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# IBTIKAR

promoting research and innovaTion environment in the  
libyAn higher Education System



## Work Package 4: Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

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# Important Facts:



There are no Libyan universities among QS world university ranking

Nor among the first 4000 universities within other international superior rankings



Few FP7 and H2020 research projects that have been carried out in Libya since the opening up of the programmes to the MENA countries



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

## ❑ Limited funding:

- Limited financial resources,
- Insufficient funding can affect access to modern equipment, research materials, and international collaborations,
- limiting the scope and quality of research.



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

## ❑ Infrastructure and facilities:

- Outdated or inadequate infrastructure and research facilities
- Significant challenges to conducting high-quality research.
- Insufficient laboratory equipment,
- outdated technology,
- inadequate research spaces can limit the ability of researchers to carry out experiments and data collection effectively.



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

## ❑ Brain drain:

- Skilled researchers and academics leave the country for better opportunities abroad.
- This loss of talent can negatively impact research institutions
- limit the capacity for cutting-edge research.



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Limited collaboration and networking:
  - Research institutions in Libya often face challenges in establishing collaborations and networks with international institutions and researchers.
  - Limited access to international conferences, workshops, and research programs can hinder knowledge exchange and collaboration opportunities.



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Political instability and security concerns:
  - Political instability and security concerns can have a detrimental impact on research activities.
  - These issues can disrupt research projects,
  - limit access to research sites,
  - make it challenging to attract international collaborations and investments.



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Limited access to up-to-date literature and resources:
  - Restricted access to international journals, databases, and research resources
  - Hinder the ability of researchers to stay updated with the latest advancements in their fields.
  - Limited access to scientific literature may impede the quality and relevance of research conducted in Libyan higher institutions.





# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

## ❑ Quality assurance and research evaluation:

- Establishing robust quality assurance mechanisms and research evaluation processes can be a challenge.
- Ensuring the integrity of research outputs, implementing rigorous peer review processes, and promoting ethical research practices are essential but may require institutional support and capacity building.



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Throughout its long history, state institutions have relied on importing technology, expertise and consultations from abroad and contracting with them according to a turnkey system
  - This reason made Libyan universities confined within their walls, isolated from their local community, and focused on the teaching function alone.



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Weak awareness among university administrators and decision makers of the value of scientific research as one of the university's functions in solving various problems



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ The large teaching load for faculty members,
- ❑ the lack of motivation among researchers
- ❑ the weak level of newly appointed university professors in scientific research skills.



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Development of an effective and tailored university governance system through a benchmarking system.
  - Such a system will allow institutions to improve their leadership, adequate management and funding
  - The development of clear goals and policies and performance improvement.



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Increasing University academic autonomy.
  - More flexible approach towards teaching innovation, pedagogical methodologies,
  - introduction of new courses and programs, assessment methodologies, management.



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# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Constant training of university staff members to guarantee quality standards in performance and teaching/learning activities.
  - Universities should guarantee a constant update of university staff skills, in particular on the following issues: quality assurance, institutional management, pedagogical innovation, teaching and research methodology.





# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Making the process of accreditation of Universities more systematic and accountable,
  - Increasing control over the proliferation of private Higher Education Institutions.



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Strengthening Universities' exposure and performance at the international level.
  - International cooperation and mobility are key tassels for the country's developing process,
  - allowing for knowledge transfer,
  - skills improvements,
  - exchange of good practices and human resources development (both for academics and administrative staff)..



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Prioritization of the National Research Agenda.
  - Needs to move forward towards a more mature research and innovation environment in the country,
  - Universities are able to engage in high-quality scientific research activities and support the definition of successful actions tackling the challenges of society.



# Research work challenges in Libyan Higher Institutions

- ❑ Enhancing the social relevance of Universities in cooperation with local actors.
  - Universities are considered by citizens as one of the most (if not the most) reliable institutions in the country.



# Summary:

## ❑ Resource limitations:

- Funding: Limited research funding restricts project scope, equipment purchase, and international collaboration.
- Infrastructure: Outdated and insufficient lab facilities, libraries, and IT infrastructure hamper research quality and efficiency.
- Human resources: Lack of qualified researchers, limited access to international expertise, and brain drain further deplete the research ecosystem.



# Summary:

## ❑ Research environment:

- Bureaucracy: Complex administrative procedures and regulations impede project approval and progress.
- Incentives and motivation: Low salaries, limited career prospects, and lack of recognition discourage faculty engagement in research.
- Research culture: Emphasis on teaching over research, limited collaboration, and weak publication ethics affect research quality and visibility.



# Summary:

## ❑ Other challenges :

- Political instability: Unstable political conditions and security concerns create an uncertain environment for long-term research projects.
- Limited access to data: Difficult access to relevant data hinders research in certain fields, particularly social sciences and public health.
- Language barriers: Limited English proficiency among researchers restricts access to international scholarship and publication opportunities.



# Solutions to Research challenges

- ❑ Scientific research faces an issue that is not only an individual related to the researcher, but rather an issue It concerns society with its relevant centers and institutions, to advance scientific research





# Solutions to Research challenges

- ❑ Scientific research concerns society with its relevant centers and institutions, to advance scientific research
- ❑ Encouraging innovation and creativity by providing incentives to researchers,
- ❑ Developing scientific research centers,
- ❑ Building a suitable environment
- ❑ Improving working conditions
- ❑ Providing incentives to researchers
- ❑ Offering rewards to researchers



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Attention

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