



Co-funded by the
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Baghdad, 2nd of April 2023

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT
OF THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH
OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ**

BANUU PROJECT

I, as the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Republic of Iraq,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

° The project “BANUU – Designing New Pathways for Employability and Entrepreneurship of Iraqi Students in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage”, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, the aim of which is to develop employability and entrepreneurship opportunities for Iraqi students in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage fields;

° The following results achieved in the frame of the BANUU project:

- 1 Report on how to improve private entrepreneurship in the humanities in Iraq elaborated and published;
- 4 dedicated offices and databases for the implementation of internship programs and the fostering of entrepreneurial activities set-up and activated at the Universities of Baghdad, Kufa, Qadisiyah and Mosul;
- 26 staff members from the Universities of Baghdad, Kufa, Qadisiyah and Mosul trained on how to manage internship activities;
- 50 academic staff members and 52 students trained on the best practices to create start-up projects in the field of Cultural Heritage;
- 12 start-up projects drafted by the Iraqi students and presented at the 12th ICAANE conference in Bologna in April 2021;
- 17 Iraqi students trained for two weeks at Koç University in February 2023 on entrepreneurial start-up projects;
- 4 projects out of 12 were selected. The teams who won, got the opportunity to be trained in start-up project writing, entrepreneurship, leadership, design, exhibition design, language, TV and social media at Koç University

° The main task of the BANUU project which is the implementation of internship programs in all BA and MA degree programs in Humanities. In detail, the programs are framed to address three main sectors: Cultural Tourism Guide (CTG), Cultural Heritage Management (CHM) and Preventive Archaeology (PA). The action in the last sector will be supported by the creation of a MOOC drafted with the collaboration of international scholars.

WE HEREBY STATE OUR COMMITMENT TO

- Create a national-level framework for designing and implementing internships in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in Iraq;
- Include compulsory internships with allocation of ECTS in the BA, MA degree programs in Humanities in Iraq;

- Re-define the learning outcomes of the BA, MA degree programs in Humanities in Iraq to include the enhancement of transversal skills such as entrepreneurial activities;
- Enhance the collaboration of HEIs (Universities & MOHESR) and private companies to the advantage of employment opportunities for Iraqi youth, through the creation of a favourable legal, administrative, and financial environment;
- Create an Inter-Ministerial commission tasked to draft new policies on public-private cooperation in the field of Humanities;



Yours Faithfully
The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
of the Republic of Iraq

Prof. Dr. Hayder Abed Dhahad