



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
TO THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

**Speech by Patrick Renaud, Ambassador and Head of  
Delegation of the European Union to Jordan  
on the occasion of the fifth Tempus Day**

Your Excellency Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr Maani

Prof. Ahmad Abu-El-Haija, Director, National Tempus Office

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to be among you today, representing the European Union, to address this distinguished audience of academics and researchers from universities all over the country.

Human capital is key for the competitiveness and social advancement of the country and an essential means to fight poverty and improve people's lives. It is central to the National Agenda. It is only logical that a major part of EU funds allocated to Jordan focus on these priorities.

Many steps have been taken in the reforms of education, higher education and Employment and Vocational Education and Training. Still, closer **coordination could help save resources and improve services, especially in the current situation of crisis and budgetary deficit.**

In the fields of research and higher education, **the European Commission offers Jordan several cooperation instruments**, like Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and development and others.

Over the past six years, more than a dozen Jordanian universities and institutions have established links and collaborated with their European counterparts. Tempus projects have established new links or strengthened existing ones. Jordan has also established connections with universities in seven Arab countries through Tempus projects.

**These links, along with the exchanges of academics and students, form a good and solid foundation for the cooperation between Jordan and Europe**, and with countries in the region, for many years to come. This has great value, equal to or even exceeding the direct benefits of the projects in their particular areas.

**Knowledge today relies on networks** and we want to be together with you in the same circuit, **moving collectively towards the same purpose: innovation that works for all.**

I am glad to announced that the **Government of Jordan and the European Union have recently signed a cooperation agreement in the field of science and technology**, under which, a joint committee will be formed to boost scientific research in various fields, particularly **energy and sustainable development**.

Jordan is the fifth country from the Euro-Mediterranean partnership to sign such an agreement. **It could open the door to universities, institutions and companies of new opportunities for partnership and funding in the future** through the participation for example in the definition of the priorities of major EU funded instrument for research and development like FP7 (7<sup>th</sup> framework programme for research and development).

I will conclude by **inviting you to send proposals for the calls of TEMPUS and ERASMUS MUNDUS that will be presented here today**. The inputs from Jordan have been positive in the last years and we would like this to continue in future. Thank you for your ideas, thank you for your partnership.

**Patrick Renauld**  
Ambassador and Head of Delegation  
European Union Delegation to Jordan

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