

PARTNER-SHIP

Hannah Lia Schunko, graduate of sociology at Graz University:

The Mirror-MA is a very good way to be held accountable what you do.

Rukiye Demir Salhiya, graduate of Community Mental Health at IUG:

People in Austria have the same problems than we have in Gaza. It is nice to share those experiences.

The counterparts of the SHE_GE Project at the Institute of Sociology (Sociology of Gender) and the Islamic University Gaza became strong partners through regular video-screened meetings, intensive email exchange, large attendance of the lectures, and shared success of the SHE_GE project.

Mutual benefits extended to joint planning and monitoring, intercultural learning, feedback and reflections on the courses and lectures with suggestions for improvement, video-messaged contributions at partner's conferences, and the will for future cooperation.

A mixed **Advisory Committee** from both countries, Palestine and Austria, reflects this partnership:

- Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs
- United Nations Women (Palestine Country Office)
- Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution
- Department of Development Studies (Vienna University)

A **continuation** of the partnership between Graz University and IUG has already been launched by a successful joint application for the **EU International Mobility Programme** for students and staff (Erasmus+).

Communication

The international security situation throughout the project and the public health crisis in its last months did not allow physical contact between the project partners. Therefore, the teams communicated for the most part virtually: by email, video-conferencing and, in case of teaching and the "Mirror MAs", through a moderated online discussion forum.

Intercultural exchange

Despite the lack of direct contact, both sides benefitted from the intercultural exchange: in both universities, courses incorporated more international, comparative perspectives, and the mutual learning broadened horizons on both sides.

In the **multi-sited classroom experience**, both students and faculty in Graz, as well as in Gaza, discussed a variety of subjects, while respecting mutual cultural differences and becoming sensitive to culturally different interpretations, which in turn increased their inter-cultural competencies. The eight students in the "Mirror MA" component learned to articulate their experiences in the research process.

See the comments from the students illustrate the benefit of the intercultural exchange.



Islamic University Gaza

We work for
tomorrow

