Activity Report submitted on the 17th of April 2023 for SDG 9: **Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure,**
within the IAU HESD Cluster
Lead: Beirut Arab University (BAU), Lebanon

This report highlights the main achievements of Beirut Arab University during 2022/2023 in addressing SDGs in general and in promoting and leading SDG 9 in particular. BAU participated in The Impact Ranking which assesses Universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). BAU is delighted to be ranked first in Lebanon on Quality Education, as its aim is to provide inclusive education quality and empower our community with education, knowledge, and lifelong learning opportunities. This ranking is based on a global performance indicator which demonstrates how BAU continues to embraces the United Nations' SDGs within its strategy and is keen to continue aligning its research themes with these SDGs to guide BAU's research production.

The below paragraph focused on how BAU is implementing SDGs within the university strategy reflecting on SDG9, by integrating SDG9 into the university courses, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, and mapping research to the SDG9, and strengthening local and global partnerships for SDG9.

BAU continues its accomplishments on five levels:

1. Addressing SDG 9 through **Education**

SDG9 is mapped and integrated within undergraduate and graduate courses. As mentioned above, Beirut Arab University ranked First in Lebanon and Eleventh in the Arab World According to Times Higher Education Arab University Rankings (29/11/2022). https://www.bau.edu.lb/First-in-Lebanon

BAU, the Faculty of Architecture - Design and Built Environment has been participating in designing and coordinating a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled "Healthy Urban Systems" in the University of Lausanne. BAU has been preparing this MOOC Course on "Healthy Urban Systems" with the International Science Council (ISC), International Society for Urban Health (ISUH), World Health Organization (WHO) and about 25 other professionals and practitioners, and organizations invited and supported by University of Lausanne (UNIL) using "Coursera" platform. https://www.bau.edu.lb/Public-Relations/News/BAU-the-Faculty-of-Architecture-Design-and-Built-Environment-participated-in-designing-and-coordinating-a-MOOC

The Faculty of Health Sciences at BAU presented by Dr. Leila Itani, Assistant Professor at the Nutrition & Dietetics Department delivered a lecture on the 8th of April 2022 entitled "Sustainable Healthy Dietary Patterns". This participation was part of 8 modules offered through the educational activities of the series of SDGs Courses organized by the university of Pavia /Italy for Spring 2021-2022 (https://sites.google.com/unipv.it/unipv-sdgs-courses/nutrition).

Dr Osama Omar from the Faculty of Architecture participated in MED TEST III - Mainstreaming RECP and sustainability principles in industrial zones Introductory training on Eco-Industrial Parks.

2. Addressing SDG 9 through **Research**

The Faculty of Architecture - Design and Built Environment organized the 10th international scientific conference (ASCAAD2022) entitled "Hybrid Spaces of the Metaverse - Architecture in the Age of the Metaverse: Opportunities and Potentials" in partnership with the Arab Society for Computer Aided Architectural Design (ASCAAD). The conference aimed to provide an in-depth insight on the future of architecture in the age of the Metaverse by discussing a range of topics related to artificial intelligence, information management, parametric design, digital manufacturing, real and virtual environments, computer design theory, and hybrid cities. The conference also intended to find practical solutions for the emerging issues in the discussed matters, which could benefit a large number of researchers, architects, design professors and consulting firms working in the fields of planning and the construction industry. The number of researchers participating in the conference exceeded 100 researchers from the Middle East, Europe, Asia, North America, South America and Australia. https://www.bau.edu.lb/Public-Relations/News/Hybrid-Spaces-of-The-Metaverse-Architecture-in-the-Age-of-the-Metaverse-Opportunities-and-Potentials

The Faculty of Architecture Dean Prof. Ibtihal Y. El-Bastawissi presenting SDG9 at BAU has collaborated with faculty staff member Dr Osama Omar on writing a chapter in a book focusing on SDGs in Higher Education entitled the following: Bringing the SDGs to life by 2030: Best Practices in Higher Education within the Middle East Region, Book series "SDGs in Africa and the Middle East Region" edited by Prof. Walter Leal Filho, Springer Nature Switzerland AG, Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland.

A project proposal entitled Urban acupuncture "A strategy of catalytic interventions" was accepted by DAAD program for funding during the period from March 2023 – December 2025. This project is a collaborative work between the "Faculty of Architecture, Urban Planning and Landscape Planning - Universität Kassel", "Faculty of Fine Arts – Alexandria University", "Faculty of Architecture-Design and Built Environment – BAU" and "College of Engineering, Architectural Engineering Department - University of Babylon". This project will be implemented on four case studies from Germany, Egypt, Lebanon, and Iraq.

In collaboration with Elsevier's Digital Commons Platform, BAU continues to publish six scholarly journals and books supported by the university. Moreover, BAU developed its own digital platform to map how BAU activities align with SDG9 and its indicators by organizing them into 4 categories: Research Projects & Initiatives, Published Articles, Conferences & Workshops, and Patents to the BAU database. https://www.bau.edu.lb/SDG9/Mapping-Tool

3. Engaging with **Community**
   a) Within the framework of "Light Your Street" initiative, BAU in cooperation with Rebirth Beirut and Medco, under the slogan "From Our Energy...To Our Region", lightened the streets surrounding BAU Beirut Campus of 18,500 square meters and 1,040 linear meters. 21 February 2023. https://www.bau.edu.lb/Public-Relations/News/From-Our-Energy-To-Our-Region
   b) Beirut **Governor** praised the efforts accomplished by the Faculty of Architecture at BAU for the redevelopment of Tariq Al-Jadida and Cola Region and expressed his willingness to implement the project staring with the first phase of improving the traffic circulation in this urban area.
   c) **Strengthening the Regional Networking** - Since February 2021, the dean Prof. Ibtihal Y. El-Bastawissi, representing BAU, has been selected to be the Director of the Scientific Chair for Creative Sustainability at the Secretariat of the Executive Council and the General Conference / National Committees Section, Affiliated to the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization - ALECSO.

https://www.bau.edu.lb/Public-Relations/News/Dean-of-the-Faculty-of-Architecture-Design-and-Built-Environment-representing-BAU

    d) **Heritage Digital Documentation** – BAU is considered one of the first Lebanese universities that had digitally documented historical sites using innovative tools, such as 3D Scanner and VR technology. A square in Old Saida – Bab El Saray square had been 3D scanned through a specialized team from Faculty of Architecture, BAU.

4. Addressing SDG9 by activating the **BAU Incubator**

BAU hosted a national exploitation seminar at Debbieh campus within the framework of the Erasmus+ CBHE ELEGANT Project "Enhancing Teaching, Learning and Graduate Employability through University-Enterprise Cooperation" on March 7th, 2023. The seminar covered the dissemination of the project's achievements and celebrated the launching of Innovation HUB, which is directly related to the ELEGANT project. The seminar included discussions on all the topics presented to reach the project's desired goals, which aim to enhance university enterprise cooperation in Lebanon in order to improve the teaching and learning experience of students and enhance the employability of graduates.
https://www.bau.edu.lb/Public-Relations/News/Erasmusplus-ELEGANT-Project-at-BAU
https://www.bau.edu.lb/SDG9/Innovation-hub

5. Addressing and Mapping SDG9 through **Operations & Governance**

BAU Strategy (2020-2030) has addressed UN SDGs in general and SDG 9 in particular through disseminating SDG 9 to BAU community, integrating the related SDG 9 to the University activities, and providing opportunities to students to participate in SDG 9 related activities and community projects.