



# B.R.I.D.G.E: BRIDGING THE YOUTH SKILLS GAP TO ENSURE INCLUSION AND READINESS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



 <b>LOCATION</b> Beirut and North Lebanon	 <b>DURATION</b> 15 April 2022 → 15 June 2023	 <b>BUDGET</b> EUR 59,695
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**PRIORITY AREA**  
Access to Higher and Further Education


**LEAD INSTITUTION**



**PARTNERS**





Talal and Madiha Zein  
AUB Innovation Park





**OBJECTIVES**

To support access to higher and further education and to ensure the readiness for higher education and inclusion of underprivileged Lebanese and Syrian pre-college youth through web development training and guidance for a better future.



**BENEFICIARIES**

298 vulnerable pre-college Lebanese and Syrian refugee youths aged between 15 and 19 years old in grades 10, 11 and 12 or equivalent living in Greater Beirut area and Northern Lebanon

	
100	198

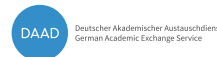


**ACTIVITIES**

- Adaptation of the “Web for change” 20 hours training programme,
- Development of a tailor-made training programme for vulnerable Arab youth on soft skills on the Shabab lab (<https://shabablab.com/>) platform such as mindfulness, team-work, oral presentations, CV writing, communication skills,
- Development of a career orientation series about different majors and career pathways in partnership with AUB,
- Launching event and outreach,
- Capacity building of 5 trainers (Training of Trainers),
- Training programme including online training modules, weekly live online sessions, in-person training on soft skills, career orientation, and social innovation and entrepreneurship,
- Mentorship and creation of prototypes of sustainable web-based business ideas,
- Closing and pitch celebrations events,
- Training of Trainers for 24 graduate participants



Implemented by



## ELINA

17 Years old

"My father is a farmer. He is my inspiration and the reason why I got to love the village and its atmosphere. I did my own research and took the decision to pursue a degree in Agricultural Engineering. HOPES-LEB funded a programme that I participated in with Shabab Lab entitled B.R.I.D.G.E to bridge the gap between high school and university allowing me to picture my life after finishing school. I was able to learn some educational skills, how to plan projects and be a leader. Together with other trainees, we presented a project that we planned in the programme, and I felt that I could practice what I learned with them. For me, HOPES-LEB was a new beginning allowing me to think in a different way and to better take decisions for my future. I have now a better vision and I am certain that this is the major that I want to pursue."

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE LEAD INSTITUTION

The B.R.I.D.G.E project empowered 298 unserved high school students with skills and practical tools to create innovative solutions for challenges they are facing in their communities. These inspiring youth had access to Arabic content about soft skills, social entrepreneurship, career orientation, and physical and mental wellness tailored to their age. Skilled trainers from Shabab Lab and SHIFT teams followed up with the youth with weekly online sessions to set their pace, practice what they have learned in groups, and answer their questions, as well as in-person monthly workshops. B.R.I.D.G.E concluded with 75 social projects presented by the youth in two pitching ceremonies.

This project highlighted the fact that competitions can be constructive. As we taught the participants to think outside the box, we were blown away by how creative they got on their pitching day. From the participants' enthusiasm and commitment to benefit from every single aspect of this opportunity, we got encouraged to create more opportunities to unleash their full potential and empower them with the tools they need, and teach them not to take everything for granted.

Empathy is one of our core values that ensures we deliver content for impact, and during this programme, as during other programmes we deliver, we applied this core value to make sure

we connect with the participants to have greater impact. Everyone has their own story and it is very important to shed light on different backgrounds and give everyone room to share, because we found a lot of common ground between people.

The pitching ceremonies filled me with pride that I had the chance to be part of the students' journey and was emotional that it marked the end of a project that not only had a great impact on the participants but on our team as well.

### DANA ABDEL KHALEK

Project Manager, Riyadh for Social Innovation

