

spark • ignites ambition

Team Europe for Higher Education in Emergencies



- Coordination EU – Partners – Beneficiaries
- Higher Education in Emergencies as priority for development cooperation initiatives.
- Link education to job - first step to rebuild livelihoods
- Wider and effective impacts by linking local, regional and international partners to build localised programmes.

Key results higher education & employability

SPARK, together with its 25 higher education partners has developed:

- **12** universities have new labour market oriented curricula in MENA;
- Supported over **10,000** refugees in the region with university scholarships;
- Provided over **3,000** students with transition to jobs;
- **300** internships and job placements for scholarship holders;
- Supported establishment of over **50** student-led businesses across the region.



Iraq/KRG

Case study Iraq (3 initiatives)

Innovation Hub: With Career Centres of universities create an innovative, sustainable space within existing **Career Centres**, on Agriculture, Finance and Marketing together with universities and 3 Iraqi companies;

Digital and regular internships: Digital internship programme together with the Career Development Centers to allow students to gain practical work experience during their studies;

Curriculum Improvement for TVET short courses: SPARK has developed 6 new TVET courses on technical skills identified by labour market, as well as career readiness trainings such as English for Business.

From higher education to employment

- **Higher education as a first step towards employment, through an integrated pathway**
 1. Driven by local partners, in alignment with economic priorities within local context;
 2. Local partners involved in programme design and development.
 3. You only get quality if you co-create with (increasingly strong) local partners;
 4. Closing skills gap between higher education and labour market needs, updating curricula;
 5. Create concrete links between universities and private sector;
 6. Facilitate internships and job placements through career centres;
 7. Providing support throughout the entire student journey, Link education to internships, to soft skilling to job placements with industry.



Thank you



Anwar Kattan



Transfer your Idea to a Product

About myself

- My Name is Anwar,
- Syrian living in Turkey / Gaziantep
- Study Background; Architecture
- Current Work field; Product Design and Development.
- Years of experience; 5 years



The impact of the scholarship on my life;

- skills support,
- career path,
- Launching the project,
- Support during pandemic also.

The The values of being Spark Student 😊

- Networking,
- Attending conferences and training sessions,
- Apply for other related grants and programs.

Why Spark

- Spark opens a window for all refugee students in the middle east and supports them to reach different opportunities including establishing project or finding an employment chance
- Spark hasn't stopped only with monthly scholarships but they went far with personal skills as well as soft/hard skills and of course language skills too

Last but not least

- I totally engage all decision-makers and donors to look to these successful experiences where there was such a mixing between learning and developing the skills, especially for refugees
- Refugees come from different environments so it is not easy to enter the ecosystem without support.
- After Covid and the global problems and its impact on the refugees who are the most affected category we have to create more opportunities and design appropriate programs for them

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