

Co-discovering barriers and solutions to employability and entrepreneurship in Iraq

The role Iraqi HEIs can play in this process

*“It takes a village to raise a child.
It takes an ecosystem to raise a 21st Century graduate”*

If we think deeply about the problems, solutions become possible.

For this reason, the participants to the workshop **“Co-discovering barriers and solutions to employability and entrepreneurship of graduates in Iraq within the Bologna Process perspective”**, organised on Monday 22nd May 2023 by the [BANUU](#) project in collaboration with *ChangeSchool*, aimed to challenge some of the major issues that the young generations are facing in Iraq- especially in the field of Cultural Heritage – examining the root causes, framing potential solutions, and (most importantly) put proposals to start working on achieving them.



The workshop highlighted an outstanding way of thinking about the subject of entrepreneurship from identifying the main problem, finding the causes, until reaching potential solutions and assessing them. It was really nice working throughout the process collaboratively and to get to know that others care about this subject as well.



Description

In detail, the online workshop (on Zoom), led by Neil Marshall or Viren Lall from ChangeSchool, involved members of senior leadership from Iraqi universities selected and recruited by the Iraqi Minister of Education.

The workshop aimed to support the thinking of senior Iraqi University staff to work out how to connect students to the private sector market and also turn some from job seekers to job creators.

The strategy diagnosis process followed included:

- assessing and investigating the challenges in detail;
- defining different ideas together;
- defining and testing the potential practices and techniques that can help on this endeavour;
- debating sustainable models of change.

Overall results

The outcome led to a deeper understanding of the issues at hand, some new techniques to solve them, and a blueprint to develop to support Iraqi universities in their journey toward a higher employment and entrepreneurial chances for their students.

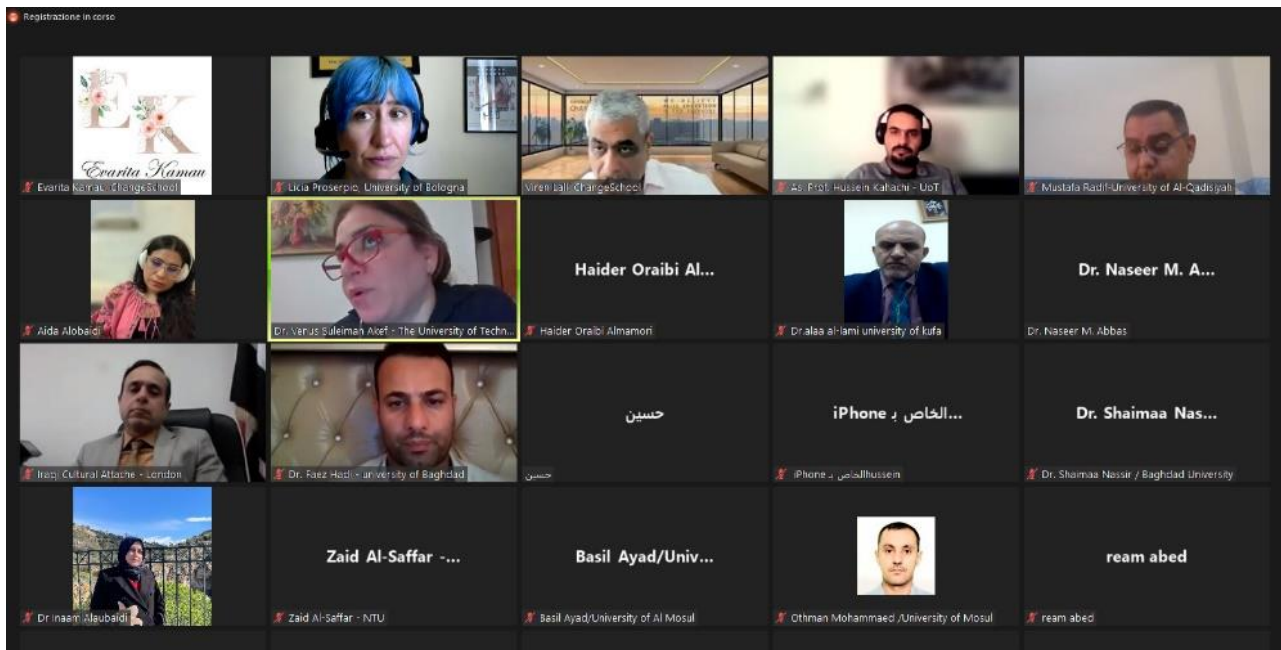
In detail, the academic participants mainly highlighted the limited coordination between Universities and the general lack of interaction with the public and private companies.

This limit is mainly the result of the reduced presence of such enterprises, especially in the field of Humanities.

Based on these considerations, the participants agreed that a stronger collaboration between different entities has to be coordinated by the MOHESR through the activation of regular calls for engagement and the organisation of targeted events, such as Open Days or Career Days: the aim is to bridge the gap between the students at the end of their education paths and the companies that have an active interest to hire them. Multiple events can be organised contemporarily in different locations throughout Iraq, in order to extend the impact of this action beyond Baghdad in other institutions in Iraq, in order to provide equal opportunities to students all over the country.



A moment from the Workshop





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About the Bologna Process

The Bologna Process seeks to **bring more coherence** to higher education systems across Europe.

- European Higher Education Area:
 - <https://www.ehea.info/>
 - <https://education.ec.europa.eu/about-higher-education-policy/>

It established the European Higher Education Area to:

- facilitate student and staff mobility;
- make higher education more [inclusive and accessible](#);
- make higher education in Europe [more attractive and competitive](#) worldwide.

About ChangeSchool

ChangeSchool is a London-based higher education institution that believes in the power of knowledge and skills to change society.

ChangeSchool has extensive experience in delivering training, mentoring, and community programmes in 34 countries. Faculty from 156 international universities and colleges have attended ChangeSchool development programmes.

Till 2022, ChangeSchool had delivered education programmes to 4726 leaders and entrepreneurs. ChangeSchool co-delivers the King's Business School's largest Executive Education programme. In 2022, ChangeSchool delivered leadership development programmes to 39 FE colleges in England.

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