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**Joint Study Programmes in South Mediterranean Region:  
The Enabling Environment**

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**INTERUV Second Regional Conference:  
Joint Programmes: facilitator for university  
internationalization  
Rome, Italy  
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## Main Characteristics of the HE Systems

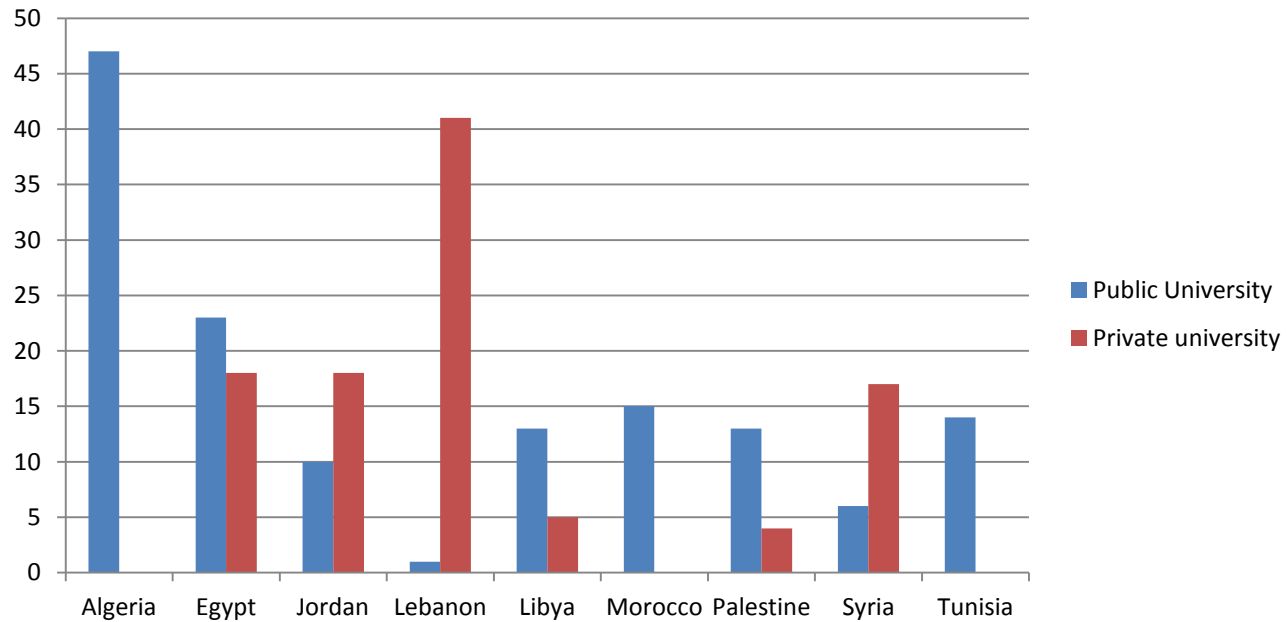
- Statistics (Number of HEIs, students, staff, ...)
- Legislations related to Joint Programmes
- Higher Education Strategies
- Internationalization
- Recognition of (Outside) HEIs, Degrees, and Courses
- Organization of Academic Year & Systems of Study
- Some Examples on Joint Programmes



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## HEIs in the Mediterranean Number of Universities



Note: In this and following figures, some numbers are estimated; others were not made available from the sources



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## Number of HEIs in Some MEDA Countries

Algeria	Exclusively public HE. In addition to the 47 universities, there are 48 other vocational HEIs, teacher training colleges, ...
Egypt	18 HEIs under supervision of public universities, and about 85 private HEI. Some universities are quite large.
Jordan	2 university colleges and 51 community colleges
Lebanon	Mainly private HE. 7 newly licensed, not operational yet
Libya	One academy for graduate studies
Morocco	There are number of private universities, professional colleges
Palestine	12 public & 6 private university colleges, 1 open univ., 20 community colleges
Syria	4 HEIs under supervision of MoHE&SR, 11 HEIs under supervision of public universities
Tunisia	14 Univ., but 195 public HEIs, 30 of them are under supervision of MoHE&SR and other ministries (Health, Agriculture, Social Affairs, etc.). 47 private HEIs but no private univ.

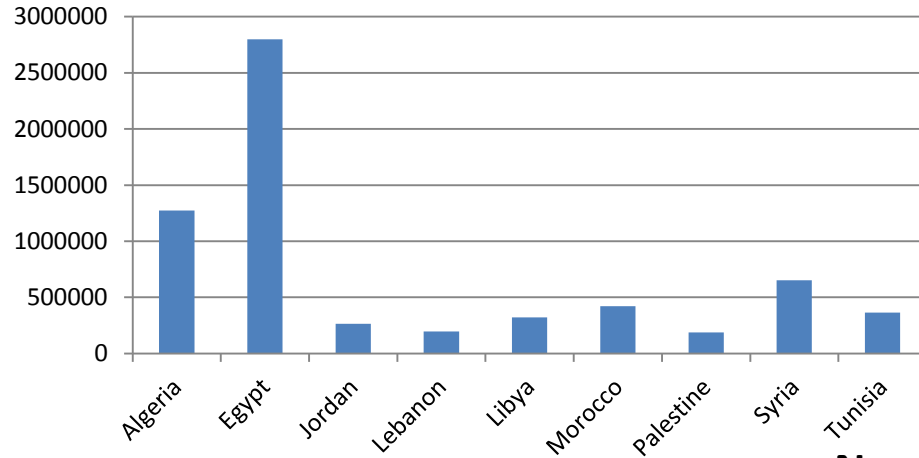


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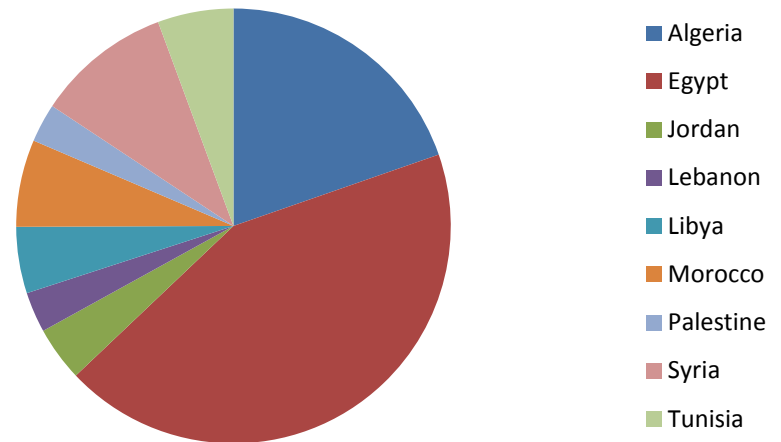


**HEIs in the Mediterranean  
Number of students**

### Number of Students



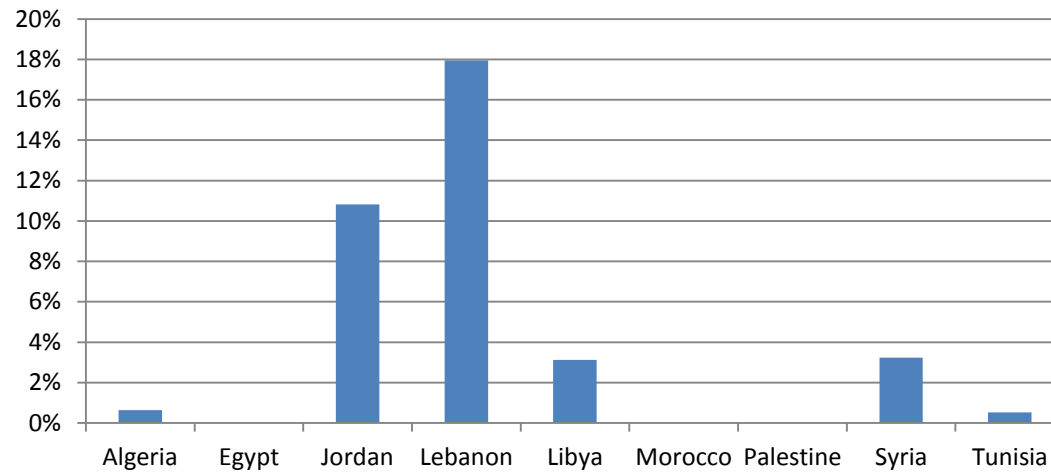
### Number of Students





HEIs in the Mediterranean  
Percent of Foreign students

### Percent of Foreign Students

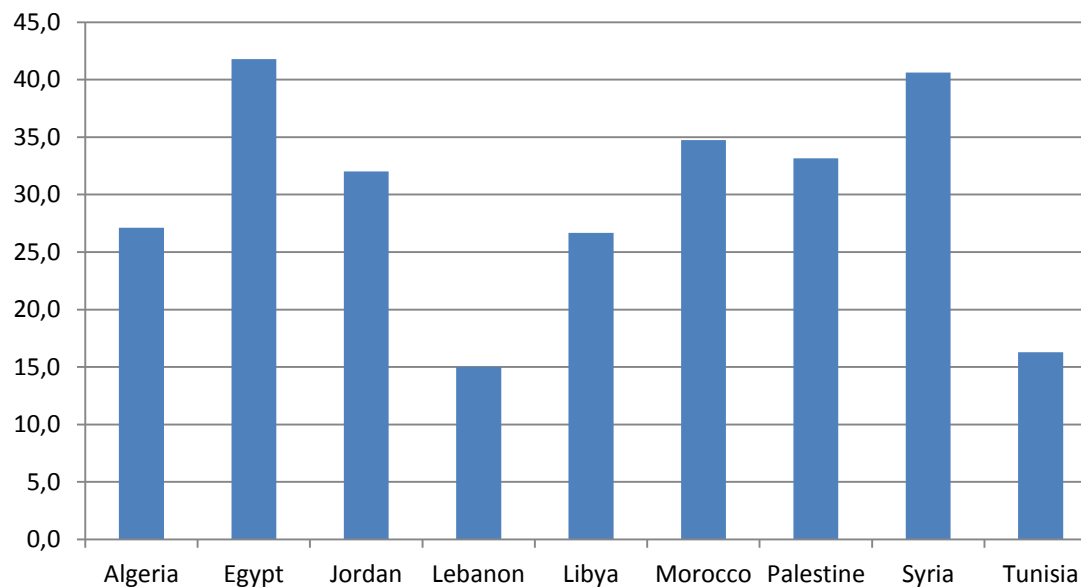


- Political situation (*Arab Spring movement*) has greatly affected number of foreign students in the MEDA countries in the past few years.



HEIs in the Mediterranean  
Student to Faculty Ratio

Student to Faculty Ratio





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## Legislations related to Joint Programmes

- Laws/regulations of some countries (e.g., Jordan, Syria, ..) address the matter explicitly.
- According to Jordanian Universities Law, the Board of Trustees can approve Agreements between the University and other HEIs provided such agreement does not lead to joint program (and joint degree). If it does, then the BoT recommends this to the Council of Higher Education.
- HE&SR Law in Jordan: The Council (of Higher Education) “Approves scientific and academic collaboration agreements with foreign universities which result in **joint programs** that lead to acquiring scientific degrees.”
- Other countries (e.g., Lebanon, Palestine) do that implicitly through legislations / procedures for recognition of HEIs, recognition / equivalence of (joint) degrees
- In general, MEDA countries **welcome Joint Programs and Joint or Double Degrees**. Legislations do not create obstacles at all, but facilitate establishing Joint Programs





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## Higher Education Strategies

- Joint programmes mentioned in the national higher education strategy for Jordan. Third "objective" in the strategy:  
“Applying general and program accreditation standards to all higher education institutions operating in Jordan:
  - a) Private Jordanian institutions ...
  - b) Public Jordanian institutions ...
  - c) Non-Jordanian institutions ...
  - d) Joint academic programs** between institutions of higher education in **Jordan** and its **non-Jordanian counterparts.**”
- Action Plan of Strategy: includes “Conformity of the standards applied to **joint programs** with those already existing in the said universities.”



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## Internationalization (1)

- Algiers has a strategy on internationalization that focuses on implementation of the Bologna three-cycle model and international co-operation (especially in Ph.D. studies and research, staff and students mobilities).
- Most other Arab countries (e.g., JO, LB, PS, SY, TN) have no official strategy document on internationalization
- However, all are open to and become attractive to international students, encourage departments of international studies, establish cooperation agreements, keen on establishing twinning and joint programs, and open to staff and faculty exchange



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## Internationalization (2)

- Jordan higher education strategy has several clauses on internationalization, such as:
  - Vision includes “Having a high quality higher education system .... and compete at the Arab and **international** levels”
  - take required measures to boost **international competitiveness**, ....
  - Modernizing academic programs to keep up with **international developments**
  - clear venue for partnerships with **prominent international research centers**
  - Adopt policies and programs, in accordance with the best **international standards** and practices,



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## Recognition of (Outside) HEIs and Degrees

- All countries recognize HEIs outside their own country
- Often done through specific department at the Ministry
- There are clear regulations/criteria for this
- Recognition (equivalence) of outside degrees also done at Ministries
- Use of specialized committees/staff members is common



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## Recognition of (Outside) Courses

- Majority of HEIs have systems for recognition of courses studied outside
- Extent of courses and other criteria (max number of hours/courses, grades, when, where, ...) are elaborated in the regulations for offering the degrees
- Usually done within the specialized department and relevant college.



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### Organization of the Academic Year

- In most countries, the year is divided into two semesters, 16 weeks each
- Summer sessions are available in some HEIs; some even have two short summer sessions
- Some follow the credit hour system, few follow the ECTS, whereas others still have the whole year system (no system of credits)
- For those without credit hour system, transfer from one semester to next, or from one year to next, necessitates passing all requirements of the previous semester (year) with possibility of carrying over one to two courses
- Sometimes different colleges at same university differ in system of study



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## Systems of Study

- All countries now follow the three cycle system: Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate
- Although there are common trends among countries, there are also wide variations, not only between one country to another, but also within same country and sometimes within same HEI



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## Examples of Joint Programmes with Jordan

- Five Jordanian universities are involved in joint programmes: Univ. of Jordan, Yarmouk Univ., Balqa Applied Univ., Princess Sumaya University for Technology, and Ahliyya Amman Univ.
- Partner universities include Sunderland Univ., Huddersfield, Dublin, DePaul (in Chicago), Univ. of Ohio
- Total of eight joint programmes
- These programmes are difficult to implement either due to financial arrangements or other practical matters (e.g. mobility of staff).
- There are several other joint programmes with local institutes / organizations.





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Thank You