Outcomes and Lessons Learned – The Avempace family experience

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The Background

2011 – 2018, 7 years of facilitating research and cooperation between the Middle East and Europe.

In 2010 TU-Berlin decided to strengthen its cooperation with the Arab World by taking advantage of the Erasmus Mundus Scheme.

In 2013 TU-Berlin was already coordinating 3 mobility projects that allowed students, scholars and researches from both regions to share their experiences.

In 2014 due to the situation in Syria, TU-Berlin together with its partners decided to propose to the EACEA an specific project with Syria that, in the actual circumstances, is not only acting as a bridge for scholars but it is offering a clear island of cooperation and opportunities for colleagues in Syria.
Some Figures

**Total Budget managed by TU-Berlin**

10.2 Million Euros

**Total Mobilities facilitated by TU-Berlin**

466
Some Figures

Avempace
Funding: 2 Mio.
Mobilities: 83
Partner: Jordan, Syria, EU
Start: 2011

Avempace 2
Funding: 3,9 Mio.
Mobilities: 188
Partner: Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, EU
Start: 2012

Avempace 3
Funding: 2,8 Mio.
Mobilities: 150
Partner: Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, EU
Start: 2013

Avempace +
Funding: 1,5 Mio.
Mobilities: 45
Partner: Syria, EU
Start: 2014
Strategy behind the projects

From a general perspective:

- Internationalisation strategy of TUB enforced to be directed to Middle East, North Africa and the countries in the gulf region

From a policy perspective:

- Participation as a member of the Steering Committee of the AECHE platform
- Strengthen contacts and links between Europe and Middle East
- Development of human resources and international cooperation capacity at partner countries universities
- Strengthen of the EU network universities working with the region
- Promote European Higher Education in the Middle East
**BUT...most importantly:** the Avempace family is playing an active and important role in humanitarian crisis in Syria, allowing Scholars, Student and Staff, to increase their capacities even in such a complicated time. From the institutional perspective the Avempace projects have allowed Syrian institutions to keep the links with their EU-Partners.

The Avempace family has, then, not only acted as a bridge for scholars and staff to increase their capacities, but also to fulfil the social responsibility of our institutions.
Outcome of the projects

On mobility level
- Scholarship holders should benefit linguistically, culturally and educationally
- Learned skills should contribute to the labour market
- Special support of vulnerable groups (gender balance; equal opportunities)
- Brain drain prevention through incentives at home institution

On institutional level
- Capacity building (personal capacity should add in the long-run capacity to their home institution)
- Strong network among partners should foster future international cooperations
- Transfer of know-how among institutions
- Credit transfer, credit recognition

On regional level
- Facilitate the socio-economic development
- Long lasting links between Europe and the Middle East
Challenges for the future

How to keep the partnership alive?

- alumni network (as sustainable basis for future cooperations)
- Involvement of ministries of Higher Education in the region to support the implementation of future cooperation
- Engage and promote cooperation platforms between Europe and the Arab World, such as the AECHE platform.
THE AVEMPACE FAMILY IS MORE THAN A SET OF PROJECTS, IT IS THE RESULT OF A STRONG PARTNERSHIP AND THE COMMITMENT OF A SERIES OF INSTITUTIONS FROM BOTH REGIONS TO ENHANCE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO A BETTER EDUCATION OF CITIZENS AND, AT THE SAME TIME, TO HELP IN CREATING THE PROPER MECHANISMS FROM THE UNIVERSITY SECTOR TO COOPERATE ACTIVELY AND RESPONSIBLE IN THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE REGION.

THE COMMITMENT OF TU-BERLIN WITH THE SITUATION IN SYRIA THROUGH THE COORDINATION OF AVEMPACE +, IMPLIES ALSO AN OPEN QUESTION:

HOW WE CAN KEEP GOING BEYOND THE AVEMPACES PARTNERSHIP?
Thank you for your Attention!