

## AGYA WORKING GROUP

### ARAB AND GERMAN EDUCATION

Education has become part of the international market economy - schools and universities compete worldwide. To be competitive, early childhood education is the foundation: In the Arab world, it is neglected in favor of efforts to improve education in general, whereas in Germany, it is seen more in the context of social inequalities. **The Working Group** compares the scientific awareness of school children and major challenges of young scholars in the academic landscapes. By mapping the current situation in different regions and creating a network for knowledge exchange, the group intends to identify best practices to increase the capacity of emerging students and scholars in the framework of **three thematic pillars**.

#### ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- ▶ Debating regional differences and common challenges in a globalized world
- ▶ Discussing challenges to higher education with local representatives in the Arab world and Germany

#### THEMATIC FOCUSES

- ▶ Adaption of international standards: Science and education are part of the global market economy and local institutions of higher education compete worldwide
- ▶ Development of new forms of global citizenship: Those who participate in higher education exhibit extreme global mobility and young researchers often develop a new form of 'global citizenship' which not only shapes their biographies and values but also their scientific work and, finally, their disciplines

#### COMPARING THE SITUATION OF YOUNG SCHOLARS

- ▶ Identifying pressing topics – Developing solutions
- ▶ **Two-step approach:**
  1. Identifying a range of topics and areas (such as: career opportunities, women in science, internationalization and forced mobility, teaching standards)
  2. Conducting a survey among Arab and German young scholars
- ▶ **Outcome:** Series of policy papers

#### CRITICAL PERIODS IN LEARNING BIOGRAPHIES

- ▶ Awareness building: Critical periods for later academic success are periods of transition between different learning institutions
- ▶ Identifying best practices to master critical periods successfully
- ▶ Support of building networks and organizing knowledge exchange in education research and developmental psychology
- ▶ **Current project:** Math and Science Outreach Project

#### ACTIVITIES

- ▶ **December 2014:** Focus workshop of the Working Group (AGU, Bahrain)
- ▶ **March 2015:** Panel discussion "Young Researchers in International Academia: The Need for Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research" at the conference "Beacons of Hope in the Quest for the Next Einstein in the MENA Region" (SMBA University, Fez)



Source: cc

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