جامعة بيروت العربية
BEIRUT ARAB UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



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BEIRUT ARAB UNIVERSITY

SDG 17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

THE IMPACT RANKINGS INDICATOR 17.2.5

Collaboration with NGOs and Businesses to Tackle the SDGs

Student volunteering programmes | Research programmes | Development of educational resources

Executive assessment

Beirut Arab University should answer YES to Indicator 17.2.5 for all three specified pathways. The evidence shows university-level collaboration with civil-society organisations, humanitarian organisations, professional and sector bodies, and industry-facing innovation partners. The collaborations are implemented through BAU units including the Human Rights Center, Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Architecture - Design and Built Environment, and Student Activities.

The strongest student-volunteering evidence is the institutional Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector Club at BAU, which engages students in community service, awareness and training. This is reinforced by the 2024 NGO Fair involving approximately 20 NGOs, a 2026 child-rights programme with Save the Children that advances participants toward a youth-led community initiative, and youth-led post-Beirut-blast outreach delivered with the NGO Himaya Daeem Aataa and international organisations.

The strongest research-programme evidence is BAU's three-year memorandum with the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, covering applied environmental and urban research, GIS, training and technical exchange, followed by a documented urban co-production session and student sustainability workshop. BAU also connected students and researchers to the LIRA Innovation Program 2025, an academia-industry applied-research pathway delivered by IRALEB under Lebanon Innovate, and signed a five-year cooperation agreement with the Lebanon Green Building Council covering research, development and building decarbonisation.

The strongest educational-resource evidence is the BAU-coordinated Erasmus+ MORALE project. Its verified outputs include modernised curricula, lifelong-learning courses, training activity and an NGO policy paper. A second concrete example is the educational game board and heritage models designed by BAU's Faculty of Architecture for a workshop with 30 children in partnership with Himaya Daeem Aataa, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNODC.

Evidence has been screened conservatively. Formal agreements are presented as institutional mechanisms, not as proof that every proposed activity has already been delivered. UN agencies are identified as international organisations rather than NGOs. Engagement events are not treated as proof that every participant volunteered, and planned student initiatives are labelled as planned until implementation evidence is published.

Submission pathway	Assessment	Principal evidence
Student volunteering programmes	MET	Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector Club; Save the Children child-rights initiative pathway; 8th NGO Fair; youth-led post-blast outreach
Research programmes	MET	Hariri Foundation research memorandum and urban co-production; LIRA academia-industry programme; Lebanon Green Building Council research framework
Development of educational resources	MET	Erasmus+ MORALE curricula, lifelong-learning courses and policy paper; BAU-designed child-learning materials; curriculum-development mechanisms
University as a body	MET	Institutional centres, faculties, deanships, clubs and formal agreements signed or hosted by BAU
Public, current evidence	MET	Original BAU and partner records dated 2021-2026, supplemented by continuing institutional programme pages

Original evidence Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector Club at BAU | Official university programme page | Ongoing

Original evidence BAU 8th NGO Fair | Official university event record | 29 April 2024

Original evidence Training Workshop on Child Rights in Humanitarian Contexts | Official university activity record | 14 July 2026

Original evidence BAU-Hariri Foundation memorandum | Official university agreement record | 19 March 2025

Original evidence Erasmus+ MORALE Final Conference | Official project record | 12-14 July 2023

Assessment scope and evidence method

Indicator test applied

For this report, a qualifying example must show: first, a BAU institutional unit or formal programme; second, collaboration with an NGO, civil-society organisation, business or industry-facing partner; third, a documented activity or mechanism that addresses one or more SDGs; and fourth, a clear connection to at least one of the three pathways specified by THE.

Test	How it is evidenced	What is excluded
Institutional participation	BAU centre, deanship, faculty, club or formal agreement is named	Personal activity with no demonstrated BAU role
Eligible external partner	NGO, foundation, humanitarian body, professional/sector organisation or industry pathway	A government or UN partner counted alone as an NGO or business

Test	How it is evidenced	What is excluded
SDG purpose	Health, rights, inclusion, urban sustainability, climate action, innovation, education or partnership outcomes	Generic networking with no sustainable-development purpose
Delivery pathway	Volunteering, research or co-development/delivery of an educational resource	Publicity alone, with no programme or output
Evidence quality	Dated original record, formal agreement, programme page, project output or partner guide	Unsupported narrative or a generic home page

Partner classification

The evidence base includes NGOs and civil-society partners such as Save the Children, Himaya Daeem Aataa, Madanyat, the Hariri Foundation and participating organisations at the NGO Fair. The Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector provides a humanitarian volunteering structure. IRALEB operates an industry-facing research and innovation pathway, while the Lebanon Green Building Council is treated here as an external sector organisation. UN agencies are listed only as co-partners and are not relied upon to satisfy the NGO/business requirement by themselves.

Evidence window

The core event and output evidence falls between 2021 and 2026. The continuing Red Cross club is included because the official BAU page describes an ongoing institutional mechanism, even though the club's establishment predates the reporting window. Formal agreements are included for their stated duration and institutional relevance.

Evidence strength

Evidence level	Function in this report	Examples
Completed output	Primary proof that collaboration produced activity or a resource	MORALE outputs; NGO Fair; post-blast child workshop; urban co-production session
Ongoing programme	Primary proof of structured student participation	Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector Club
Formal agreement	Proof of institutional commitment and delivery framework	Hariri Foundation; Lebanon Green Building Council; Al-Irshad and Al-Islah Association
Pipeline activity	Evidence that BAU connects participants to research or youth-action opportunities	LIRA 2025; Save the Children next-phase initiative; Madanyat action plans
Supporting context	Evidence of wider integration but not used alone for the YES answer	ARSFC 2026; BAU Research Reports

Student volunteering programmes

BAU provides more than one route through which students engage with civil society. The evidence ranges from a continuing humanitarian club to time-bound NGO projects and an institutional NGO engagement fair. Together, these show recruitment, preparation, community service, advocacy and progression from training into student-led action.

Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector Club at BAU

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit
Ongoing	Humanitarian organisation and international movement	BAU Student Activities, Beirut Campus

Verified activity. The official BAU page describes a student club whose members undertake community service, awareness campaigns and training. It sets out a structured entry process involving an interview, a two-day camp, probation and a general assembly. Training topics include humanitarian principles, health, disaster preparedness, leadership, communication and conflict resolution. The page also records participation in national and international programmes and exchange within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Relevance to Indicator 17.2.5. This is direct evidence of an institutionalised student-volunteering programme with a humanitarian organisation. It supports SDGs 3, 4, 10, 11, 16 and 17 through health awareness, preparedness, community service and youth capacity building.

Original evidence Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector Club | Original evidence | Ongoing

Lebanese Red Cross youth Sector – BAU Club

About the Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector

The Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector Club at Beirut Arab University is a club for motivated students who want to make a difference in their community. Our goal is to engage in community services, including awareness campaigns, training, and other relevant events, that help students become active members of their community and have a positive impact on society. We reach out to the public and provide free services. We believe that volunteering not only benefits the community but also helps students acquire valuable life skills and knowledge. We reach out to the public and provide free services.

Joining the Club

If you want to join the Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector Club, here's how it works:

Sign Up:

Start by filling out an online application with your personal information so we can get in touch with you.

General Meeting:

Attend a meeting where you can learn more about the Lebanese Red Cross and choose which unit you'd like to join:

- Emergency and Medical Services

- Disaster Management Sector
- Youth Sector

Interviews:

If you apply for the Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector, you'll have an interview. We'll assess your knowledge of volunteerism, the youth sector, and the Red Cross's principles. We'll also talk about general knowledge and your cultural background. If the youth sector isn't the right fit for you, we'll help you find another suitable option.

Camps:

Once accepted, you'll attend a 2-day camp to learn more about our rules and regulations. Afterward, you'll be on probation for 1 year. During this time, you'll work toward becoming a general assembly member, representing the Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector with pride.

History

The Lebanese Red Cross Youth Sector Club was founded in 2014 at the Beirut campus. It all started with a meeting between the head of the Student Activities Department, the youth sector, and the Beirut local committee of the Red Cross. They discussed the possibility of creating a Red Cross Youth Sector at Beirut Arab University. After several meetings and discussions about Red Cross rules and principles, dedicated volunteers were elected to join the BAU Red Cross Club.

Community Service

But our work doesn't stop there. We also give back to the community through awareness campaigns, training, and other events. We reach out to the public and provide our services for free. We believe in making a positive impact on society.

Training and Programs

Our youth volunteers participate in various training courses to enhance their skills. These courses include topics like humanitarian principles, health, disaster preparedness, leadership, communication, and conflict resolution.

We're also involved in different programs, both nationally and internationally:

National Programs:

We run programs that cater to the needs of our community, focusing on humanitarian principles, youth and health, and environmental and health awareness.

International Programs:

We exchange expertise and skills with different parts of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This includes organizing or participating in conferences, workshops, camps, seminars, and training sessions as part of the public strategy of the Lebanese Red Cross.

Child-rights training and youth-led community initiative

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit
14 July 2026	NGO: Save the Children; donor support from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	BAU Human Rights Center

Verified activity. BAU and Save the Children delivered a three-day workshop on child rights in humanitarian contexts. The training addressed legal frameworks, advocacy, accountability and practical humanitarian principles. The official record states that the next phase requires participating students to design and implement a youth-led community initiative addressing child-rights issues.

Relevance to Indicator 17.2.5. The programme creates a defined progression from NGO-delivered learning to student-led community action. It is relevant to SDGs 4, 10, 16 and 17. Because the source describes the community initiative as the next phase, this report treats it as a structured programme commitment rather than claiming completion of the initiative.

Original evidence Training Workshop on Child Rights in Humanitarian Contexts | Original evidence | 14 July 2026

Training Workshop on Child Rights in Humanitarian Contexts From Legal Frameworks to Reality







The Human Rights Center at Beirut Arab University, in collaboration with Save the Children and with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), organized a 3-day training workshop on child rights between legal norms and contextual realities.

The training introduced students to international and national child rights frameworks, children's rights in humanitarian settings and armed conflict, advocacy, accountability, and humanitarian principles. Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, participants also explored how youth can contribute to monitoring, awareness-raising, and community engagement while promoting safe, rights-based responses.

As the next phase of the project, participating students will design and implement a youth-led community initiative that addresses child rights issues, translating the knowledge acquired during the training into practical action and strengthening their role as active responders within their communities.

Eighth NGO Fair

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit
29 April 2024	Approximately 20 NGOs; Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO; student clubs; UNODC Lebanon	BAU Human Rights Center

Verified activity. The fair used the theme 'Bridging Gaps, Celebrating Human Rights, and Advancing the SDGs.' It brought approximately 20 NGOs to BAU and gave students a platform to explore civic activism and engagement opportunities. BAU's UNESCO, Debate and Red Cross clubs participated, and students from three UNESCO Associated Schools were also involved.

Relevance to Indicator 17.2.5. The fair is an institutional gateway connecting students with NGOs and SDG-oriented civic opportunities. It supports SDGs 4, 10, 16 and 17. The evidence establishes access and engagement; it does not imply that every attendee subsequently volunteered.

Original evidence BAU 8th NGO Fair | Original evidence | 29 April 2024

BAU 8th NGO Fair Bridging gaps celebrating rights and advancing the SDGs






The 8th NGO Fair organized by the Human Rights Center in collaboration with the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO took place on Monday 29 April 2024, from 10 am to 3 pm at Beirut campus. It served as a crucial platform for students to explore various forms of activism in Lebanon. This year’s theme “Bridging Gaps, Celebrating Human Rights, and Advancing the SDGs” aimed to highlight the importance of human rights and sustainable development goals, with the participation of approximately 20 NGOs along with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – Lebanon (UNODC), as well as the BAU UNESCO Club, DSC Club and Red Cross Club.

And as part of the collaboration with the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO, secondary cycle students from 3 UNESCO ASPnet schools attended the Fair: Heritage College, Hariri High School 3, and Makassed Omar Bin Al-Khattab College.

Youth-led post-Beirut-blast community workshop

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit
27 May 2021	NGO: Himaya Daeem Aataa; international organisations: UNESCO, UNFPA and UNODC	BAU Faculty of Architecture - Design and Built Environment

Verified activity. Within a youth-led rehabilitation effort supporting communities affected by the Beirut blast, BAU and its partners delivered a workshop for 30 children in Karantina Park. BAU's Faculty of Architecture designed an educational game board, spatial-mapping exercise and heritage models through which children explored their neighbourhood and cultural environment.

Relevance to Indicator 17.2.5. This evidence combines youth-led community engagement with the creation and use of educational materials. It addresses community recovery, learning, wellbeing and cultural heritage, connecting to SDGs 3, 4, 11, 16 and 17.

Original evidence BAU partnership workshop for 30 children | Original evidence | 27 May 2021

BAU in partnership with UNESCO UNFPA and UNODC organized on the 18th of May a workshop targeting 30 children and in collaboration with NGO Himaya Daeem Aataa







Within the framework of “Youth-Led Rehabilitation Efforts to Support Local Communities Affected By the Beirut Blast" initiative, BAU in partnership with UNESCO, UNFPA and UNODC organized on the 18th of May a workshop targeting 30 children and in collaboration with NGO “Himaya Daeem Aataa”. This workshop took place in Karantina Park and aimed to develop children’s emotional attachment to the territory of Beirut Blast through activating their participation in the construction of cognitive maps by playing with spatial maps strategically designed in a game environment. The day started with an explanation of the content of the game board designed by BAU- the faculty of Architecture-Design & Built Environment. The children also explored the large-scale model of selected heritage buildings in Beirut. Then, each child created his own neighborhood using the materials of the game board including folded papers and landscape elements.

Student leadership pipelines with civil society

Her Civic Quest. In partnership with Madanyat, BAU's Human Rights Center trained 50 students in leadership, gender justice, political participation, environmental advocacy and conflict resolution. The closing record documents student action plans and identifies three student-led initiatives for implementation, including a recycling and sustainability initiative. This is strong evidence of an NGO-supported pipeline from education to action; implementation should be supported by a later completion record when available.

Original evidence Her Civic Quest Closing Event | Official university activity record | 2 July 2025

Her Civic Quest Closing Event







The Human Rights Center at Beirut Arab University, in partnership with Madanyat hosted the closing event of "Her Civic Quest" initiative, a journey that began in November and empowered 50 BAU students through intensive, hands-on training in leadership, gender justice, political participation, environmental advocacy, and conflict resolution.

The event brought together a diverse audience of students, parents, experts, and partners, and began with a video highlighting both the journey and the impact of the project, followed by reflections from student participants and presentations of their proposed action plans.

Two panel discussions, moderated by Ms. Sandy Hayek, addressed the themes:

- "From campus to community: Youth leading the way in environmental sustainability and political engagement"
- "From campus to inclusive leadership: Youth driving gender equality and women's empowerment"

The panels featured student voices alongside expert speakers, such as Dr. Josephine Zgheib, governance and local development expert, and Me. Manar Zeaiter, lawyer and legal advisor, who offered valuable insights on civic responsibility and inclusive leadership.

Participants then presented their student-led initiatives that will be implemented in Fall 2025, each grounded in fundamental human rights values:

- Her Vision, Our Mission – promoting the right to a healthy environment through recycling and sustainability.
- Empowering Leadership – advancing the right to participation through a democratic student representation system.
- Forus – فرص – upholding the right to equality, dignity, and well-being by supporting and empowering women students at BAU.

We Lead for Peace. The first phase of this Madanyat-BAU Human Rights Center project trained students in mediation, advocacy, alliance-building and leadership, with participants expected to create a university initiative. It supports SDGs 4, 16 and 17 and provides additional evidence of a structured youth-action pathway.

Original evidence Phase 1 of We Lead for Peace | Official university activity record | 22 February 2025

Phase 1 of We Lead for Peace Project







Phase 1 of the "We Lead for Peace" project kicked off at Beirut Arab University – Tripoli Campus. Implemented by Madanyat in collaboration with the Human Rights Center at BAU, this initiative seeks to empower students from various with advanced skills in mediation, advocacy, alliance-building, and leadership, enhancing their role in decision-making and public life. Through 4 transformative phases, participants will develop their leadership potential and create an initiative within their university.

Assessment of the volunteering pathway

Requirement	Evidence	Finding
Student participation	Student club membership, formal training, civic fair participation and student action plans	Verified
NGO collaboration	Lebanese Red Cross, Save the Children, Himaya Daeem Aataa, Madanyat and NGO Fair participants	Verified
Programme structure	Recruitment and training, multi-day workshops, phased initiatives and recurring institutional activity	Verified
SDG contribution	Health, education, inclusion, community resilience, rights, peace and partnership	Verified
Outcome precision	Completed service activities are separated from opportunities and planned next phases	Appropriate

Research programmes with NGOs and external-sector partners

BAU's research collaborations show three complementary models: a formal applied-research partnership with a civil-society foundation; an academia-industry innovation pathway that converts university research into prototypes and market-oriented projects; and a sector agreement covering research, curriculum development and decarbonisation.

Hariri Foundation partnership for sustainable development

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit
19 March 2025	Civil-society foundation	Institutional agreement signed by Beirut Arab University

Verified activity. BAU and the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development signed a three-year memorandum covering exchange of knowledge, expertise and technical support in scientific and practical research, sustainable development, climate action and the circular economy. The framework includes environmental and urban applied research, geographic information systems, training, and support for projects and theses.

Relevance to Indicator 17.2.5. The agreement directly establishes an NGO-linked research programme relevant to SDGs 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 17. Its stated duration and defined research fields provide stronger institutional evidence than a one-off event.

Original evidence Memorandum of Understanding between BAU and Hariri Foundation | Original evidence | 19 March 2025

Memorandum of Understanding Between Beirut Arab University and Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development





Beirut Arab University, represented by its President, Professor Wael Nabil Abdel Salam, signed a three-year cooperation agreement with the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, represented by H.E. Mrs. Bahia Hariri. The agreement aims to build an interactive relationship of openness and constructive cooperation. It also reflects a shared belief in the importance of empowering youth to face future challenges, fostering values such as giving, justice, love, a culture of dialogue, openness, and a spirit of learning and creativity. These values are essential for playing a leading role in building the country and society.

The signing ceremony was attended by the President of the Board of Trustees of the University, Dr. Ammar Houry; BAU Secretary-General, Dr. Omar Houri; Dean of Academic Affairs and International Relations, Professor Sobhi Abou Shaheen; Consultant at the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, Dr. Adham Kobrosly; and the Chief Executive Officer of the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, Dr. Rubina Abu Zeinab.

Mrs. Bahia Hariri stated: "This university holds a special place in Rafik Hariri's heart. It has had a significant impact due to his recognition of the importance of Beirut Arab University. The university was founded to promote educational justice, enabling students who faced numerous challenges in gaining admission to other institutions. We are grateful to Egypt for its support in establishing this university."

She continued: "As a foundation, we are deeply concerned with the new generation and how to steer them away from extremism and violence. Rafik Hariri believed that the state is a societal decision and a partnership among equals. For us, the university symbolizes justice, and we feel as safe here as we do in our own homes. Despite the crises it has faced, the university has remained strong and open."

Mrs. Hariri also emphasized that "education is the solution to all crises, and change can only be achieved through education. This agreement aims to systematize our efforts and enable a greater number of students to join Beirut Arab University while collaborating on initiatives that advance the interests of education."

In his remarks, the President of Beirut Arab University, Professor Wael Nabil Abdel Salam, said: "Beirut Arab University is a jewel in the crown of the relationship between Egypt and Lebanon. It is the only institution dedicated solely to knowledge, free from politics and conflicts. Our focus is on education, and we have begun aligning our programs with the needs of the labor market. Although the challenges today are greater than ever, given Lebanon's current circumstances, knowledge remains our most powerful weapon."

He added: "Institutions must continue to exist and operate. The university will continue to support all institutions that share our vision and values. Partnerships between the university and other institutions will elevate the university's standing. As the labor market evolves, our role will be to meet the needs of our partners and, in turn, adapt by introducing new disciplines that align with technological advancements and market demands."

The agreement outlines a commitment to promoting the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and technical support in the fields of scientific and practical research, sustainable development, climate action, and the circular economy. It also establishes a joint framework for training programs, environmental and urban applied research, and geographic information systems. Additionally, the agreement supports scientific and applied research through projects and university thesis.

Urban co-production and student sustainability work

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit
10 September 2025	Hariri Foundation; academic, research, private-sector, civil-society and local-authority participants	Faculty of Architecture - Design and Built Environment

Verified activity. A joint session in Saida under the theme 'Strategic Urban Planning and Local Policies' documented collaboration across academic, research, private/civil-society and public sectors. The official record links the partnership to applied-research exchange and heritage-restoration studies in Old Saida. Fifteen students participated in an Urban Sustainability Workshop and presented neighbourhood and street-design projects for inclusive, smart, nature-positive and active cities.

Relevance to Indicator 17.2.5. This is implementation evidence under the wider partnership: applied urban inquiry, student research and public-facing design outputs connected to SDGs 9, 11, 13 and 17.

Original evidence Urban Co-Production joint session | Original evidence | 10 September 2025

Urban Co Production A Joint Session between the Hariri Foundation and Beirut Arab University







The Hariri Foundation – National State Academy, in partnership with Beirut Arab University’s Faculty of Architecture – Design and Built Environment, organized a joint session under the title “Urban Co-

Production” at the Academy’s headquarters in Saida. The event was held within the framework of the program “Strategic Urban Planning and Local Policies.”

The session explored avenues of collaboration between academic, research, private, and civil society institutions with local authorities and the public sector in the field of Urban Co-Production, aiming to develop participatory and innovative development solutions that respond to ongoing urban transformations.

Participants included Mrs. Bahia Hariri, President of the Hariri Foundation, and Professor Hassan Abdel Salam, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture – Design and Built Environment at BAU, along with Saida’s Mayor, Engineer Mostafa Hijazi, members of the municipal council, local stakeholders, Dr. Rouba Abou Zainab, Executive Director of the Hariri Foundation, and the Foundation’s team. From BAU, attendees included Professor Sobhi Abou Shahine, Dean of Academic Affairs and International Relations, Professor Hania Al Nakkash, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Projects, Mrs. Zina Ariss, Director of Public Relations and Communications, as well as faculty members and students from the Faculty of Architecture.

Speaking on behalf of the National State Academy, Engineer Mohammad Hariri, Director of Research and Development at the Hariri Foundation, emphasized that the program reflects the Academy’s mission to strengthen active citizenship by developing participatory mechanisms that place academic and civic work at the core of urban governance.

In her remarks, Mrs. Bahia Hariri highlighted the Foundation’s longstanding commitment since its establishment to empowering Lebanese citizens in achieving sustainable human development and fostering national identity through partnerships among civil society, academia, and modern state institutions. She traced the Foundation’s decades-long collaboration with BAU, including scholarships, dialogue platforms, and applied research exchange, in addition to joint initiatives with the Faculty of Architecture on studies and heritage restoration projects in Old Saida. Hariri affirmed that this session marks the beginning of a renewed path of cooperation serving the city’s present and future.

Professor Hassan Abdel Salam, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture – Design and Built Environment at BAU, described the partnership with the Hariri Foundation as one that has yielded tangible outcomes reflecting collaboration, innovation, knowledge-sharing, and a shared commitment to shaping forward-looking policies for cities and urban communities.

The session also featured presentations by Dr. Hiba Mohsen, Assistant Dean of the Faculty, who showcased the capabilities and initiatives of the Faculty’s Urban Lab, and Engineer Jihad Al-Akkoum, Coordinator of the Strategic Urban Planning and Local Policies program at the National State Academy, who outlined the program’s goals, training components, and the Urban Sustainability Workshop held with the participation of 15 students.

Concluding the event, BAU students presented proposed design projects for several neighborhoods and streets in Saida, focusing on three themes: inclusive and smart cities, nature-positive cities, and active and vibrant cities. The presentations were followed by an open discussion with attendees and contributions from participants.

LIRA Innovation Program 2025

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit
10 March 2025	IRALEB and industry-facing partners under the EU-funded Lebanon Innovate initiative	BAU Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies

Verified activity. BAU hosted IRALEB representatives to present the LIRA Innovation Program 2025 and encourage students and researchers to apply. BAU's record describes the programme as a route for converting research ideas into applied projects and strengthening academia-industry collaboration across agrifood, health, pharmaceuticals, ICT and creative industries. The programme guide describes funding, bootcamp, mentorship, incubation or acceleration, industrial challenge tracks and prototype or minimum-viable-product development.

Relevance to Indicator 17.2.5. This provides an institutional entry point to an external applied-research and business-engagement pipeline. It is relevant to SDGs 2, 3, 8, 9, 12 and 17. The evidence demonstrates BAU participation and access to the programme; it does not claim a BAU project won an award unless separately documented.

Original evidence BAU lecture on the LIRA Innovation Program 2025 | Original evidence | 10 March 2025

Original evidence LIRA Applicant Guide | Original programme guide | 2024-2025 programme cycle

Original evidence IRALEB profile | Institutional partner profile | Current

Original evidence Inside LIRA 2025's Innovation Surge | Lebanon Innovate programme report | 2025

Lecture LIRA Innovation Program 2025







The Deanship of Graduate Studies and Research hosted IRALEB Head of Executive Board, Engineer Ziad Chammas, and Executive Director of IRALEB Mrs. Fabienne Balaa to talk to BAU community about the LIRA Innovation Program 2025. The presenters discussed all details regarding eligibility and the application process, and appraised the University's strategic commitment to fostering innovative solutions that address the needs of Lebanon's labor market.

Students were encouraged to apply to the LIRA Innovation Program 2025 which is funded by the European Union and implemented under the "Lebanon Innovate" umbrella, as this program provides researchers with the opportunity to transform their innovative ideas into successful projects, enhancing the relationship between academia and the industrial sector. Executive Director Fabienne Balaa noted that applied research will target crucial sectors, including agriculture and healthcare, emphasizing the initiative's alignment with sustainable development goals.

LIRA Innovation Program



INTRODUCTION

The L.I.R.A Innovation Program 2024, launched by IRALEB, is a groundbreaking initiative supporting early-phase innovation for academic researchers and talented students. Focused on applied research projects in sectors like agrifood, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, ICT, and creative industries, the program aims to foster collaboration and develop impactful projects with real-world applications. With a legacy of over 25 years, L.I.R.A. national program with core mission to support youth and industrial advancements has been enhanced. This uplifting of the program conducted under the umbrella of "Lebanon Innovate" and funded by the "European Union" is empowering researchers to turn their innovative ideas into successful ventures or industrial solutions with the support of both Lebanese and European partners.



In the context of Lebanon Innovate, we added to our LIRA competition entrepreneurship components by providing YOU with not only financial support but also capacity-building training, acceleration, incubation, access to EU networks, mentorship, legal consultancy, and opportunities for collaboration with international partners.

TWO DISTINCT TRACKS

Empowering Lebanon's Academic Researchers for Industrial Impact

IRALEB is offering two distinct tracks to cater to your goals.

Track 1 targeting **Commercially Viable Innovations** is funded under Lebanon Innovate with a financial support of €50,000 allocated to 5 innovators engaged in the **creation of innovative startups or spinoffs**.

The LIRA program offers a range of benefits to participants. By joining, you will have the opportunity to receive financial support for your project up to €10,000, along with capacity-building training, acceleration, and incubation services.

How to engage?

Consult our website iraleb.org and call for projects to prepare the required information: description of your project, uniqueness, innovation, detailed design, budget, industrial application, expected deliverables, and virtual render.
Apply to LIRA through the online application portal from 10 till 29 February 2024.

LIRA Application form

Track 2 is dedicated to address real **Industrial Innovative Challenges developed in partnership with Industrialists**. IRALEB will be co-funding €15,000 for three high-caliber projects. These projects focusing on enhancing existing products, upgrading production lines, or developing entirely new production lines.

How to engage?

If your project is developed with an industrial partner, prepare the letter of engagement and required information (as previous) and start filling the application on the February 10.

Opportunity for Industrial Partnerships: If you are looking for an industrial partner: watch our teaser, start by filling the Call for interest form to choose your industrial partner. Iraleb will connect you with interested industrial partners matching your field. After reaching an agreement, join efforts to apply for LIRA funding supported by your industrialist and transform your industrial challenges into impactful solutions. The endorsement letter, specifying industrial contribution to the project is required.

Call for interest: industrial partnership

PHASES AND ACTIVITIES

Phase I: Capacity-building Hackathon [by IRALEB experts] (March 2024)
- **Objective:** Host 25 teams (2 per team) of innovators to address "Industry Challenges" with focus on Innovation Management, Commercialization, Creating Spin-Offs.
- **Activities:** Students and researchers participate in the "Innovation Olympics with a 5 days training. 10 ideas are selected for the following acceleration phase.

Phase II: Acceleration [by Berytech experts] (April - June, 2024)
- **Objective:** Empower 10 teams through a 25-hour acceleration bootcamp, emphasizing Market Validation, Commercialization, and IP Strategy.
- **Activities:** Tailored research acceleration support includes group coaching over 20 hours in three months. At the end, a professional screening committee selects 5 teams for incubation by Berytech. Acceleration is optional for track 2.

Phase IIIa: Incubation [by Berytech experts] (June - Oct, 2024)
- **Activities:** Incubation program provides technical assistance in developing business plans and prototypes. Support includes access to business and funding networks. Incubation is optional for innovators engaged in track 2.

Phase IIIb: Grants [by IRALEB] (June – October, 2024)
- **Financial Support:** LIRA Innovation Program allocates €50,000 for 5 to 7 researchers/innovators for developing prototypes and MVPs (track 1). IRALEB co-funds not less than €15,000 for three applied research projects addressing industrial challenges (track 2).
- **Reimbursements:** Issued based on the assessment of submitted official invoices and receipts, milestones, conditional on executing and demonstrating the functional prototype in the LIRA Forum.

Phase IV: Award Ceremony (November 2024)
- **Event:** Closing ceremony exhibits prototypes in the forum and awards special prizes.

IRALEB

RALEB (formerly known as LIRA program) is a Private Non-Governmental Organization registered in 16 November 2021 at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities since its inception in 1997, LIRA (Lebanese Industrial Research Achievements) program aims at providing university researchers with career opportunities that match their potential, in order to reduce the brain drain. Also, to support advancements in the Lebanese industrial sector leading to the promotion of competitiveness and productivity. So far, LIRA has officially partnered with 13 of the most well-known Lebanese universities and several leading local industries.

Inside LIRA 2025’s Innovation Surge: Bridging Ideas and Industry



It is always refreshing and hopeful to see students and academics bring their innovations to life. Despite the country’s chaos and instability, Lebanon has always had one steady resource: the creativity of its students, who for generations have continued to give back to the country and its people. Several new, potentially groundbreaking projects were pitched at the LIRA forum in October 2025, held at Le Royal Hotel in Dbayeh, reflecting an ecosystem that steadily translates academic curiosity into market-ready products.

LIRA’s competition, operating under the IRALEB umbrella, has for the past two years, been run in close partnership with Berytech as part of the EU-funded Lebanon Innovate program. It functions as an institutional pipeline where they scout university projects, graduate research and early-stage prototypes; expose them to industrial challenges; and shepherd selected teams through bootcamps. The Lebanon Innovate team then oversees acceleration and incubation so that ideas can mature into viable companies, providing both financial backing and strategic framework that enable promising projects to advance. In parallel, the IRALEB Board of Trustees is proposing a fund for projects that address industrial innovation challenges, a track that involves collaboration with industrial partners to enhance new products, upgrade production lines, or develop entirely new lines of production.

The selection process remains rigorous and pragmatic. Outreach to universities yields dozens of applications; those shortlisted enter a focused bootcamp and pitch rounds. From roughly 89 initial

submissions this year, 10 teams advanced to the live pitching stage and a smaller cohort moved into an intensive acceleration phase with Berytech experts before the final jury decided the winners. That acceleration combines market validation, product development, and IP strategy with hands-on support to build investor-ready pitch decks. But the essence of the event was the projects themselves. The pitches were not mere concepts but technically specific solutions with clear industry pathways and ready prototypes. Recent projects showcased a wide spectrum of innovation, ranging from the scaling-up of a freekeh-based craft beer to valorize Lebanese agricultural heritage (Elmir Brewing Company), to a cactus-inspired photobioreactor enhancing microalgae productivity for sustainable biofuel and biomass applications. Health and deep-tech innovations featured prominently, including a non-invasive blood-based early cancer detection kit (Axi-Kit), a wearable sweat-based ionic health monitor (Ion Pulse), an AI and VR driven platform for objective ADHD screening (Cogny) and a non-invasive continuous glucose monitoring system integrated with automated insulin delivery (DiaBEAT). Additional projects addressed inclusive smart-home control through brain-computer interfaces (Brainterpreter), augmented-reality tools for environmental education and disaster preparedness (AR Sandbox), bio-fungicide production using indigenous yeast as an alternative to chemical pesticides, and the sustainable synthesis of green metallic nanoparticles with applications spanning healthcare, food safety, water treatment and industry.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the type of applied, high-impact research that LIRA and Lebanon Innovate are designed to support, where academically rigorous work is intentionally accelerated toward commercialization. The pitching sessions are deliberately short, intense and outcome-focused, aimed at turning academically sound work into commercial propositions.Berytech’s role is operational and catalytic: providing mentorship, incubation facilities, and network access that many university projects lack. Its collaboration with IRALEB continues to tackle a long-standing gap in Lebanon: the disconnect between academia and industry. For decades, research in Lebanese universities often stalled at the prototype stage, rarely reaching commercialization or industrial application. The LIRA framework, and now Lebanon Innovate, are working to close that gap. By creating structured pathways for collaboration, industry-sponsored challenges, and expert mentorship, the program allows students and researchers to view their projects through an entrepreneurial lens. In parallel, Lebanon Innovate helps researchers protect their intellectual property, connect with investors, and access incubation programs long after the competition ends.International funding and partnerships, including support from the European Union, have been crucial in enabling this pathway. Yet the true outcome comes from the meeting of immensely talented Lebanese students and industry stakeholders. What Berytech and IRALEB have done is channel external support into building long-term local capacity and innovation, rather than fostering dependency. Beyond financial backing, the program has opened doors to knowledge transfer, connecting Lebanese innovators to stakeholders, mentors, and technological hubs.

If there is a closing lesson from the LIRA Forum, it is structural rather than anecdotal. Talent and technical creativity have never been Lebanon’s shortage; what has been missing is the scaffolding to turn discovery into delivery. Programs like Lebanon Innovate, and institutions such as Berytech and IRALEB, are building that scaffolding step by step, a partnership that strengthens the local innovation pipeline and ensures that ideas conceived in Lebanese classrooms can mature into tangible products and startups. For a country battered by crisis, that slow construction may be the most hopeful thing of all.

Lebanon Green Building Council cooperation agreement

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit
21 May 2026	External green-building sector council	Five-year institutional cooperation agreement

Verified activity. The agreement covers green buildings, smart technologies and decarbonisation. Its scope includes joint research and development, specialised academic programmes, curriculum design, training courses, workshops and data exchange. The published record also provides for students to conduct research on retrofitting older buildings.

Relevance to Indicator 17.2.5. The agreement creates a multi-year framework spanning both research and educational-resource development, aligned with SDGs 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 17. As an agreement, it demonstrates institutional commitment; future submissions should add completed joint outputs as they are published.

Original evidence Cooperation Agreement between BAU and the Lebanon Green Building Council | Original evidence | 21 May 2026

Cooperation Agreement between Beirut Arab University and the Lebanon Green Building Council







Beirut Arab University, represented by its President Professor Wael Nabil Abdel Salam, has signed a five-year cooperation agreement with the Lebanon Green Building Council, represented by its President Engineer Dr. Samir Traboulsi. The agreement aims to enhance the academic and professional partnership in the sectors of green buildings, smart building technologies, and decarbonization in Lebanon.

The signing ceremony was attended by the President of the Board of Trustees of the Al-Bir wal-Ihsan Waqf and President of the University’ s Board of Trustees Dr. Ammar Houry, the Secretary General of the University Dr. Omar Houri, the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture – Design and Built Environment Professor Hassan Abdel Salam, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Professor Yehya Temsah, the Dean of Academic Affairs and International Relations Professor Soubhi Abou Chahine, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Projects Professor Hania Nakkach, and an accompanying delegation from the Lebanon Green Building Council.

During the ceremony, Dr. Ammar Houry emphasized the importance of this agreement, which aims to advance studies and research related to green buildings and sustainability. He noted that this step underscores the university's commitment to community service and its dedication to supporting environmental and developmental initiatives in Lebanon.

For his part, Dr. Samir Traboulsi highlighted the vital nature of this partnership given Lebanon's pressing need for specialized research in the field of green buildings. He announced that a number of students will be hosted to conduct research and studies on retrofitting Lebanon's older buildings and upgrading them according to modern sustainability standards. Furthermore, he stated that visits will be organized across the university's various campuses to conduct awareness lectures on the importance of green buildings and

their role in addressing energy and water challenges, enhancing comfort levels, and improving quality of life, thereby helping to shape a clearer vision for a more sustainable future.

In turn, the President of Beirut Arab University Professor Wael Abdel Salam, affirmed that the university's vision extends far beyond academic education to encompass serving society and contributing to vital issues. He explained that the current global direction focuses heavily on the importance of green buildings and environmental sustainability, pointing out that this agreement comes as a direct response to Lebanon's need for such studies in light of the environmental challenges and pollution the country faces.

The agreement outlines cooperation in developing specialized academic programs that align with labor market demands, collaborating on curriculum design, implementing research and development projects, and organizing training courses and awareness workshops related to green buildings.

Additionally, the agreement includes provisions for exchanging expertise and data between both parties, as well as working together to enhance opportunities for students and graduates to integrate into the job market, ultimately contributing to the transition toward environmental sustainability and sustainable development in Lebanon.

Research ecosystem evidence

ARSFC 2026. BAU's Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies convened researchers, policymakers, industry leaders and students with CNRS-Lebanon and the Hariri Foundation around sustainable health, social and financial sustainability, digital innovation and climate resilience. The event demonstrates the broader cross-sector environment in which BAU's partnership research is communicated and connected to policy and practice. It is supporting evidence rather than the sole basis for the research-programme finding.

Original evidence ARSFC 2026 Conference | Official university conference record | 6 October 2026

ARSFC 2026 Conference at Beirut Arab University Unites Research Innovation and Sustainability







Under the patronage of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform, H.E. Dr. Fadi Makki, the Deanship of Graduate Studies and Research at Beirut Arab University organized a scientific conference titled "Advancing Research for a Sustainable Future" (ARSFC 2026). Held in partnership with the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS-Lebanon) and the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, the event aimed to explore ways to transform research into practical solutions for a more sustainable future.

The opening ceremony was attended by MP Waddah Sadek; Secretary-General of CNRS-Lebanon Professor Chadi Abdallah; Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Waqf Al-Bir wal-Ihsan and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of BAU, Dr. Ammar Houry; President of the University Professor Wael Nabil Abdel Salam; Secretary-General of the University Dr. Omar Houri; military leaders; heads of professional syndicates; university presidents; faculty deans; university directors; as well as a select group of researchers, academics, policymakers, industry leaders, experts, and students.

The conference centered on four main themes:

- Sustainable Health
- Financial and Social Sustainability
- Innovation for a Sustainable and Digital Future
- Climate-Resilient Communities and the Future of Cities

The MC Ms. Dina Abou El-Ezz, opened the proceedings by emphasizing that sustainability is no longer limited to environmental issues; rather, it has evolved into a holistic concept encompassing health, society, the economy, technology, and future generations. She noted that scientific research serves as a fundamental pillar for understanding challenges, identifying root causes, developing evidence-based solutions, and converting knowledge into applications and policies capable of driving tangible impact.

In her address, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at BAU Professor Hania Nakkash, affirmed that sustainability is an integral part of the university's approach to education, scientific research, innovation, and community service, highlighting that BAU works to align its research projects with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Professor Nakkash explained that these goals are interconnected and that achieving them requires a comprehensive approach linking health, education, the environment, technology, and the economy. She highlighted the university’s focus on Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) through infrastructure development, renewable energy, and technology, as well as transforming research outcomes into applications and innovations that serve society.

For his part, Secretary-General of CNRS-Lebanon Professor Chadi Abdallah, stressed the importance of deploying scientific research and technology in service of society and the state. He outlined the Council's work in fields such as the environment, natural resources, water, agriculture, energy, natural hazards, and early warning systems, alongside efforts to translate research results into actionable policies and practical solutions.

Professor Abdallah noted that the successive crises in Lebanon particularly war and Israeli aggression have underscored the vital role of science in monitoring and documenting damage using satellite imagery, Geographic Information Systems, artificial intelligence, and field data.

President of BAU Professor Wael Nabil Abdel Salam, stated that sustainability is no longer just a slogan, but a responsibility and an imperative imposed by growing climate and economic challenges. He highlighted the pivotal role of universities in generating knowledge and developing scientific and applied solutions that serve society and build a sustainable future.

Professor Abdel Salam added that BAU has adopted the UN SDGs within its strategic vision, integrating them into scientific research, curricula, and campus practices. He also noted the implementation of a transition plan toward clean solar energy across university campuses as part of its drive toward a more sustainable university environment and promoting clean technology.

In turn, Minister of State for Administrative Reform Dr. Fadi Makki, emphasized that sustainable reform should not be tied to an individual, government, or minister, but must become a consistent approach to state governance grounded in effective institutions, clear systems, skilled human resources, data, and institutional memory capable of continuity and growth.

Dr. Makki explained that public sector development relies on three main pillars: enhancing governance and state structure, investing in human capital and expertise, and redesigning public services through digital transformation to respond to citizen needs.

He further stressed the importance of scientific research in supporting reform and public policymaking by transitioning from opinions and impressions to measurable evidence and results, affirming that universities

should serve as key partners to the state in analyzing challenges, testing solutions, and formulating knowledge-based policies.

At the conclusion of the opening session, Professor Wael Nabil Abdel Salam presented BAU commemorative shields to Minister Dr. Fadi Makki, CNRS-Lebanon Secretary-General Professor Chadi Abdallah, and the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, in appreciation of their participation, support, and efforts to advance scientific research and sustainable development.

Through expert presentations, participants addressed core challenges relating to healthcare resilience, economic and social sustainability, artificial intelligence and digital transformation, climate adaptation, sustainable cities, evidence-based policymaking, and bridging research with tangible real-world impact.

A major highlight of the ARSFC 2026 conference was the official launch of the BAU Youth Sustainability Club, established to provide students with a platform to play an active role in sustainability, research, innovation, and community action.

The conference concluded with a call to strengthen collaboration among academia, the public sector, and the private sector, with a shared focus on moving from knowledge to action, and from action to achieving measurable impact. This message was the core theme of a high-level panel discussion that explored ways to strengthen the linkages in Lebanon between scientific research, policy, implementation mechanisms, and community needs.

Institutional research reporting. BAU's Research Report 2024-2025 describes an institutional shift toward industry-integrated research and identifies clinical, industrial and professional collaborations within an SDG-linked research framework. This supports the coherence of the individual partnership records, while the dated agreements and project pages remain the primary evidence used for the indicator.

Original evidence BAU Research Reports | Official university research portal | Current report index

Original evidence BAU Research Report 2024-2025 | Official university report | 2025-2026 publication

Assessment of the research pathway

Dimension	Verified position	Evidence
Institutional mechanism	Multi-year formal agreements and a university research deanship	Hariri Foundation and LGBC agreements; LIRA session
NGO or external-sector participation	Civil-society foundation, innovation NGO/network, industry channels and sector council	Named partners and programme guides
Research content	Applied urban/environmental research, GIS, theses, retrofitting, decarbonisation, sector innovation	Agreement scopes and implemented session
Student integration	Student workshop projects, applications to LIRA and research on building retrofits	Urban co-production, LIRA and LGBC records

Dimension	Verified position	Evidence
SDG alignment	Health, innovation, sustainable cities, circular economy, climate and partnerships	SDGs 3, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 17

Development of educational resources

The evidence supports both completed educational outputs and formal mechanisms for future co-development. The MORALE project is the strongest completed programme because it produced curricula, lifelong-learning provision, training and a policy resource through a consortium that connected universities and NGOs. The post-blast workshop supplies a smaller but highly concrete example of BAU-designed teaching materials used in the community.

Erasmus+ MORALE project

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit
2019-31 July 2023; principal outputs within 2021-2023	International university and NGO consortium coordinated by BAU	BAU as project coordinator

Verified activity. MORALE strengthened cooperation among higher-education institutions, NGOs and public actors. Verified project outputs include modernised study programmes, courses and modules related to NGO management and operation, lifelong-learning courses for NGO professionals, training-of-trainers activity and a policy paper. The July 2023 final conference at BAU brought together NGO staff and volunteers, students, academics and partners to review outcomes and sustainability.

Relevance to Indicator 17.2.5. This is direct evidence that BAU and external partners developed educational resources for the NGO sector and university learners. Its themes include NGO governance, fundraising, impact assessment, social entrepreneurship and humanitarian response, contributing to SDGs 4, 8, 10, 16 and 17.

Original evidence Erasmus+ MORALE Final Conference | Original evidence | 2019-31 July 2023; principal outputs within 2021-2023

Original evidence MORALE at Beirut Arab University | Official university project summary | 13 June 2023

Original evidence MORALE NGO Policy Paper | Original project output | 2023

Original evidence Third Training of Trainers delivered by Four Elements NGO | Original project activity record | 15-17 June 2021

Original evidence MORALE project portal | Official university project portal | Project archive

ERASMUSplus MORALE Project Final Conference







Within the framework of the Erasmus+ Morale project, the Final Conference was held at Beirut Arab University from 12/07/2023 until 14/07/2023 at its venue in Beirut, with the presence of Dr. Ammar Houry, Chairman of Beirut Arab University Board of Trustees, academic and administrative staff members, Partner institutions representatives, staff and volunteers in non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and representatives of universities.

The objectives of the Final Conference are to bring together HEIs academics, researchers, students, NGOs staff to disseminate Morale Project outcomes:

- The main competences needed by the NGOs labour market sector
- The study programs being improved and the LLL courses being created
- The Policy paper about NGOs in Syria and Lebanon
- The impact, achievements and Sustainability of Morale Project.

Opening speeches were given by: the president of Beirut Arab University Prof Amr ElAdawi, represented by Prof. Sobhi Abou Chahine, Dean of Student Affairs (BAU), Coordinator of MORALE project, Prof. Aref Al Soufi, Coordinator for the National Erasmus+ Office in Lebanon, Mrs. Orla Colclough Project Officer at the Delegation of the European Union -Lebanon and Dr. Mazen Al Khatib, Acting Director General of Higher Education in Lebanon.

Dr. Moaz Sherfawi, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration at Arab International University in Syria, delivered a presentation, introducing the National Policy Paper on NGOs in Syria and Lebanon. This comprehensive policy paper serves as a guiding roadmap about the role of higher education in the development of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Syria and Lebanon policies and recommendations

The Lebanese and Syrian Project Teams shared their experiences, discussing the modules developed, outcomes achieved, and the overall impact of the Morale Project in both countries. Dr. Selim Mekdessi, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Lebanese University, highlighted Lebanon's progress, while Dr. Sulaiman Mousselli from Damascus University provided insights into Syria's experience with the project.

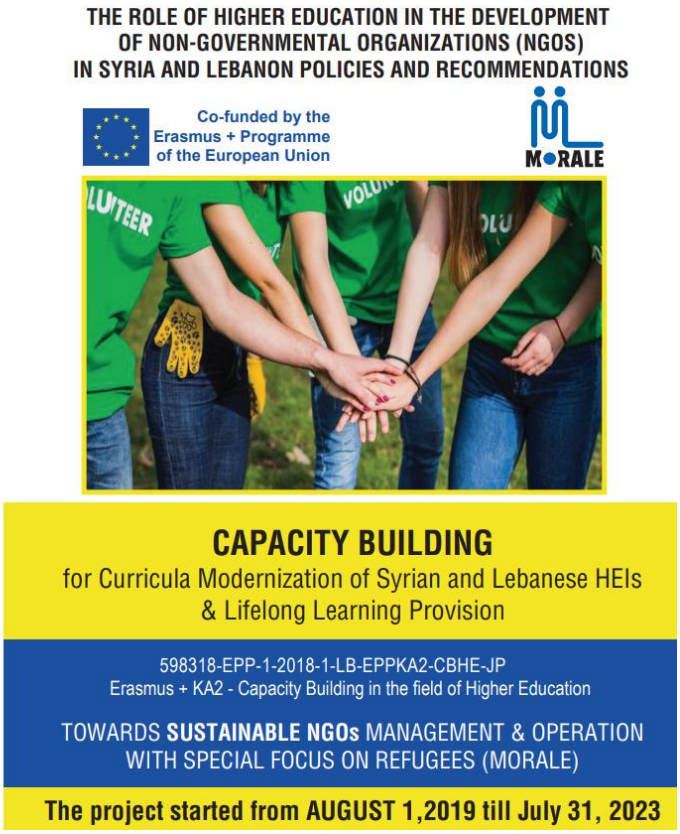
The conference concluded with a Q&A session, allowing participants to engage directly with the speakers, fostering knowledge sharing and collaborative discussions.

The Final Conference provided a platform to evaluate and showcase the impact, achievements, and sustainability of the Morale Project, facilitating discussions on its future directions and long-term viability future directions

As the event came to a close, participants left with a renewed commitment to furthering the impact of the project and its outcomes in the years to come.

THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) IN SYRIA AND LEBANON POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS





About **MORALE**

Morale Project is a structural project co-funded by the ERASMUS+ Programme of the European Union.

It aims at building the capacities of Syrian & Lebanese Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to train a new generation of high skilled professionals in Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) management & operation to enhance inclusion of refugees and the rebuilding of the South Mediterranean society.

MORALE Objectives

- To provide the NGOs labour market sector with high skilled professionals trained to effectively manage and operate in NGO environments by means of modernising Social & Behavioural Sciences related curricula and by offering lifelong courses targeting NGOs professionals at partner universities.
- To raise the awareness on the key role of HE in the provision of high level competences of the future NGOs professionals and strengthen inter-institutional cooperation among HEIs, NGOs and governments through targeted networking actions.

The Role of Higher Education in the Development of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Syria and Lebanon: Policy Recommendations

- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are increasingly recognized by governments as crucial supporters of development across various sectors. Syria and Lebanon acknowledge the importance of collaboration with NGOs, including funders, disadvantaged individuals, civil society sectors, and the wider public, to achieve economic, social, and environmental progress. During crises, such as the Syrian and Lebanese conflicts, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play an essential role in filling gaps in social services and meeting the basic needs of affected communities, including water, shelter, sanitation, health, and development.
- The MORALE Project, co-funded by the ERASMUS+ Program, aims to enhance the capacity of Syrian and Lebanese Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to train skilled professionals in NGO management and operation. The project's objectives are twofold: first, to equip the NGO labor market with highly competent professionals by modernizing curricula and offering lifelong courses at partner universities. Second, to raise awareness about the vital role of higher education in providing high-level competencies for future NGO professionals and promoting inter-institutional cooperation among HEIs, NGOs, and governments. This summary focuses on the latter objective, examining the role of higher education in supporting the development of NGOs in Syria and Lebanon.

The following recommendations are proposed to enhance the Lebanese and Syrian higher education systems in relation to NGO-related education:

Strengthen Collaboration: Encourage and foster the willingness among universities to establish strong relationships with NGOs. This can be achieved through establishing dedicated liaison offices or departments that facilitate partnerships and collaborations between universities and NGOs. In addition, mechanisms should be established for regular dialogue, joint planning, and monitoring of collaborative projects to ensure that the objectives are met and both parties benefit from the partnership.

Scholarships and Financial Support: Introduce scholarships or funding opportunities specifically targeted towards NGOs. This will help alleviate the financial burden on NGOs and encourage their participation in educational programs offered by universities.

Awareness Programs: Develop and implement comprehensive awareness programs for NGOs. These programs can include workshops, seminars, and conferences that focus on educating NGOs about various aspects of their operations, including best practices, governance, and sustainability.

Dissemination Activities: Support and encourage NGOs to engage in effective dissemination activities. Universities can provide training and resources to NGOs on how to effectively communicate their work to the public, donors, and other stakeholders. This can include workshops on public relations, social media management, and storytelling.

Curriculum Enhancement: Review and update the existing curricula to include NGO-related topics. Integrate courses or modules that cover areas such as NGO management, governance, fundraising, impact assessment, and social entrepreneurship. This will ensure that students, especially management graduates, acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to work effectively in the NGO sector.

Establish Specialized Programs: Recognizing the growing demand for NGO management expertise, consider establishing new bachelor's or master's programs in NGO management. These programs should provide comprehensive training on the specific challenges and dynamics of working in the NGO sector.

Lifelong Learning Courses: Develop lifelong learning (LLL) courses specifically designed for NGOs. These courses can cater to the professional development needs of NGO professionals, offering opportunities for up-skilling and staying updated with the latest trends and practices in the field.

Foster Partnerships: Encourage universities to actively seek joint activities and partnerships with NGOs. This can involve collaborative research projects, internships, field visits, and guest lectures by NGO practitioners. Such partnerships will bridge the gap between academia and the NGO sector, fostering mutual learning and exchange of knowledge.

www.moraleproject.org

جـامعة بيروت العربية
BEIRUT ARAB UNIVERSITY

M•RALE

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

MORALE PROJECT

Is a structural project co-funded by the ERASMUS+ Programme of the European Union. It aims at building the capacities of Syrian & Lebanese HEIs to train a new generation of high skilled professionals in NGOs management & operation to enhance inclusion of refugees and the rebuilding of the South Mediterranean society.

GET TO KNOW OUR PROJECT BETTER.
WATCH OUR MORALE VIDEO!

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Objective #1

To provide the NGO labour market sector with high skilled professionals trained to effectively manage and operate in NGO environments by means of modernising Social & Behavioural Sciences related curricula and by offering lifelong courses targeting NGOs professionals at partner universities.

Objective #2

To raise the awareness on the key role of HE in the provision of high level competences of the future NGOs professionals and strengthen inter-institutional cooperation among HEIs, NGOs and governments through targeted networking actions.

OUR PARTNERS

BAU-designed learning materials for children in Karantina

Date	Partner type	Institutional unit
27 May 2021	NGO: Himaya Daeem Aataa; UNESCO, UNFPA and UNODC as international co-partners	Faculty of Architecture - Design and Built Environment

Verified activity. BAU designed a game board for spatial mapping and prepared large-scale architectural heritage models. Thirty children used the materials to build cognitive maps, recognise landmarks and explore the cultural features of their neighbourhood after the Beirut blast.

Relevance to Indicator 17.2.5. The evidence shows actual development and community use of an educational resource, not merely delivery of a lecture. It supports inclusive learning, psychosocial recovery and awareness of cultural heritage under SDGs 3, 4, 11, 16 and 17.

Original evidence Youth-led rehabilitation workshop | Original evidence | 27 May 2021

BAU in partnership with UNESCO UNFPA and UNODC organized on the 18th of May a workshop targeting 30 children and in collaboration with NGO Himaya Daeem Aataa







Within the framework of “Youth-Led Rehabilitation Efforts to Support Local Communities Affected By the Beirut Blast" initiative, BAU in partnership with UNESCO, UNFPA and UNODC organized on the 18th of May a workshop targeting 30 children and in collaboration with NGO “Himaya Daeem Aataa”. This workshop took place in Karantina Park and aimed to develop children’s emotional attachment to the territory of Beirut Blast through activating their participation in the construction of cognitive maps by playing with spatial maps strategically designed in a game environment. The day started with an explanation of the content of the game board designed by BAU- the faculty of Architecture-Design & Built Environment. The children also explored the large-scale model of selected heritage buildings in Beirut. Then, each child created his own neighborhood using the materials of the game board including folded papers and landscape elements.

Jointly delivered training and future resource frameworks

Save the Children child-rights workshop. The three-day programme delivered with BAU's Human Rights Center provided students with structured learning on legal frameworks, child rights in humanitarian settings, advocacy and accountability. This is evidence of jointly delivered educational content. The source does not specify authorship of every training material, so this report does not claim that BAU alone developed the curriculum.

Original evidence Training Workshop on Child Rights in Humanitarian Contexts | Official university activity record | 14 July 2026

Training Workshop on Child Rights in Humanitarian Contexts From Legal Frameworks to Reality







The Human Rights Center at Beirut Arab University, in collaboration with Save the Children and with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), organized a 3-day training workshop on child rights between legal norms and contextual realities.

The training introduced students to international and national child rights frameworks, children's rights in humanitarian settings and armed conflict, advocacy, accountability, and humanitarian principles. Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, participants also explored how youth can contribute to monitoring, awareness-raising, and community engagement while promoting safe, rights-based responses.

As the next phase of the project, participating students will design and implement a youth-led community initiative that addresses child rights issues, translating the knowledge acquired during the training into practical action and strengthening their role as active responders within their communities.

Lebanon Green Building Council framework. The 2026 agreement explicitly includes joint specialised academic programmes, curriculum design, training courses and workshops, alongside research and data exchange. It therefore creates an auditable institutional mechanism for co-developing educational resources on green buildings and decarbonisation. Completed materials should be appended to future submissions when released.

Original evidence BAU-Lebanon Green Building Council cooperation agreement | Official university agreement record | 21 May 2026

Cooperation Agreement between Beirut Arab University and the Lebanon Green Building Council







Beirut Arab University, represented by its President Professor Wael Nabil Abdel Salam, has signed a five-year cooperation agreement with the Lebanon Green Building Council, represented by its President Engineer Dr. Samir Traboulsi. The agreement aims to enhance the academic and professional partnership in the sectors of green buildings, smart building technologies, and decarbonization in Lebanon.

The signing ceremony was attended by the President of the Board of Trustees of the Al-Bir wal-Ihsan Waqf and President of the University’ s Board of Trustees Dr. Ammar Houry, the Secretary General of the University Dr. Omar Houri, the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture – Design and Built Environment Professor Hassan Abdel Salam, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Professor Yehya Temsah, the Dean of Academic Affairs and International Relations Professor Soubhi Abou Chahine, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Projects Professor Hania Nakkach, and an accompanying delegation from the Lebanon Green Building Council.

During the ceremony, Dr. Ammar Houry emphasized the importance of this agreement, which aims to advance studies and research related to green buildings and sustainability. He noted that this step underscores the university's commitment to community service and its dedication to supporting environmental and developmental initiatives in Lebanon.

For his part, Dr. Samir Traboulsi highlighted the vital nature of this partnership given Lebanon's pressing need for specialized research in the field of green buildings. He announced that a number of students will be hosted to conduct research and studies on retrofitting Lebanon's older buildings and upgrading them according to modern sustainability standards. Furthermore, he stated that visits will be organized across the university's various campuses to conduct awareness lectures on the importance of green buildings and their role in addressing energy and water challenges, enhancing comfort levels, and improving quality of life, thereby helping to shape a clearer vision for a more sustainable future.

In turn, the President of Beirut Arab University Professor Wael Abdel Salam, affirmed that the university's vision extends far beyond academic education to encompass serving society and contributing to vital issues. He explained that the current global direction focuses heavily on the importance of green buildings and environmental sustainability, pointing out that this agreement comes as a direct response to Lebanon's need for such studies in light of the environmental challenges and pollution the country faces.

The agreement outlines cooperation in developing specialized academic programs that align with labor market demands, collaborating on curriculum design, implementing research and development projects, and organizing training courses and awareness workshops related to green buildings.

Additionally, the agreement includes provisions for exchanging expertise and data between both parties, as well as working together to enhance opportunities for students and graduates to integrate into the job

market, ultimately contributing to the transition toward environmental sustainability and sustainable development in Lebanon.

Al-Irshad and Al-Islah Association protocol. BAU's 2026 cooperation protocol with the charitable association provides for joint academic and educational activities through the Maharat Development Center, including health and social awareness, workshops, field training, psychosocial support and crisis response. It is included as a current enabling framework, not as a substitute for completed-output evidence.

Original evidence BAU cooperation protocol with Al-Irshad and Al-Islah Association | Official university protocol record | 8 October 2026

Beirut Arab University Signs Cooperation Protocol with Al Irshad and Al Islah Association





Beirut Arab University represented by its President, Professor Wael Nabil Abdel Salam, signed a one-year cooperation protocol with the Al-Irshad and Al-Islah Islamic Charitable Association, represented by its President, Eng. Ibrahim Takoush. The agreement aims to strengthen the partnership between both institutions and foster collaboration across academic, educational, health, and social fields, thereby empowering youth, developing their capabilities, and serving the community.

The signing ceremony was attended by BAU Secretary-General Dr. Omar Houri, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Professor Hania Nakkach, Director of Admissions Mrs. Roula Alayli, Director of Registration Mr. Ghassan Hamdan, alongside an accompanying delegation from the Al-Irshad and Al-Islah Association.

Under the terms of the protocol, both parties will engage in joint academic and educational activities, as well as execute collaborative initiatives and competitions between the Sociology Department at the Faculty of Human Sciences and the association’ s Maharat Development Center.

Furthermore, the protocol provides university scholarships for students affiliated with the association in accordance with BAU's regulations, admission requirements, and financial aid policies. It also encompasses joint efforts in health and social awareness, organizing activities and workshops, exchanging expertise, offering field training, providing psychosocial support for youth, and coordinating emergency and crisis response initiatives.

This protocol underscores the importance of integrating efforts between the university and the association to serve students, youth, and the broader community, paving the way for joint initiatives with meaningful academic, humanitarian, and societal impact.

Assessment of the educational-resource pathway

Resource type	Verified evidence	Status

Resource type	Verified evidence	Status
Curricula and modules	MORALE modernised study programmes and courses; LGBC agreement provides for joint curriculum design	Completed and continuing framework
Lifelong learning	MORALE courses designed for NGO professionals	Completed project output
Training resources	MORALE training-of-trainers; Save the Children child-rights training	Delivered
Community learning materials	BAU spatial-mapping game board and heritage models for 30 children	Designed and used
Policy resource	MORALE NGO Policy Paper	Published
Awareness and field learning	Al-Irshad and Al-Islah protocol covering workshops, field training and psychosocial support	Current formal framework

Institutional integration and SDG contribution

How the three pathways reinforce one another

The strongest feature of BAU's evidence is not a single event but the connection between engagement, knowledge creation and learning. Student clubs and NGO programmes create routes into community action. Applied-research agreements and innovation programmes connect academic expertise to urban, environmental and industrial challenges. Curricula, training, policy guidance and community learning materials then convert partnership knowledge into reusable educational resources.

BAU mechanism	External collaborators	Pathways demonstrated	Principal SDGs
Red Cross Youth Sector Club	Lebanese Red Cross and international movement	Student volunteering; training	3, 4, 10, 11, 16, 17
Human Rights Center programmes	Save the Children, Madanyat and participating NGOs	Student action; educational delivery	4, 5, 10, 16, 17
Post-blast youth-led outreach	Himaya Daeem Aataa and UN co-partners	Community volunteering; educational resources	3, 4, 11, 16, 17
Hariri Foundation partnership	Hariri Foundation and cross-sector stakeholders	Applied research; student projects; knowledge exchange	4, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17
LIRA Innovation Program	IRALEB, Lebanon Innovate and industry channels	Applied research; mentorship; prototype pathway	2, 3, 8, 9, 12, 17

BAU mechanism	External collaborators	Pathways demonstrated	Principal SDGs
Green-building agreement	Lebanon Green Building Council	R&D; curriculum; training; data exchange	4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17
Erasmus+ MORALE	International university and NGO consortium	Curriculum; lifelong learning; policy resource	4, 8, 10, 16, 17

Institutional ownership

BAU unit	Role evidenced
Human Rights Center	Convening NGOs, delivering rights education, supporting civic leadership and student-led action
Student Activities	Providing an ongoing club structure for humanitarian service, training and awareness
Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies	Connecting researchers and students with innovation, industry and sustainability research ecosystems
Faculty of Architecture - Design and Built Environment	Applied urban research, student sustainability design and community educational-resource development
University leadership	Executing multi-year agreements that support research, curriculum, data exchange and community programmes

Outcome chain

Input	Activity	Output	SDG contribution
NGO expertise and university infrastructure	Student training and community engagement	Prepared volunteers, action plans and youth-led initiatives	Stronger health, inclusion, rights and civic participation
Academic expertise and external-sector challenge	Applied research, design workshops and innovation mentoring	Projects, prototypes, studies and urban proposals	Innovation, sustainable cities and climate action
Consortium knowledge and community need	Curriculum development, training and learning-material design	Courses, policy guidance, game-based learning and workshops	Quality education and institutional capacity

THE submission evidence map

The following map identifies the evidence that should be uploaded or linked for each pathway. Primary items are the strongest direct proof. Supporting items strengthen institutional scale, continuity or SDG relevance.

Pathway	Primary evidence	Supporting evidence	Submission claim
Student volunteering	Red Cross Youth Sector Club page; 2026 Save the Children workshop; 2021 post-blast workshop	2024 NGO Fair; 2025 Madanyat programmes	BAU runs or hosts structured NGO-linked routes from student training to community service and student-led action
Research programmes	2025 Hariri Foundation memorandum and urban co-production record; 2025 LIRA record; 2026 LGBC agreement	ARSFC 2026 and BAU Research Report	BAU undertakes and enables applied research with civil-society, industry-facing and sector partners
Educational resources	MORALE final conference, policy paper and training record; BAU-designed post-blast learning materials	Save the Children training; LGBC and Al-Irshad frameworks	BAU co-develops curricula, lifelong-learning provision, policy guidance, training and community learning resources