More Information about the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the EU Madad Fund: The EU Madad Fund was established in 2014 in order to allow for a coordinated response to the Syrian crisis and to provide Syrian refugees and host communities in the countries neighbouring Syria with the needed support. To date, the EU Madad Fund has mobilised 2.2 billion Euro for projects in the spheres of education, livelihood, health, protection and water management. Find out more: https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/content/home_en
HOPES-LEB HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND PERSPECTIVES FOR SYRIANS AND VULNERABLE YOUTH IN LEBANON

Due to the conflict in Syria, more than seven million Syrians have been displaced internally and around five million have fled the country, finding refuge in neighbouring countries. With approximately one million registered individuals, Lebanon is considered the country in the world with the highest per capita ratio of refugees from Syria. As a result of the protracted crisis and local political and economic difficulties, the higher education system in Lebanon has been heavily affected and a situation has arisen where only 6% of the Syrian youth in Lebanon between the ages of 18 and 30 are currently enrolled at Lebanese higher education institutions.

Within this context, HOPES-LEB (Higher and Further Education Opportunities and Perspectives for Syrians and vulnerable youth in Lebanon) is an €8.4 m project funded by the European Union, through the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the EU Madad Fund, and implemented by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Campus France and Nuffic.

It aims at improving livelihood prospects through higher education opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese youth and refugees from Syria in Lebanon thus increasing their chances for a better future.

The project is a continuation of the HOPES regional project (April 2016-August 2020) and seeks to provide further access to quality higher education opportunities and support to higher education and local institutions in Lebanon.

The life span of the project is from April 2020 until December 2023.

HOPES-LEB follows the following activities:

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND:**
HOPES-LEB provides a broad spectrum of up to 1,000 scholarships for vulnerable young Lebanese and refugees from Syria. Students benefit from preparation courses for higher education, university studies (Bachelor and Masters) and further postgraduate courses to increase their employability and entrepreneurial perspectives.

**ACADEMIC COUNSELLING:**
The provision of information and advice through the counselling process helps students to make decisions along the educational pathway enabling them to identify offers that will help them to achieve their goals.

**FUNDING FOR TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING:**
HOPES-LEB provides tailor-made support and funding for innovative short-term education projects implemented by local institutions. These projects aim to address the specific needs of students and to alleviate bottlenecks related to access to further and higher education, the completion of studies and labour market preparation.

**STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION:**
Through coordination meetings and local events, HOPES-LEB continues to facilitate national stakeholder dialogue and the coordination of interventions in the higher and further education sector in Lebanon related to the Syrian crisis.

**REGIONAL ALUMNI NETWORK:**
Together with higher education projects funded by the EU Madad Fund in the region, a unified regional alumni community and network of scholarship holders in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey is being developed to facilitate exchange and increase further educational and labour market prospects at the regional and international levels.

In this way, HOPES-LEB has a truly strategic vision to alleviate bottlenecks related to access to higher education and local institutions in Lebanon. It aims at improving livelihood prospects through higher education opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese youth and refugees from Syria in Lebanon thus increasing their chances for a better future.

The life span of the project is from April 2020 until December 2023.