middle East Desalination Research Center), International Organization</li> <li>• Energy: Mihaela Albu, Politehnica University of Bucharest, Romania</li> <li>• Water: Roman Luckscheiter, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Cairo Office (German Egyptian Water Cluster)</li> <li>• Renewable Energy: Badr Ikken, Institut de Recherche en Energie Solaire et Energies Nouvelles (IRESEN), Morocco</li> <li>• Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry, Euro-Mediterranean University, Slovenia</li> </ul> <p><i>Chair: Nicolas Patrici, University of Barcelona, Spain/Coordinator of the Erasmus + CBHE "MIMIR" project</i></p>
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.30	<p><b>Session 3: Collaborative initiatives and networks and their contributions to research collaboration: Mapping and pointing to synergies</b></p> <p><i>Short interventions followed by panel discussion.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rigas Arvanitis, Institut de Recherche pour le Development, France</li> <li>• Joel Guiot, Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC)</li> <li>• Marcello Scalisi, Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED – '5TOI 4EWAS' project)</li> <li>• Albert Tuijnman, European Investment Bank</li> <li>• OCP, Morocco (TBC)</li> </ul> <p><i>Chair: Abdallah Anajar, Arab Science and Technology Foundation</i></p>
20.00	<p><b>Dinner</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome by Moroccan host</li> <li>• Presentations from sponsors and industry, including Stephane Jouanin, Solution Specialist, Clarivate Analytics, and Salah Khalil, Executive Director, Macat International Limited, UK</li> </ul>

26 April

<p>9.00-10.00</p>	<p><b>Session 4: Accessibility of scientific research results</b></p> <p>Short presentations on the developments in open science and how this is likely to impact international research collaboration. In discussion with the audience, recommendations for the Arab-European context will be developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doris Wastl-Walter, University of Bern, Switzerland</li> <li>• Faisal Mansouri, University of Sousse, Tunisia</li> <li>• Obaid Al Saidy, Oman Research Council, Oman</li> <li>• Bernardo Cascales, University of Murcia, Spain</li> <li>• Hanan Malkawi, Vice-President, Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Jordan</li> </ul> <p><i>Chair: Bregt Saenen, EUA, MIMIr project on research management models</i></p>
<p>10:00-11:00</p>	<p><b>Session 5: Digitalization and research</b></p> <p>Presentations on the developments in digitalization in research and how this is likely to impact international research collaboration. In discussion with the audience, recommendations for the Arab-European context will be developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Odej Kao, Einstein Center Digital Future, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany</li> <li>• Pierre Gedeon, Director of International Relations at NDU University, Lebanon</li> <li>• Abdallah Moussa, Saudi Electronic University, Saudi Arabia</li> <li>• Mohamed Loutfi, Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK</li> <li>• Ilham Berrada, University Mohammed V, Morocco</li> </ul> <p><i>Chair: Wail Benjelloun, President, Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED)</i></p>
<p>11.00-11.30</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>

11.30-13.00	<p><b>Closing session: Perspectives for Arab - Euro research and education cooperation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melita Kovacevic University of Zagreb: Short report on the outcomes of the Doctoral Collaboration pre-conference workshop</li> </ul> <p>Closing Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul J. Pace, Personal Representative of the Minister for Education and Employment of Malta, Presidency of the EU Council</li> <li>Sergi Farré, Union for the Mediterranean, UfM</li> <li>Lesley Wilson, Secretary General of the European University Association, EUA</li> <li>Authorities from Morocco, Algeria, Palestine and the European Commission (TBC)</li> </ul> <p><i>Chair: Sultan Abu Orabi, Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities. AArU</i></p> <p><i>Followed by closing ceremony</i></p>
13.00-14.00	Lunch – followed by University tour
14:00 – 16:30	<p><b>Post-conference session: Cases of good practice for Arab-Euro cooperation in Higher Education: Erasmus Mundus, TEMPUS and Erasmus + projects’ results and ongoing activities</b></p> <p>14:00 – 14:15 Welcome and opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Coordinators</li> <li>Representative(s) of EACEA and/or the EU Delegation in Rabat</li> <li>Representatives of AECHE 4 and/or the host University</li> </ul> <p>14:15 – 16:45 Outcomes and results of relevant Erasmus Mundus, TEMPUS and Erasmus+ projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Al Idrisi II (University of Granada)</li> <li>BATTUTA (University of Rouen)</li> <li>EU METALIC II (Cardiff Metropolitan University)</li> <li>UnetBA (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)</li> <li>AVEMPACE I, II and III (Technische Universität Berlin)</li> <li>MIMI, MIMIr, EQuaM, NQF (University of Barcelona)</li> <li>Synergies between Erasmus + and other EU – MED projects (UNIMED)</li> <li>EXPERES (University of Murcia)</li> <li>Others (TBC)</li> </ul> <p>16:45 – 17:00 Summary and conclusion</p>



## 24 April- Pre-conference Workshop:

### Lessons learned from collaborative doctoral education

#### Programme

9.00	<p><b>Opening: Capacity building in doctoral education: serving local needs, addressing global challenges</b></p>
	<p><i>Welcome from University Mohammed V, AArU &amp; EUA</i></p> <p><i>Opening keynotes: Capacity building in doctoral education: serving local needs, addressing global challenges</i></p> <p>Ken Bib, University Mohammed V, Morocco Melita Kovacevic, University of Zagreb, Croatia Amr Ezzat Salama, American University of Cairo, Egypt</p> <p><i>Chair: Michael Gaebel, European University Association (EUA)</i></p>
10.00	<p><b>Plenary 1: Doctoral education in Europe and the Arab region</b></p>
	<p><i>Overview presentation on different models, development trends, and common challenges in doctoral education, citing case studies from specific systems</i></p> <p>Mick Fuller, University Plymouth, UK/former member of the Steering Committee of the EUA-CDE Salim Daccache, Université Saint Joseph, Lebanon</p> <p><i>Chair: Nicolas Patrici, Coordinator of the MIMIr Erasmus + CBHE project, University of Barcelona, Spain</i></p> <p>Followed by Q&amp;A</p>
11.00	<p>Coffee – Photo</p>
11.30	<p><b>Plenary 2: International collaboration in doctoral education</b></p> <p><i>(including aspects of partnership, mutual benefits, sustainability of relations, funding, alumni relations)</i></p> <p>Patricia Rosado Pinto, University Nova Lisboa, Portugal Rainer Herpers, Hochschule, Bonn-Rhein-Sieg: Opportunity Platform towards transformative higher Education and innovative research Network (OPEN) Abdallah Al Zoubi, Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Jordan Ghassen Awad, Applied Sciences University, Bahrein</p> <p><b>Short inputs: Being an international alumnus/a (4 min each)</b> : Razan Abu Orabi, International Student and (TBC), EUA, Zakaria Baicha, University Mohammed V, Morocco</p> <p><i>Chair: Lucas Zinner, University of Vienna, Austria</i></p>
13.00	<p>Lunch</p>



<b>14.00</b>	<p><b>Breakout sessions: Interdisciplinary and collaborative doctoral education</b></p>
	<p>3 breakout sessions with shorts presentations followed by Q&amp;A and discussion</p> <p><b>Session 1: Good practices in managing and professionalising doctoral education</b></p> <p>Joan J. Carvajal, University Rovira i Virgili, Spain: Professionalizing the PhD Supervision          Anne Zimmerman, University of Bern, Switzerland: Interdisciplinarity in doctoral education          Christophe de Beauvais, CIFRE Programme: France/Morocco</p> <p><i>Chair: Elizabeth Colucci, European University Association (EUA)</i></p> <p><b>Session 2: Case studies: International collaboration in doctoral education</b></p> <p>Lucas Zinner, University of Vienna, Austria          Lennart Stoy, European University Association, presenting the Universities in Energy Research Platform (UNI-SET)</p> <p><i>Chair: Patricia Rosado Pinto, University Nova Lisboa, Portugal</i></p> <p><b>Session 3: Quality in doctoral education: Lessons and practices</b></p> <p>Jaques Lanares, University of Lausanne, Switzerland          Wail Benjelloun, President, Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED)</p> <p><i>Chair: Luciano Saso, UNICA</i></p>
<b>16.00</b>	<p><b>Plenary 3: reports, discussion, wrap-up and conclusions</b></p> <p><i>Rapporteurs report from break-out sessions</i></p> <p><i>Main take-aways: Melita Kovacevic, University of Zagreb, Croatia and Arab delegate TBC)</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Mick Fuller, University of Plymouth, UK</i></p>
<b>16.45</b>	<p><b>Coffee, networking (Main Conference starts at 18.00)</b></p>