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## BANUU PROJECT 3RD CONSORTIUM ASSEMBLY MEETING

University of Bologna

22-26 November 2021

### REPORT

#### Participants (in presence):

Name	Surname	Institution
Nicolò	Marchetti	University of Bologna (UNIBO)
Licia	Proserpio	University of Bologna (UNIBO)
Gabriele	Giacosa	University of Bologna (UNIBO)
Emmanuel	Di Tommaso	University of Bologna (UNIBO)
Nabeel Kadhim Abid Al-Sahib	Al-Azraqi	Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Republic of Iraq (MOHESR)
Hazeem Baqer	Taher	General Director of the Scholarships and Cultural Relations Directorate of the Republic of Iraq (MOHESR)
Kossay Kamalaldeen Dawod	Al-Ahmady	University of Mosul (UOM)
Yasmin Abdulkareem Mohammed Ali	Jasim	University of Mosul (UOM)

#### Participants (online):

Oya	Özer	Koç University – Istanbul (KU)
Cigdem	Maner	Koç University – Istanbul (KU)
Carlo	Lippolis	CRAST Turin (CRAST)
Eleonora	Quirico	CRAST Turin (CRAST)



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Sudad	Amer Dayl	University of Baghdad (UOB)
Hayder	Al Hamdany	University of Kufa (UOK)
Alaa	Hachem	University of Qadisiyah (UOQ)

## Preamble

The visit of H.E. the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR) of Iraq Prof. Dr. Nabeel Kadhim Abid Al-Sahib Al-Azraqi to the University of Bologna and Rome took place from the 22nd till the 26th of November 2021.

The visit was organized by the University of Bologna in the frame of the European Union funded project "[BANUU - Designing new pathways for employability and entrepreneurship of Iraqi students in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage](#)".

The BANUU project, coordinated by prof. Nicolò Marchetti of the University of Bologna, aims at contributing to the improvement of the students' employability in the field of Humanities in Iraq by creating new pathways of cooperation between Universities and the public and enterprise sectors. This will be the result of six specific practical objectives connected with the different WPs of the project:

- 1- Creation of a national framework for designing and implementing internships in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in Iraq;
- 2- Creation of new pathways to enhance Iraqi students' transversal skills (focus on entrepreneurial skills);
- 3- Piloting of the new frameworks and pathways in 3 specific sectors: Preventive Archaeology, Cultural Heritage Management and Cultural Tourism;
- 4- Re-drafting of the learning outcomes of Iraqi BA and MA degree programs involving external partners as co-producers of knowledge;
- 5- Strengthening of the relations between HEIs (Universities, Ministry) and the wider national economic and social environment;
- 6- Creating a favorable legal, administrative, and financial environment in which HEIs can draft comprehensive agreements and contracts with external partners.

The partners of the project are the following: Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna (Italy); CRAFT (Italy); Koç University (Turkey); Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Republic of Iraq (Iraq); University of Baghdad (Iraq); University of Kufa (Iraq); University of Al-Qadisiyah (Iraq); University of Mosul (Iraq).



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## **Academic cooperation**

On the first day of the visit, the 22nd of November, the Iraqi delegation was received at the Department of History and Cultures of the University of Bologna, where the BANUU project 3rd Consortium Assembly Meeting took place.

Specifically, the discussion was mainly focused on the implementation of WP5 “Pilot entrepreneurship activities”, which foresees the following aims to be realized before June 2022:

1. To allow the Iraqi students to further develop their newly acquired transversal skills through start-up projects.
2. To identify the best start-ups projects to be implemented as best practices;
3. To create concrete synergies between Iraqi universities, public entities, private companies that will be involved in the development of start up. This will create concrete bases for future actions.

All these project have concretely contributed to the capacity building process in the field of Higher Education in Iraq and to strengthen the exchanges and trainings between the European Union and Iraq in the archaeology and cultural heritage sectors.

The University of Bologna staff also presented a new funded project called “[KALAM - Analysis, protection and development of archaeological landscapes in Iraq and Uzbekistan through ICTs and community-based approaches](#)”. This projects aims at proposing effective methods and protocols for the analysis, protection and development of archaeological landscapes in Iraq and Uzbekistan, two countries which have not yet collaborated in the field of cultural heritage. However, this approach is conceived to be potentially applicable to any other endangered cultural landscape. The partners of the project are the following: University of Bologna (Italy); LMU (Germany); University of Mosul (Iraq); Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan (Uzbekistan).

After the meeting, the Iraqi delegation visited the Library of the Department of History and Cultures and the laboratory for the study of archaeological materials.



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On the 24th of November, the Iraqi delegation had a meeting with the Observatory of the Magna Charta Universitatum. The participants of the meeting discussed about the current state of signatures of the Iraqi Universities to the Magna Charta Universitatum. Since only the University of Kufa applied to sign the Magna Charta, H.E. the Minister took the commitment to improve this process and make all the Iraqi Universities to sign the Magna Charta and get involved in the Bologna process as soon as possible, in accordance with the BANUU project general aim.

The Magna Charta Universitatum is a document that was originally signed by 388 rectors and heads of universities from all over Europe and beyond on 18 September 1988, the 900th anniversary of the University of Bologna. It contains principles of academic freedom and institutional autonomy as a guideline for good governance and self-understanding of universities in the future. In 2018 a multi-national group was formed to review the Magna Charta Universitatum in the context of changes to universities and the environments in which they operated which had occurred since 1988. This was informed by a wide consultation and was adopted by the Governing Council of the MCO in July 2020. The new MCU removes nothing from the original fundamental values to which universities signed up. It strives to be responsive to and resonate with contemporary challenges and concerns. Its tone recognises that the pursuit of the fundamental values has worth along with their actual attainment, which, in practice, is a constant quest. It recognises the more global nature of what universities do and the wider range of local responsibilities which they have.

After the meeting with the Observatory, the Iraqi delegation was received by the Rector of the University of Bologna prof. Giovanni Molari and the Rector delegate for international relations prof. Raffaella Campaner. During the meeting, the opportunities to establish permanent working tables between the University of Bologna and the Iraqi Universities to strengthen the exchanges of University staff members and students and improve the higher education sectors of both Italy and Iraq. H.E. the Minister accepted this proposal stating that the signing of the BANUU project can become the first step towards the admission of all the Iraqi Universities to the Bologna process and Magna Charta Universitatum. At the end of the meeting, the BANUU partnership agreements between the University of Bologna, the MOHESR of Iraq and the University Mosul were signed.



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