

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ACTION REPORT

PERIOD 2021-2024

I- LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

II- THE SAINT JOSEPH UNIVERSITY: A VISION FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS, A MISSION AND VALUES

III- UNIVERSITY SDG STRATEGIES

IV- ACTIONS PER SDG

SDG 1: NO POVERTY

SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SDG 16: PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

VI- METHODOLOGY

I- LETTER FROM THE RECTOR



Le Recteur

رئيس الجامعة

18/USJ/121065

Beirut, September 28, 2018

H.E. António GUTERRES
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that "Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth" supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to support the Global Compact advancing these principles, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

We also pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact in the following way(s): Propose and implement local partnerships on corporate sustainability, continue to engage with other stakeholders, and engage in any way we can with the Global Compact Network Lebanon.

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact. We support public accountability and transparency, and therefore commit to report on progress within two years of joining the Global Compact and every two years thereafter according to the Global Compact COE policy.

Sincerely yours,

Salim DACCACHE, s.
Rector



Rectorat de l'USJ, rue de Damas
B.P. 17-5208 Mar Mikhaël, Beyrouth 1104 2020 - Liban
Tél. 961-1-421000 ext. 1102 ■ Fax 961-1-421001
Email recteur@usj.edu.lb ■ Blog dsalim.wordpress.com

رئاسة جامعة القديس يوسف، طريق الشام
ص.ب. ١٧-٥٢٠٨ مار ميخائيل بيروت، ١١٠٤٢٠٢٠ - لبنان
هاتف... ٩٦١-١-٤٢١٠٠٠٠ مقسم ١١٠٢
فاكس... ٩٦١-١-٤٢١٠٠٠١

www.usj.edu.lb

II- THE SAINT JOSEPH UNIVERSITY: A VISION FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS, A MISSION AND VALUES

The Saint Joseph University is the product of the Jesuit Founders' long-matured and long-desired dream back in 1875. Their vision was to form leaders of social and national transformation, armed with values of probity and excellence, in civil and religious disciplines.

One hundred years later, the re-founders of 1975 renewed the mission and vision within the Charter of the USJ, pursuing the rebuilding of the cohesion and continuity of the University's institutions over values that combine unity with participation, authenticity with modernity, technicality and professionalism with the highly believing and humanistic culture.

Now and in the prospect of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the University in 2025, and faced with its many own challenges as well as the surrounding environment challenges, the University, as an academic community regrouping Jesuits and laypersons, is renewing its vision.

It is preserving the same pillars for its vision, favouring for the future the idea of a University which aims to maintain excellence in training and relevance in research. It aims at relying upon the know-how-to-be skills as well as formative humanism while adapting it to the specificities of Lebanon, and the Near and Middle East.

It also develops the idea of the University as a crossroad which presents itself as a cultural interface and seeks to help individuals and communities respond to a fundamental challenge of the 21st century: how can the community become a community in relationship with others, and how can the individual become the individual in relationship with others while still being rooted within his/her community?

The mission of the University articulates on three dimensions: the creation of new knowledge (research), the transmission of this knowledge (teaching) and putting this knowledge at the service of the society (service). In order to put this mission into execution, the University positions itself as an establishment of francophone language and culture, which privileges biculturalism (French and Arabic) and trilingualism (French, Arabic and English). Being accessible to all social classes and all communities, and at the service of the nation and the region, it promotes, in teaching and research, issues of sustainable development and justice as well as issues of meaning. Being open to the international sphere, it is determined to benefit from the extraordinary potentiality that is represented by the network of Jesuit universities throughout the world.

The vision and the mission are built on values that combine namely the Jesuit pedagogical tradition, the autonomy, the collaboration, the participation, the freedom of conscience, the political independence and the social engagement, all this around an academic, professional and ethical training of excellence, completed by an authentic culture that is founded on the issues of sense making, at the service of the promotion of the persons.

This is how education, as a concept, shall keep its strength and preserve the intensity of its content and this is how the USJ Spirit shall continue to develop dynamically and efficiently.

III- UNIVERSITY SDG STRATEGIES

Today's global problems require a bold and clear response from world leaders. Saint Joseph University of Beirut is confronting these global challenges through teaching, research, and social activities in order to create a more sustainable future.

The University has a network of 9 campuses, five in Beirut, three in the regions and one in Dubai. It includes 35 faculties and schools and various administrative and operational groups. At an institutional level, USJ works continuously on maintaining a sustainable community that impacts positively on the social, economic and environment level.

The USJ Charter states that with academic programs that go beyond degrees USJ is an institution with a diverse mission that looks beyond the school or academic setting to shape the leaders of tomorrow. Since 2018, USJ accelerated and reinforced the research focused on the SDGs and made sure to transform these researches into teaching in its programs, internal practices, and external activities in the society. USJ worked on identifying all the good practices in the different schools and works on institutionalizing them on university level. In 2021, the University participated in Safir program with AUF to reinforce the SDGs strategy and teaching.

USJ commitment is driven by the University Charter and reinforced by its Vision 2025 that puts sustainability in the heart of the University Vision. The Vision 2025 reviewed in 2018 following the USJ UNGC membership was the trigger to create an SDG committee presided by the Rector. The committee has 12 members from the different programs and administrative services covering expertise in all the chosen SDGs. This committee created thematic sub-committees to work on each SDG communication, implementation, and facilitation of teamwork across disciplines.

A core goal of the USJ strategy is promoting sustainability initiatives in every school and administrative office and sharing these practices through the University good practice platform, the annual report, and various other national and international platforms.

Since 2020, USJ started participating in the THE Impact ranking and is ranked among the 600 top universities and in the 2nd place in Lebanon. In 2021, the University won the position 15 in the WURI ranking for Real Impact in Crisis Management, and 101-200 among the World's Universities with Real Impact. USJ is also top 10 finalist for the THE Asia Award for Workplace of the Year.

Clarification of symbols:

@: Award or recognitions

€: Beirut Explosion or other crisis actions

©: COVID actions

®: Refugees related actions

4- ACTIONS PER SDG



SDG 1:



**NO
POVERTY**



A | CHAIR IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Lebanese School of Social Work (ELFS) established the Chair on Forced Displacement, which serves a vital role in informing policymaking and public discourse on the pressing issue of forced displacement in the Middle East. Through research and analysis, the Chair aims to generate knowledge that can be leveraged to develop effective policies and solutions for those affected by displacement.

B | TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (JRS)

A collaborative effort between the Lebanese School of Social Work (ELFS) and the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). From April to July 2022, a training program was delivered to 33 humanitarian participants and social workers from Lebanon, Syria and Iraq attended the training. The 90 hours training included theoretical courses, practical sessions and follow-up visits by trainers. Its main objectives aimed at preparing the staff in a crisis context and improving their skills in social intervention with individuals and families. A ceremony was held on November 30, 2022 to award the participants for their successful completion of the training.

C | GENERATION H.O.P.E.

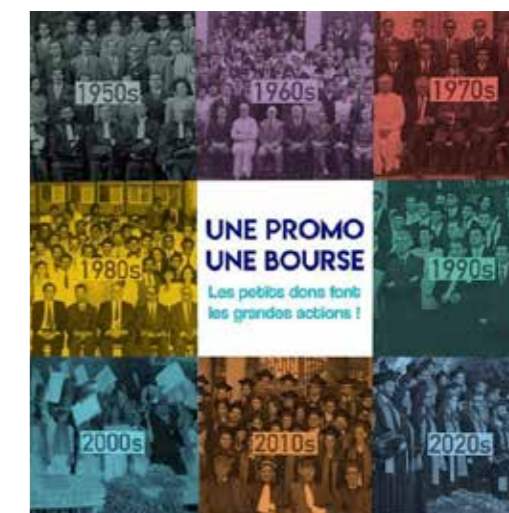
USJ students made a move in solidarity with the financial aid program of USJ and committed to Help Others Pursue Education. Spearheading student support is the student led Generation H.O.P.E. initiative supported by the Student Life Office (SVE). Through well-organized fundraising efforts, Generation H.O.P.E. directly contributes towards the educational expenses of underprivileged students, fostering a robust sense of solidarity within the USJ community. This exemplary initiative has demonstrably raised funds to cover the educational solidarity needs of approximately 126 USJ students per year, each receiving \$250. This program exemplifies USJ's profound commitment to social responsibility and solidarity.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/generationhope/our-story.php>

D | FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Furthermore, USJ's financial aid program of the Financial Aid Office has witnessed a significant rise in allocated resources. In the academic year 2020-2021, 49.8% of students received scholarships or financial aid, a figure that climbed to 53% by 2022-2023. This expansion ensures that a greater number of students can pursue their academic dreams.

The financial aid comes from a diverse range of scholarship funds catering to various needs. The "Une Promo, Une Bourse" Campaign, spearheaded by the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations, raises funds to support current students. The School of Engineering of Beirut "Promo ESIB 1988" Scholarship Fund offers not only financial aid but also mentorship to deserving students. The Faculty of Science "FS 25 Years Scholarship Fund" awards financial aid based on both academic merit and social need. The "The Semaan Semaan Scholarship Fund" provides financial support to students facing financial hardship. Finally, the unique "USJ-HDF Emergency and Solidarity Fund" offers financial aid for education, healthcare, and even housing reconstruction.



"Une Promo, Une Bourse"

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=10374>

E | OPÉRATION 7E JOUR

Opération 7^e jour (O7) is present in all faculties where students volunteer in projects inspired by their studies and benefiting the underprivileged. O7 partnered with volunteer medical students to organize a free medical day in Zahle. This initiative provided critical medical consultations to a large number of patients in need, demonstrating USJ's dedication to ensuring access to healthcare for all. The commitment extends far beyond a single event. These initiatives range from providing essential daily necessities to fatherless families and school supplies to children, to offering food aid and infant milk to families in need.

F | AL MAZEED: JOURNEYING TO EVER BROADER HORIZONS

The launch of Al Mazeed, a non-governmental organization (NGO) took place in March 2023. It all started with *USJ en mission* project, which supported students in collecting donations for families in need. In March 2020, they initiated the *Ketfe Bi Ketfak* campaign to support 150 families in dire straits due to the economic crisis that hit the country in late 2019. Several actions were carried out, leading to the implementation of an independent NGO, called *Al Mazeed*.

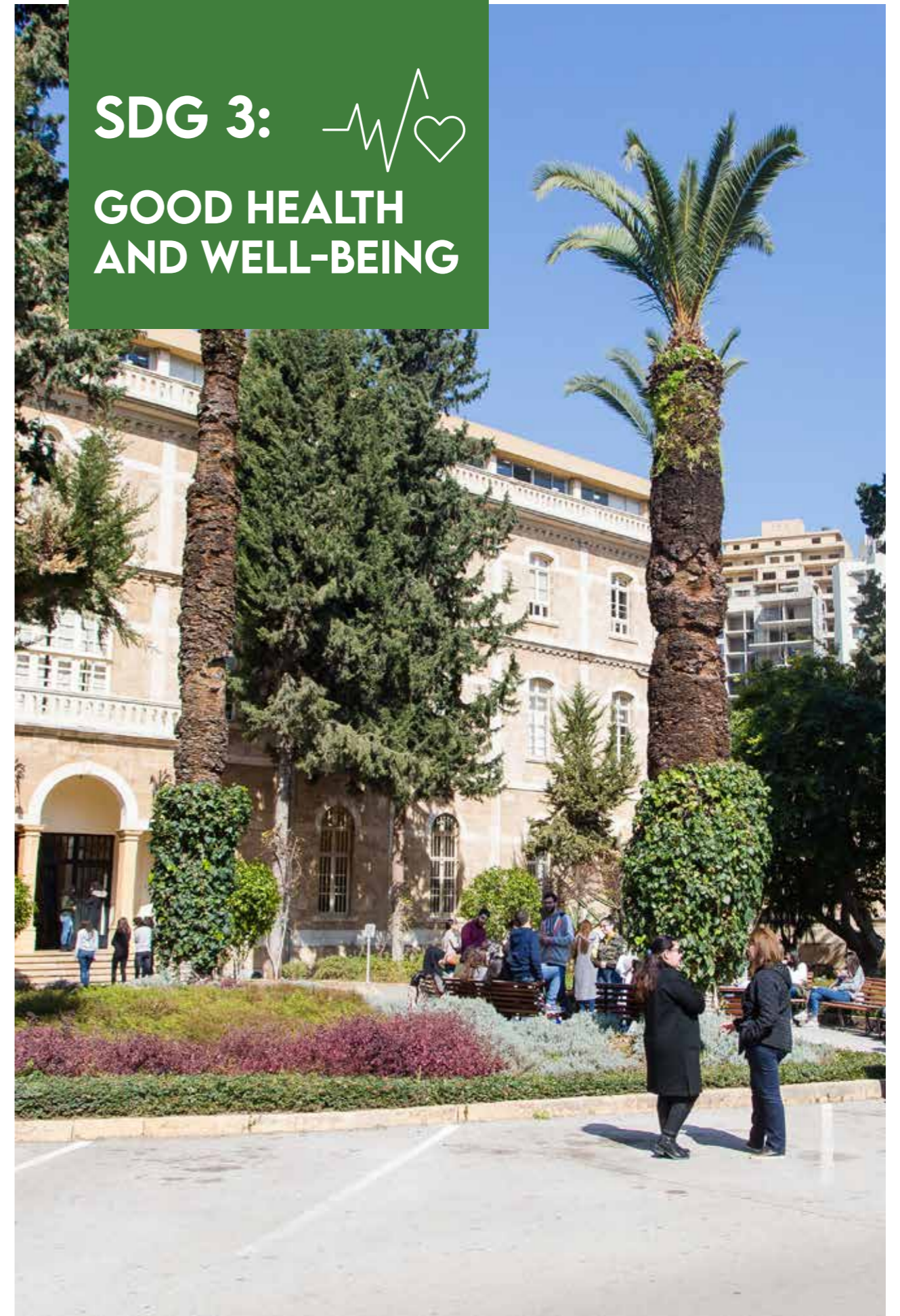
Magis, in Latin, means “more”. Saint Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus, always said: “More love and action for God which in turn results in more love and action for others. *Magis* pursues this principle through three main missions: strengthening the civic engagement among members of the Lebanese society, building sustainable community projects with the active participation of youth, and helping the elderly who refuse to give up in the face of the daily difficulties posed by the economic crisis and political instability.

Since its launch in March 2023, Al Mazeed has already made significant strides. Initiatives like the “Sandeh” project offer financial autonomy to retired USJ instructors and staff, while the “What School Doesn’t Teach You” project equips young people with essential life skills. Additionally, the Jbeil Eco-Museum promotes environmental awareness. Through these multifaceted efforts, USJ empowers marginalized communities and fosters a more just and sustainable future for all.



Al Mazeed: Journeying to Ever Broader Horizons
<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13367>
<https://almazeed.org/sandeh-project/>

SDG 3: 
**GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING**



A | FACULTY OF MEDICINE TEPDAD ACCREDITATION



The Faculty of Medicine received TEPDAD accreditation for six years, reflecting the program's excellence and faculty commitment. TEPDAD follows the standards of the WFME (World Federation for Medical Education). This accreditation allows graduates to pursue specialization opportunities in the United States.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14222>

B | WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS (WFOT) CERTIFICATION

The Bachelor in Occupational Therapy degree, offered by the Institute of Occupational Therapy, received full World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) approval for the 2022-2029 period, a significant step towards national and regional recognition for the profession.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12374>

C | INTERNATIONAL INDEXATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARAB JOURNAL OF DENTISTRY

The Faculty's "International Arab Journal of Dentistry" received nominations for inclusion in EBSCO databases and is indexed on SCOPUS and GOOGLE SCHOLAR.

D | INAUGURATION OF THE PROF. FOUAD KHOURY CENTER FOR ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

The Dental Care Center has the ISO-9001 accreditation. It is equipped with 90 dental instruments in 5 rooms covering all odontological disciplines. It treats around 3,500 new patients every year. In addition to the standard disciplines, it offers

treatment in highly specialized departments, particularly in endodontics, fixed prosthetics, removable prosthetics, implantology and services for the disabled. The Center will launch laser dentistry in collaboration with the University of Sapienza.

E | "DA VINCI XI" ROBOT, FOURTH GENERATION

Hôtel-Dieu de France (HDF) signed an agreement with *Clinique du Levant* granting it access to the unique fourth-generation "Da Vinci Xi" robot, which is used for a wide range of surgical procedures to enable rapid patient recovery, and to reduce pain and the risk of post-operative infections.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=11430>

F | SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: PRIX CHRISTOPHE MÉRIEUX SCHOLARSHIPS

Students from the Faculty of Pharmacy benefitted from scholarships awarded thanks to the "Prix Christophe Mérieux" received by Dean, Prof. Marianne Abi Fadel. The President of *Fondation Mérieux*, Mr. Alain Mérieux, visited the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory of the USJ Faculty of Pharmacy and met with the students.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12756>

G | NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS: MASTER IN SENSOR PHYSICS AND INSTRUMENTATION - MEDICAL RADIOPHYSICS

The Faculty of Science launched the Master in Sensor Physics and Instrumentation - Medical Radiophysics in collaboration with CNRS-Lebanon (National Council for Scientific Research) and the radiotherapy departments of *Hôtel-Dieu de France* and the Mount Lebanon Hospital University Medical Center. It aims to ensure quality and safety in medical radiation use and optimize its applications for diagnosis and treatment. Its goal is to also optimize the medical applications of this radiation in therapy and diagnosis in radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and hospital imaging departments, as well as in medical diagnostic laboratories.

H | DR. SAMI RICHAS HONORED



Dr. Sami Richas, former Head of Psychiatry at USJ's Faculty of Medicine and Chairman of the Ethics Committee at *Hôtel-Dieu de France*, became the first Lebanese psychiatrist elected to France's National Academy of Medicine (France's foremost body of physicians established in 1820).

<https://www.hdf.usj.edu.lb/en/news/lebanons-professor-sami-richas-historic-election-french-national-academy-medicine>

I | HEALTHCARE INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY STIMULUS (HITS) AWARDS

USJ partnered with the American University of Beirut (AUB) to recognize outstanding healthcare and technology projects by students from both institutions for their exemplary projects aimed at advancing technology and healthcare in Lebanon. From a pool of 34 submissions, seven projects were chosen for funding by a panel of Lebanese and international experts. The selected projects received funding, focusing on areas like early cancer detection and targeted treatment delivery systems:

1. ElectroCorticography (ECoG): Abiodegradable, cost-effective alternative offering minimally invasive and highly efficient solutions for patients with degenerative neurological disorders.
2. Portable Creatinine-Dedicated Instantaneous Test: A portable solution for immediate creatinine testing.
3. Low-Cost, High-Sensitivity Electronic Chip for Early Cancer Detection: A cost-effective electronic chip designed for early cancer detection and monitoring in blood samples.
4. Portable Assay for Rapid Clinical Detection of Neonatal Sepsis: An accurate and sensitive portable assay facilitating swift clinical detection of neonatal sepsis in preterm infants.
5. Targeted Treatment Delivery System for

Rhabdomyosarcoma: A system devised to administer targeted treatment against the specific gene responsible for childhood tumor rhabdomyosarcoma.

6. Circulating Biomarker for Multiple Sclerosis Activity: A biomarker correlating with multiple sclerosis activity, enhancing patient care by enabling more precise and cost-effective treatment.
7. Intraoral Scanners for Orthodontic Treatment: Intraoral scanners designed to automatically identify individual teeth within a digital impression and accurately measure teeth movement throughout an orthodontic treatment plan.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=10489>

J | TWO USJ STUDENTS STAND OUT AT THE 2071 FUTURE HEALTH HACKATHON

USJ students Henry Farha (recent graduate) and Bryan Youssef (third year) secured the second place out of 600 participants in the international Future Health Hackathon 2071 for their "MaTense" application, designed to remind users about early breast cancer detection practices.

<https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1256510/deux-etudiants-de-lusj-concoivent-une-application-pour-le-depistage-precoce-du-cancer-du-sein>

K | HEALTHCARE RESEARCH DAYS

This event brought together researchers, professors, doctors, and PhD candidates to discuss innovative solutions for healthcare challenges in Lebanon's socio-economic climate. It also marked the launch of "USJ Lebanon One Health: One Sustainable Health for All," a project evolved from research conducted at USJ on antibiotic resistance in pathogens and resistant bacteria transmitted from animals to humans through meat consumption, air and river pollution, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), toxins, and more.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13652>

L | THE FUTURE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL PROFESSION

The Faculty of Pharmacy of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) organized a Pharmaceutical Day entitled 'The Future of the Pharmaceutical Profession: Impact of Research and Development.' The event was attended by more than 150 people including national and international university representatives and the CEOs and representatives of multinational and local pharmaceutical companies (exporters, importers and local producers).



Scholarships to pharmacy and laboratory students

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12756>

M | HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

Experts from USJ and AUB gathered to implement training and proficiency testing activities in clinical microbiology in government and private laboratories, in collaboration with the Lebanese Ministry of Health and with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO). 185 government and private laboratories across the country were included in the study published in 2022. Biologists and microbiology technicians were trained to better diagnose pathogens and accurately determine their sensitivity to antibiotics. This experience shows the importance of such training to homogenize practices and guarantee a better diagnostic and therapeutic response for therapists.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=11469>

N | WEBINAR ON OUTDOOR AND INDOOR AIR POLLUTION



Outdoor and indoor exposure to air pollution
The Chair CEEDD organized a webinar, in collaboration with USAID-CSP, to discuss the effects of outdoor and indoor exposure to air pollution. With more than 100 participants from various sectors, the presentation caught the attention of the audience where they learned the real risks associated with these exposures.

https://www.usj.edu.lb/inst/includes/call_pdf.php?pdf=611_pub.pdf

O | O7 CAMPAIGNS

O7 organized various awareness campaigns. One was dedicated to breast cancer, encouraging women to undergo screening during October 2023. Another campaign in November 2023 involved screening for several cancers: colon, prostate, breast and skin. On this day, free tests were offered, including breast ultrasounds, mammograms, PSA tests and FIT tests. They provided medical equipment to support health dispensaries as well as the *Hôtel-Dieu de France* (HDF) hospital: medical examination tables, medical instruments, UV lamps, wheelchairs, canes, blankets, walkers, diapers, and more than 25 water pumps for water refining were distributed to families in need. O7 organized a dental day for all children aged between 5 and 16 in partnership with the Aley Rotary Club and the municipality of Aley. Over 100 children took part in the activity, which included a free dental screening and fluoride application. Toothpaste kits, toothbrushes and dental accessories were distributed in a friendly atmosphere, accompanied by entertainment and group games. In partnership with Rotary Club Beirut Cedars, O7 provided tablets and laptops to be installed in the activity room in the Pediatric Department, as well as books and toys to be distributed to hospitalized children at *Hôtel-Dieu de France*.

"USJ en Mission" and O7 collaborated to distribute over 800 boxes of medication to those in need, assisting 70 families struggling with medication costs.

To raise awareness of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, Socking Clumsy and O7, in partnership with the UN Global Compact Network Lebanon, launched a fun competition for schools as part of the Heal project.



Awareness campaign against Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease

https://usj.edu.lb/photos/design_photos/new4/index.php?id_cat=4022&fr=f&an=f&ar=f

J | MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Students of the Higher Institute of Public Health (ISSP) worked with young Lebanese people to raise awareness about mental health. Under the title "Your Mental Health is a Priority, Break the Silence, Break the Stigma," they organized different interventions and activities for Lebanese students aged between 15 and 22. The first intervention was at (CEUZB) in Zahle, Beqaa and the second in two schools. The activities consisted of an awareness-raising session presenting the importance of mental health, the signs and symptoms of mental health problems, and the effectiveness of prevention and treatment with specialists (psychologists and psychiatrists).

K | HPV VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

In early 2024, USJ and HDF launched a vaccination campaign for the human papillomavirus (HPV), targeting USJ students, faculty, staff, and their families. Worldwide, 625,600 women and 69,400 men develop cancer related to HPV infection every year. Cervical cancers account for 93% of HPV-related cancers in women. By getting vaccinated, individuals contribute to preventing the risks of HPV-related cancers. The campaign aims to encourage everyone to be vaccinated, prioritize prevention, and work towards a future without compromising on health.

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION



A | PROF. SALIM DACCACHE, SJ AWARDED PETER CANISIUS MEDAL



Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Rector of USJ, received the Peter Canisius Medal from Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, in recognition of his contributions to education, spirituality, social justice, culture, and intellectual advancement of mankind. The event took place at the closing ceremony of the International Association for Jesuit Universities (IAJU) general assembly in August 2022, at Boston College.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12308>

B | “FOUR DREAMS” GRAND PRIZE AWARDED TO THE FILM “DREAMING IN A DESTROYED COUNTRY”

“Dreaming in a Destroyed Country” wins Grand Prix at the International Association of Jesuit Universities Assembly in Boston. Ziad Tannouri’s film about the challenges facing Lebanon’s education sector won the grand prize in the Jesuit “Four Dreams” film competition. The film was selected by a jury of 23 members from all continents.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12247#:~:text=Le%20film%20E2%80%9CDreaming%20in%20a,film%20j%C3%A9suite%20C2%AB%20Four%20Dreams%20C2%BB>

C | EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 1ST YEAR USJ STUDENTS

USJ awarded scholarships to 66 high-achieving students enrolled in their first year. Despite the crises and difficulties that Lebanon has been experiencing, USJ has never ceased to grant financial aid and scholarships for excellence, reaffirming its commitment to the development of young people and the country’s future.

<https://alumnusj.org/en/article/remise-des-bourses-d-excellence-aux-etudiants-de-1re-annee-de-l-usj/25/04/2024/1086>

D | USJ: THE UNIVERSITY WITH THE BEST SPORTS RESULTS IN LEBANON



USJ Ranked Number One in Sports (2022/2023 Season): USJ’s sports teams achieved the top ranking in Lebanon according to the Lebanese University Sports Federation (FSUL). After a magnificent performance by the Kukiwon World Demonstration Team, the Secretary General of the FSUL presented the Rector and the captains of the USJ teams with the award for the best university of the 2022/2023 season.

<https://alumnusj.org/fr/article/l-usj-l-universite-aux-meilleurs-resultats-sportifs-au-liban/12/09/2023/936>

E | SYMPOSIUM ON LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

On the occasion of National Learning Disabilities Day, USJ partnered with the SKILD Association to hold a symposium titled “We Have to Know” to promote inclusive education.

F | TRAINING INSTRUCTORS

The Faculty of Education (FSEDU) celebrated the graduation of students in “E-learning Pedagogy” and “Neuroeducation” programs. These diplomas enable teachers to develop skills in educational neuroscience, in engineering and developing teaching-learning situations, and in the integration of students with special educational needs.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=10813>

G | THE SCHOOL OF TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS OF BEIRUT: THE ONLY NON-EUROPEAN EMT MEMBER

The School of Translators and Interpreters of Beirut (ETIB) was recognized as the only non-European member of the prestigious EMT network of MA programs in translation.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12656>

H | GOOGLE TRANSLATE VS. HUMAN TRANSLATOR CONTEST



A collaboration between ETIB and the *Institut français du Liban* (IFL) held an online translation contest to showcase the limitations of machine translation.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=11013>

I | TRAINING WORKSHOP ON STUDENT GUIDANCE

The University Pedagogical Mission (MPU) conducted a workshop focused on mentoring and tutoring students.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14349>

J | “THE ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF EVALUATION IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE”



UNTE organized a meeting to discuss ethical considerations in student evaluation using AI tools.

K | INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



To asset the intercultural dialogue in the Middle East, the Professional Mediation Center in collaboration with AUF aims to raise students' and instructors' awareness of mediation as a conflict resolution tool and organize mediation workshops for students and instructors from various faculties. 315 students and 125 instructors, researchers and professionals attended these seminars.

<https://usj.edu.lb/cpm/formation-pour-les-etudiants.php>

L | USJ 360°



USJ held its third annual Back-to-School Festival, “USJ 360°,” aimed at developing students' team spirit and sense of belonging.

550 students from 8 campuses and all USJ faculties, institutes and schools shared an unforgettable day together.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12641>

M | RISE CONFERENCE

The RISE Conference is focused on improving the effectiveness of organizations in the public and private sectors.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12672>

N | SCHOOL VISITS TO THE ORIENTAL LIBRARY

The Oriental Library (BO) hosted 8 school groups for educational visits focused on Lebanese history and heritage. The visits aimed to enhance students' learning experiences by providing them with hands-on opportunities to explore Lebanon's documentary resources. They learned about the influence of the Society of Jesus on Lebanon's artistic and educational landscape to urbanization. They also acquired knowledge on the Mount Lebanon Mutasarrifate system. These visits allowed students to delve into the richness of their heritage and engage with the diverse documents housed at the BO.

O | AEFÉ TRAINING FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS



The BO offered training sessions for history, geography, and EMC teachers on integrating contextual teaching content into their curricula. The *Agence pour l'enseignement français à l'étranger* (AEFE) hosted a training session at the Oriental Library (BO) for 18, cycle 3, history, geography, and EMC teachers from diverse schools. Speakers Juan Antonio Da Silva Melendo, Sylvain Arnaud, and Georges Poirout guided discussions on the complexities of integrating contextual teaching content into school curricula. The session also featured a case study utilizing the BO's extensive photographic collection, specifically examining the evolution of Faraya's ski slopes. Another training session for 21, cycle 3 and 4 history, geography, and EMC teachers from diverse schools took place. With speakers Jean-Baptiste Huret and Sylvain Arnaud, the day's agenda featured two insightful case studies: a visit to the Museum of Lebanese Prehistory and an exploration of the BO's extensive collections, including photographs, maps, periodicals, and books focusing on specific themes.

P | BEST STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



A photography competition for Lebanese high school students was held in conjunction with the *Beyrouth Livres* festival. The opening of the exhibition “*Le Liban n'a pas d'âge*”, marked the commencement of *Beyrouth Livres*, the annual French-language literary festival organized by the *Institut Français* (IF). This exhibition, which reimagines the works of 30 Lebanese photographers featured in the book of the same name co-edited by Bernard Chauveau and Sylvie Andreu, was a collaborative effort between the Oriental Library (BO), IF, *Agenda Culturel*, and the Boghossian Foundation. In addition to showcasing the reinterpretation of these works, the event provided Lebanese secondary school students with an opportunity to contribute through a photography competition centered around the theme of an ageless Lebanon.

Exposition: « Le Liban n'a pas d'âge » (usj.edu.lb)
BEYROUTH LIVRES: 'Le Liban n'a pas d'âge'; exposition et présentation du livre (agendaculturel.com)
Beyrouth Livres 2023 - Du 2 au 8 octobre 2023 - Institut français du Liban (institutfrancais-liban.com)

Q | MEETING WITH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

USJ leadership met with school principals to discuss educational partnerships and the University's commitment to providing accessible, high-quality education.

https://usj.edu.lb/photos/design_photos/new4/index.php?id_cat=3495

R | PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY



The Chair of “Fondation Diane” in Education for Eco-Citizenship and Sustainable Development (CEEDD) launched a series of free, interactive webinars entitled: “CEEDD’s Webinars” to reach a wider audience and inform them of the latest news and innovations in the world. Integration of the digital world with today’s young people, the “digital natives”, is an integrative, holistic and motivating approach. The topics covered are directly linked to the three pillars of Sustainable Development: economic, environmental and social.

https://www.usj.edu.lb/inst//includes/call_pdf.php?pdf=496_pub.pdf

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY



A | MANUAL TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN CONFLICT PREVENTION

UN Women and the Professional Center for Mediation (CPM) launched a Manual for Training Women's Mediation Networks on Conflict Prevention and Management in Lebanon. This project was carried out in collaboration with the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) with the generous support of the Government of Finland and The Rebecca Dykes Foundation. It is a tool that acknowledges the role of women in managing local disputes and promoting effective dialogue. This manual features the training methodology and consists of seven modules: four modules cover how to conduct trainings and three modules cover how to implement community initiatives.

<https://lebanon.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/manual-for-training-womens-mediation-networks-on-conflict-prevention-and-management-in-lebanon>

<https://lebanon.unwomen.org/en/stories/press-release/2022/05/launch-of-manual-to-support-womens-leadership-in-conflict-prevention-and-management-in-lebanon>

B | MEDIATION FOR WOMEN

In collaboration with Un Women, the USJ Professional Center for Mediation (CPM) provided trainings for women active in their communities (NGOs, municipalities, schools, social service centers, etc.) in different regions: Beirut, Metn, Kesrouan, Zahle, Tripoli, Akkar, Chouf and Marjeyoun. A total of 240 women attended these training courses, including 25 who pursued the CPM's DU in mediation to become professional mediators.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12405>

C | WELLBEING & WORK



The Chair of "Fondation Diane" (CEEDD) launched a training program that aimed at empowering women and their families residing in the poorest neighborhoods of Beirut, Nabaa and Bourj Hammoud. Training sessions included contraceptive methods, first aid techniques, introduction to job search

platforms and many other topics that meets educational and psychological needs of women, enabling them to become active members in the society.

https://www.usj.edu.lb/inst/inst/includes/call_pdf.php?pdf=496_pub.pdf

D | DIPLOMA IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY MEDIATION

A two-semester program offered by CPM (Professional Center for Mediation) and ELFS (*Ecole Libanaise de formation sociale*) in partnership with AUF (*Agence universitaire de la francophonie*), targeting professional mediators, social workers, lawyers, and psychologists.

E | COURSES DEDICATED TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Several faculties have incorporated courses into their curriculum that explore the history, rights, and experiences of women in Lebanon and the Arab world. Examples include:

Gender in the Arab World: At the Faculty of Law and Political Science, this course examines the political, social, and economic contexts of struggles around feminist and gender issues and their impact on women. It aims to understand how gender has served as a basis for political, social, legal and spatial organization, and for the distribution of power between men and women.

Women in the Arab world in the Twentieth Century: Offered at the Faculty of Humanities, this course looks at the role of women in history during this period.

Arab Women in Literature and Film: Also offered at the Faculty of Humanities, this course delves into arab women in literature and film. Literature and cinema have become spaces of expression and struggle, giving voice to a variety of female figures from the Middle East to the Maghreb. The aim of this course is to explore some of these literary texts and films.

Women's rights: The Higher Institute for Insurance Sciences focused on women's rights.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12722>

F | ANTI-SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), committed to the principles of the Charter of the University and particularly to the protection of human freedom against any oppression, has put in place an Anti-Psychological and Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy. Any member of the USJ community who believes they have been the victim of harassment can confide in a support person, contact a "listening unit" or lodge a complaint directly with the "complaints commission". The alleged victim may request that their identity not be divulged.

Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA): The Professional Training Center offers training on PSEA to USJ staff.

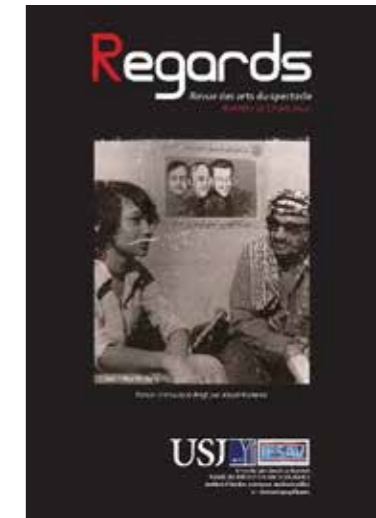
G | TRAINING PROGRAM ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



The Chair of "Fondation Diane" (CEEDD) launched the training program on Gender-based violence (GBV) in partnership with the CFP-USJ and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA - Lebanon). This program aims to assist experts and practitioners to become effective and successful trainers (Training of Trainers or TOT) on gender issues and equity.

https://www.usj.edu.lb/inst/inst/includes/call_pdf.php?pdf=496_pub.pdf

H | LEBANESE WOMEN DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS



In the "Regards" magazine, published by the Institute of Theater, Audiovisual and Cinematic Studies (IESAV-USJ) under the direction of Joseph Korkmaz, Mathilde Rouxel of *Université Sorbonne Nouvelle* has written a dissertation on Lebanese women documentary filmmakers and the legacy of internationalist struggles (1970-2020). The article explores how the 1967 defeat spurred a generation of women to take up the camera. This period coincided with national liberation movements across the region and the outbreak of the Lebanese war.

<https://journals.usj.edu.lb/regards/article/view/687/589>
<https://journals.usj.edu.lb/regards/article/view/687>

I | BEIRUT ART FILM FESTIVAL (BAFF) EVENTS

BAFF has partnered with The Oriental Library - USJ to organize roundtable discussions on Lebanese women in various fields, including architecture and photography. Six pioneering women in architecture recounted their academic and professional careers, highlighting the difficulties they have encountered and the innovations they have brought, and shared their thoughts and advice for future generations. Another discussion was dedicated to Women & Photography, where 11 female photographers working in Lebanon talked about male photographers. Also, Ghada Waked shared photos of remarkable women who have made their way in Lebanon's patriarchal society.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13412>

J | WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS WORKSHOPS

The *Cellule 07 Gestion et Management* organized a training for “women entrepreneurs” led by experienced faculty members who introduced entrepreneurial skills mainly covering digital marketing, online sales, SME legal aspects, and SME management.



Intisar Foundation and the role of women
Visite de Son Altesse Sheikha Intisar Salem Al Ali Al Sabah
à la Bibliothèque orientale (usj.edu.lb)

K | EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

USJ institutions have hosted numerous conferences and exhibitions over the past three years that focus on women’s empowerment, rights, and roles in society.

- The Faculty of Law and Political Science, the Institute of Political Science and the Global Campus Arab World organized the workshop “Women’s rights between principle of non-regression and practice”.
- The Department of History-International Relations in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon organized a Lecture on ‘Women in Politics’
- The Faculty of Humanities and the Museum of Lebanese Prehistory organized a conference about Women’s Beauty in the Ancient East: Products and Accessories, a lecture about Phoenician women “I glory in having been born in Sidon” and an exhibition dedicated to sculptures by Alain Vassoyan.
- Fondation Diane organized a roundtable on March 8, 2022, about Women Change Makers, where eight prominent figures, pioneers of women empowerment united for a discussion on the crucial role of women in every aspect of life, especially in society and decision-making.
- Princess Intisar of Kuwait visited the Oriental Library (BO). This visit highlighted the BO’s collection of materials related to women’s contributions in the Arab world. BO showcased its diverse collections, with a focus on the central role of women. Iconic figures such as Fairouz and Nadia Tuéni, immortalized by Varoujan Sétian’s photography, as well as periodicals documenting the emergence of women’s press in the Arab world, provided visitors with insights into the significant contributions of women to the region’s cultural landscape.

L | SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The O7 family collected 500 sanitary towels to support disadvantaged women. The *O7 Gestion et Management* program supports women in need; this program addresses various needs of women, including education and psychological support.

SDG 8:



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



A | USJ CONNECT – JOB FAIR AND NETWORKING WITH EMPLOYERS



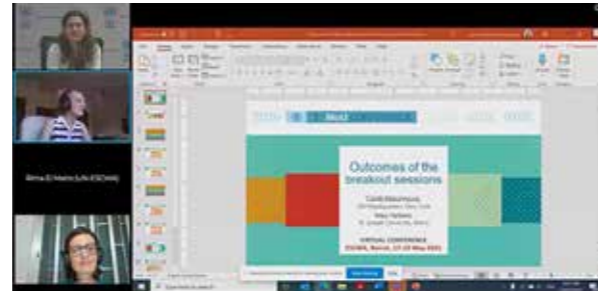
The annual job placement and recruitment fair, “USJ Connect,” provides a central platform for students to connect with potential employers. With over 280 job/internship offers, 75 HR managers and headhunters in attendance, and 841 interview simulations, USJ Connect offers invaluable networking opportunities across diverse fields. Pop-up tent events on all USJ campuses throughout the year further facilitated student-employer interaction. SIP disseminate job and internship opportunities through various communication channels, ensuring students are informed of relevant openings.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=11504>
<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12422>

B | ENHANCING CAREER PROSPECTS WITH PARTNERSHIPS AT THE USJ BUSINESS SCHOOL

The USJ Business School has fostered a strong network through 50 partnership agreements with diverse organizations and industry players across the globe. These collaborations have benefited the School in several ways. They have strengthened governance with the inclusion of 20 CEOs and GMs on the advisory board, ensured curriculum development stays relevant to industry needs, facilitated engagement through industry leader conferences and speaker series, and provided valuable internship opportunities for students, all contributing to their career development.

C | ETIB AT THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL UN CONFERENCE



USJ, the only UN-partner university in Lebanon, took part in this biennial conference, organized for the first time from Beirut by the ESCWA Conference Management Department team. Few of the many outcomes of this conference were welcoming more interns to UN institutions, exploiting the possibility of organizing distance internships, and developing online training materials to prepare students for UN competitive examinations.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=10660>

D | DEVELOPING ESSENTIAL SKILLS THROUGH EMPLOYABILITY WORKSHOPS

SIP organizes 40 free workshops per year to equip students with the necessary skills to navigate the job market. Topics range from interview preparation such as the “Dress for Success” workshop, to soft skill development such as the “Improvisation for Better Soft Skills” workshop.

E | PERSONALIZED CAREER GUIDANCE

Recognizing the need for individualized support, SIP offers one-on-one coaching sessions. Students receive guidance on crafting effective CVs and cover letters, identifying job opportunities, building career plans, and preparing for job interviews.

F | INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT

The University offers an “Inclusive Education Diploma” that equips students with the knowledge and skills to support the employment of individuals with special needs.

USJ participated in the “National Day for Learning Difficulties” symposium organized by the SKILD Association. Titled “لازم نعرف” (“We Have to Know”), the symposium brought together stakeholders in inclusive education to discuss strategies for integrating young people with learning difficulties into the workforce.



<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=11846>

G | ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

The Center for Competencies and Entrepreneurship (EC2) offered 12 entrepreneurship training workshops as part of a training program designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to launch their own startups. The workshops covered a wide range of topics from ideation to business plan development.

H | CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



EC2 organized four innovation awards funded by Banque BEMO, Resource Group, Maroun N. Chammas and the Association of Bekaa Industrialists. The recipients received recognition for their creativity and innovation and benefited from in-depth training sessions with industry experts, further propelling their ventures forward.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12510>

I | INAUGURATION OF EMPLOYABILITY AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTERS

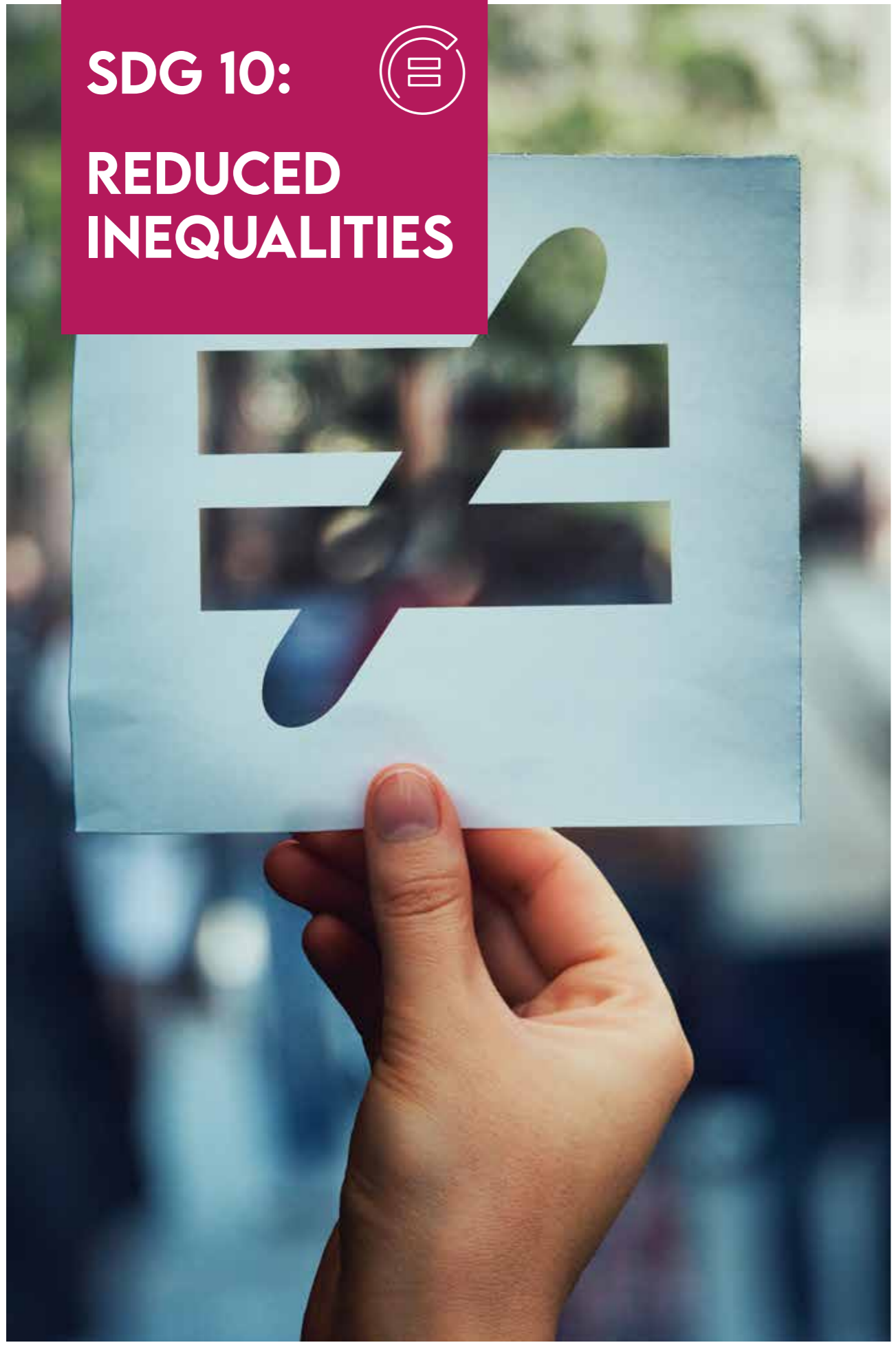
In partnership with the *Agence universitaire de la francophonie* (AUF), under the Safir program, EC2 inaugurated three employability and social entrepreneurship centers across USJ’s regional campuses (CLN-CLS-CZB). These centers provide all students with the opportunity to learn about social entrepreneurship and translate their ideas into impactful ventures.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12906>
<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13714>

J | SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT

USJ hosted the Social Entrepreneurship Summit organized by OXFAM. This event gave students invaluable exposure to the latest developments in social entrepreneurship, fostering inspiration and collaboration.

SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES



A | DIPLOMA ON MIGRATION

USJ collaborated with the International Organization for Migration to offer a diploma program for Lebanese law enforcement personnel. The goal is to enhance the capacities of Lebanese law enforcement agencies in managing complex migration dynamics while safeguarding the rights and well-being of migrants.

B | GRADUATION OF THE FIRST CLASS OF THE INTEGRATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES PROJECT

Under the “Integration of Syrian Refugees at USJ Project”, USJ graduated its first class of Syrian refugees who participated in a project designed to facilitate their academic and social integration at the university. On this occasion, a ceremony was held in July 2022, attended by the students, their parents, and officials of USJ.

Link: <https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12360>



C | A VISION FOR INCLUSION

USJ put in place training courses devoted explicitly to disability awareness and inclusion, made them accessible to all employees, instructors, and students, and promoted inclusive spaces on all its campuses.

D | EDUCATION FOR ALL

USJ was one of 14 universities that participated in the first Arab Universal Design for Learning Conference. The conference, organized by the Inclusion and Special Needs Support Center at the Qatar University, was held under the slogan “The Future of Comprehensive Education in the Arab Countries.” USJ actively participated in all the conference committees. The conference provided a valuable opportunity for the participating universities to share their strengths and experiences, with a particular focus on effective and efficient strategies for including people with special needs on campus and in the workplace.

E | INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



The Chair of “*Fondation Diane*” for Education on Eco-citizenship and Sustainable Development (CEEDD) organized a webinar to raise awareness about academic and professional inclusion for people with special needs and strengthen connections between USJ and potential employers. They promoted inclusive spaces on all campuses and continued to provide programs for the inclusion of people with disabilities.

https://www.usj.edu.lb/inst//includes/call_pdf.php?pdf=281_pub.pdf

F | “THE RIGHTS OF THE RIGHTLESS”



The Faculty of Law and Political Science organized a round table titled “The Rights of the Rightless” to analyze the situation of Lebanese people unregistered with the civil registry, who lack basic rights and national identity. This discussion aimed to identify solutions and advocate for legislative changes.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14487>

G | SOCIAL COHESION MISSIONS

USJ’s social engagement unit, *Opération 7e jour* – USJ, conducted four missions and approximately 30 projects between October 2023 and March 2024, promoting social cohesion through activities such as free healthcare sessions, school programs, and food distribution for the underprivileged.



SDG 11:



SUSTAINABLE
CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES



A | REDUCING PLASTIC USE: REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLES

As part of the *USJ Verte* initiative, CEEDD launched an awareness campaign to reduce plastic use. “*Fondation Diane*” donated 600 reusable water bottles made from recycled and recyclable plastic to the university community. This initiative helps limit the use of disposable water bottles and plastic cups.

B | ENERGY TRANSITION

The University launched a project to integrate education on sustainable development and energy transition into teaching. This aims to make students aware of the challenges in their local environment.

C | COLLABORATION WITH TOTALENERGIES FOR SOLAR CENTERS

USJ partnered with TotalEnergies Marketing Lebanon to install solar panels on two campuses. This project, the largest solar energy installation on USJ grounds, is expected to generate over 1.1 MWp, with 756 kWp generated by the Sciences and Technology Campus, Mar Roukoz and 352 kWp generated by the Social Sciences Campus, Huvelin Street. This project will contribute to the reduction of 550 tons of CO₂ emissions per year and is equivalent to powering 250 Lebanese homes per year. In its move towards a green university, USJ has already equipped nine of its sites with solar panels. In this new solar energy installation, the largest on USJ’s campuses, is in collaboration with TotalEnergies Marketing Lebanon.

D | SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH



A research team conducted several researches in partnership with industrial partners on the potential applications of polyphenols extracted from grape

waste. They explored its use as food coloring and antioxidant compounds. The team published their findings in conferences and journals and received national and international recognition.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=11759>

E | “LA BATAILLE DU CÈDRE” SCREENING



The Oriental Library (BO) partnered with the Beirut Art Film Festival (BAFF) to present “BAFF at School.” During this annual event, the documentary “*La bataille du cèdre*” was screened for students from 16 private and public schools across Lebanon, comprising 1,021 students and educators. The documentary explores the efforts to restore cedar forests in the Bcharre region. This event offered students a chance to learn about Lebanon’s cultural heritage and environmental issues.

<https://beirutartfilmfestival.org/schools/>

F | “WRITING AND INHABITING SPACES IN CRISIS” ROUND TABLE

The Departments of Literature, Philosophy, and Geography at USJ’s Faculty of Humanities (FLSH) organized a round table discussion. This forum explored the relationship between culture and nature in the Anthropocene epoch, with a focus on critical themes like the poetry of place, human-environment interaction in an uncertain context, and the link between collective amnesia and environmental destruction. By fostering dialogue on these critical issues, USJ aimed to raise awareness about environmental challenges and inspire responsible action.

The accent was made on the role of human sciences which provide the push to act and make things happen. The round table focused on the environmental problems which have intensified over the years in Lebanon. The debate also revealed how the systematic deforestation, the drilling of the Lebanese mountains and the privatization of seaside areas constitute political strategies to dissolve the feeling of belonging to a common territory.

G | USAID-CSP WASTE SORTING PROJECT

As part of USAID’s Community Support Program (CSP), CEEDD implemented a training program targeting the 20 municipalities of the Koura area in order to raise residents’ awareness on the importance of sorting waste at its source, as well as the environmental and health impacts associated with waste pollution. For this purpose, USAID-CSP provided the area with 64 metal bins with a capacity of 600 liters each to collect recyclable items. The goal of the initiative is to raise public awareness and educate citizens on the significance of sorting waste at the source. Following the training, each municipality implemented one awareness campaign coached by the Chair, thus reaching the community and raising awareness on a larger scale.

H | AWARENESS RAISING AROUND SORTING AT SOURCE (BATROUN DISTRICT)

As part of the Community Support Program funded by USAID and implemented by Chemonics, the Chair of “*Fondation Diane*”, CEEDD, implemented a training program targeting the Municipality of Batroun and 11 municipalities of the Batroun District in order to raise the citizens’ awareness on the importance of sorting waste at its source, as well as the environmental and health impacts associated with waste pollution. Following the training, each municipality implemented one awareness campaign coached by the Chair, thus reaching the community and raising awareness on a larger scale.

I | SOLID WASTE SORTING (MAKSE VILLAGE & KOURA DISTRICT)

Working with CSP-USAID, the CEEDD implemented a training program for a group of volunteers from Makse village and 18 municipalities of the Koura district. The aim of the program was to empower the volunteers to create a comprehensive awareness plan and effectively implement it within their respective communities. CSP provided a total of 222 metal bins to distribute in the area.

https://www.usj.edu.lb/inst//includes/call_pdf.php?pdf=496_pub.pdf



J | RECYCLING AT LYCÉE FRANCO-LIBANAIS DE VERDUN

CEEDD partnered with the *Lycée franco-libanais de Verdun* to promote waste sorting at school. The project includes training teachers, students, and cleaning staff on waste management and sorting practices. The school will receive waste-sorting bins, and student eco-delegates will develop awareness campaigns for parents.

https://www.usj.edu.lb/inst//includes/call_pdf.php?pdf=496_pub.pdf



K | THE SWAP CONCEPT

USJ’s social engagement unit, *Opération 7e jour (O7)*, organized “The Swap Concept,” a clothing swap event. This initiative encouraged sustainable fashion practices by providing a platform for participants to exchange gently used clothing. This fun and beneficial activity promoted responsible consumption patterns within the university community.

SDG 16:



PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS

A | DUAL DEGREE IN PUBLIC LAW



A partnership between USJ's Faculty of Law and Political Science (FDSP) and the Jean Moulin Lyon III University offers a Master's degree focused on public law as a tool for development and upholding the rule of law in Lebanon. The master has two options: one in in-depth public law and the other in public business law. Graduates will obtain a double diploma by USJ and by Jean Moulin Lyon III University.

One of the aims of the Master's program is to counter the gradual erosion of institutions in Lebanon by opposing the widespread corruption and reminding us of the rules governing public and democratic institutions, including public finance.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=11291>

B | UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND CITIZEN INITIATIVE



The Training Academy for Citizenship offers a University diploma in Civic Engagement and Citizen Initiative. The Academy is under the academic supervision of the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Law and Political Science. It benefited from the support of *Fondation Diane*, the Tamari Foundation and the *Association Liban Avenir Meilleur* (ALAM Switzerland). The objective of this University Diploma is to reimagine the Lebanese social contract by encouraging young people to become actively involved in the life and debates of democratic institutions. It will help them identify local potential and needs, revalue political parties and redefine

their role. It will also enable them to map out incentive strategies to encourage competent young people to get involved in the city, to practice social solidarity and to design citizen projects.

<https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1355294/nouveau-du-en-engagement-civique-et-demarche-citoyenne-a-lusj.html>

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13923>

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13681>

C | OBSERVATORY ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE (OFP)

The Observatory on Public Service and Good Governance (OFP) is actively engaged in reflecting on critical issues currently facing Lebanon. The aim is to rebuild trust between citizens, especially young people, and the public administration. Good governance, democracy, transparency, and citizenship are the four pillars of OFP's mission and vision.

The Observatory organizes various events such as panels, debates, and conferences to promote these principles. These events address topics like participatory democracy, citizens' right to access information, the role of media in good governance, forensic auditing and transparency, elections, and environmental governance.

In 2022-2024, OFP partnered with several NGOs including *Kulluna Irada*, Legal Agenda, Aldic, and the Observatory of Depositors' Rights at the Beirut Bar Association. Together, they launched an appeal against impunity in Lebanon titled "No impunity for those responsible for the biggest bankruptcy in history." This appeal stemmed from a meeting organized by OFP. Additionally, in 2022, OFP published "The Good Governance Book" in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation.

Over the past three years, OFP has also organized conferences, seminars, and lectures on various good governance topics:

- In partnership with the Advocacy Force for Development and Anti-Corruption in Lebanon (AFDAL): A seminar on "The Public Procurement Law and the Role of Youth in Promoting Good Governance." Experts and representatives discussed two specific themes: Public Procurement Law, Prospects and Challenges, and The Role of Public Procurement in State-Building and Achieving Good Governance.
- In collaboration with the Rule of Law Programme Middle East and North Africa of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung: A seminar on "Good Governance in Political Parties: Current and Necessary Legislation."
- In collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS): A webinar entitled "The Role of the Media in Establishing Good Governance" featuring a panel of journalists and media specialists.

- In partnership with KAS: A conference entitled “Elections, the Gateway to Change and Good Governance.” The conference discussed ways to achieve true democratic change through elections in two sessions: “Parliamentary Elections: a Democratic Act to Achieve Change and Apply Good Governance” and “Municipal Elections: a Tool to Achieve Participation and Good Governance.”

D | MODEL YOUTH PARLIAMENT (MYP)



Organized by the Student Life Office and Friedrich Naumann Foundation, this program provides students with an opportunity to develop public speaking, negotiation, and leadership skills through a simulated parliament experience. 8 winners won a cultural trip to Germany and will have the chance to visit the German Parliament in Berlin as representatives of each Lebanese political party. This experience gives students the opportunity to learn and deepen various skills, such as the art of debate and public speaking, negotiation, leadership, and many others.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12012>
Sixième édition du Parlement des jeunes à l'USJ - L'Orient-Le Jour (lorientlejour.com)

D | YOUTH4GOVERNANCE: EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS



USJ, in collaboration with its partners, launched the Youth4Governance project. This initiative aims to raise awareness among young people about the importance of a well-functioning public administration. Students were encouraged to contribute their knowledge, creativity, and energy by proposing solutions to critical societal problems in Lebanon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f59wgVz7xCo>

E | SUMMER SCHOOL ON CITIZENSHIP



A collaborative program between USJ Student Life Office (SVE) and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation allowed 75 students and high school seniors from all over the country to experience democratic decision-making processes and propose solutions to real-world problems. At the end of the program, participants formed groups, and proposed projects and sustainable solutions to reduce pollution in Lebanon.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12401>

F | EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

This *Fondation Diane* project trains teachers to integrate principles of democratic citizenship into their teaching methods, fostering responsible and engaged students. Education for democratic citizenship is a set of practices and activities put in place to train young people and adults to actively participate in civic life. This includes understanding and exercising their rights and fulfilling their responsibilities towards society. The project addresses this by training teachers of various specialties in the principles of democratic citizenship. This empowers them to develop these skills themselves, and integrate them into their teaching methods, ultimately fostering responsible and engaged students. Thirty participants from eight Lebanese public schools attended a month-long workshop at USJ, delivered by eight professional trainers with diverse backgrounds.

G | REFORMING THE LEBANESE ADMINISTRATION: CONTEXT, PRINCIPLES, AND PRIORITIES SEMINAR



The Faculty of Law and Political Science organized a seminar about public administration to present the report on “Reforming the Lebanese Administration: Context, Principles, and Priorities.” This report, published following research by a team of FDSP instructors-researchers with the support of Siren Associates and funding from the British Embassy in Beirut, is a thorough and relevant analysis of the Lebanese public administration. In its 100 pages, the report diagnoses the current situation and proposes several potential solutions. Lebanon’s public administration suffers from a multitude of problems that have accumulated and worsened over time. These problems are both structural and contextual, some closely linked to the crises that have ravaged the country since the civil war.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13463>
<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13486>
<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13469>
https://www.usj.edu.lb/intranet/actu/pdf/13469_2660.pdf

H | MICHEL EDDÉ PRIZE FOR BEST DOCTORAL THESIS ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

This award recognizes outstanding doctoral theses on public administration and good governance. The first prize of \$6,000 was awarded to Dr. Ghadir Al Alayli for his thesis titled “Natural Law, the Foundation of the Pan-Arab Rule of Law.” The second prize of \$4,000 went to Dr. Simon Kachar for his thesis titled “Fouad Chehab and Political Change in a Pluralist Society: Lessons Learned.”



<https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1321602/deux-chercheurs-recompenses-par-la-seconde-edition-du-prix-michel-edde.html>
<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12834>

I | SYMPOSIUM ON DEPOSITORS' RIGHTS

In response to the country’s collapse and the shrinking space for public discourse, the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FDSP) organized a symposium titled “Resist, Rethink, Rebuild: The University in the Face of Crisis.” This event aimed to mobilize participation in public debate on a critical issue – depositors’ rights in the face of the financial crisis. The symposium’s panels discussed banking secrecy, capital control, and the insolvency of Lebanese banks.

J | CONFERENCE: “LEBANESE JUSTICE: THE JUDGE, THE INSTITUTION”



The Faculty of Law and Political Science (FDSP) organized a conference titled “Lebanese Justice: The Judge, the Institution” in tribute to the eminent magistrate, law professor, and minister, Sélim Jahel. Jahel, a strong supporter of FDSP, was admired for the richness of his legal scholarship, which transcended disciplinary boundaries and drew from both Western and Muslim legal traditions. Following the conference, FDSP inaugurated the teachers’ room, which was renamed the Sélim Jahel Space.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13013>

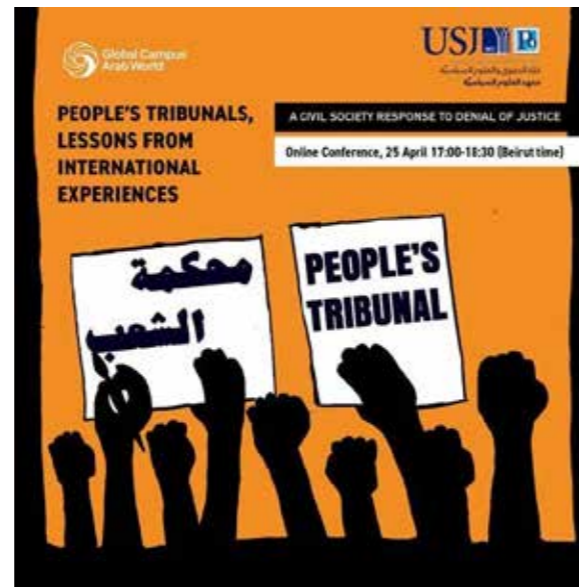
<https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1329882/la-faculte-de-droit-de-lusj-se-dote-dune-salle-selim-jahel.html>

html

K | REFORMING LEBANESE PRISON LAW

The USJ Faculty of Law and Political Science is working on a critical project to reform the Lebanese Prison Law. Aware of the urgency of modernizing incarceration regulations, the Faculty is developing a proposal for a participatory model for reform. This model aims to involve diverse groups, including marginalized communities, in crafting a solution that strengthens the rule of law and promotes social justice in Lebanon. This collaborative approach is crucial for a country with a history of fragmented decision-making and will contribute to much-needed cooperation in the pursuit of positive change.

L | PEOPLE’S TRIBUNALS



The Faculty of Law and Political Science co-hosted an online conference titled “People’s Tribunals: Lessons from International Experiences” with The Global Campus-Arab World and the Arab Master’s Programme in Democracy and Human Rights and the support of Regina Menachery Paulose. This event brought together leading practitioners and international experts to explore the role of People’s Tribunals in addressing massive human rights violations when governmental and international tribunals fail to do so. The discussion focused on the experiences and insights gained from these tribunals’ efforts to promote justice and combat impunity.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/isp/peopletribunal>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4v4eg4BpyU>

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13288>

M | SUCCESS FOR USJ MODEL UNITED NATIONS CLUB (USJ-MUN) IN QATAR

In promoting the values of the United Nations and diplomatic discourse, USJ’s Model United Nations Club (USJ-MUN) recently achieved a noteworthy victory at the Qatar MUN Conference. This win, secured by two student members, exemplifies the capabilities of both Lebanon and USJ on the international stage. The club itself fosters a spirit of respect and equips students with the tools of Model United Nations participation.

N | INTERNATIONAL FRANCOPHONE DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP



USJ’s Student Life Office and the *Club Libanais de Débat*, in partnership with the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* (AUF), organized the annual “International Francophone Debate Championship” in its eighth edition. This competition brought together some 20 students from French-speaking universities such as *Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth*, *Université Paris Saclay* and *Sciences Po Paris*, and of different nationalities: Lebanese, French, Franco-Lebanese and Moroccan.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13427>

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13147>

O | EVENTS DEDICATED TO PEACE AND JUSTICE



USJ institutions organize conferences and webinars on peace, justice, and strong institutions:

- Lebanese Laws Webinar (CEEDD): Ziad Baroud, former Minister of Interior and Municipalities, presented a webinar on the Lebanese Electoral

Law, educating young people on its key provisions.

- Constitutional Justice in Times of Crisis (The Master of Democracy and Human Rights in the Arab World-USJ): This conference explored the challenges of constitutional reform in war-torn or politically unstable countries, focusing on Syria, Yemen, and Libya.

- The Path to the State Lebanon in a Complex Regional Environment (The Lebanese National Convention and Faculty of Law): This conference examined the challenges faced by Lebanon within a complex regional environment.

- *Les Justes* Play (UPT): As part of a series promoting social cohesion, UPT presented a Lebanese adaptation of Albert Camus’ play “*Les Justes*,” highlighting the importance of justice in a society where it may be neglected.

- Democracy and Human Rights in Crisis (Faculty of Law and Political Science): This conference brought together professors from Birzeit University and the Global Campus of Human Rights to discuss the state of human rights and democracy during crises and address growing skepticism towards these principles.

- American Democracy and its Discontents (FLSH, ISP, International Relations Department): David Quigley, Provost and the dean of several faculties at Boston College, offered a historian’s perspective on the challenges facing American democracy.

- Understanding the Knowledge and Research on Childhoods and Child Rights (Faculty of Law and Political Science, Global Campus Arab World): This webinar explored research and knowledge surrounding childhood and child rights.

- Ukraine’s Political, Social, and Humanitarian Repercussions (FLSH, International Relations Department): Six ambassadors from Eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria and Ukraine) discussed the political, social, and humanitarian impacts of the conflict in Ukraine on neighboring countries.

- The O7 organization at USJ conducted workshops on “mediation and conflict resolution” across various regions in Lebanon. The workshops aimed to equip students and women with the tools necessary to manage tensions in their environment and promote peaceful conflict resolution.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12042>

<https://www.facebook.com/fondationdiane/videos/984548115577846/>

P | REPRESENTING LEBANON WITH ELOQUENCE

Lynn Zahr (FDSP – USJ), winner of the eighth edition of the International Francophone Debate Championship, represented Lebanon in the semi-finals of the “International Eloquence Contest” 2023 held at Paris 1 University, Panthéon-Sorbonne, via video conference.

Q | SHOWCASING LEGAL PROWESS

Three law students from USJ, Antoine Daher, Andréa Zmokhol, and Marc Morcos, participated in the finals of the prestigious The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament. They competed against the University of Tours (France) on the theme of “reflection on the history of continents at the level of international organizations,” gaining valuable international experience and showcasing their legal skills.

R | THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE AND POLITICS

Karen Karnib expressed a student’s point of view on the importance of fostering political awareness among young people. In an article by student in the USJ bulletin, *Campus-J*, Karnib advocates for a more engaging approach to teaching politics. She emphasizes that politics is not just about figures of authority but about the community, country, and the world we live in. The report concludes by stressing the need to provide young people with a better understanding of decision-making processes and global issues to encourage their participation in politics.

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



A | HONORIS CAUSA DOCTORATE



USJ awarded an Honoris Causa Doctorate to Mr. Renaud Muselier, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, solidifying ties with the region. This ceremony reinforced the relationships between the University and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. Additionally, 30 French speaking baccalaureate holders benefitted from full paid scholarships.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12436>

B | GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP CURRICULUM PROJECT

Since its launching in September 2022 in Boston, USJ has been part of the Global Citizenship Curriculum Project, an initiative of the Task Force on Global Citizenship Curriculum Project of the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU). This project connects students and instructors across the Jesuit network of some 200 colleges and universities worldwide through a shared Global Citizenship Course Module. At USJ, the course was hosted by the Institute of Political Science and was attended by 20 students who were able to engage in debates with students from all over the world.

<https://globalcitizenship.georgetown.edu/essays/about-the-global-citizenship-curriculum-project>
<https://globalcitizenship.georgetown.edu/>

C | PROCHE-ORIENT CHRÉTIEN ON CAIRN. INFO

The Center for Religious Studies Research at USJ announced the launch of the journal *Proche-Orient Chrétien* (POC) on the Cairn.Info platform, a digital library specializing in humanities and social sciences in French. The journal's inclusion on Cairn marks a pivotal advancement in the faculty's dedication to advancing and disseminating knowledge in religious studies and research. The digital platform expands POC's global reach, facilitating reflection and research on ecclesiological and ecumenical matters in the Middle East, interfaith relations, and the histories of Eastern Churches and Christians.

D | COLLABORATION BETWEEN IGE AND MON LIBAN D'AZUR



In early 2024, the USJ School of Business (IGE) welcomed the Ambassador of France to Lebanon, Hervé Magro, and the Consul, Julien Bouchard, in the presence of the USJ Vice-Rectors. This event marked the official establishment of a fruitful collaboration between IGE and Mon Liban d'Azur (MLA), aiming to strengthen educational and cultural ties between the two institutions. MLA is a non-profit association established in Nice on August 4, 2019, and operating in Beirut. Its mission is to foster connections between the French Riviera, southern France, and Lebanon, particularly in the fields of gastronomy, culture, and tourism.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14312>

E | DOUBLE DEGREE IN PERFORMING ARTS – CONCENTRATION: AUDIOVISUAL



A double degree agreement was signed between the ESLSCA University Egypt and the Institute of Theater, Audiovisual and Cinematic Studies (IESAV) for the Bachelor in Performing Arts – concentration: Audiovisual. Both universities benefitted from this agreement as it opened up a path of exchange between them.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=11676>

F | RENEWAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USJ AND AUB



Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) and the American University of Beirut (AUB) recently reaffirmed their long-standing collaboration by renewing their Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement paves the way for continued cooperation between the two institutions in the years to come. One proposed initiative involves the formation of a joint team comprised of three representatives from each university. This team would be tasked with brainstorming achievable collaborative projects, supporting their implementation, and ultimately ensuring the successful fulfillment of the memorandum's objectives.

A key emphasis of the renewed agreement is the universities' shared commitment to contributing to the reconstruction of a new Lebanon. This vision encompasses a nation free from corruption, where future generations can flourish. This new Lebanon would be one that takes pride in its sovereignty and the freedoms of thought, expression, and innovation.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14179>

G | TRANSLATION DIPLOMA AT CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE



In collaboration with Shenyang Normal University, the 9th "Confucius Institute Day" was marked by the addition of the University Diploma in Chinese Civilization and Translation. This diploma aims to train high-level translators capable of mastering the skills in intercultural communication and managing the translation of different types of texts in Arabic, English and Chinese language combinations.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12569>

H | REINFORCEMENT OF ENGLISH FOR STUDENTS IN INTERPRETATION

The School of Translators and Interpreters of Beirut (ETIB) collaborated with the Directorate General for Interpretation of the European Commission (SCIC) to reinforce English as a B language for students in interpretation. English-speaking interpreters from the Commission and the European Parliament participated in various online sessions including periodic courses, tutoring, seminars, examination boards, etc.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=12463>

I | USJ SPORTING CLUB 1875 AND BEIRUT FIRST CLUB SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

USJ Sporting Club 1875 and Beirut First Club have signed a cooperation agreement which states that the Beirut First Club academy players will be training at the USJ Sciences and Technology Campus sports complex; they can take part in national championships under the USJ Sporting Club 1875 banner, and benefit from university scholarships to continue their studies at USJ. Additionally, a cooperation with the USJ Business School is planned to create a Master's degree in sports management.

J | CITIZENSHIP & NGOS FORUM

Held annually in April, the Citizenship & NGOs Forum is organized by the Student Life Office in partnership with the Faculty of Religious Studies. This event features over 100 booths from NGOs operating in Lebanon and includes conferences or panel discussions. The forum provides students with an opportunity to learn about the work of NGOs, explore potential volunteering opportunities, and develop their sense of civic engagement.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13679>

K | ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE AT FGM



The USJ Business School collaborated with *Pôle Entrepreneuriat Etudiant de l'Université de Lorraine* (Peel) to cultivate an entrepreneurial culture among students. This collaboration included exchange programs and mentorship opportunities, enabling young project leaders to transform their ideas into real business opportunities. This collaboration included exchanges and invitations to international events, as well as visits to the premises of the Peel.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=11661>

L | MEDIATION AT AJIAL PROJECT ASSOCIATION

The Professional Center for Mediation (CPM) signed an agreement with APA (Ajial Project Association) to establish a mediation unit in the APA association. Under this agreement, CPM mediators ensured permanence and raised awareness among the public about the association.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=11590>

M | DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION AND THE CITY OF SAIDA

The University collaborated with Sacy Foundation to contribute to the social, economic, cultural and humanitarian development of the region and the city of Saida.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r8KjcVUdAHRDgfgjrKTLIToAmMcWGPko/view>

N | FRENCH SENATORS AT THE ORIENTAL LIBRARY



On Tuesday, April 25, 2023, the Oriental Library (BO) welcomed a delegation of French senators, including Bruno Retailleau, Catherine Morin-Desailly, Gilbert-Luc Devinaz, and Christine Lavarde, accompanied by Anne-Laure Saint-Dizier, as well as a delegation from *Œuvre d'Orient*, including its director, Vincent Gelot. The visit, led by the Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache SJ, the Vice-Rector for International Relations, Prof. Carla Eddé, and the Director of the Library, Joseph Rustom, aimed to assess the management of funds provided by France to support the USJ Community following the August 4, 2020 explosion in the port, and to evaluate current needs. After a brief introduction by the BO, the delegation viewed footage from surveillance cameras depicting the damage caused by the explosion. Subsequently, the group toured the reading room to observe the renovations and explore the BO's collections, which exemplify its diverse holdings. Visitors had the opportunity to view a variety of materials, including a topographical map of Beirut, Arabic, Syriac, and Armenian manuscripts, French-language Lebanese newspapers such as *L'Orient-Le Jour* and the bilingual *Hadikat Al Akhbar*, scientific journals, travelogues, patristics books, and works by French-language Lebanese authors. Additionally, they admired the oldest editions of Arabic and Syriac grammar books, as well as collections by Jesuit fathers, landscapes of the Middle East, and portraits of ethnic peoples of the Levant, all part of the BO's photographic collection.

[Visite d'une délégation de sénateurs français à la Bibliothèque orientale \(usj.edu.lb\)](#)

[Visite de la délégation de sénateurs français à la Bibliothèque Orientale \(usj.edu.lb\)](#)

O | "D'OÙ SOUFFLE LE VENT" EXHIBITION



The Latin America Chair and the Oriental Library (BO) have joined forces to curate an exhibition centered on Lebanese and Middle Eastern immigration literature, as a testament to the historical migratory flows between the Middle East and Latin America. It showcases a plethora of literary works dating from the late 19th to the early 20th centuries, authored by individuals who intricately narrated their ties to their homeland, experiences of exile, and adaptation to their new environments. The exhibited works, comprising rare periodicals, bilingual publications, and translations of Lebanese literary pieces, are drawn from the personal collection of Georgine Khalil El Chaer Mallat, Director of the Latin America Chair, as well as the rich BO collection.

[D'où souffle le vent - Exposition \(usj.edu.lb\)](#)

[Inauguration de l'exposition « D'où souffle le vent » \(usj.edu.lb\)](#)

[«D'où souffle le vent», la littérature d'immigration à l'USJ - Ici Beyrouth](#)

[En el Líbano, libros costeños en 'Cátedra América Latina' | ZONA CERO](#)

[Autores costeños presentes en la Cátedra América Latina \(elheraldo.co\)](#)

