

For Immediate Release



## **AUB to host kick-off meeting for EU-funded project on academic-industry partnerships**

Beirut, Lebanon- 04/12/2012 -The American University of Beirut (AUB) has been awarded a grant of 904,877.49 Euros from the European Union Tempus Programme to implement the project, *Innovation and Development of Academic-Industry Partnerships through Efficient Research Administration in Lebanon (IDEAL)*. The project will launch on December 6 and 7, 2012, with an official kick-off meeting, hosted by AUB's Office of Grants and Contracts. The meeting will gather a consortium of 15 partners from Lebanon and Europe to launch the project activities and discuss the three-year scope of work. The consortium includes five Lebanese universities, five European universities, two private institutions, and three governmental bodies including the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS). The participating Lebanese institutions represent over two-thirds of the Lebanese landscape of higher education. The target beneficiaries of this project are Lebanese researchers, students, non-profit organizations, and society at-large who will benefit from improved systems for research, development and innovation (RD&I) designed to grow Lebanon's economic strength and global competitiveness. The three-year IDEAL project, led by AUB, will strengthen Lebanese capacity to attract and manage funding for research so as to improve innovation outputs, such as patents registered and percentage of GDP from high tech production. The objectives of the project are threefold. The first goal is to create systems at Lebanese universities' to strengthen their ability to attract and manage funds for research and innovation. The second goal is to build successful partnerships between academia and local businesses so that innovation can be commercialized and/or licensed. The final goal is to create sustainable structures that can assist in the long-term management of RD&I management in Lebanon, such as professional associations and business incubators.

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**Note to Editors**

**About AUB**

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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