

The Bologna Process and Palestinian Higher Education Institutions

Nabil Alawi

An-Najah National University

Abstract:

The emergence of the Bologna Process as the most outstanding reform movement in higher education in Europe and the launching of its principles in the University of Bologna in 1999, brought about new realities that compel members and nonmembers of the Bologna process to prepare their educational institutions for its consequences. Today, a block of more than four thousand universities in 51 countries is formed on the principles of the harmonization of education, mobility and joint research, lifelong education, and cooperation in education. These realities make it necessary for Palestinian universities to acquaint themselves with the movement and its attractions and consequences. Palestinian institutions of higher education are virtually influenced by the Bologna Process whether knowingly or unknowingly. In Palestine, we are after change, networking among educational institutions of higher education, increasing the employability of our graduates in the world job market, and upgrading the quality of higher education that we offer to our students. There is enough reason for Palestinian institutions of higher education to study the Bologna principles with an eye on the possible advantages that we may reap without losing sight of the possible difficulties that may arise and without compromising our national ideals and the cultural signatures of our educational needs. This research aims at acquainting students and faculty members at Palestinian universities with the Bologna Process and at examining its effect on our educational system and the future of higher education at the Palestinian universities.

Email addresses:
dr.alawi@gmail.com