



PRESS RELEASE

‘Assisting Maghreb Universities in the Introduction of a Human Rights-Based Approach to Higher Education’

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- The ABDEM project aims to contribute to the higher education programmes in the Maghreb region through the facilitation of a human rights-based approach

MADRID, MARCH 3, 2014.- The University of Westminster is participating in an international research project (ABDEM) assisting higher education institutions in the Maghreb to integrate a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to higher education, particularly in the following courses: Law, Social Work and Educational Sciences.

The total funding for the project, provided by the TEMPUS programme of the European Union, is nearly €1 million. The twelve universities that will collaborate in the ABDEM project, ‘Assisting Maghreb Universities in the Introduction of a Human Rights-Based Approach to Higher Education’, are: the University of La Rioja (Spain), the project leader, the University of Bergamo (Italy), the University of Westminster (UK), the University of Zaragoza (Spain), the University of Extremadura (Spain), the University of A Coruña (Spain), the University Mohamed V Soussi (Morocco), the Hassan 2 Mohammedia-Casablanca University (Morocco), the Sétif 2 University (Algeria), the National School of Political Science (Algeria), the National Institute of Labour and Social Studies of the University of Carthage (Tunisia), the Institute of Press and Information Sciences of the University of Manouba (Tunisia), and the College Henry Dunant (Switzerland).

The ABDEM project has been divided into three phases, which are:

- Research and data collection on the current status of and challenges to a HRBA to higher education in the partner countries;
- Development of a training programme for trainers based on a HRBA to higher education; and the



- Creation of an interuniversity and interdisciplinary Masters programme based on a HRBA to higher education.

The ABDEM project is based on the recognition that:

- The social, cultural and political development currently taking place in the Maghreb provide a strong interest and demand for human rights and democracy;
- Higher education plays a pivotal role in promoting more open and democratic societies; and
- Education contributes to knowledge-based economies that empower people and further human rights.

Based on these, the ABDEM project aims to contribute to the higher education programmes in the Maghreb region through the facilitation of a human rights-based approach, not only through curricula, but also a governance model that will ensure and promote the rights of all members of the university community. This approach will facilitate considerable progress in the university systems. The ABDEM project will apply the definition of a RBA to education in the United Nations' World Programme for Human Rights Education, namely "human rights through education", ensuring that all components and processes of education (curricula, materials, methods, and training) are conducive to the learning of human rights, and "human rights in education", ensuring that the human rights of all members of the education community are respected.

Attachments:

In this communication, the following materials are attached:

- Photos of the presentation in Arabic House.
You can download the complete material
abdemeducation.eu/madrid
- Corporate Dossier • Consortium of Universities and research project