



APPRAIS

governAnce, quality, accountability:
a Piloting Reform PRrocess
in kurdistan region of Iraq

www.appraisproject.eu



Co-funded by the
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of the European Union

APPRAIS OVERALL OBJECTIVE



APPRAIS addresses **governance, strategic planning and management of higher education institutions**, with a particular focus on enhancing the capacities of human resources and proposing a **reform for the local Higher Education system through the implementation of the Bologna process**.



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Partners



Ministry of Higher
Education & Scientific
Research



University of
Zakho



University of
Duhok



Salahaddin
University



Salahaddin
University



Duhok Polytechnic
University



University of
Halabja



University of
Garmian



University of
Sulaimani



UNIVERSIDADE DE ÉVORA

University of Évora



Uio
University of Oslo

University of
Oslo



UNIVERSIDAD DE
MURCIA

University of Murcia



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA

University of
Pisa



Mediterranean
Universities Union
(COORDINATOR)



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Key Objectives



Enhancing good **governance**, by strengthening the definition and development of HEIs roadmap.



Improving HEIs capacities on **quality assurance mechanisms**, strategic planning, management and accountability practices.



Supporting the implementation of **Bologna Process** within HEIs in Kurdistan region of Iraq by improving knowledge on recognition of credits and learning mobility.



Adopting the university reform on **good governance** and Bologna process at each HEIs, through the definition and validation of institutional action plans.

To know more:

<https://www.appraisproject.eu/the-project/>

Rationale behind the project

Some hints from Higher Education Ministry Reform

- Reforming teaching and establishing a modern Teaching Quality Assurance (TQA) system.
- Reforming the research training and funding system to revitalize scientific research.
- **Building capacity** by investing in people and infrastructure
- Establishing and institutional licensing and accreditation system.
- Reforming the management structure of the universities to promote **university autonomy**
- **Bologna Process Implementation**
- **National Ranking**
- **Curriculum Development**
- **Internationalization**



Why APPRAIS fits the national HE system objectives?

Bologna Process (especially quality assurance improvement and recognition of credits mobility) are the key strategic objectives of the strategy of the higher education reform of the HEIs in Kurdistan region of Iraq.

This project tries to study weaknesses in existing governance higher education systems across involved HEIs in Kurdistan region of Iraq, and train the staff of the university to increase their capacity to implement changes and operate at the best quality standards.



Results of APPRAIS Project and their sustainability



- National roundtable (in Erbil) and a Consultative workshop (in Pisa)
- University Governance Glossary, as a reference for university staff, translated in Kurdish language to be disseminated widely and adopted by all the Kurdish HEIs.
- Report on Bologna Process implementation at Kurdish universities (+3000 survey responses)
- 8 University Roadmaps on Bologna process implementation, where strategic goals and actions are stated. Actions shall be implemented during the last year of the project 2023 and beyond.
- A wide action of Capacity Building and staff training (2 training weeks, 4 field visits, one MOOC, up-to-now +200 staff members involved)
- Training tools (MOOC and training resources) to be disseminated to other HEIs non partners of the project

Expected Results of APPRAIS Project and their sustainability

- Event at the Kurdish Ministry of HE to dialogue with the Kurdish universities
- ToT at local level (cascade effect training)
- Quality Assurance Software (unique software for all the 8 HEIs on QA to evaluate research, third mission activities and students services)
- Internal Quality Assurance Handbook to be adopted by the piloting 8 HEIs of APPRAIS
- Shared Strategic Plan by the Ministry and 8 institutional strategic plans adopted by the Kurdish partners



Main challenges to face

- Need to involve university leaders in the decision making process and to raise their awareness about the needs and problems faced by the university staff in daily operations
- Geopolitical situation that generates a feeling of insecurity and prevents / limits incoming students and staff
- Need to strengthen the role of IRO to manage mobility, joint programs and internationalisation activities
- Implementing Bologna process principles in the university daily life
- Need to reinforce dialogue between Ministry and HEIs and promote better use of university autonomy
- Need to reduce the changes in the university staff that risks to affect the university capacity, the benefits of the training and reduce sustainability of results

