

Erasmus+ Capacity Building projects in the field of Higher Education

Erasmus+ CBHE 561966



Kick-off Meeting
Ramallah, 21-22 March 2016



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di L'Aquila



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Develop the Capacity of Business
and Economic Research Centers
at Palestinian Higher Institutions

الكلية الجامعية للعلوم التطبيقية
University College of Applied Sciences



Business & Economic Research Capacity

Case of Islamic University of Gaza

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March 2016

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This presentation explains the IUG approach in managing and organizing the Business & Economic Research.

Agenda

- Historical Background
- Vision
- Mission
- Objectives
- Activities
- Future work

Historical Background

Business Research & Development Unit (BRDU) was established in 1992 to meet the needs of the Palestinian community in the fields of business and economic. BRDU has an influential contribution on building the capacity of undergraduate, postgraduate students as well as teaching staff in business and economic.

Vision

BRDU at the faculty of commerce will be the Hub of business and economic knowledge to contribute in local economic development plan.

BRDU Objectives

- Develop business and economic research studies in different managerial, economical and accounting fields.
- Preparing strategic plans, job description and financial analysis for associations.
- Improving business performance through practical, technical and managerial consultancy that provided for these institutions.

- Building networks with NGOs, Private Sector , and Public institutions.
- Holding workshops, meetings and training courses in different fields of business.
- Improving academic and practical level of students and employees in managerial and technical area that enable them to compete in national and international market.

BRDU Mission

Provides experiences and consultancy in different managerial, accounting and developmental fields to local, national and international community through distinguished research.

BRUD Strategies

- Capacity building for staff , researchers, and students .
- Developing business and economic database.
- Applying IT in conducting research.
- Empower Business and Research ethics
- Implementing of practical activities through collaboration with civil society associations.
- Enhance the business and economic consultancy services.
- Bridging the Gap with labor market.

BRDU areas

Managerial area

- ✓ Marketing studies and researches.
- ✓ Managerial and financial systems.
- ✓ Job description and associations hierarchies.
- ✓ Strategic planning.
- ✓ Human Resource.

Accounting area

- ✓ Accounting system.
- ✓ Auditing.
- ✓ Closing balances.
- ✓ Financial analysis and funding consultation.

Economical area

- ✓ Feasibility studies.
- ✓ Statistical and economical analysis.
- ✓ Banking and economical studies.

BRUD Achievements through 2015-2016

Projects and studies:

- BRUD participate in conducting study titled: The Role of Specialized Banks in the Economy and the Financial Stability in the Light of International Experiences and the Possibility of Application and Success in the Palestinian Economy, through cooperation with Palestinian Monetary Authority(PMA) and Italian experts.

- BRDU conducts a study titled: Modeling the skills Mismatch and Productivity in the countries of MENA (Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine).
- BRDU provides full proposal titled: Capacity Building for Business Administration Graduates to Meet the Labor Market Needs, for Middle East Partnership Innovative (MEPI).
- BRDU provides full proposal titled: Empowerment of ICT start-up businesses, for Sida.

- BRDU develops the operational plan for many institution.
- Conduct Career day with PALTEL
- Organize trade show for Local industries
- Bringing business and economic experts to meet students.
- Coordinate with Banking institutions including Bank of Palestine and Palestinian Deposit Insurance Cooperation to link the student with labor market

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Objectives

- Explore the reality of business & economic research capacity
- Discuss the related barriers
- Explain the related motivators

Case of IUG

- **IUG participation in the Externally funded R&D cooperative projects**
- **Al though, IUG is active in the international cooperative projects but According to IUG External Relations reports on the period 1990-2016 the number of R & D cooperative projects acknowledge for funding that IUG academics participated in are only fifteen 15, such that only 7 projects are now active.**
- **The projects were submitted from staff from faculties of science (3 projects), faculty of engineering (3 projects) and one for faculty of Arts. Whereas 8 project were finished. These projects were distributed as following: 5 from faculty of science, 3 from faculty of engineering (External Relations, 2016).**

Case of IUG

- **IUG participation in the Externally funded R&D cooperative projects**
- **Therefore, IUG academic participation in externally funded R&D cooperative projects preparation is extremely weak and is not more than 15 during the last 20 years.**
- **Thus there is consensus among university seniors that IUG is facing a problem with participation in externally funded R&D projects.**

- **IUG academics participation in the funded R&D cooperative projects is very weak and need to be enhanced and promoted.**
- **The institutional support provided by IUG to encourage academics to participate in R&D cooperative projects is inadequate and does not serve very well to encourage their decision of participation in those projects.**
- **IUG policies and regulations are not linked or support academics participation in R&D cooperative projects.**
- **IUG rewards and recognition system are not linked or consider academics participation in R & D cooperative projects.**

- **IUG academics are not well prepared to participate in R&D cooperative projects because of their personal characteristics and professional abilities.**
- **Academic workload (teaching and administrative tasks) at IUG does not hinder IUG academics participation in R&D cooperative projects.**
- **Proposals preparation requirements (application filling & consortium constitution) for R&D cooperative projects are very time consuming and require high efforts and work.**
- **Funding decisions of R&D cooperative projects proposals are affected highly by the regional and national political situation of the target countries.**

- **IUG academics' decision of participation in R&D cooperative projects is affected by (the first one means the most effective variable):**
 - **Rewards & recognition**
 - **Proposals preparation requirements of the funded project**
 - **IUG institutional support**
 - **IUG policies regarding participation in the funded R&D projects.**
 - **IUG academics personal characteristics & abilities**
 - **Evaluation & funding decisions**

- **There are significant differences among respondents for barriers that influence academics' decision of participation in the funded cooperative R & D projects due to personal and occupational attributes (Rank, tenure/ non tenure, discipline, non-professional work, age, gender, educational degree, English/foreign languages proficiency, experience).**

Barriers

- **Lack of time due to heavy teaching load and committee tasks** (Boyer P., 2005; Gallaher & Daniel, 1989; Boyer & Cockriel, 2001; Kleinfelder, Price, & Dake, 2003; Monahan, 1992; Al-Furaih & Al-Shayji, 2005; Sharobeam & Howard, 2002; Sterner, 1999; Walden & Bryan, 2010; Onyefulu & Ogunrinade, 2005)
- **Lack of knowledge of R & D opportunities** (Boyer P., 2005; Gallaher & Daniel, 1989; Boyer & Cockriel, 1998; Sharobeam & Howard, 2002).
- **Past experience in writing unsuccessful grant proposals** (Gallaher & Daniel, 1989; Ogunrinade, 2005).
- **Lack of a clearly defined system of rewards for those who obtain external funding and involved in R & D activities** (Gallaher & Daniel, 1989).

Barriers

- **Lack of experience and training in grant writing and R & D activities.** (Boyer & Cockriel, 2001; Kleinfelder, Price, & Dake, 2003; Boyer & Cockriel, 1998; Balaji, Knisely, & Blazyk, 2007).
- **Lack of technical and administrative support from the university.** (Boyer & Cockriel, 2001; Monahan, 1992; Al-Furaih & Al-Shayji, 2005; Boyer & Cockriel, 1998; Sharobeam & Howard, 2002).
- **R & D grants applications requirements and characteristics.** (Monahan, 1992; Al-Furaih & Al-Shayji, 2005; Ogunrinade, 2005).

Motivators

- **Linking R & D activities to tenure/ promotions decisions.** (Gonzales, 2009; Boyer & Cockriel, 2001; Kleinfelder, Price, & Dake, 2003; Boyer & Cockriel, 1998; Taylor, 2001; Porter, 2004; Walden & Bryan, 2010; Stahler & Tash, 1992).
- **Recognition of R & D work and achievement in the college publications and building academic reputation.** (Monahan, 1992; Boyer & Cockriel, 1998; Sharobeam & Howard, 2002; Monahan & Fortune, 1995; Porter, 2004; Walden & Bryan, 2010; Hartmann, 2011).
- **Time release for R & D work.** (Monahan, 1992; Sterner, 1999; Monahan & Fortune, 1995; Porter, 2004; Walden & Bryan, 2010; Stahler & Tash, 1992).
- **Implementing internal R & D program in line with external fund program objectives and themes and their applications requirements.** (Balaji, Knisely, & Blazyk, 2007).

Thank You