



Central European Joint Infodays 2023

Training seminar focusing on the Erasmus+ centralised actions in higher education and cooperation with partner countries.

4–5 December 2023



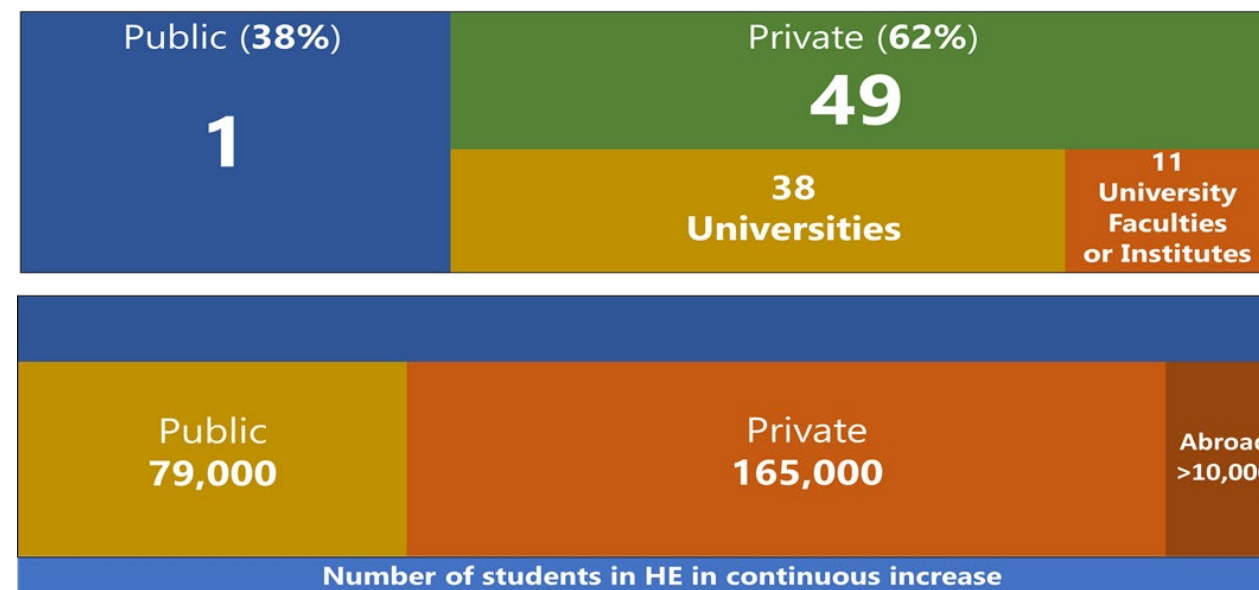
Opening Horizons for Cooperation with Lebanon



Yasmine AlGharib
National Erasmus+ Office
Lebanon

HE sector in Lebanon

- An old sector since 1866 that is highly competitive (private & public)
- Freedom of HE guaranteed by the Constitution
- Geographically concentrated in Greater Beirut
- Foreign affiliated universities & Openness to international cooperation
- Multidimensional diversity (history, language, system, social & religious)
- HE has been hit hard by the multifaceted crisis*: root problems, survival mode, loss of human resources
- HE system is now gaining back its momentum: financials solutions, new DGHE, 5-year HE



2022 Guide for HEIs and
CBHE projects by NEO
Lebanon
[link](#)

*More on the challenges at this
[link](#)

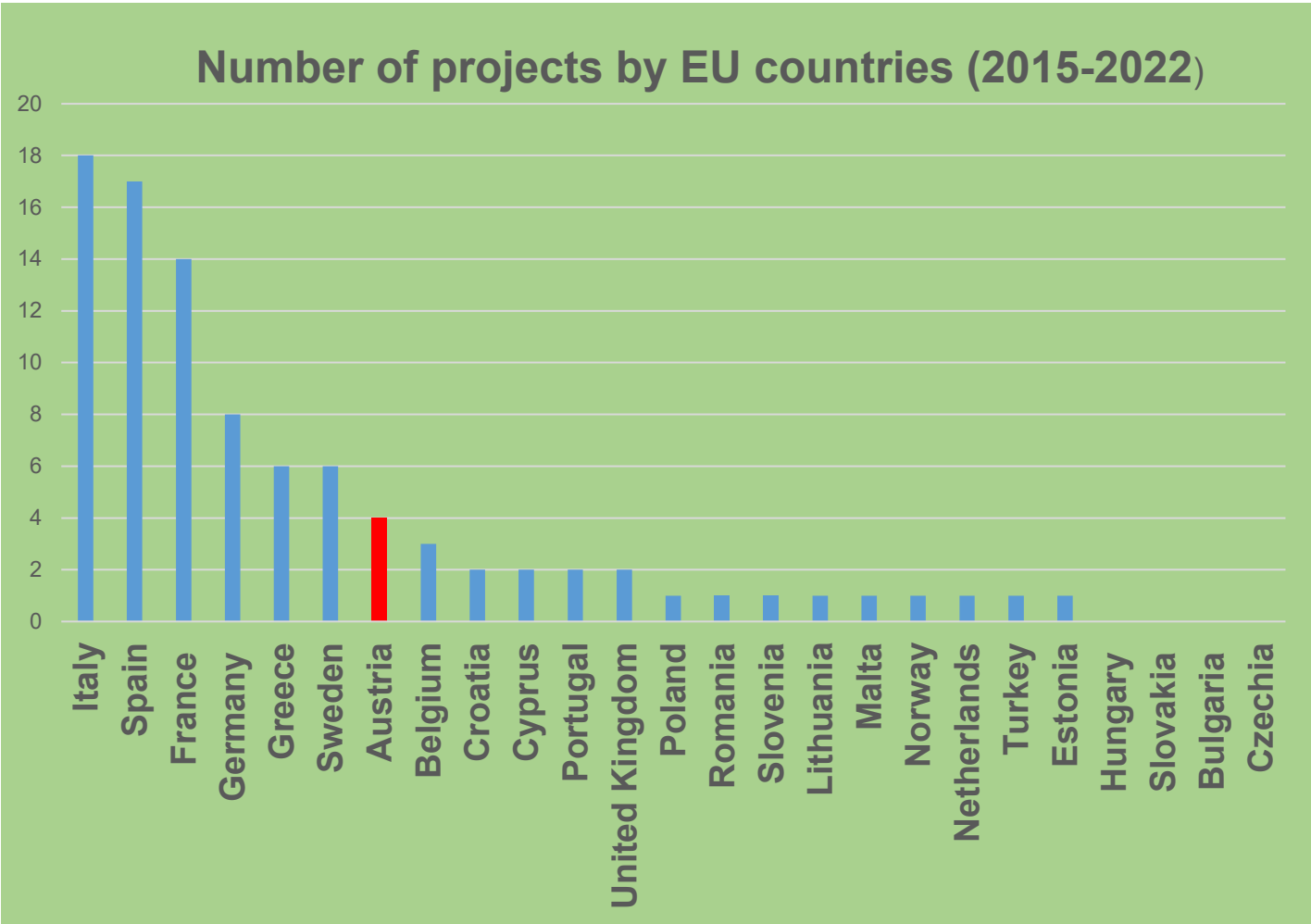
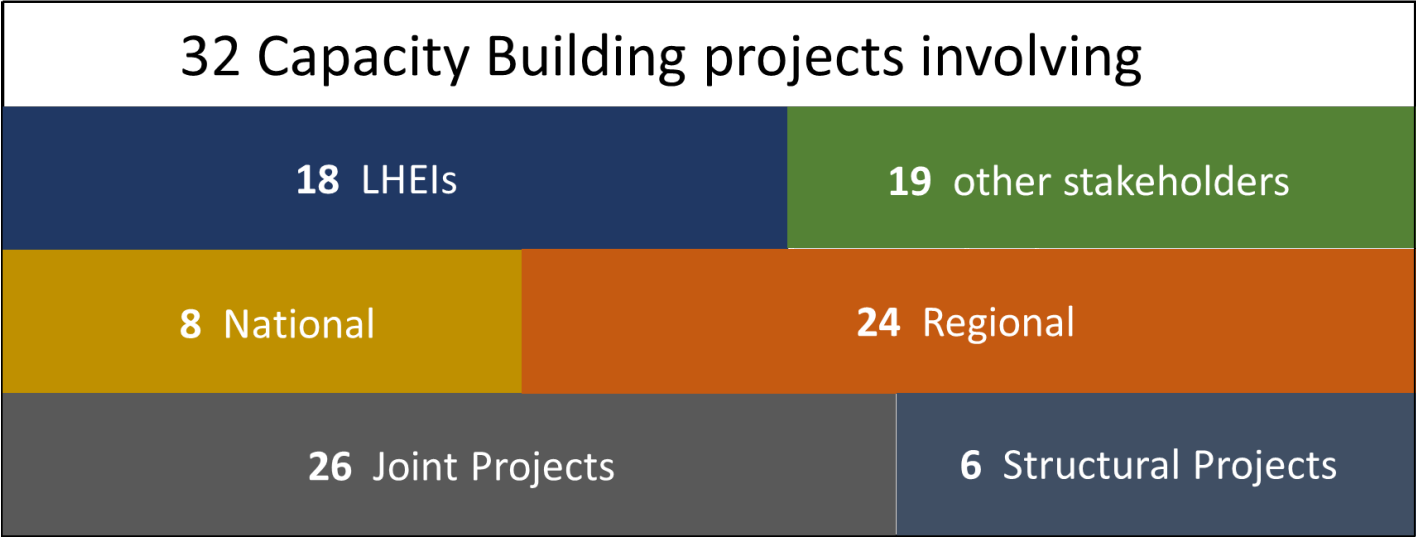
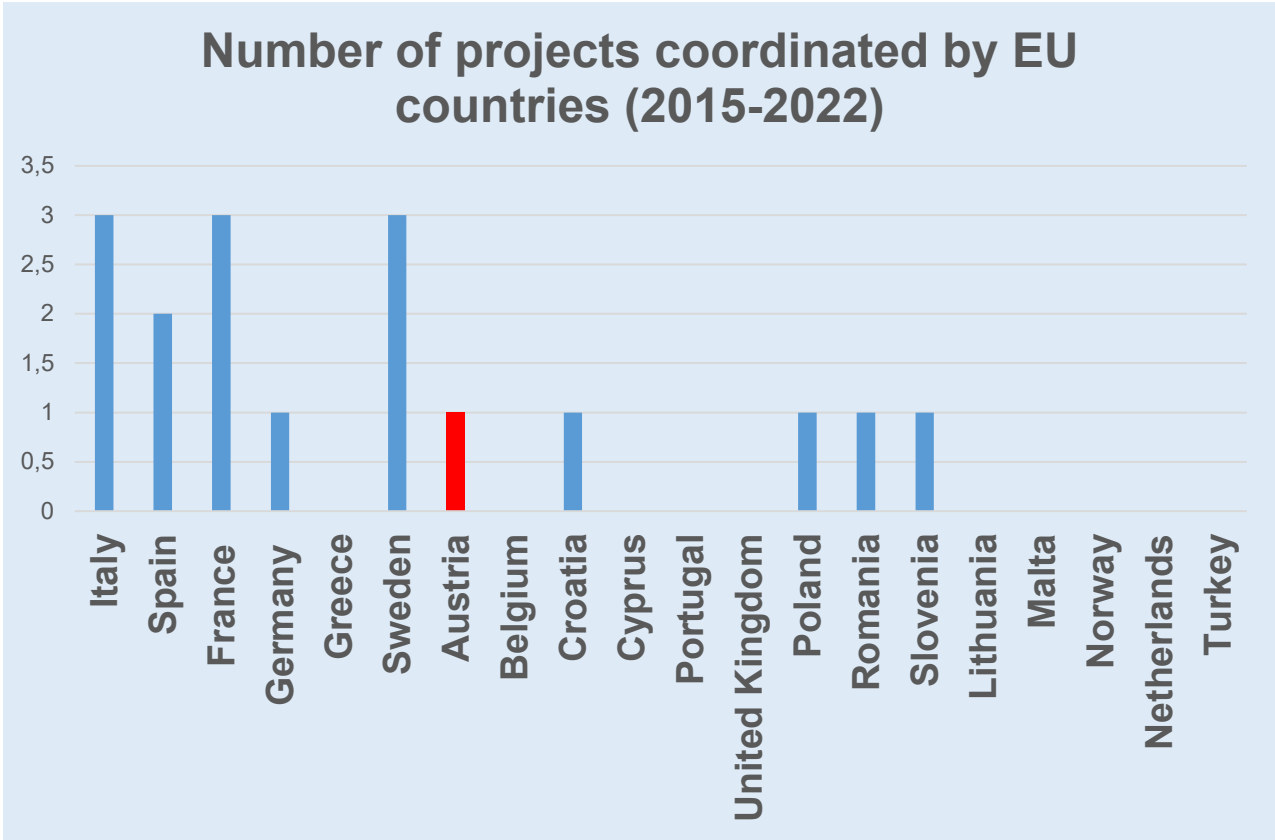
Lebanon 5-year HE plan 2023-2027 – Priorities:

- Priority 1: Strengthen governance and accountability
- Priority 2: Enhance quality and quality assurance
- Priority 3: Increase funding and monitor performance
- Priority 4: Higher education information and data
- Priority 5: Education, skills, relevance
- Priority 6: University-based research, development and innovation
- Priority 7: Doctoral education
- Priority 8: Teaching and learning
- Priority 9: Service to society and civic engagement
- Priority 10: Internationalisation and strategic partnership
- Priority 11: Equality, diversity and Inclusion

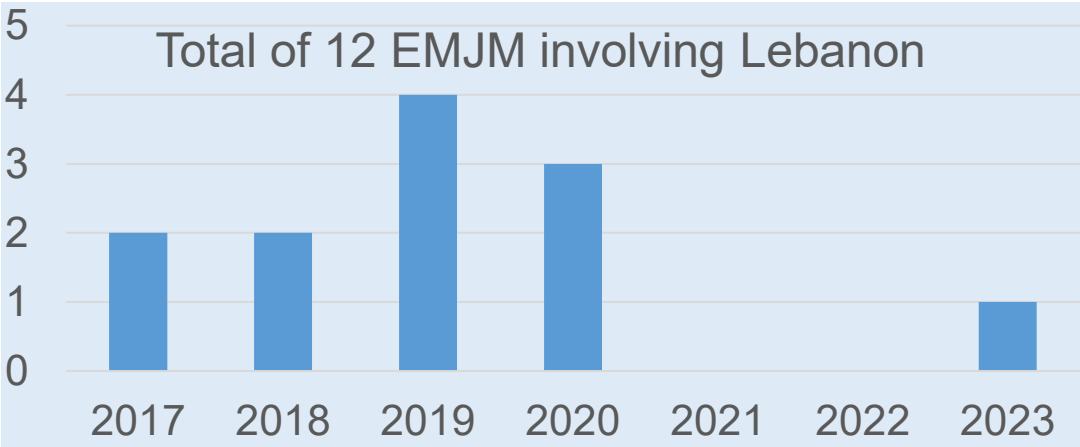
National Needs

- Revision of higher education law that dates back to 2014
- National system for QA
- Alignment of university programmes to address employability and labor market needs
- Need for more research and innovation to contribute to better employment
- Structured inter-university cooperation in the field of research – cooperation framework for research
- National Qualification Framework
- Restructuring of the Directorate General of HE
- National Higher Education Management Information System - HEMIS
- Action plans to implement the National policies of inclusion, health, digital transformation
- Waste management
- Skills development/upskilling/reskilling/short cycled education certification/micro credentials
- Recognition of online teaching and learning

Participation in CBHE

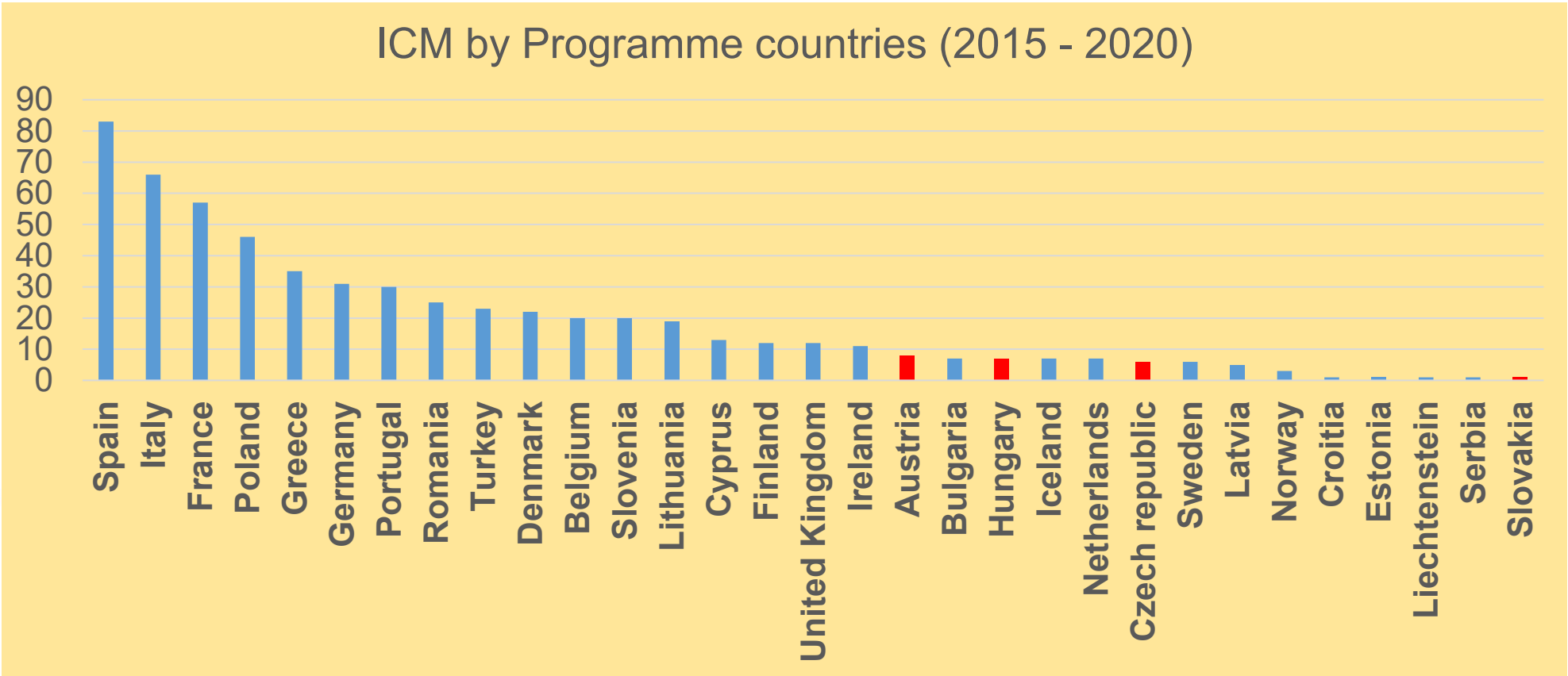


Participation in EMJM & ICM



4632 Mobilities (2015-2020)	
2972 outgoing	1660 incoming

2021: 226 implemented outgoing mobilities
2022: 128 projects involving Lebanese partners
2023: under collection





National Erasmus+ Office Lebanon

Opening Horizons for Cooperation

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Vienna, Austria

Market Place



What is there in our marketplace?

- 1 General Lebanese context
- 2 Specific context of Lebanese HE
- 3 Facts and figures about LB performance in CBHE, EMJM, ICM
- 4 Cooperation with AT, HU, SK, CZ
- 5 Reasons for cooperating with Lebanon: national needs and priorities
- 6 Tips and useful links



General Lebanese Context (1/4)



Small country of
around 5.4 million
people with an area
of 10452 km²



Religious and
cultural diversity
(18 religions groups,
many languages
spoken...)



Political instability
(Turbulent region,
special
democracy...)



Country of
contradiction
(luxury living
standard,
corruption....)



General Lebanese Context (2/4)



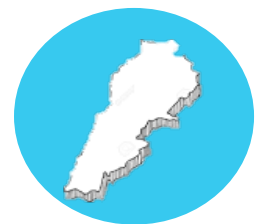
The country that has been well known for its Free economy based on services, banking, tourism, free media, health care, HE and Int'l aids has been, since 2019, hit by economic and financial crisis.



However, the Lebanese people are known for their culture of resilience, hope, solution-driven and persistence.



General Lebanese Context (3/4)



5 400 000

400 000 Palestinians + 1 500 000 Syrians

>10 000 000 Diaspora

Religions	Languages
18 officially recognised	Arabic French - English Armenian, ...



General Lebanese Context (4/4)

Major turning points in the country since 2019:



- The financial crisis that has been escalating since 2019
- The Pandemic
- Beirut port blast on 4 August 2020



Put at risk the country's labels for:
The Hospital of the Middle East,
The University of the Middle East
and the Bank of the Middle East

Specific context of Lebanese HE sector (1/2)

- Public/Private: Competition is very high
- Old sector (AUB 1866, USJ 1875, LAU 1924, LU 1951)
- Freedom of HE guaranteed by the Constitution
- Geographically concentrated in Greater Beirut
- Multidimensional diversity (history, language, system, social and religious...)
- Foreign affiliated universities
- Openness to international cooperation
- Dynamic and prosperous
- No gender issues

Specific context of Lebanese HE sector (2/3)

The Higher Education sector in Lebanon has been hit hard by the multifaceted crisis:

- Root problems: Relevance of the university programmes and research; the rapid expansion of the sector; lack of national Quality Assurance system and NQF; lack of collaboration among the HE constituents.
- Scarcity of resources – “survival mode”
- Faculty and staff attrition – loss of human resources
- Lebanese university, the only public university, is the most affected by the crisis

More on the challenges can be found at: <https://www.hopes-madad.org/app/uploads/2022/11/HE-in-Times-of-Collapse-THE-RECOMMENDATIONS-.pdf> . Document developed in the framework of the “HE in times of Collapse” initiative NEO Lebanon has undergone with HOPES-LEB project

Specific context of Lebanese HE sector (3/3)

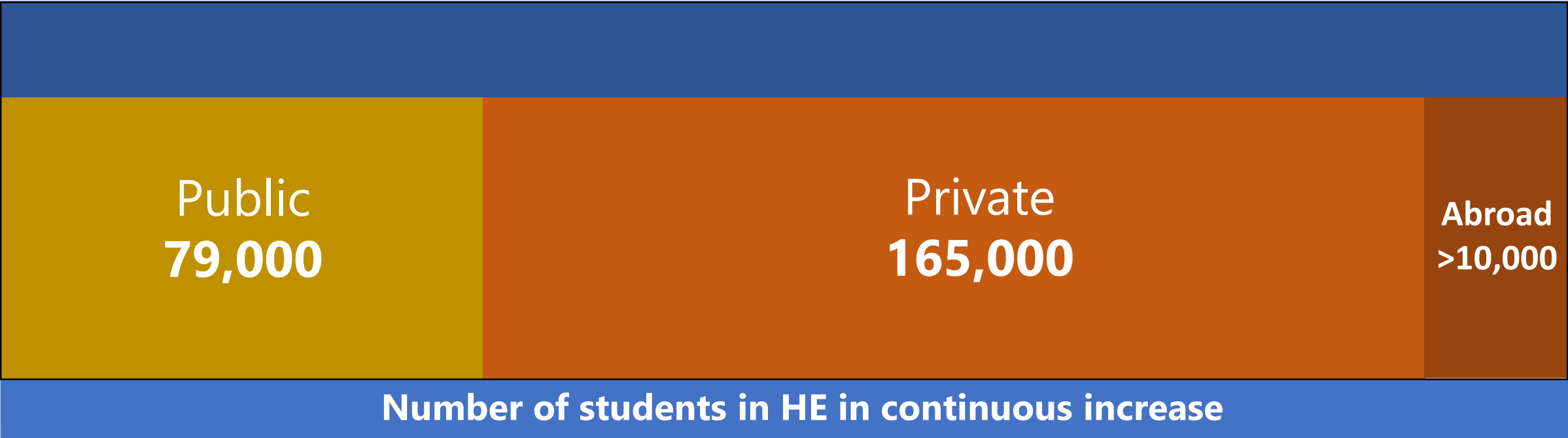
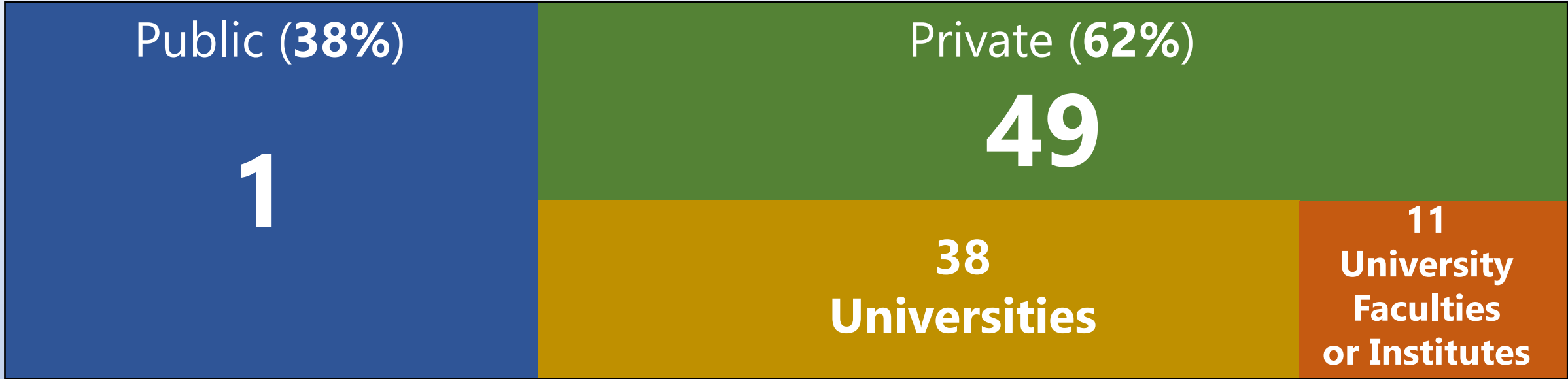
However, the HE system is now gaining back its momentum through:

- Solutions of the banking sector: fresh account, foreign accounts etc.
- Dolarisation of the tuition fees, diversification of revenue resources and ***more reliance on international funding and cooperation.***
- After long vacancy, new DGHE assigned on 28 March 2022
- Launching of Lebanon 5-year HE plan 2023-2027

→ In this context:

The financial crisis is no longer standing as a hindrance to international projects

Specific Context : Lebanese HE



International Cooperation

Active in Tempus since 2002

Active in Erasmus Mundus since 2004

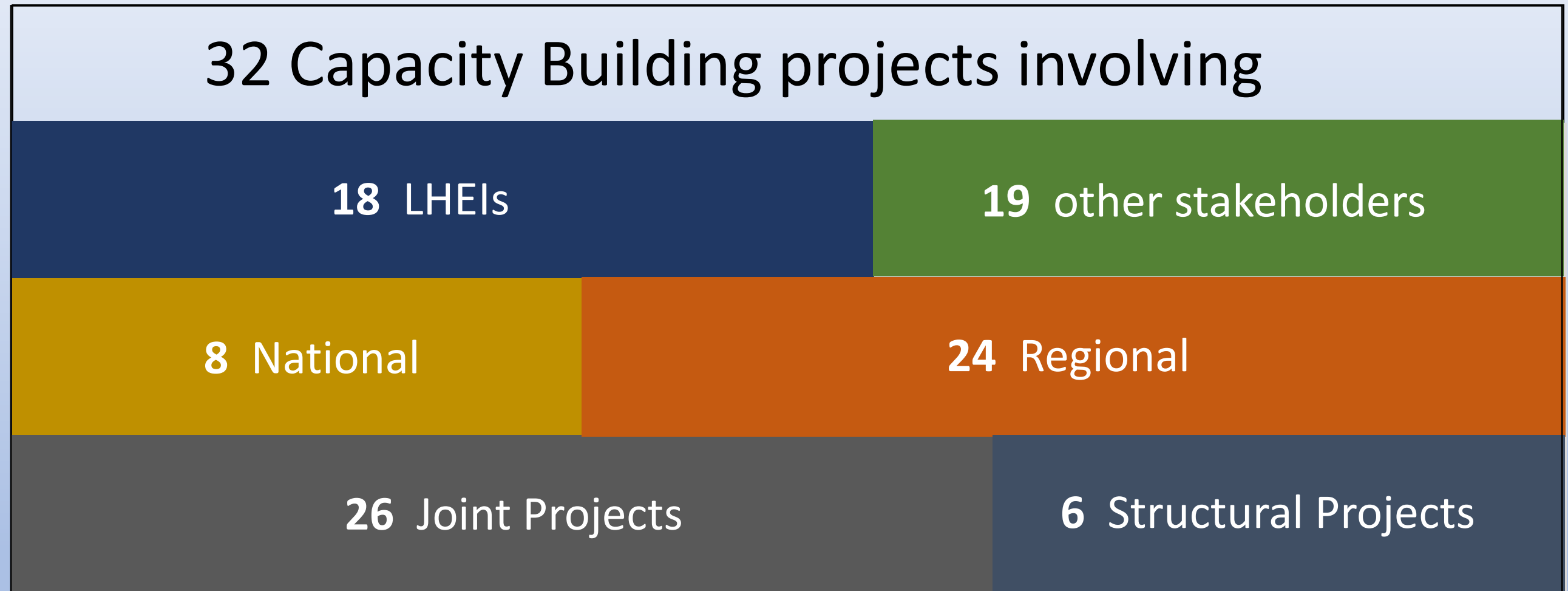
Participation in Erasmus+



International Cooperation

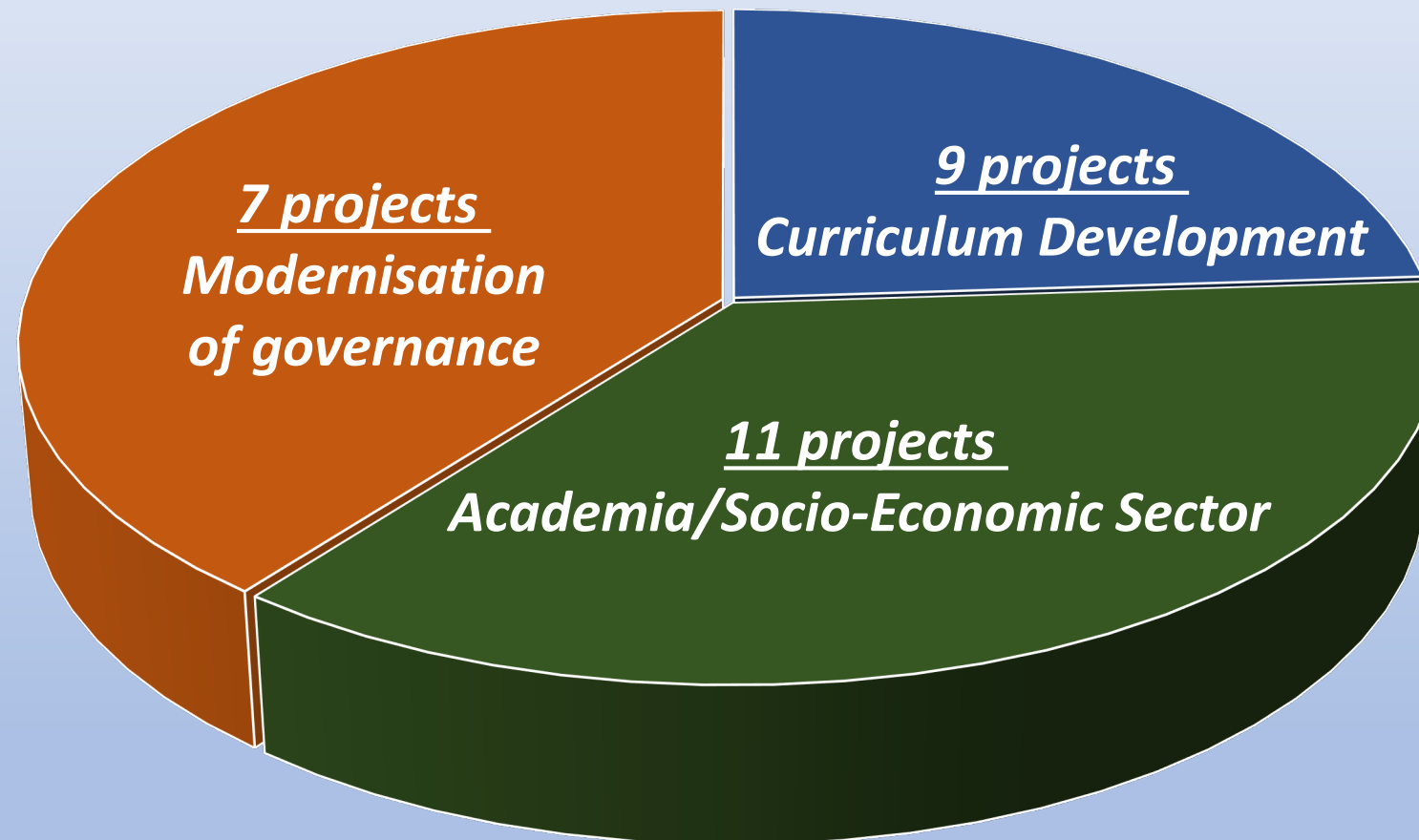
CBHE

Facts and Figures: Erasmus+ CBHE projects (2015-2023)



2022 Guide for HEIs and CBHE projects by NEO Lebanon: <https://erasmusplus-lebanon.org/guide>

Facts and Figures: Priorities covered by 32 CBHE projects (2015 - 2020)



Beyond 2020:

This categorisation is not used after 2020.

In the years 2022 and 2023, 5 projects were selected involving Lebanon in the areas of:

- Gender Equality & women empowerment
- Artificial intelligence
- Social entrepreneurship
- Sustainable energy

Facts and Figures : Areas covered by CBHE projects (2015-2023)

Gas and Oil

Road Safety

Energy Planning

Management of Engineering projects

Professional Standards for Teaching and Learning

Mediterranean Network for Employability

European Projects Design and Management

Renewable Energy,

Lebanese Diploma Supplement

eHealth

Career building

Internationalisation at Home

Univ-Enterprise Coop

Democratic Governance and Human Rights

Support to student refugees

Recognition of qualifications

Quality Assurance

Support to NGOs

UNESCO Biosphere

Students Empowerment

Urban Development

Artificial Intelligence & Robotics

Wastewater treatment for hospitals

Student-run care clinics

Entrepreneurship

Supply Chain Management

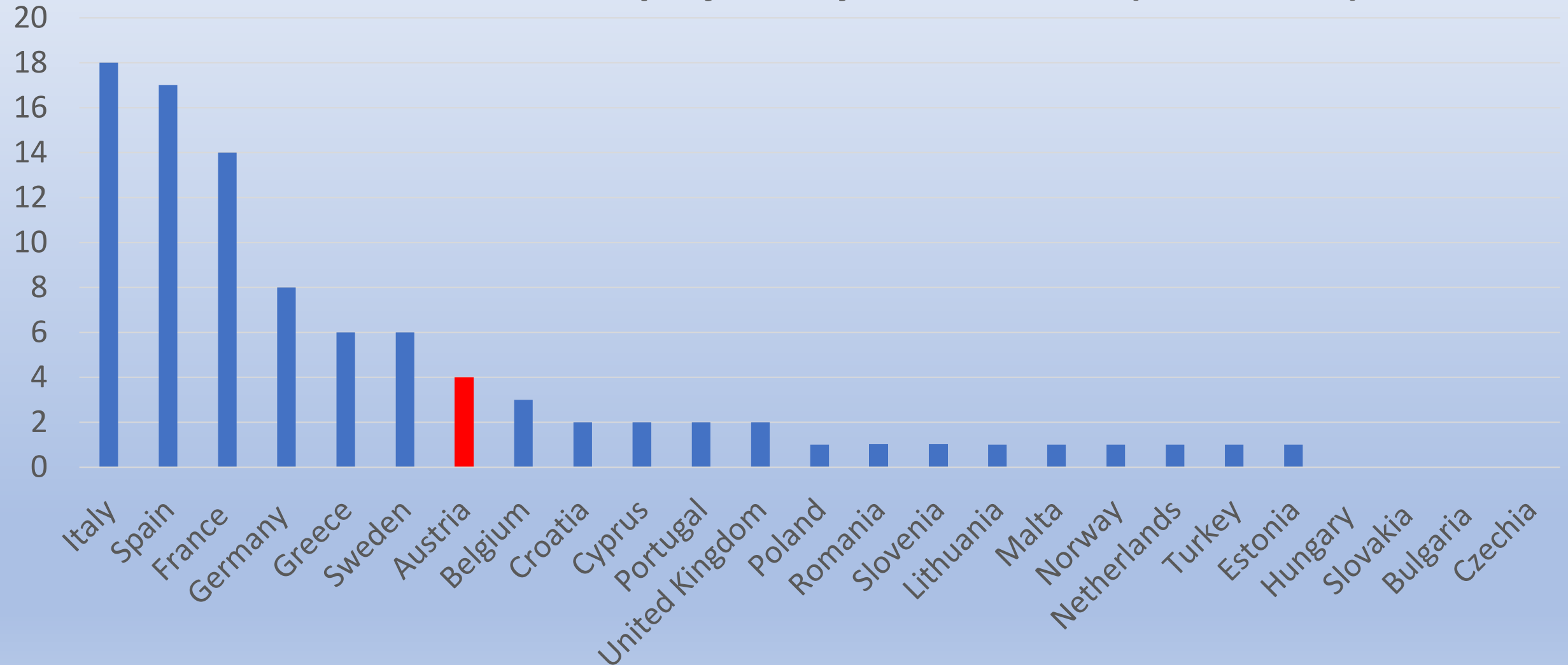
Gender Equality and women empowerment

Artificial intelligence

Social entrepreneurship

Preferred Partnerships: partnering in CBHE projects

Number of projects by EU countries (2015-2022)



Cooperation with Central European countries in CBHE & ICM (2015-2023)

	E+ CBHE	Coordinator	E+ ICM (up to 2021)
<i>Austria</i>	4	1	8
<i>Czechia</i>	0	0	6
<i>Hungary</i>	0	0	7
<i>Slovakia</i>	0	0	1

Cooperation with Central European countries in CBHE (2015-2023)

2017	High level rEnewaBle and energy efficiency mAster courses (HEBA) http://sites.ju.edu.jo/en/heba/Home.aspx	Austria (Applicant)*, Cyprus, Germany, Italy, Egypt, Jordan *University of Innsbruck	36	999,873.00
2018	Knowledge Triangle, Reinforcing of Education - Research E-Health & Medical Links (ICU-RER) https://icurere.com/	Sweden (Applicant), Italy, Austria*, Egypt *Institut für den Donauraum und Mitteleuropa (IDM)	36	835,345.00
2019	Collaborative Network for Career-building, Training and E-learning (CONNECTE) https://www.usj.edu.lb/conecte/	France, Austria*, Belgium *Institute for Advanced Studies	36	998,944.00
2020	Interprofessional student-run primary CARE clinics: A University-Enterprise Knowledge Triangle Cooperation Approach (I CARE)	Sweden (Applicant), Italy, Greece, Estonia, Austria*, Egypt *Institut für den Donauraum und Mitteleuropa (IDM)	36	906,990.00

Good practice CBHE projects

2020	SWaTH	Environment	Establishment of the waste water treatment facility; recommendation letter to the ministry of public health, involvement of Lebanese red cross, 165 hospitals and municipalities. http://www.swath.eu/
2019	MED2IaH	Internationalisation	Internationalisation at Home strategies and action plans. https://emuni.si/projects/med2iah/
2018	FREE	Women empowerment	Virtual courses: Gender equality, sustainability in HE, female empowerment, soft and digital skills around 1000 attendees in each https://freeproject.eu/
2018	EduBioMed	Environment	Developing a legal framework that governs the work of UNESCO BRs in relation to a clearly identified governing body; Cooperation between HE, research, BR and citizens through online tools of citizen science and IT management system for collaborative research. https://www.edubiomed.eu/
2015	RESUME	Employability	reveals high sustainability level of its projects results such as the sustainability of its career centre CENTRE MINE for training, capacity building, skilling. https://www.resumeproject.eu/s://www.resumeproject.eu/

International Cooperation

ICM

Performance of Lebanon in ICM (2015-2023) :



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➤ Performance of Lebanon in ICM :

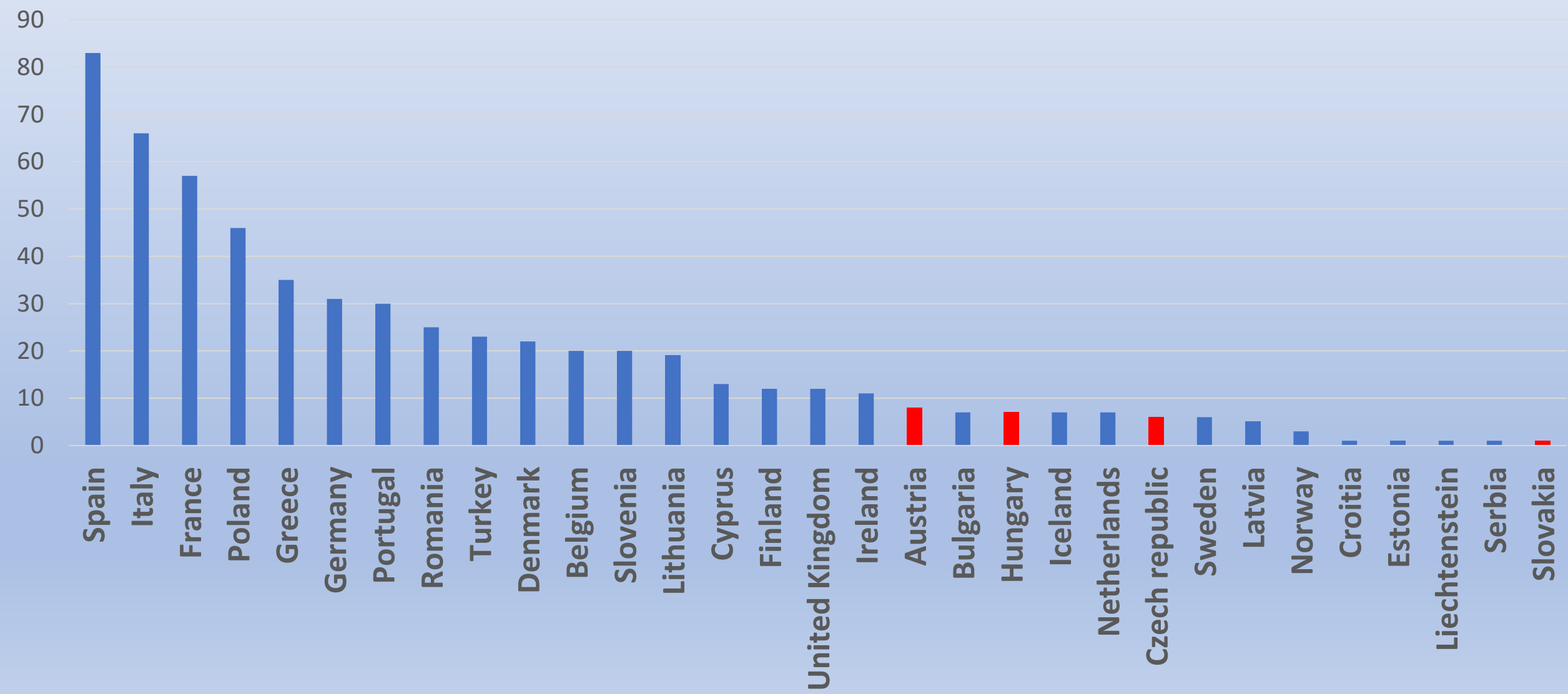
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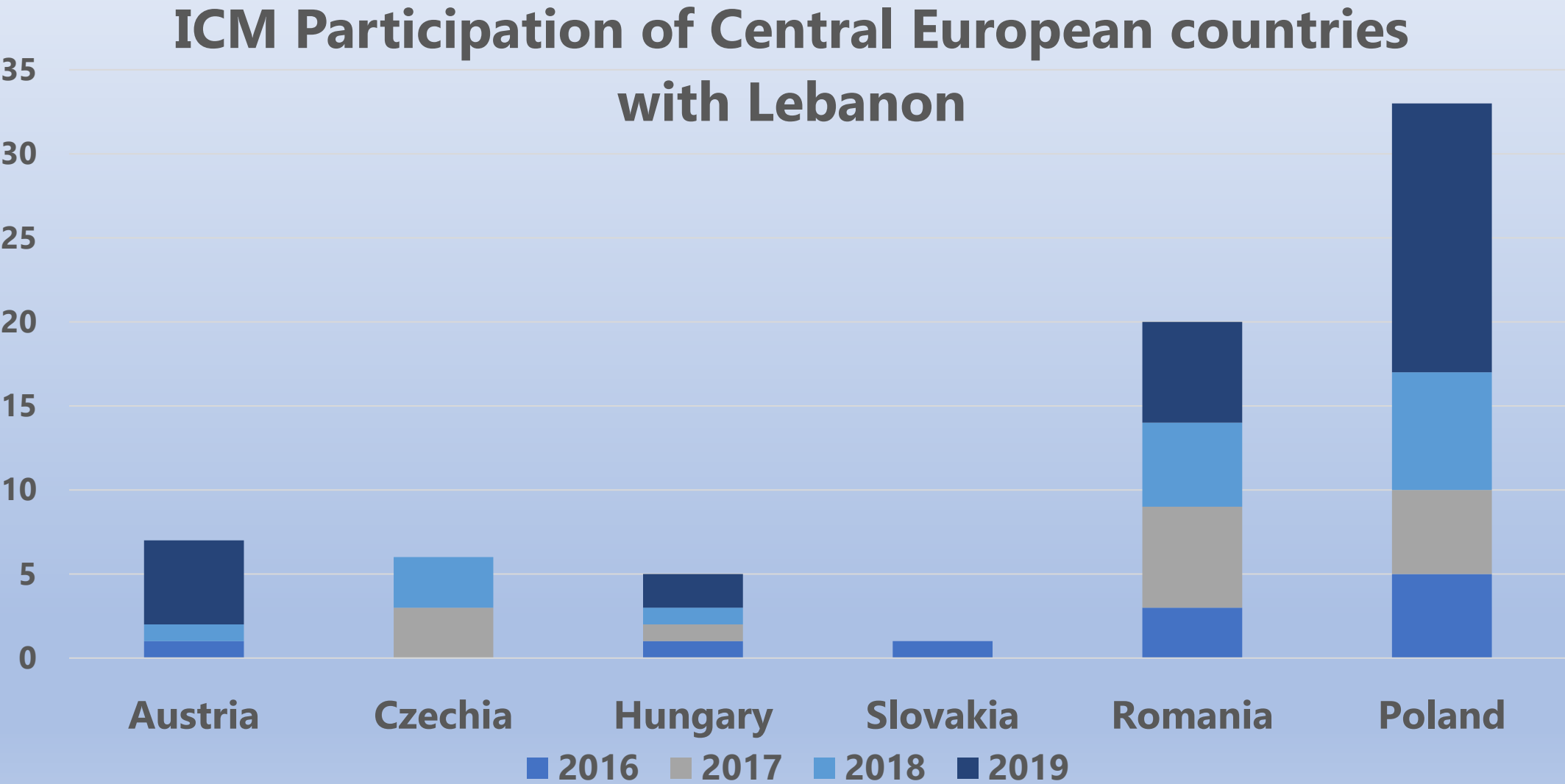
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Preferred Partnerships: partnering in ICM projects

ICM by Programme countries (2015 - 2020)



Cooperation with Central European Countries



Inclusion in ICM

- Universities have developed inclusion strategies but not necessarily implemented for ICM
- While special needs students have not yet participated in ICM in LHEIs, socially disadvantaged are being strongly considered.
- In the general context of Lebanon:
 - a unified definition of inclusion is needed based on a cross-sectoral approach
 - a supportive legal framework for inclusive education implementation is needed through updating and endorsing new laws and policies.

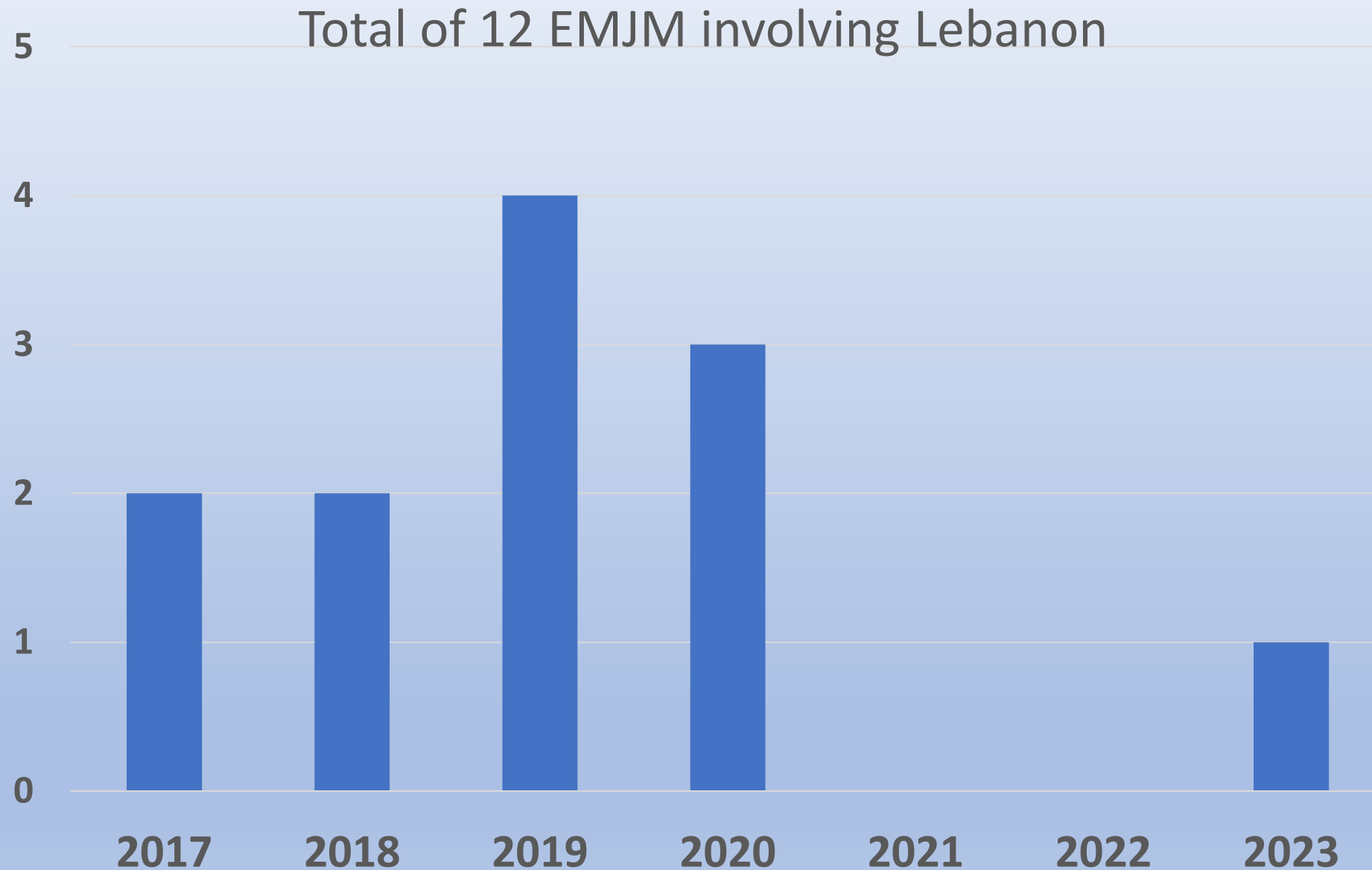
Inclusion in ICM

- Challenges:
 - special assistance for disadvantaged: financial and logistic considerations
 - No share of OS
 - Disadvantaged are themselves reluctant to apply
 - Selection process is done jointly with host universities
 - Late delivery of the grant to students; opening bank accounts in host country
 - Students need to advance initial costs such extra expenses of visa and insurance
 - Academic performance is still the dominant criteria for selection
 - Insufficient funding as raised by staff
 - Monitoring is not part of NEO's mandate since 2020

International Cooperation

EMJM

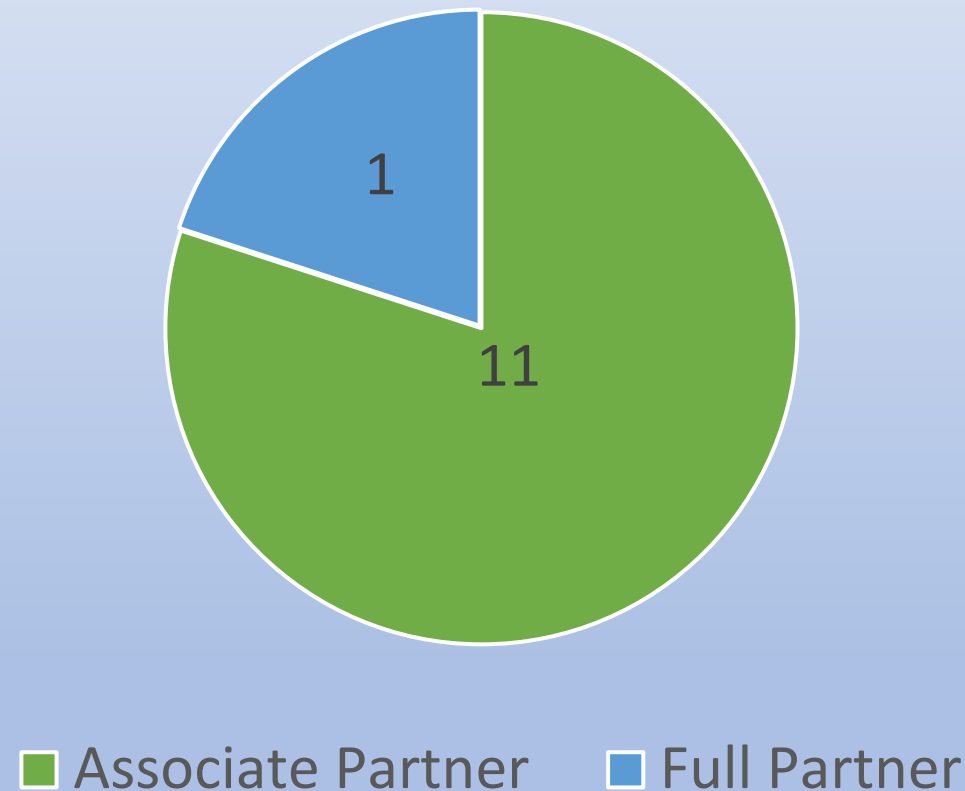
Facts and Figures: Erasmus+ EMJM projects (2015-2023)



For more info: <https://erasmusplus-lebanon.org/resources/EG5Agpl0nV/JYqKp3x7am>

Facts and Figures: Erasmus+ EMJM projects (2015-2023)

Participation of Lebanese HEIs in the 12 EMJMs



Topics covered:

- Engineering
- Robotics
- Journalism
- Film directing
- Architecture
- Public health in disaster
- Cropping system

For more info: <https://erasmusplus-lebanon.org/resources/EG5Agpl0nV/JYqKp3x7am>

Cooperation with Central European countries in EMJM up to 2023

2019	Erasmus Mundus Masters Journalism, Media and Globalisation (Mundus Journalism)	Lebanese American University (Associate Partner)	UNIVERZITA KARLOVA, Czech Republic (Partner)
2017	DOCNOMADS+ DOCUMENTARY FILMDIRECTING EMJMD	ACADÉMIE LIBANAISE DES BEAUX-ARTS - UNIVERSITÉ DE BALAMAND (Associate Partner)	SZINHAZ-ES FILMMUVESZETI EGYETEM, Hungary (Applicant)

Why cooperating with Lebanon: Strength

- Exhaustion of traditional partnership, Need for renewed partnerships
- International mindset open-minded
- No language barriers
- Easy entry to the country
- Ready to coordinate projects: willingness and capability
- Flexible management in private and public sector
- High number of students with double nationalities

Priority areas to cooperate with Lebanon

Lebanon five-year HE plan 2023-2027 – Priorities:

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Project Ideas

21 project ideas collected from Lebanese HEIs:

AI and robotics	Climate justice	Inclusion
Geopolitics	Nuclear physics	Sustainable development
Green chemistry	Chemical engineering	Applied mathematics
Micro credentials	Solid waste management	Human rights

→ Some alignment with national needs

→ You will see them soon on the search for partner tool on our website: <https://erasmusplus-lebanon.org/resources/OJyKjbKBq0/M0YAn1KXp4>

Useful links

Contact us and we can redirect you



<https://erasmusplus-lebanon.org/home>



<https://www.facebook.com/erasmuspluslebanon>



https://twitter.com/NEO_Lebanon



<https://instagram.com/erasmuspluslebanon?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>



Thank you

