



“HIGHER EDUCATION AND STATE-BUILDING IN CRISIS SITUATIONS”

*FIRST SUMMER SCHOOL ORGANIZED BY ADALA
IN COOPERATION WITH PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITIES*

6th - 21st July 2009, Birzeit University, Palestine

With the active support of

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I. DESCRIPTION

Where: Campus of the Birzeit University (principal location), as well as visits to the campuses of the other universities in the following locations: Al-Quds, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin and Nablus.

When: From the 6th to the 21st July 2009 (two weeks).

Who: approximately 50 students (30 international; 20 Palestinian) and 20 speakers (10 Palestinian; 10 international).

II. FRAMEWORK

The summer school is a project coordinated by the association ADALA, with the active cooperation of the major universities of the West Bank: An-Najjah (Nablus), Al-Quds (East Jerusalem), Al-Quds Open (Hebron), American Arab (Jenin), Bethlehem, Birzeit (Ramallah) and Hebron.

The summer school will be based on the campus of Birzeit university for practical reasons, but all of the participating universities are equal partners within the project.

The goals of the summer school are:

- To create a forum for discussion and learning between students and invited speakers from different countries, concerning a specific theme, in order to exchange experiences and viewpoints.
- To bring thirty students from European universities in order to let them discover the living conditions of students in Palestine.
- To demonstrate the capacity of the partner Palestinian universities to host and to organize an event of this nature.

III. SPEAKERS

Type

The lectures and debates will be led by different speakers. These can be professors from Palestinian universities that are partners in the project, from European universities partnered with Sciences Po, or from other universities.

Some key figures from Palestinian public life (whose activities are related to the theme of the summer school) will also be invited, as will representatives of associations or Palestinian or foreign NGOs. In order to enrich the debate with a comparative approach, we will favor inviting some speakers whose experience, while not directly connected with Palestine, concerns the topics under discussion.

Selection

The selection of speakers follows these guidelines:

- For the Palestinian speakers: Each university presents up to three candidate speakers. ADALA will select one or two of them in order to get a thematically balanced group, respecting a fair representation of the different universities.
- For the international speakers: ADALA will choose a number of international speakers, giving priority to professors and researchers at Sciences Po and its partners, as well as to its own partner universities. Birzeit University, as the host institution, will be able to have some say in whether a given speaker is invited or not.



IV. CONTENT

For this first edition of the summer school, the principal theme that will unite the talks and activities will be "Higher education and state building in crisis situations."

This specific theme still allows us to bring together a number of related issues, for example:

- Higher education in Palestine: past and present?
- Institution-building
- Transparency

The school represents an opportunity for the participants to address questions inherent to this theme, looking at different examples from around the world. Despite their different countries of origin or intended professional career, the students will perhaps face very similar situations. In choosing this theme, ADALA aims to give the participants intellectual avenues to explore that will be useful for their professional or personal lives now or in the future.

The theme will be approached from different angles by the speakers and by the participants during the talks and debates, but also the attendees will also at times form smaller groups to participate in different workshops where they will have more opportunities to express themselves.

The closing ceremony of the summer school will give the opportunity for the participants to present the collective conclusions of these discussions.

V. STUDENTS

Type

Almost all the students at the school will be studying at either a European university partnered with Sciences Po or one of the above-mentioned Palestinian universities.

A few participants who are not university students might also be accepted if they are members of ADALA. The Palestinian universities will be allowed to raise objections to the attendance of any student or professor if they wish.

Method of selection

- For the Palestinian students: each of the partner universities will propose a short-list of students interested in attending the summer school, according to criteria established by ADALA with the universities. This short-list will be sent to ADALA, who will make a final selection partly based on telephone interviews (this among other things will ensure that the candidate has an appropriate level of English in order to profit the most from the summer school).
- For the European students: ADALA will carry out from the middle of March a publicity campaign aimed at European students. European students from partner universities of Science Po Paris will be given priority. Candidates will be invited to fill in an application form using the association's website. There is no fixed profile either in terms of age or subject of study. Being involved in student activities and associations will be an advantage. ADALA will favor students who have an interest in governance or education, and not necessarily those who have been involved in actions related to Palestine.
- ADALA might also invite one or two other people as students to the school. These will be members of partner institutions of the ADALA who might be able to help with the association's goals after the summer school.



VI. EXPECTED RESULTS

In order to keep a record of the discussions held during the summer school, and to be able to report on the thoughts expressed at the event, a summary of the two weeks' events will be produced. Each group of participants in the different workshops will be tasked with writing a short description to be included along with an overview of the talks and debates. ADALA will be responsible after the school with collecting the text, editing it into a coherent format, and transmitting it to its partners.

VII. TYPE OF ACTIVITIES

In addition to the above-mentioned talks, debates and workshops, the summer school will also have other activities, organized by ADALA with the help of the Palestinian universities: tours of the campuses and other sites of interest in local cities; introductory Arabic language workshops; film projections; cultural evenings...

In order to ensure the optimal participation of students, the timetable will take into account the local summer temperatures, and will also include some time for rest.

Some activities will take place on the campus of Birzeit university, and some will take place during day trips to the other universities.

For example, a typical day at the summer school might look like this:

In the case of a day spent at Birzeit:

- Morning: Debates and workshops run by one or more speakers.
- Lunchtime: Group lunch, on campus or outside.
- Afternoon: Break, followed by introductory workshops (Arabic language, ...) and sporting activities.
- Late afternoon: Drafting conclusion or evaluation.
- Evening: cultural events (e.g. film screening followed by discussions; party; cultural performance).

In the case of a day spent at another university:

- Morning: Departure to the university. Arrival and visit of the city.
- Lunchtime: Lunch reception organized by the university or the local mayor's office.
- Afternoon: Plenary talk at the university. Visit of the campus.
- Early evening: Return to Birzeit or stay for a night if necessary in according to the geographical distance and program for the next day.

(Note that the order of events can be reversed, to have the talk in the morning, and the visit of the city in the afternoon.)