



Lujain Mohamed Ramadan <lujain@aucegypt.edu>

Erasmus + Circular thirty eight: School and University Partnership for Peer Communities of Learners (SUP4PCL): Conference revisited

malak zaalouk <mz@aucegypt.edu>

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To: "Dymoke, Sue (Dr.)" <sd100@leicester.ac.uk>

Cc: Salah El kharashi <saskharashi@yahoo.com>, Medhat El-Nemr <mednemr2000@yahoo.co.uk>, Dalia Elhawary <elhawary99@yahoo.com>, Maha Elkomy <mkomy1@yahoo.com>, Saeed Alshamy <saeed.alshamy@gmail.com>, Aheggi <aheggi@hotmail.com>, Lubna Shehab <lubnashehab11@gmail.com>, Hanan Morsy <hananmorsy@hotmail.com>, "walyalteley" <walyalteley@yahoo.com>, saied khalil <smekhalil@hotmail.com>, Rasha Kamal <rashakamal82@yahoo.com>, Zeinab El-Naggar <zenaggar@gmail.com>, "Burgess, Hilary (Prof.)" <hb144@leicester.ac.uk>, "Wilkins, Christopher (Prof.)" <caw11@leicester.ac.uk>, "Atkins, Andy (Dr.)" <aaja35@leicester.ac.uk>, "Orla.McCormack" <Orla.McCormack@ul.ie>, Scott Helen <helen.scott@northampton.ac.uk>, James Underwood <James.Underwood@northampton.ac.uk>, Bramble Paul <Paul.Bramble@northampton.ac.uk>, Martin Lindner <martin.lindner@biodidaktik.uni-halle.de>, Francesco Cuomo <francesco.cuomo@biodidaktik.uni-halle.de>, Francesco Cuomo <cuomof@gmail.com>, Alexander Finger <alexander.finger@biodidaktik.uni-halle.de>, Josef Mueller <josef.mueller@student.uni-halle.de>, Ahmed Heggi <dr.ahmedheggi@gmail.com>, "AnnMarie.Young" <AnnMarie.Young@ul.ie>, Farea Hassan <f_h_soliman@hotmail.com>, Anna Cox <anna.cox@northampton.ac.uk>, Heba El Deghaidy <h.eldeghaidy@aucegypt.edu>, Dana Sabbah <danams@aucegypt.edu>, "ahmedsaied@aucegypt.edu" <ahmedsaied@aucegypt.edu>, Dina Adly <dinaadly@aucegypt.edu>, Nagwa Wahby <nwahby@aucegypt.edu>, Amir Oraby <amir@aucegypt.edu>, Lujain M Ramadan <lujain@aucegypt.edu>, Wael Abdel Moneim <waellam@aucegypt.edu>

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Greetings. Hope you are continuing to be well. Our European partners had expressed their disappointment in the cancellation of the conference and showed a willingness to negotiate the possibility of postponing it with the EACEA officer in charge of our project in Brussels. Martin Linder took the lead on this initiative and indeed had a telephone conversation with the said officer who showed understanding. The result of the conversation left us with three options:

1. To abide by the cancellation and bring the project to closure on the agreed time of April 14. This seemed the most reasonable way to go according to EACEA. AUC was also able to negotiate with EACEA to use some of the funds allocated to the conference for the shipping and transportation of the case studies produced and also to outsource and hire an external evaluator of our project provided he or she is not a member of the partnership consortium.
2. To abide by the first option yet declare that we will do the conference through alternative funding when the world is in a better position vis a vis COVID-19. This will be put in the final report and will entail us collectively seeking funds. We already have a show of interest to go ahead with this nationally from our Minister of Higher Education.
3. To suspend and freeze the closure of the project to September when we could try to do the conference.

A few of us had a zoom conversation and decided together that the wisest decision was to take the second option as we are living through very uncertain times and the European partners were not sure they could manage to organize travel that soon. We at AUC were also quite uncertain to be able to pull together the reorganization of the conference that soon. I hope you will all agree and understand the situation.

We are determined to seek funding and hold the conference some time in the next academic year when our world will be a safer place. This will continue to keep us connected and look forward to being together again.

Warm regards
Malak

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Malak Zaalouk
Professor of Practice
Founding Director

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