ICSHET 2026

Booklet Agenda

International Conference on Syrian Higher Education in Transition

From Recovery to Transformation
Mobilising International Support for the Modernisation of Syrian Higher Education

24–26 November 2026 | Amman, Jordan

All times are local to Amman

Under the patronage of H.E. Prof. Dr. Azmi Mahafzah

Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, Jordan

Honorary Chairs

Prof. Dr. Ala'aldeen Al-Halhouli
President, German Jordanian University, Jordan

Dr. Abdul Hamid Al-Khaled
Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Syria

Dr. Kai Sicks
Secretary General, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany

Conference Chairs

Prof. Dr. Ralf Roßkopf
Vice-President, German Jordanian University, Jordan

Prof. Dr. Christine Huth-Hildebrandt
German Jordanian University, Jordan

Prof. Dr. Nabil Nader Kochaji
Director General, Higher Commission for Scientific Research, Syria

Programme overview

The conference connects policy priorities for Syrian higher education with research findings and practical approaches to teaching, institutional recovery and international cooperation.

Day and time	Programme	Focus
24 November 09:00–16:45	High-Level Policy Day Opening; fact-finding presentation; Policy Dialogue I; Keynote I; Policy Dialogue II; Partnership and Support Dialogue Forum.	Recovery priorities and opportunities for international cooperation.
25 November 08:30–17:55	Technical and Research Programme Keynote II; three technical blocks in three rooms; 49 paper presentations.	Research findings and recommendations for the Day 3 reports.
26 November 08:30–14:00	Research to Practice Keynotes III and IV; three room reports; introduction to DAAD Cairo Akademie (DKA); university–industry session; conference closing.	Implications for teaching, applied learning and institutional cooperation.

Day 2: wrap-up and gala dinner, 18:30–20:30. Day 3: lunch, 14:00–15:00; cultural programme, 15:00–19:00.

Conference objectives

Discuss Syrian higher education priorities and mobilise international partnerships for recovery and modernisation. Examine accepted research on governance, quality, digital capacity, academic cooperation, curricula and societal recovery. Use the findings to identify feasible improvements in teaching and cooperation between universities and industry.

Participants

Day 1 brings together government representatives, university leaders, embassies, the European Union, DAAD, international organisations and development partners. Days 2 and 3 involve researchers, faculty, postgraduate students, university leaders, practitioners and academic partners.

Research presentation format

Every paper is allocated 15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for Q&A. Every technical block concludes with a 15-minute discussion and synthesis in each room. Interpretation is provided in all parallel sessions. The room chairs coordinate timekeeping and prepare one 10-minute room report for Day 3.

Day 1 High-Level Policy Day

Tuesday 24 November 2026 | 09:00–16:45

Time	Session and contributors
09:00–10:00	**Registration and Reception**
10:00–10:45	**Opening Ceremony** Addresses by Prof. Dr. Ala'aldeen Al-Halhouli; H.E. Prof. Dr. Marwan al-Halabi; Mr. Martin Lohr; Dr. Kai Sicks.
10:45–11:15	**Findings from the Syria Fact-Finding Mission** Prof. Dr. Christine Huth-Hildebrandt, German Jordanian University / SyrIA
11:15–11:45	**Policy Dialogue I** Syrian Higher Education: Priorities for Recovery and Modernisation Moderator: Da'ad Nazzal. Guest: H.E. Prof. Dr. Marwan al-Halabi, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Syria
11:45–12:15	**Coffee Break**
12:15–13:00	**Keynote Lecture I** Rebuilding the Higher Education System: Strategy and Implementation Steps, Using the University of Aleppo as an Example Prof. Dr. Mohammad Osama Raadoun, President, University of Aleppo, Syria 35-minute lecture and 10-minute Q&A.
13:00–14:15	**Policy Dialogue II** Building an International Partnership for Syrian Higher Education **Moderator:** Ms. Petra Bogenschneider, Head of Section German Transnational Education Projects and Cooperation Programmes Middle East, Africa, Latin America **Presentations**: Dr. Kai Sicks, Secretary General, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); Dr. Abdul Hamid Al-Khaled, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Syria **Dialogue contributors:** Mr. Fabian Schaeffer, Attaché and Program Director for General Education and Higher Education, Delegation of the European Union to Jordan Mr. Martin Lohr, Science Attaché and Head of Culture and Press Section, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
14:15–15:15	**Lunch**
15:15–16:30	**Partnership and Support Dialogue Forum for Higher Education in Crisis** **Moderator:** Prof. Dr. Ralf Roßkopf, Vice-President, German Jordanian University Prof. Dr. Dhiah el Diehn I. Abou-Tair, Director, EDU-SYRIA Project Prof. Dr. Nabil Nader Kochaji, Director General, Higher Commission for Scientific Research, Syria Prof. Dr. Jean Meyer, President, Technical University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt (THWS) Dr. Roman Luckscheiter, Secretary-General, German Commission for UNESCO
16:30–16:45	**Closing Remarks and Way Forward** Dr. Ziad Abu El-Rub, Dean of School of Applied Medical Sciences, German Jordanian University

Opening ceremony and Policy Dialogue I

Tuesday 24 November 2026

Opening ceremony

Time	Session and contributors
10:00–10:03	**Welcome and Protocol Introduction** **MC: Jude Dabain**
10:03–10:13	**Host Welcome** Prof. Dr. Ala'aldeen Al-Halhouli, President, German Jordanian University
10:13–10:28	**Syrian Higher Education Priorities** H.E. Prof. Dr. Marwan al-Halabi, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Syria
10:28–10:35	**German Partnership Perspective** Mr. Martin Lohr, Science Attaché and Head of Culture and Press Section, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
10:35–10:42	**Academic Cooperation and Support** Dr. Kai Sicks, Secretary General, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
10:42–10:45	**Transition to the Fact-Finding Presentation** MC

Policy Dialogue I

11:15–11:45 | Syrian Higher Education: Priorities for Recovery and Modernisation

Moderator: Da'ad Nazzal. Guest: H.E. Prof. Dr. Marwan al-Halabi, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Syria

Time	Session and contributors
11:15–11:20	**Framing and Introduction** Moderator introduces the Minister and the focus on immediate recovery needs and longer-term institutional reform.
11:20–11:35	**Recovery Priorities and Implementation** Guided dialogue on governance and institutional capacity; support for academic staff, teaching and research; equitable access and student learning conditions; implementation of recent Jordan–Syria agreements on higher education and research; and opportunities for European funding and investment. Follow-up questions address reform sequencing, scholarships and academic exchange, university partnerships, digital innovation and AI, funding, institutional responsibilities and measurable progress.
11:35–11:44	**Audience Q&A** Questions from academics, university representatives and other participants.
11:44–11:45	**Summary and Transition**

Policy Dialogue II

Building an International Partnership for Syrian Higher Education

13:00–14:15 | Moderator: Ms. Petra Bogenschneider, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Time	Session and contributors
13:00–13:05	**Framing and Introduction** Ms. Petra Bogenschneider, Head of Section German Transnational Education Projects and Cooperation Programmes Middle East, Africa, Latin America Introduction to SHERT and international cooperation for Syrian higher education.
13:05–13:15	**Presentation of the SHERT Paper** Dr. Kai Sicks, Secretary General, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
13:15–13:25	**Syrian Priorities for International Academic Cooperation** Dr. Abdul Hamid Al-Khaled, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Syria
13:25–13:55	**Moderated Dialogue on SHERT and International Partnerships** Dr. Kai Sicks, Secretary General, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Dr. Abdul Hamid Al-Khaled, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Syria Mr. Fabian Schaeffer, Attaché and Program Director for General Education and Higher Education, Delegation of the European Union to Jordan Mr. Martin Lohr, Science Attaché and Head of Culture and Press Section, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Syrian priorities, partner perspectives and opportunities for coordinated cooperation.
13:55–14:10	**Audience Q&A** Questions and contributions on SHERT and international cooperation.
14:10–14:15	**Closing Synthesis** Ms. Petra Bogenschneider, Head of Section German Transnational Education Projects and Cooperation Programmes Middle East, Africa, Latin America Key points and possible next steps for cooperation.

Partnership and Support Dialogue Forum

Higher Education in Crisis

15:15–16:30 | Moderator: Prof. Dr. Ralf Roßkopf, Vice-President, German Jordanian University

Time	Session and contributors
15:15–15:20	**Opening and Introduction** Prof. Dr. Ralf Roßkopf, Vice-President, German Jordanian University Practical cooperation and educational opportunities in crisis contexts.
15:20–15:30	**Expanding Educational Opportunities through Regional Cooperation** Prof. Dr. Dhiah el Diehn I. Abou-Tair, Director, EDU-SYRIA Project How a new cycle of EDU-SYRIA funding and Global University Academy courses could support access and academic development, including potential cooperation with UNHCR and other non-governmental organisations.
15:30–15:40	**Rebuilding Syrian Research Capacity through International Partnerships** Prof. Dr. Nabil Nader Kochaji, Director General, Higher Commission for Scientific Research, Syria Joint research, support for researchers and institutional cooperation addressing recovery needs.
15:40–15:50	**Humanitarian Access to Online Degree Programmes** Prof. Dr. Jean Meyer, President, Technical University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt (THWS) Widening access to recognised higher education for learners affected by conflict, displacement and interrupted studies.
15:50–16:00	**Sustaining Higher Education in Crisis: The potential relevance of UNESCO frameworks and multilateral networks for Syria** Dr. Roman Luckscheiter, Secretary-General, German Commission for UNESCO
16:00–16:20	**Audience Exchange** Questions, perspectives and suggestions for cooperation with the initiatives presented.
16:20–16:30	**Closing Synthesis** Prof. Dr. Ralf Roßkopf, Vice-President, German Jordanian University Key ideas and possible avenues for follow-up.

Day 2 Technical and Research Programme

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | Research programme 08:30–17:55

Time	Session and contributors
08:30–09:00	**Registration** Badge collection.
09:00–09:15	**Opening Remarks** **MC: Joyce Madain** Introduction of the room chairs and presentation format.
09:15–10:00	**Keynote Lecture II** Beyond Reconstruction: Syria's Universities in the International Academic Community: Academic Participation, Institutional Autonomy, and International Cooperation Under Unequal Conditions Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Director, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS); Professor of Global Sustainable Development, University of Bonn 35-minute lecture and 10-minute Q&A.
10:00–12:15	**Technical Session I** Institutional Foundations for Reconstruction Three parallel rooms
12:15–12:35	**Coffee Break**
12:35–14:50	**Technical Session II** Academic Communities and Collaborative Capacity Three parallel rooms
14:50–15:40	**Lunch and Coffee**
15:40–17:55	**Technical Session III** Research Evidence for University Reconstruction Three parallel rooms
18:30–20:30	**Day 2 Wrap-Up and Gala Dinner** Prof. Dr. Christine Huth-Hildebrandt, German Jordanian University / SyrIA

Presentation format and interpretation

Each paper has a 20-minute slot: 15-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A.

Discussion and synthesis is 15 minutes per block in every room.

Interpretation English/Arabic is available in all three rooms.

Day 2 parallel session map

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 49 papers in presentation order

Room	Block I 10:00–12:15	Block II 12:35–14:50	Block III 15:40–17:55
Room A Governance, Institutional Development and International Cooperation 17 papers	**Governance, Trust and International Partnerships** Papers 85, 122, 94, 17, 53, 45 10:00–12:00 6 papers 12:00–12:15 Discussion and synthesis	**Institutional Capacity and Collaborative Networks** Papers 31, 32, 57, 77, 62 12:35–14:15 5 papers 14:15–14:30 Discussion and synthesis	**Autonomy, Mobility and Regional Reconstruction** Papers 14, 106, 116, 60, 81, 22 15:40–17:40 6 papers 17:40–17:55 Discussion and synthesis
Room B Quality Assurance, Curriculum Innovation and Teaching 15 papers	**Quality Standards and Curriculum Reform** Papers 95, 41, 99, 92, 59 10:00–11:40 5 papers 11:40–11:55 Discussion and synthesis	**Teaching Quality and Future Skills** Papers 29, 63, 125, 80, 74, 118 12:35–14:35 6 papers 14:35–14:50 Discussion and synthesis	**Professional Competencies and Labour Market Integration** Papers 15, 105, 117, 75 15:40–17:00 4 papers 17:00–17:15 Discussion and synthesis
Room C Digital Transformation, Research and Societal Reconstruction 17 papers	**Digital Infrastructure and Academic Continuity** Papers 33, 35, 8, 119, 107 10:00–11:40 5 papers 11:40–11:55 Discussion and synthesis	**Research Capacity, Inclusion and Wellbeing** Papers 82, 46, 43, 49, 26, 37 12:35–14:35 6 papers 14:35–14:50 Discussion and synthesis	**Responsible AI, Applied Research and Labour Market Links** Papers 18, 127, 72, 21, 64, NEU02 15:40–17:40 6 papers 17:40–17:55 Discussion and synthesis

Room chairs

Room	Chair and affiliation
A	Asst. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Almohamed, University of Aleppo
B	Prof. Dr. Telse A. Iwers, University of Hamburg
C	Dr. Bader Al-Madi, German Jordanian University

Paper 45, Room A, 11:40–12:00: Prof. Dr. Christine Huth-Hildebrandt moderates while Asst. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Almohamed presents.

Day 2 Block I Room A

Governance, Trust and International Partnerships

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 10:00–12:15

Chair: Asst. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Almohamed, University of Aleppo

Each paper: 15-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A. Interpretation provided.

Time	Paper, authors and affiliations
10:00–10:20 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 85** **Rethinking University Governance in Syria: The Impact of Centralization on Institutional Development and a Framework for Greater University Autonomy** Authors: Tayseer Alibrahim Affiliation: University of Aleppo
10:20–10:40 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 122** **Trust Under Authoritarian Rule: Lessons for the Reconstruction of Syrian Higher Education** Authors: Amina Kabbour Affiliation: Doha Institute for Graduate Studies
10:40–11:00 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 94** **Rebuilding Syrian Higher Education: A Qualitative Thematic Analysis of University Leadership Priorities for Recovery and Transformation** Authors: Da'ad Nazzal Affiliation: German Jordanian University
11:00–11:20 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 17** **From Project-Based Cooperation to Institutional Capacity: Rethinking International Partnerships in the Recovery of Syrian Higher Education** Authors: Mohammad Ali Hawla Affiliation: Tartous University
11:20–11:40 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 53** **Building Futures. Beyond Crisis: Digital Higher Education Pathways for Students Affected by Crisis and the Challenge of Humanitarian Fundraising** Authors: Ronia Sengfelder Affiliation: Technical University Würzburg-Schweinfurt
11:40–12:00 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 45** **From International Cooperation to Strategic Internationalization: A Framework for Institutional Transformation in Syrian Higher Education** Authors: Mohamed Almohamed Affiliation: University of Aleppo Moderator for this paper: Prof. Dr. Christine Huth-Hildebrandt.
12:00–12:15	**Discussion and synthesis** Compare findings and record recommendations for the Day 3 room report.

Day 2 Block I Room B

Quality Standards and Curriculum Reform

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 10:00–11:55

Chair: Prof. Dr. Telse A. Iwers, University of Hamburg

Each paper: 15-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A. Interpretation provided.

Time	Paper, authors and affiliations
10:00–10:20 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 95** **From Program Accreditation to a National Quality Assurance System: A Staged Pathway for Rebuilding Quality Assurance in Syrian Higher Education** Authors: Paul Grimm[1]; **Rainer Herpers**[2]; Georg J. Schneider[3]; Julia Schnitzer[4]; Iring Wasser[5] Affiliations: [1] Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences; [2] Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences; [3] Hochschule Trier; [4] Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences; [5] ASIIN e.V., Düsseldorf, Germany
10:20–10:40 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 41** **An Analytical Comparison of Syrian Quality Assurance Standards, Jordanian Standards, and the International Standard ISO 21001:2025** Authors: Mohamad Nayouf Affiliation: Hama University
10:40–11:00 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 99** **From Policy to Practice: Reforming Curriculum and Academic Programs as a Crucial Part of Syrian Higher Education Recovery** Authors: Asmaa Khourshid Affiliation: University of Aleppo
11:00–11:20 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 92** **Bridging the Gap Between Higher Education and Labour-Market Needs: Rethinking English Language and Literature Programmes at the University of Aleppo** Authors: Ahmad Fawzi Shamsi Affiliation: Banan for Educational Empowerment
11:20–11:40 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 59** **The Role of Tartous University in Local Development and Enhancing Community Trust: Aligning Higher Education Outcomes with Labor Market Requirements in the Syrian Coast** Authors: Bothena Soliman Affiliation: Tartous University
11:40–11:55	**Discussion and synthesis** Compare findings and record recommendations for the Day 3 room report.

Day 2 Block I Room C

Digital Infrastructure and Academic Continuity

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 10:00–11:55

Chair: Dr. Bader Al-Madi, German Jordanian University

Each paper: 15-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A. Interpretation provided.

Time	Paper, authors and affiliations
10:00–10:20 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 33** **Governing Sovereign AI for Digital Transformation in Syrian Biomedical Higher Education: A Strategic Review and Implementation Roadmap** Authors: **Reem Jouban**[1]; Joseph Shenekji[2] Affiliations: [1] Hama University; [2] University of Aleppo
10:20–10:40 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 35** **A Hybrid Agentic AI-Based System for Autonomous Network Management to Support Digital Transformation of Syrian University Infrastructure** Authors: **Reem Muhana**; Ghada Saad; Jaafar Salman Affiliation: Tartous University
10:40–11:00 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 8** **Academic Function Portability: A Reconstruction Architecture for Syrian Higher Education Derived from Palestinian Continuity Mechanisms** Authors: **Saed Khayat**[1]; Kherieh Rassas[2] Affiliations: An-Najah National University
11:00–11:20 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 119** **Academic Work Challenges During Armed Conflict: Teaching Continuity Requirements and Recovery Prospects at Damascus University** Authors: Salwa Mikhael Affiliation: Damascus University
11:20–11:40 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 107** **From Reconstruction to Resilience: Reimagining Higher Education through Digital Transformation in Syria** Authors: Mohamad Ahmad Al-Yasin Affiliation: University of Aleppo
11:40–11:55	**Discussion and synthesis** Compare findings and record recommendations for the Day 3 room report.

Day 2 Block II Room A

Institutional Capacity and Collaborative Networks

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 12:35–14:30

Chair: Asst. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Almohamed, University of Aleppo

Each paper: 15-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A. Interpretation provided.

Time	Paper, authors and affiliations
12:35–12:55 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 31** **Founding and Sustaining a Dental Faculty in a Conflict Zone: The Case of Idlib University (2018-2026)** Authors: **Hussam Ismail**[1]; Fouad Al-Daoud[2] Affiliations: Idlib University
12:55–13:15 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 32** **A Risk Management and Contingency Planning Framework for Syrian Universities in Recovery** Authors: Baseem Barhoum Affiliation: Latakia University
13:15–13:35 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 57** **Higher Education in Syria under Governance, Leadership, and Institutional Transformation to Ensure Quality, Accreditation, and Academic Excellence: Latakia University as a Model** Authors: **Akil Hajjouz**[1]; Abeer Salman Otaira[2] Affiliations: Latakia University
13:35–13:55 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 77** **Internal Quality Assurance for Sustainable Transformation in Syrian Higher Education: Lessons from the Jordanian Accreditation Experience** Authors: Dima Ali Nabhan Salameh Affiliation: Tartous University
13:55–14:15 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 62** **Mechanisms of Mobilizing the Syrian Academic Diaspora for Academic Partnerships and the Internationalization of Syrian Higher Education** Authors: Ghina Farra Affiliation: Hama University
14:15–14:30	**Discussion and synthesis** Compare findings and record recommendations for the Day 3 room report.

Day 2 Block II Room B

Teaching Quality and Future Skills

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 12:35–14:50

Chair: Prof. Dr. Telse A. Iwers, University of Hamburg

Each paper: 15-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A. Interpretation provided.

Time	Paper, authors and affiliations
12:35–12:55 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 29** **The Extent to Which Higher Education Quality Standards are Fulfilled from the Perspective of Faculty Members: Latakia University** Authors: Alaa Mahmoud Taweel Affiliation: Latakia University
12:55–13:15 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 63** **Integrating Future Skills in Existing Curricula** Authors: Christina B. Class[1]; **Rainer Herpers**[2]; Paul Grimm[3]; Dhiah el Diehn Abou-Tair[4]; Abdullah Alfarrarjeh[4]; Amani A. Jabal[4]; Julia Schnitzer[5] Affiliations: [1] Ernst-Abbe University of Applied Sciences; [2] Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences; [3] Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences; [4] German Jordanian University; [5] Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences
13:15–13:35 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 125** **Building an Institutional Digital Competence Ecosystem for Higher Education Transformation: A Resource-Conscious Pathway for Syria** Authors: **Somia Qudah**; Nader Al-Refai Affiliation: Yarmouk University
13:35–13:55 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 80** **Developing University Laboratories in Light of Quality and Academic Accreditation Standards: A Case Study of Chemical Laboratories at Damascus University** Authors: **Juhaina Mohammad Alghdir**[1]; Anmar Nafee Orabi[2] Affiliations: Damascus University
13:55–14:15 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 74** **Rebuilding Pharmacy Education in Conflict-Affected and Recovering Syria: A Quality-Assured, Internationally Aligned Framework for Competency Development, Employability, and Workforce Resilience** Authors: **Ream Nayal**[1]; Mohammad Yaser Abajy[2] Affiliations: University of Aleppo
14:15–14:35 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 118** **A Proposed Interdisciplinary Program for Teacher Preparation in Syrian Faculties of Education: Trauma-Informed Digital Education - An Analytical Comparative Study** Authors: Sondos Alateky Affiliation: Damascus University
14:35–14:50	**Discussion and synthesis** Compare findings and record recommendations for the Day 3 room report.

Day 2 Block II Room C

Research Capacity, Inclusion and Wellbeing

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 12:35–14:50

Chair: Dr. Bader Al-Madi, German Jordanian University

Each paper: 15-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A. Interpretation provided.

Time	Paper, authors and affiliations
12:35–12:55 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 82** **The Relationship between Digital Competences and Scientific Publication among Faculty Members in Syrian Universities (Faculties of Education as a Model)** Authors: **Motaz Alalwani**[1]; Ali Harba[2] Affiliations: Hama University
12:55–13:15 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 46** **Limitations of AI Tool Adoption in Scientific Research within Syrian Universities: A Proposed Framework and Classification Model** Authors: Basem Ghadeer Ghadeer Affiliation: Latakia University
13:15–13:35 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 43** **Assessment of Scientific Research Literacy, Ethical Knowledge, and Perceived Structural Barriers among Medical and Pharmacy Students in Syria: A Cross-Sectional Study** Authors: **Wissam Zam**; Sarah Housheh; Mohammad Youssef; Ali Alfarwi Affiliation: Tartous University
13:35–13:55 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 49** **The Role of Syrian Universities as Platforms for Psychosocial Support in the Recovery Phase: Hama University as a Model** Authors: Lina Muhammad Hassan Affiliation: Hama University
13:55–14:15 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 26** **Using Immersive 360° Video Simulations to Enhance Social Work Students' Professional Practice in Decision-making and Ethical Judgment in Jordan** Authors: Hadeel Yousef Hilal Aldaoudeyeh Affiliation: German Jordanian University
14:15–14:35 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 37** **From Conflict to Digital Recovery: A Comparative AI-Assisted Framework for Rebuilding Syrian Higher Education** Authors: Mhd Ayham Darwich; **Sawsan Mahmoud** Affiliations: Tartous University
14:35–14:50	**Discussion and synthesis** Compare findings and record recommendations for the Day 3 room report.

Day 2 Block III Room A

Autonomy, Mobility and Regional Reconstruction

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 15:40–17:55

Chair: Asst. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Almohamed, University of Aleppo

Each paper: 15-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A. Interpretation provided.

Time	Paper, authors and affiliations
15:40–16:00 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 14** **Beyond Centralization: Rethinking Syrian Higher Education through Rojava** Authors: Sardar Saadi Affiliation: University of Toronto
16:00–16:20 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 106** **Public–Private Partnerships in Rebuilding Higher Education in Syria: The Legal Framework and Safeguards for Academic Autonomy** Authors: Ibrahim Yousef Harmoush Affiliation: Latakia University
16:20–16:40 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 116** **Post-Return: A Foundational Arabic Curriculum for Heritage Learners in Syrian Higher Education** Authors: Alaa Faisal Issa Affiliation: Damascus University
16:40–17:00 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 60** **BRIDGE Syria: Integrating Syrian HEIs into the UNESCO Chair's German-MENA Cooperation Network through Research and Education for Cultural Heritage Preservation** Authors: **Julia Schnitzer**[1]; Paul Grimm[2]; Rainer Herpers[3]; Dhiah el Diehn I. Abou-Tair[4] Affiliations: [1] Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences; [2] Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences; [3] Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences; [4] German Jordanian University
17:00–17:20 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 81** **The Role of Migrant Academics in Advancing Scientific Research at Their Local Universities: The Perspective of Tartous University Faculty Members** Authors: **Reem Shihab Hasan**[1]; Mohsen Isa Al-Ahmed[2] Affiliations: Tartous University
17:20–17:40 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 22** **Towards the Governance of Higher Education in Syria: Strategic and Institutional Restructuring in Light of Regional Models** Authors: Houssam Abdel Rahman Affiliations: Syrian Ministry of Higher Education
17:40–17:55	**Discussion and synthesis** Consolidate findings, agree recommendations and prepare the room's 10-minute Day 3 report.

Day 2 Block III Room B

Professional Competencies and Labour Market Integration

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 15:40–17:15

Chair: Prof. Dr. Telse A. Iwers, University of Hamburg

Each paper: 15-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A. Interpretation provided.

Time	Paper, authors and affiliations
15:40–16:00 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 15** **Employing Business Intelligence Tools to Assess Medical Education Outcomes: An Applied Study on the National Examination at the Syrian Authority for Quality Assurance** Authors: **Thuraya Lazkani**[1]; Anmar Orabi[2]; Omar Hamadah[3] Affiliations: Damascus University
16:00–16:20 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 105** **Educational Digital Twins for Practical Laboratories in Resource-Constrained Applied Faculties: A Micromeritics-Based Case Study of Tablet Formulation** Authors: **Raghad Al Nuss**; Rahaf Al Khadra Affiliation: Arab International University
16:20–16:40 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 117** **Architect–Structural Engineer Collaboration and Engineering Education–Labor Market Alignment in Syria** Authors: Ghassan Barjes Aboud Affiliation: Damascus University
16:40–17:00 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 75** **Towards Merging the Technical Human Resources into Syrian Labor Markets** Authors: Maiasa Mlhem Affiliation: Damascus University
17:00–17:15	**Discussion and synthesis** Consolidate findings, agree recommendations and prepare the room's 10-minute Day 3 report.

Day 2 Block III Room C

Responsible AI, Applied Research and Labour Market Links

Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 15:40–17:55

Chair: Dr. Bader Al-Madi, German Jordanian University

Each paper: 15-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A. Interpretation provided.

Time	Paper, authors and affiliations
15:40–16:00 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 18** **Human-in-the-Loop Generative AI for Rebuilding Academic Capacity: A Design-Science Case from Syrian Private University's Faculty of Artificial Intelligence Engineering** Authors: Mouhib Alnoukari Affiliation: Syrian Private University
16:00–16:20 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 127** **Factors Influencing Generative AI Adoption in Biomedical Engineering Capstone Projects** Authors: **Alaa Rahha**l; Rufaida Hussain; Ayman Al Kayal Affiliation: Al-Andalus University for Medical Sciences
16:20–16:40 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 72** **AI-Induced Epistemic Narrowing in Learning: An Integrative Analytical Review of the Conceptual Structure, Formation Mechanisms, and Conditions for Mitigation** Authors: Hiba Dodouh Affiliation: University of Aleppo
16:40–17:00 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 21** **First Reader, Not Final Judge: AI-Assisted Review of Graduate Research at a Syrian University in Transition** Authors: Mohammad Alobed Affiliation: Idlib University
17:00–17:20 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper 64** **Evaluating the Outcomes of the Applied College's Role at Hama University in Strengthening Ties with the Industrial Sector and the Local Community: A Case Study** Authors: **Ahmad Kurdi**; **Ayham Alhameed** Affiliation: Hama University
17:20–17:40 15 min talk 5 min Q&A	**Paper NEU02** **Connecting Academic Research with the Syrian Labor Market: Damascus University Case Study** Authors: Imad Asaad Affiliation: Damascus University
17:40–17:55	**Discussion and synthesis** Consolidate findings, agree recommendations and prepare the room's 10-minute Day 3 report.

Day 3 Research to Practice

Thursday 26 November 2026 | Conference programme 08:30–14:00

Time	Session and contributors
08:30–09:00	**Welcome and Registration** Badge collection.
09:00–09:15	**Opening Remarks**
09:15–10:00	**Keynote Lecture III** **Academic diaspora and higher education reconstruction: Rethinking contributions, agency and transformation** Dr. Ahmad Akkad, **Honorary Research Fellow, University of Oxford** **Research Fellow, University of Bath** 35-minute lecture and 10-minute Q&A.
10:00–10:30	**Reports from the Day 2 Parallel Sessions** Three 10-minute reports, coordinated by the Scientific Committee: Asst. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Almohamed; Prof. Dr. Telse A. Iwers; Dr. Bader Al-Madi.
10:30–10:45	**Introduction to DAAD Cairo Akademie (DKA)** Mr. Mohab Mohamed, Program Coordinator, DAAD Cairo Akademie (DKA)
10:45–11:15	**Coffee Break**
11:15–12:00	**Keynote Lecture IV** Trauma-Informed Teaching Supporting Learning in Universities during Crisis and after War Prof. Dr. Telse A. Iwers, Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Hamburg; educational psychology 35-minute lecture and 10-minute Q&A.
12:00–13:45	**Scientific Session** Applied Teaching through University–Industry Cooperation **Moderator:** Dr. Razan Hessenow, President, German-Syrian Research Foundation Opening: Dr. Wolfgang Frohberg, Lecturer and Freelance Higher Education Consultant **Panel:** Dr. Wolfgang Frohberg; Prof. Dr. Osama Saadeh, Dean of Innovation, Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship (DI-TECH), German Jordanian University; Mr. Fadi Yamani, Director of the Office of Industry Partnerships, Al-Hussein Technical University (HTU); Dr. Eng. Ghaith Warkozek, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research for Scientific Affairs, Syria, Dr. Abdo Mahli, Director of Laboratories and Quality at the General Authority for Ports and Customs.
13:45–14:00	**Conference Wrap-Up and Closing** **Leads:** Prof. Dr. Christine Huth-Hildebrandt; Prof. Dr. Ralf Roßkopf; Prof. Dr. Nabil Nader Kochaji.
14:00–15:00	**Lunch and Networking**
15:00–19:00	**Cultural Programme**

Day 3 reports and applied teaching

Room reports and introduction to DAAD Cairo Akademie

10:00–10:30 | Three 10-minute reports, coordinated by the Scientific Committee.

Time	Session and contributors
10:00–10:10	**Room A Report** Asst. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Almohamed, University of Aleppo, or the session rapporteur. Findings, recommendations and implications for practice.
10:10–10:20	**Room B Report** Prof. Dr. Telse A. Iwers, University of Hamburg, or the session rapporteur. Findings, recommendations and implications for practice.
10:20–10:30	**Room C Report** Dr. Bader Al-Madi, German Jordanian University, or the session rapporteur. Findings, recommendations and implications for practice.
10:30–10:45	**Introduction to DAAD Cairo Akademie (DKA)** Mr. Mohab Mohamed, Program Coordinator, DAAD Cairo Akademie (DKA)

Applied Teaching through University–Industry Cooperation

12:00–13:45 | Moderator: Dr. Razan Hessenow, President, German-Syrian Research Foundation

Time	Session and contributors
12:00–12:20	**Opening Contribution** Dr. Wolfgang Frohberg, Lecturer and Freelance Higher Education Consultant Principles and practical conditions for applied teaching and university–industry cooperation.
12:20–12:35	**Implementation at GJU** Prof. Dr. Osama Saadeh, Dean of Innovation, Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship (DI-TECH), German Jordanian University Dual studies, DI-TECH and the Technology, Research and Innovation Park (TRIP).
12:35–12:50	**HTU's Apprenticeship Model and Industry Partnerships** Mr. Fadi Yamani, Director of the Office of Industry Partnerships, Al-Hussein Technical University (HTU) Employer engagement and the management of industry partnerships.
12:50–13:05	**The Syrian Perspective** Dr. Eng. Ghaith Warkozek, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research for Scientific Affairs, Syria University priorities and feasible cooperation with employers during reconstruction.
13:05–13:20	**The Dual Studies Program and Linking Academia with Industry from the Syrian Perspective** Dr. Abdo Mahli, Director of Laboratories and Quality at the General Authority for Ports and Customs.
13:20–13:35	**Moderated Panel Discussion** All five contributors, moderated by Dr. Razan Hessenow. Which elements can Syrian universities adapt, and what staff capacity, resources and employer commitments are needed?
13:35–13:45	**Audience Q&A and Closing Takeaway**