REPORT OF THE 2ND SHADOWING VISIT UNIVERSITY OF ROUEN NORMANDY, FRANCE

STEER-LEB
STUDENT EMPOWERMENT ENGAGEMENT AND
REPRESENTATION IN LEBANESE UNIVERSITIES

Report of the 2ⁿᵈ Shadowing Visit
University of Rouen Normandy, France

The shadowing visit to Rouen was organized on April 22-27, 2019.

On day 1, and after the arrival of all students and staff from the participating institutions, an arrival meeting was held in order to distribute the per diem, the bus tickets, the necessary material (handbook, etc.) and discuss thoroughly the program of the entire week.

On day 2, a welcome session was organized by the University of Rouen, where the involved parties from Rouen made a presentation about the university, different offices, services, and departments as well as students associations and clubs. Then, visits were held to Mont-Saint-Aignan Campus in addition to visits to students' services offices and departments and students' associations. In each of these associations, students in charge were able to share the history and purpose behind every association in front of their peers and explain how they function and what are their roles at the university level and how they can be of importance to the overall society. In these meetings, good practices were shared between European and Lebanese students. At a later stage, a small briefing was made to recall on the shadowing visit in Cadiz, and major points discussed were highlighted, in order to be further addressed and developed.

This aimed at preparing the grounds for the debates. Before launching the debates, the University of Rouen prepared an activity using a very detailed software, with which students were able to define their understanding of "student representation". A first debate was held about how to create the conditions of student engagement, during which students, who were divided into mixed groups, were able to make a description of student engagement structures and facilities in their own

institutions, and briefly explain them in front of their peers. At the end of this debate, all students had a clearer idea about the different systems in the different participating universities and institutions.

On day 3, a very thorough and detailed discussion was held in the different groups about identifying new development methods, each according to their own experiences at their home universities, in order to further enhance the conditions of student engagement in Lebanese universities. The students were able to come up with new good practices and innovative approaches to be implemented where relevant. Another major activity that was performed during this shadowing visit is the role-play activity, whereby students were asked to prepare an idea about a project to be submitted to the FSDIE Commission according to a form that was distributed and explained thoroughly. Students were able to brainstorm and form groups in order to prepare a structured project to be professionally submitted.

On day 4, the prepared projects revolving around role-play were presented in front of the audience and recorded on video cameras. At a later stage, and after submitting these projects and evaluating each project and its feasibility, another debate was held about a very important and critical subject, which is how to recognize systems or student engagement available in each of the participating institutions. Students were also able to come up with new ideas and good practices in order to be implemented at their institutions. Moving on to the UNIMED workshop, a representative from UNIMED, gave a workshop on communication: its importance and effectiveness and how it can be used and be of efficiency to student engagement and representation.

On day 5, and according to discussions held in previous debates, and before wrapping up on the whole shadowing visit and outcomes of the debates, students were able to identify several skills validation schemes for the recognition of extracurricular activities in university courses. For that, they were able to identify good practices and work in groups in order to benefit from each other's experiences.