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**Abstract**

Given the need for major reform of the higher education programmes in Syria, and answering the voices that question the role of European Union (EU) in assisting the development of the higher education sector, this study presents an analysis of the contribution of (TEMPUS) Programme in modernising higher education in Syria. The study compares the national priorities of the Syrian higher education sector, and the objectives of TEMPUS projects implemented in Syria. Based on the number of national priorities that each project meets, and the number of Syrian higher education institutions involved in each project, an innovative concept of the National Project was suggested by the authors. In accordance with this concept, the results insist on the need for more national-oriented projects in the future. Implicitly, the study shows that more positive concerns from policymakers towards the Programme in general are important for its sustainability and future impact. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)