Invitation to the international AGYA conference

Migration and Transnational Cooperation in Education, Research and Innovation:
An Arab-German Dialogue

2 – 3 May 2016

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Kapelle-Ufer 1, 10117 Berlin

Migration and flight open up a wide variety of chances and cause at the same time major challenges to societies in the Arab world as well as in Europe, including Germany. Education, research and innovation need to make substantial contributions to the analysis of the potentials and challenges of migration. In addition, appropriate strategies and instruments need to be developed to foster mutual benefits of migration. International research cooperation has the potential to take a wide, transnational and multi-perspective approach to these issues. Beyond this, it enhances trust and understanding between the countries and regions concerned.

The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) invites to the conference "Migration and Transnational Cooperation in Education, Research and Innovation: An Arab-German Dialogue". The aim of the international conference is to provide a dialogue platform for high-ranking experts from the Arab countries and Germany to address current and future challenges at the interface between academia, science policy and society.

The conference will be festively opened by Deputy Director General for International Cooperation in Education and Research at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Frithjof A. Maennel. In the opening keynote speech, Prof. (HSG) Dr. Sascha Spoun, President of Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany, addresses major issues concerning the integration of migrants in the German higher education landscape. The second keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Sultan T. Abu-Orabi Aladwan, Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities, Amman, Jordan, focuses on Arab-German cooperation in education, research and innovation.

The formats of the conference include panel discussions with high-ranking representatives of academia and politics linked to several workshops:

1) Integrating migrants into the university
2) Innovation and knowledge transfer
3) Higher education across borders
4) Teacher education and education research
5) Migration research and education.

Arab and German University Presidents in addition will have the chance to meet in a closed session and address the role of universities in regard to migration movements as well as possible collaborations. In the evening, the Iraqi novelist and journalist Najem Wali will sharpen topics of migration in a literary perspective. His lecture on “Arab-German Dialogue 4.0” will take place at the Neues Museum on the Museum Island Berlin.

The second day starts with the morning lecture of Prof. Dr. Christian Kaunert, Professor for Political Science and Director of the European Institute for Security and Justice, University of Dundee, Scotland. He will add a European perspective to the discussion of long-term potentials of migration.

During the two-day event a poster presentation of initiatives and projects supporting migrants/refugees in education will be displayed. In the framework of a competition AGYA will acknowledge the best initiatives or projects. The winners of the AGYA Award will be announced by the Arab-German selection committee in a festive award ceremony. The “Market of Opportunities” will conclude the event with the opportunity for networking and dialogue.

The conference is organized with the kind support of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Please register until 29 April 2016 at agya2016@michel-irs.com. The confirmation e-mail serves as admission ticket at the entrance of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Kapelle-Ufer 1, 10117 Berlin and of the Neues Museum, Museum Island Berlin, Bodestraße 1-3, 10178 Berlin.

AGYA has been established as the first bilateral young academy worldwide in 2013. The goal of AGYA is the effective strengthening of the international research cooperation between excellent Arab and German early-career scholars. Please find more information on the AGYA website: www.agya.info.
Preliminary Conference Program

Monday, 2 May 2016

11.30 Registration

12.00 Admission (with snacks)

*German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Kapelle-Ufer 1, 10117 Berlin*

12.30 Welcome Addresses

Ministerialrat Frithjof A. Mannen, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation in Education and Research, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Prof. Dr. Verena Lepper, Co-President of AGYA/Curator, Egyptian Museum and Papyrus Collection Berlin/Honorary Professor, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

Dr. Maha Al-Hendawi, Co-President of AGYA/Director, Core Curriculum Program & the Foundation Program, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar

Dr. Vanessa Lux, AGYA member/Research fellow, AE Genetic Psychology, Ruhr University Bochum

13.00 Keynote

*Migration and higher education*

Prof. (HSG) Dr. Sascha Spoun, President of Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany

13.30 Keynote

*Arab-German collaborations for education, research and innovation*

Prof. Dr. Sultan T. Abu-Orabi Aladwan, Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities (AARU), Amman, Jordan

14.00 Coffee break / Poster Session

14.30 Panel discussion I

*Migration and higher education: Experiences, challenges, and long-term potential*

The opening panel discussion focuses on the role of academic education in the context of migration and flight comparing Arab and German perspectives. Experiences with the exchange of students and scientists, German-Arab research collaborations, education as reason of migration, flight experiences of scientists and examples of educational work with refugees will be part of the conversation.
Confirmed speakers:

Prof. Dr. Ammar Abdulrahman, AGYA member/University of Konstanz, Germany

Dr. Florian Kohstall, AGYA member/Project Coordinator “Welcome@FU Berlin”, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Prof. Dr. Steffen Mau, Department of Social Sciences, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

Dr. Maha Shuayb, Director of the Centre for Lebanese Studies, Beirut, Lebanon

16:00 University Presidents Meeting (closed session, 18:00 Transport for University Presidents)

16:00 Transport to Maritime proArte Hotel & Coffee break

16:30 Parallel Workshops (Session A) (in between coffee break & snacks)

Maritime proArte Hotel, Friedrichstraße 151, 10117 Berlin

W 1: Integrating migrants into the university

W 2: Innovation and knowledge transfer

W 3: Higher education across borders

W 4: Teacher education and education research

W 5: Migration research and education

19:00 Evening Event

Neues Museum, Museum Island Berlin, Bodestraße 1-3, 10178 Berlin

Arab-German dialogue 4.0

Najem Wali, Iraqi novelist and journalist, based in Berlin, Germany

20:00 Conference Reception
Tuesday, 3 May 2016

Maritime proArte Hotel, Friedrichstraße 151, 10117 Berlin

9.00 Morning Lecture

*Long-term potential of migration for internationalization of research and education*

Prof. Dr. Christian Kaunert, Professor for Political Science, Director of the European Institute for Security and Justice, University of Dundee, Scotland

9.30 *Coffee break*

9.45 Parallel Workshops (Session B)

11.15 *Coffee break / Poster Session*

11.45 Report of Workshop Results

12.15 Panel Discussion II

*Mastering current challenges – building bridges for the future*

This panel discussion summarizes experiences, challenges and best practices for migration and transnational cooperation in education, research and innovation. The panelists will debate what different existing infrastructures and organizations can contribute in the current situation. Furthermore, they will identify which forms of transnational cooperation between Germany and Arab countries need to be established to harvest the long-term potential of the ongoing migration movement for transnational cooperation.

Confirmed speakers:

Dr. Maha Al-Hendawi, Co-President of AGYA/Director, Core Curriculum Program & the Foundation Program, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar

Prof. Dr. Anies Al-Hroub, Chairperson of the Department of Education, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ellouze, President of Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation Maghreb Alumni-Network/Department of Physics, University of Sfax, Tunisia

13.30 Award ceremony

*Agya award for initiatives and projects supporting migrants in education*

13.45 *Lunch*

- Market of Opportunities –

14.30 End of conference
Parallel Workshops

Workshop 1

Integrating migrants into the university: Recent initiatives and prospects for Arab-German cooperation

The workshop focuses on experiences and challenges of integrating migrants into institutions of higher education. The participants will discuss different programs that aim at facilitating access to the university as well as scholarship initiatives which help provide shelter from forced migration and restrictions on academic freedom. The second part of the workshop will explore prospects for closer Arab-German cooperation in this regard, especially when it comes to facilitate the mobility of students and guarantee a continuous knowledge transfer between different home and host institutions of migrants.

Chair: Dr. Florian Kohstall, AGYA member/Project Coordinator “Welcome@FUBerlin”, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Confirmed speakers:

Prof. Dr. Natheer Abu-Obeid, President of the German Jordanian University, Amman, Jordan

Thomas Böhm, M.A., Head of Section, Cooperation with Africa and the Middle East; International Students and Recognition, German Rector’s Conference, Bonn, Germany

Carmen Fels, Head of International Student and Scholar Services, Philippus-Universität Marburg, Germany

Dr. Christian Hülschörster, Head of Division, Scholarship Programmes Southern Hemisphere, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Bonn, Germany

Prof. Dr. Sultan Muheisen, Executive Manager in Heritage preservation in Qatar, previous Director General of Antiquities and Museums in Syria, Doha, Qatar

André Nollmann, Head of International Office, Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Abraham Willem van Veen, Head of Department I – Student Service, Technical University of Berlin, Germany

Workshop 2

Innovation and knowledge transfer

The workshop focuses on the exchange of experiences between initiatives for innovation and knowledge transfer in Arab countries and Germany. Challenges and best practices in transnational cooperation as well as cooperation between research and private economy will be analyzed. Effects on employability, infrastructure and sustainability of investments as well as the contribution of migration and transnational networks shall be discussed.
Chair: Jun.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Kalman Graffi, AGYA member/Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf, Germany
Confirmed speakers:
Prof. Dr. Juliane Brach, Department of Economy and Society of the Arab World, Bremen University of Applied Sciences, Bremen, Germany
Dr. Mona El-Tobgui, Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy, Cairo, Egypt
Prof. Dr. Martin Franz, Institute of Geography, University of Osnabrück, Germany
Prof. Dr. Imad Khatib, Secretary General, Palestine Academy of Science and Technology, Ramallah/Jerusalem, Palestinian Autonomous Territories
Prof. Dr. Hani Sewilam, Academic Director of the Department of Engineering Hydrology, RWTH Aachen University, Germany

Workshop 3

Higher education across borders: Online and blended learning initiatives and institutions

The workshop brings together initiatives of online study programs catering to migrants and refugees and representatives of established online and blended learning programs. The aim is to discuss issues of certification and long-term sustainability as well as to evaluate the role of e-learning and blended learning for global mobility and the transnationalization of learning cultures.

Chair: Jun.-Prof. Dr. Barbara Winckler, AGYA member/Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Münster, Germany
Confirmed speakers:
Dr. Nuha Al-Shaar, AGYA member/Department of Arabic and Translation Studies, American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Hila Azadzoy, M.A., Head of Academics, Kiron Open Higher Education, Berlin, Germany
Nafez Dakkak, CEO of Edraak, Queen Rania Foundation, Amman, Jordan
Christina Gloerfeld, M.A., Research Group Mobile Learning, University of Hagen, Germany
Dr. Olfa Khelifi, AGYA member/Higher Institute of Applied Biological Sciences, Department of Environmental Protection, University of Tunis, El Manar, Tunisia
Mohamad Mourad, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Cyberjaya, Malaysia
Anja Penßler-Beyer, M. A., Linguistic Engineering Team, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany
Prof. Dr. Hosam Refai, Dean, Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt
Prof. Dr. Rana Tamim, Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, College of Education, Zayed University, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Workshop 4

Teacher education and education research

This workshop serves to foster Arab-German exchange in teacher education and education research, including social work and adult education. Against the background of different educational systems and traditions, critical stages in learning biographies – from flight and migration to regular changes between educational institutions – shall be discussed. The aim is to identify potential target areas, best practices and means for collaboration in teacher education and education research between Germany and Arab countries.

Chair: Dr. Ahmad El-Guindy, AGYA member/ Department of Mathematics, Texas A&M University at Doha, Qatar

Confirmed speakers:

Dr. Maha Al-Hendawi, Co-President of AGYA/Director, Core Curriculum Program & the Foundation Program, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar

Prof. Dr. Anies Al-Hroub, American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon

Christine Freudenberg, International Education of Students (IES), Berlin Germany

Jun.-Prof. Lena Heine, Managing Director, Department of Language Teaching Research, Faculty of Philology, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

Prof. Dr. Abdel Meguid Kassem, Kasr Al-Aini Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Anne-Christin Schondelmayer, Institute of Pedagogy, Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany

Dr. Maha Shuayb, Director of the Centre for Lebanese Studies, Beirut, Lebanon

Dr. Siegfried Steinmann, Herder-Institute, Leipzig University, Germany

Workshop 5

Migration research and education

The workshop focuses on possibilities and challenges of Arab-German cooperation on the interfaces of migration and education research for the analysis of the current migration movement both between Arab countries and from Arab countries to Europe.

Chair: Dr. Jan Völkel, AGYA member/DAAD Lecturer and Visiting Professor at the Euro-Mediterranean Studies Programme, Cairo University, Egypt

Confirmed speakers:

Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Awad, Professor of Global Affairs, Director, Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS), American University Cairo (AUC), Egypt

Prof. Dr. Christian Kaunert, Professor for Political Science, Director of the European Institute for Security and Justice, University of Dundee, Scotland

Prof. Dr. Laura J. Khoury, Department of Social and Behavioral Science, Birzeit University, West Bank Palestinian Autonomous Territories
Prof. Dr. Mohamed Limam, Associate Professor for Political Science, Department of Law and Political Science, University of Sousse, Tunisia

Dr. Simon Morris-Lange, Deputy Head of Research, Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration, Berlin, Germany

Dr. Melissa Siegel, Head of Migration Studies Training & Research Projects, Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology, Department Migration and Development, Maastricht, The Netherlands

Prof. Dr. Rabih Shibli, Director of the Center for Civil Engagement and Community Service, American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon

Prof. Dr. Paul Tabar, Professor for Sociology/ Anthropology at the Lebanese American University, Director of LAU’s Institute for Migration Studies, Lebanon

Commentator: Nora Jasmin Ragab, PhD Fellow, Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology, Maastricht, The Netherlands

Co-organiser and Rapporteur: Dr. Hanan Badr, AGYA member/Institute for Media and Communication Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Closed session

**University presidents meeting**

Chair: Dr. Sabine Behrenbeck, Head of the Department Higher Education of the Wissenschaftsrat – German Council of Science and Humanities, Cologne, Germany

Rapporteur: Prof. Dr. Verena Lepper, Co-President of AGYA/Curator, Egyptian Museum and Papyrus Collection Berlin/Honorary Professor, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

Confirmed participants:

Prof. Dr. Reda Abu Hatab, former Vice-President of Suez Canal University and the Dean of the Higher Institute of Tourism, Language and Management Studies in Egypt, Ismailia, Egypt

Dr. Abdul Latif Abu Hijleh, President of Birzeit University, Birzeit, West Bank, Palestinian Autonomous Territories

Prof. Dr. Natheer Abu-Obeid, President of the German Jordanian University (GJU), Amman, Jordan

Dr. Faouzi Adaimi, President of the Lebanese German University (LGU), Sahel Aalma, Lebanon

Prof. Dr. Sultan T. Abu-Orabi Aladwan, Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities (AARU), Amman, Jordan

Dr. Riad Chedid, President of Rafik Hariri University Lebanon, Meshref, Lebanon

Prof. Dr. Ahmad Hassan Fahal, Academic Secretary for the University of Khartoum/Professor of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum, Sudan

Prof. Dr. Imad Khatib, President of Palestinian Polytechnic University (PPU), Hebron, Palestinian Autonomous Territories
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Abdul Ghani Maa Bared, former President of Damascus University, Vice-President for International Relations, Arab International University (AIU), Damascus Coordination Center – Europe, Berlin, Germany
Dr. Driss Ouauicha, President of Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco
Prof. Dr. Yasser Sakr, President of Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt
Dr. Fairouz Sarkis, Director of the Arab Open University (AOU), Beirut, Lebanon

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Christian Maercker, President of Esslingen University of Applied Sciences, Esslingen, Germany
Prof. Dr. Anne Lequy, Rector of Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, Magdeburg-Stendal, Germany
Prof. Dr. Hans van Ess, Vice-President for International Affairs of Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany
Prof. Dr. phil. Michael Kämper-van den Boogaart, Vice-President for Academic and International Affairs of Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany
Prof. (HSG) Dr. Sascha Spoun, President of Leuphana University of Lüneburg Germany
Prof. Dr. Bettina Völter, Vice-Rector of Alice-Salomon University of Applied Sciences Berlin, Germany