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AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT TO IMPROVE LANGUAGE SKILLS FOR STUDENTS IN MOROCCO

Tetouan, February 10th, 2023: Faced with the thorny issue of youth employability, the Moroccan University is putting forward proposals...

The project entitled "Support for the Modernization of Language Teaching at the Moroccan University" (Dial@ngues) aims to strengthen the linguistic skills of students by updating language teaching and promoting educational interactivity.

Funded by the European Union (EU) for a period of 3 years, the Dial@ngues project is coordinated by Abdelmalek Essaadi University.

Today, Morocco is facing an urgent need to improve the employability of its University graduates. Given the widespread massification in Moroccan universities, the number of graduates is bound to evolve almost exponentially. In 2011, around 50,000 students graduated from Moroccan universities. In 2021, the number went over 143,000 graduates. Today more than ever, the Moroccan University faces an imperative to redefine its pedagogical approaches, particularly in teaching/learning languages.

It is in this context that a large Consortium formed by European universities, all Moroccan public universities and the Ministry of Higher Education is working on **the Erasmus+ Dial@ngues** project in order to propose a solution that makes it possible to design, develop and implement an innovative training model that aims at improving students' skills in French and English. Training courses in Arabic will be offered exclusively to foreign students.



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The project is based on three observations:

- 1/ the low proficiency level in French (language of instruction) for a large number of students in open access faculties vis-à-vis the level required, despite the introduction of numerous reforms (2003, 2009, 2014);
- 2/ the need for English training courses for students wishing to benefit from international mobility, and to continue their academic education in a doctoral program and thus have the ability to access digital resources and produce material in English;
- 3/ the need to set up training courses in Arabic as a foreign language for foreign students that enroll in Moroccan universities each year.

The project intends to support the momentum established with the introduction of language trainings in the first year of the bachelor degree (Licence) in order to identify a common pedagogical action.

In fact, the **Erasmus+ Dial@ngues** project addresses the national priorities of the Ministry of Higher Education that aims at developing innovative training contents, improving the quality of trainings, training trainers and developing e-learning.

The launching seminar of the Erasmus+ Dial@ngues project will take place on february,14th 2023 at Abdelmalek Essaadi university.

The **Erasmus+ Dial@ngues** project, funded with the support of the European Commission for the duration of 3 years, has as its main objective the establishment of a digital environment that allows the acquisition of language skills in French and English for Moroccan students and in Arabic for foreign students. Up to 2026, the project partners will work together to develop the objectives of the Erasmus+ Dial@ngues project.

The Dial@ngues project brings together a large Consortium: alongside Abdelmalek Essaadi University, the project leader and coordinator, the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation and all the public Moroccan universities are represented; on the European side: the Université de Franche-Comté, the Université Polytechnique des Hauts-de-France, the Haute Ecole de Namur-Liège-Luxembourg, the Haute Ecole Provinciale de Hainaut and the Marijampole University of Applied Sciences in Lithuania.