

# Transformation Partnership

## Gender Equality in the Egyptian Higher Education System

Freie Universität Berlin and Cairo University together with Alexandria University, Sohag University, South Valley University supported by Ministry of Higher Education (Strategic Planning Unit) \*

### Project Overview

The project aims to develop and implement equal-opportunity measures at Egyptian universities by transnational network, qualifying university personnel and enhancing partnerships.

### Facts & Figures

The project is funded within the framework of the DAAD program "Cooperation with the Transition Countries Egypt and Tunisia" since spring 2012. The Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education (Strategic Planning Unit) provides additional support.



### Objectives

An exchange of knowledge and experience on equal-opportunity measures which contribute:

- to the process of transformation at Egyptian universities and
- add an international perspective to gender- and diversity discourses at Freie Universität Berlin.

**Table: Percentage of Women in Academic Staff and Students**

Partner Universities	Professors	Assistant Professors	Students
Alexandria University	35,8 %	42,5 %	53,3 %
Cairo University	34,6 %	41,9 %	47,8 %
Sohag University	11,3 %	18,5 %	55,0 %
South Valley University	5,9 %	14,6 %	58,2 %

The table shows the proportion of women in different career steps in 2009/2010 [source\*].

## How to reach the objectives?



### Measures

Planned activities: delegations, workshops, summer schools, mentoring, training sessions.

### Preparation

Decision-makers from all levels of higher education of all partner universities are involved in this project. From June 19 – 24 2012, Freie Universität Berlin hosted a kick off meeting with representatives from the four Egyptian partner universities and the Ministry of Higher Education (Strategic Planning Unit) in order to exchange experiences and discussions about strategies of the Freie Universität Berlin and to identify equal-opportunities measures on national, cultural, social and religious diversity.

### Chances

An excellent exchange of knowledge, an opportunity of creating more social justice and gender equality.

### Comes next:

1. In Nov. 2012 a workshop will take place in Cairo
2. Discussions and evaluation of the comparative analyses of the statistical situation of universities will take place.
3. In Workshops we will work on different questions, like existing and necessary basic conditions, effective measures and financing possibilities.
4. To ensure sustainability, an electronic knowledge-transfer programme and an e-learning module, 'Gender and Diversity Competence', will be prepared.

### Challenges

How to deal with different ideas about gender perceptions, how to deal with individual cultural expectations and needs.

