

Director Guita Hourani Presents a Paper at the International Conference on “Employment Strategies: A Framework for Development”

By LERC Staff

Youth employment and mobility in the Mediterranean Sea Basin is of great concern to the European Union and its member countries. This concern was the theme for an international workshop organized by the Lebanese Development Network, DAEDALUS partner in Lebanon, at the Crowne Plaza in Beirut, April 16 & 17 – 2015.

DAEDALUS, the “euro-meDiterranean cAreer & Employment aDvisor portAl for the mobiLity of yoUng residentS”, is a European Union project that aims at enhancing the employment opportunities of the youth of the Mediterranean Sea Basin. DAEDALUS project is being carried out by seven countries: Greece, Lebanon, Tunisia, Italy, Palestine, Cyprus, and Egypt.



Dr. G. Hourani, April 2015, Crowne Plaza Hotel Beirut

Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center and Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science at Notre Dame University-Louaizé, presented a lecture entitled Migration and Brain Drain in Lebanon.

Dr. Hourani began by contextualizing her topic “brain drain which is the loss of skilled intellectual and technical labor through their movement to more favorable geographic, economic, or professional environments is an epidemic in Lebanon and other MENA countries.”

She said that Lebanon suffers from brain drain and that it is estimated that about 4 out of 10 highly educated Lebanese reside in an OECD country and that Lebanon is the largest sending country to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) followed by Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Palestine, Jordan and Iraq.”

In regard to the About the destination of the brain drain from Lebanon, Dr. Hourani emphasized that the majority of the Lebanese intellectuals, medical doctors, innovators, and the like emigrate to the USA and Canada.



She also discussed the push and pull factors and stressed that the main reason remain, in her opinion, the lack of political and physical security in Lebanon. She also touched upon the large transfers that Lebanon receives as remittances from its migration and the importance of these transfers to families residing in Lebanon. However, she emphasized that, although Lebanon cannot provide jobs to all those who are entering the job market and that globalization plays an important fact in the mobility of young people, migration from Lebanon should not become an epidemic which what it is today. She agrees that “the negative effects of brain drain outweigh the positive effects” and that a national policy should be developed and serious interventions should take place in order to reduce this drain and to keep for Lebanon its ability to compete economically.

For those interested, DAEDALUS’s main product “is a technologically enhanced tool conceived for meeting the needs of young residents seeking employment in the labour markets of the Mediterranean Sea Basin by enhancing their career and business opportunities and matching their qualifications and skills with existing needs in neighboring countries.”

The Daedalus portal “allows young people, entrepreneurs, ICT companies, online business, regional and local employment associations to enter a cross-border platform where matching

labour market demand and supply and meeting a valuable pool of young people and professionals across the Mediterranean area.”