Innovation in Higher Education: Main Challenges

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New concepts, new words

- The world has changed !!
- We are facing new concepts, new challenges, new words ……..
  
  - How to take into account « Globalization » ? (of economic, social, educational systems…)

  - Is « Harmonization of practices » useful ? necessary ?

  - How to take into account « Internationalization », mainly in terms of exchanges, mobilities, practices, strategies ?

- What is innovation ?

- What about « Quality » : quality control, quality management, quality assurance, quality culture… ?

- How these concepts apply to Higher education ?
The contribution of Higher education in the development of societies is essential and multiple:

- **Increase general and specific knowledge**: academic training, lifelong training

- **Improve competences, skills and soft skills**:
  - Develop high and specific expertise
  - Provide high level and creative professionals

- **Develop creativity and innovation**

- **Enhance Capacity for a better inter-cultural and international communication**

The Universities have to play a major role in developing new models and new solutions to the society’s changes.
Higher Education will have to face big challenges in the next years:

- **Massification of « learners »**: good news, but …..

- **Globalization of education**: worldwide education!
  - Learning without borders,
  - Distance learning, ITC’Tools, open resources
  - Lifelong learning

- **Employability**: too many graduate students are unemployed
  - Links education-jobmarket
  - Entrepreneurship

- **Ensure that skills and qualifications can be more easily recognized, within and across national borders**:
  - in all sub-systems of education and training
  - in the jobmarket
• **Respond to Societal Challenges:**
  (Example of the seven european « Horizon 2020 » challenges)
  - Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing
  - Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy
  - Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy
  - Smart, Green and Integrated Transport
  - Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials
  - Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
  - Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens
Rethinking how to educate and how to produce research

Key action 1:

Enhance links between University and Enterprise

- To produce Innovation and technology transfers:

- To enhance Industrial leadership through research and technological development: Applied Research programs linked with Enterprises needs

- To develop entrepreneurship among students: Accelerator programs /Starts-up /incubators
Key Action II: Make use of new and innovative pedagogy

- Digital education:
  - strategic use of ICT’s and open educational resources
  - e-labs

- Innovative teaching methods:
  - Reforms of academic curricula based on the jobmarket needs
  - Hybrid programs: partially on-line and partially classroom program
  - Skills-based teaching approach:
    - competency framework for each program,
    - learning outcomes
(AUF)
Agence universitaire de la Francophonie
(Association of Francophone Universities)
A direct operator of the Francophone states summit
817 institutions scattered around 106 countries

Official Partner of UNESCO
Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)

10 Regional Offices
America, Asia/Pacific, Central Africa and Great Lakes, North Africa, Western Africa, Caribbean, Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, Indian Ocean, Middle-East

68 Regional Branches
4 in Middle-East: Tripoli (Lebanon), Aleppo, Damascus (Syria), Alexandria (Egypt)
2014-2017 Four-Year Program
4 Pillars

**Education**
- Promote structural educational reforms, via innovation, promote professionalization of curricula
- Promote the use of New technologies: Distance learning, on-line courses, MOOCS
- Encourage teachers and students’ mobility

**Research**
- Encourage the establishment of international research teams
- Strengthen the visibility of university networks and Research outcomes
- Encourage innovation

**Governance**
- Accompany the practices and development of university management tools
- Accompany the implementation of quality assurance through assessment

**International Outreach and Community Life**
- Promote the values of Francophony
- Contribute to the emergence of innovative projects
- Approach public authorities and prominent international actors
59 members spread over 13 countries
A.U.F : a place to produce innovation

First Example : A.D.I.P
A three years european program managed by the AUF-ME Office (2014-2017)
« Distance learning and pedagogical innovation »
• ME Partners : 13 Universities (8 from Lebanon, 5 from Egypt), 2 HE Ministeries, 2 Chambers of commerce
• Five countries : Lebanon, Egypt, France, Belgium, Romania
• Skills-based approach, competency framework, distance learning,

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Second Example : F.F.E
Annual competition for promoting entrepreneurship among francophone women, in partnership with Berytech (2012-), L’Orient le Jour and le Commerce du Levant (2016-)
« Femme Francophone Entrepreneure »
• Two awarded projects per year
• Training program for each applicant (business plan, etc…)
• Fundings by AUF, Accelerator program by Berytech, communication by L’Orient Le Jour, Le Commerce du Levant