



**BANUU**

Designing new pathways for employability and entrepreneurship  
of Iraqi students in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage



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## BANUU RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



## BANUU Project Final Meeting

**Location:** Baghdad University Tower, Floor 19

**Time:** October 5<sup>th</sup> 2023

### List of participants:

Name	Surname	Institution
Nicolò	Marchetti	University of Bologna
Emmanuel	Di Tommaso	University of Bologna
Gabriele	Giacosa	University of Bologna
Çiğdem	Maner	Koç University of Istanbul
Hazeem Baqer	Taher	MOHESR
Abduljaleel Mohamad Mageed	Al-Hasnawi	MOHESR
Moneer Hameed	Tolephih Al-Qanbar	University of Baghdad
Moafaq	Sachit Samir	MOHESR
Hazim	Abdulameer	MOHESR
Rawaa	Qasha	Mosul University
Laith	Hussein	SBAH
Alaa	Al-Lami	University of Kufa
Sarmad	Al-Anssari	University of Baghdad
Mustafa	Radif	Qadisiyah University
Thomas	Seiler	European Union
Maurizio	Greganti	Italian Republic
Metin	Esen	Republic of Türkiye



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### **Institutional greetings**

The meeting was opened at 9:30 by the representative of H.E. Naeem Abed Yasir, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, followed by Moneer Hameed Tolephih Al-Qanbar, President of University of Baghdad. They both stressed the commitment of the Ministry in improving the educational offer of Iraqi universities and at the same time enhancing the opportunities for Iraqi students beyond university into the labour market. Moreover, they thanked the BANUU project and consortium of partners for the achieved results and the

Greetings were then given by Thomas Seiler, Ambassador of the European Union to Iraq: he explained the importance of Iraq as a strategic partner for EU in the MENA region and stressed how BANUU acted within this framework with a positive action in terms of cooperation and training.

Maurizio Greganti, Ambassador of Italy to Iraq, highlighted the role and impact of the cooperation network of Italian public institutions in Iraq. In particular, he mentioned Preventive Archaeology as a best practice to be implemented in Iraq for which Italy can set an example for efficiency and employment opportunity.

Metin Esen, officer of the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Baghdad, presented similar conclusions, explaining the long-time economic and cultural connections between the two countries, as demonstrated by the activities performed by Koç University during the BANUU project.

Prof. Marchetti, from University of Bologna and principal coordinator of the BANUU project, concluded the session and extended the greetings to all partners and the players that contributed the development of the project.

### **The BANUU project final results: three years of successful academic cooperation**

At 10:30, prof. Nicolò Marchetti, addressed the overall results of BANUU from the last three and a half years. He highlighted the original aims and the activities of the project, detailing their impact in terms of engaged academic personnel, students and companies.

### **Partners' roundtable on the BANUU results and achievements**

Following the suggestion by prof. Marchetti, representatives of each partner university provided their thoughts and opinions on the project and the issues challenged throughout the three years of development.

Starting with Alaa Al-Lami from University of Kufa, Dr. Rawaa Qasha from Mosul University and Dr. Sarmad al-Anssari from University of Baghdad, they underlined the commitment of their respective institutions in the BANUU activities and their implementation beyond the conclusion of the project itself.

Dr. Mustafa Radif from University of Qadisiyah gave a short presentation on the impact of the BANUU results and the positive outcomes achieved for QA.

Prof. Maner from Koç University gave her considerations on the activities where KU was involved: in detail, she explained how during WP5 Intensive Training in February 2023, the selected students demonstrated to be deeply interested and willing to participate to the training seminars and activities for the improvement of their start-up projects, especially in comparison with the participants to the WALADU project activities in 2017, providing a positive perspective on the interest for entrepreneurship in Humanities.

### **Internship and entrepreneurial activities as national pathways to enhance the Iraqi students' opportunities**

Dr. Gabriele Giacosa (UNIBO) displayed the results of the BANUU project on behalf of the UNIBO and CRAFT teams, detailing the activities connected to the internship and entrepreneurial programs. On the side of internships, he displayed the creation of the dedicated offices, the training of the personnel to run them in the long term, the agreements with the public and private companies where perform the pilot internships.



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Regarding entrepreneurship, the presentation included information on the framing of multiple start-up projects by the involved students, the Start-Up Days and the final selection of the most efficient initiatives for future implementation.

**What comes next? The sustainability and exploitation of the BANUU project results (final discussion)**

At the end of the presentation of results, prof. Marchetti invited all the attendees to share their impressions on the BANUU project and its outcomes. Dr. Abdulameer, representative of the MOHESR, provided an overview of the current initiatives activated in the Iraqi educational system, explaining that the BANUU action can be included within a larger program framed by the Ministry to enhance the internationalisation of Iraqi universities. For instance, he mentioned the “Study in Iraq” program, which provides financial support for all international students willing to enrol in bachelor and master degrees courses in Iraq (over 3.000 students joined the program so far). Moreover, the Ministry created representatives for each national public university tasked to bridge the gap with the labour market.

Prof. Marchetti then underlined how these actions follow the same direction of the BANUU results, providing examples from the project’s workflow: for instance, the MOOC on Preventive Archaeology which will remain available. He concluded that the multiple networks created through the activities of BANUU possibly represent the best legacy of the project and a significant opportunity for the future of Humanities students in Iraq.