



Report of the Third Capacity Building Activity Online – 27-29 January 2021

The third capacity building activity took place virtually via "Microsoft teams" on January 27, 28 and 29, 2021.

The third capacity building activity was planned to be hosted by UNIBO, however, due to the Covid-19, the management board of the Steer-Leb project took the decision of organizing the third and last capacity building activity online. The partners agreed on the theme of the activity "Student representation during crisis". This theme takes in the different crisis Lebanese students have been going through in addition to the global crisis that is the Covid-19. The online format expanded the capacity of hosting participants from all Lebanese universities, amounting to a total number of 146 participants. Therefore, the project gained in reach and visibility.

The first day entitled "Steer-Leb: Findings and Updates", was moderated by the Holy Spirit University and was attended by 90 participants, and the first session was an introduction to the Steer-leb project and its progress. Dr. Rima Mattar, USEK's Deputy President for International Affairs and Global Initiatives, introduced the program in her opening speech. Mrs. Jessy Feghali, director of the International Affairs Office presented USEK's findings and plans at USEK. Staff member Joan Samaha elaborated on the current and future activities to be implemented in the remaining time of the project, followed by student Ms. Nour Kabbara who shared her experience working on the project with the participants. Mrs. Dina Abdul Rahman, Director of the Office of International Services at LAU shared with the group LAU STEER LEB activities, achievements, impact, good practices and upcoming plans. Mrs. Gloria Abdo, Director of the Student life Department at USJ, respectively presented the same topics from their universities' perspective. LAU's presentation included a testimonial by student Mr. Nader Akroum and USJ's presentation included testimonials by student Ms. Sara Abou Chabké and Mrs. Julia Kallassi, all former Steer-Leb members. Mr. Javier Racero, student at the University of Cadiz, gave a presentation about Steer-Leb findings and plans.





The second session of day 1 highlighted the Erasmus Students Network with Mr. Yassin Khalil, Liaison Officer for Africa and the Middle East, Erasmus Student Network and Mr. Yassine Zarouk, Chair, Erasmus Morocco Network. They introduced the ESN work and the possibility of collaboration with Lebanese students, especially during crisis.

The second day was entitled "Student representation and engagement during crisis", and was attended by 65 participants. The first session was hosted by Saint-Joseph University on the topic of "Youth Civic engagement and Student representation during times of crises", where discussions were held on the many crises Lebanon went through since October 2019 until January 2021 and the impact of those successive crises on the youth engagement. Mrs. Gloria Abdo moderated the session and presented a case study of the Saint-Joseph University operations in times of crisis. Mrs. Dina Abdul Rahman and Mrs. Gaby Akiki also presented LAU's and USEK's operation during crisis respectively.

The second session tackled the topic "Student Structures during Crisis" and was hosted by LAU and moderated by Mrs. Dina Abdul Rahman. First, Mrs. Riman Jurdak, Senior Student Life Project Manager at the Dean of Students Office at LAU explained how the university maintained student life (clubs, community services, student council) and shifted to a fully virtual system during model. She was followed by student Ms. Leen El Harake, member of the Student Council, who shared her fully virtual experience in the student council. s

Mr. Gabriel El Hachache, Community Life Mobilizer at USJ, presented the shift in the operation of clubs and student councils at USJ, and he was, then, followed by student Ms. Roula Haddad, President of the Mental Health Club at USJ, who presented the many activities the club had organized to help students during the hard time of the lockdown and the economic crisis.

At the end of the session, student representative Mr. Elias Razzouk closed the session by presenting the Covid-19 impact on student representatives at USEK while student Mr. Juan Tosso discussed the challenges faced by the University of Cadiz's students due to the pandemic.





The third session of the day entitled "Beirut blast", highlighted the Lebanese universities response to the national emergency of the Beirut blast that hit the city on August 4, 2021. Mrs. Gloria Abdo moderated the session and gave the presentation of USJ students participation in the response to the Beirut blast. Student Mr. Nour Sakhr, from the USJ faculty of engineering, also gave a testimonial about his structure's participation.

Mr. Antonio Bakhos, from the Outreach and Civic Engagement Department presented the different services offered to LAU students and explained how these outreach and engagement programs/models successfully shifted during the pandemic. Mr. Antonio was followed by Student Ms. Marise Abboud who shared her personal experience with LAU students clubs as a volunteer to support the Lebanese community after Beirut explosion.

From USEK, Ms. Tamara Medawar from the Student Affairs Office presented USEK's response to the Beirut Blast and student representative Mr. Elias Razzouk explained the actions taken at the student level.

The third day entitled "Communicating the emergency", was led by UNIMED who provided a communication workshop for 10 Steer-leb students about communication technics during the pandemic and new means of communications improvised during lockdown and E-learning. The workshop included an article writing session that resulted in the publication of two articles on the SteerLeb official website, fully written by the participating students.

The closing session to the program was moderated by Mrs. Jessy Feghali from USEK and summed up the good practices of universities and student structures during crisis.

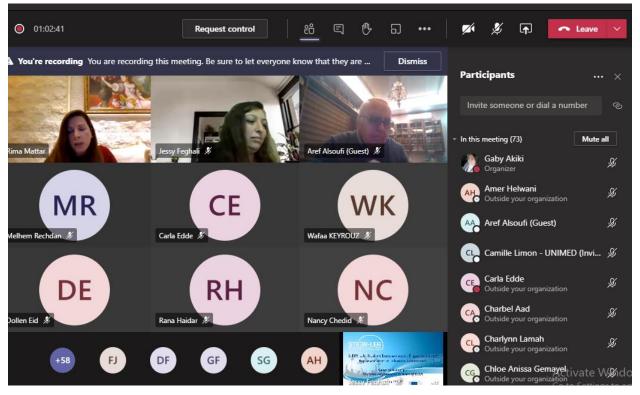






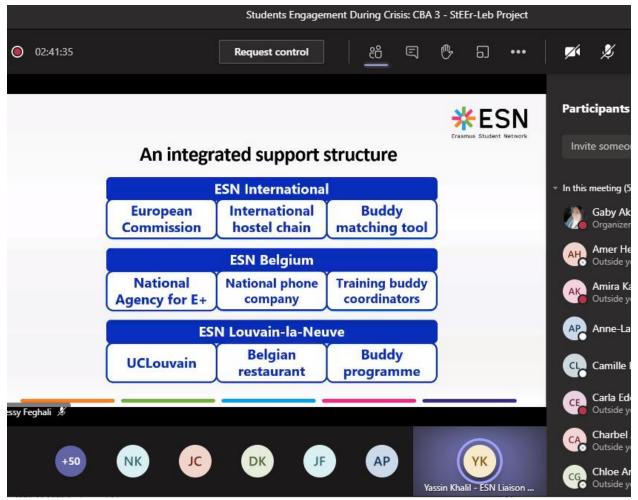














Marise Abboud (Guest)



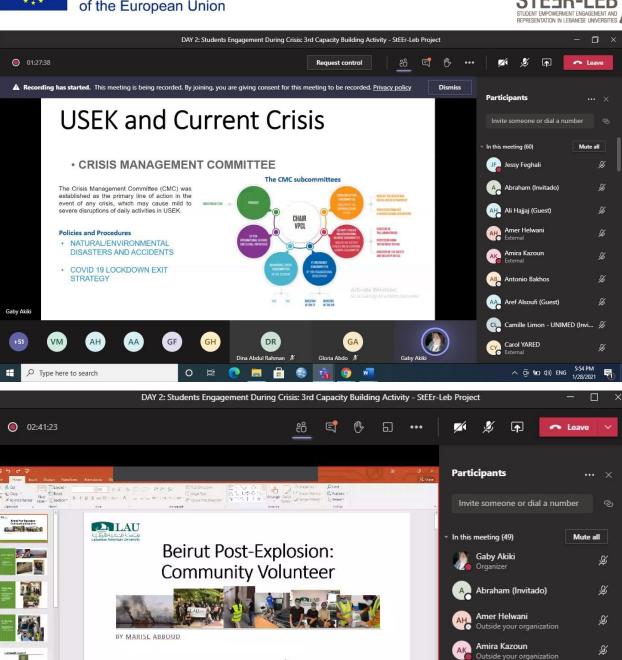
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