**Sustainability** has always been a buzzword in the field of project management. The success of a project is likely to be determined by how much it sustains its results beyond its lifetime. A project is sustainable when it continues to deliver benefits to its various beneficiaries and/or other constituencies for an extended period after the financial assistance has been terminated. In order to predict how sustainable a project could be, it is important to understand some key factors of sustainability. These sustainability factors can be classified in two categories: project-level factors and context-level factors.

The project level factors include the Quality of project’s design in meeting academic, professional and/or social needs; Involvement of consortium members; Effective management and leadership; and Capacity for securing adequate resources for continuation. Projects that match the real needs as well as anticipate the changing needs of the local context and stakeholders are more likely to be sustainable. Also, the continuous involvement of partners throughout the project lifetime which is fostered by a clear distribution of rights and responsibilities shall secure the ownership of partners and commitment to achieve sustained results. Lastly, capacity for securing adequate resources for continuation is fundamental for securing sustainability. The project managers should anticipate alternative sources of finance or make the project self-sufficient.

On another level, context-level factors are elements external to the project itself that could influence the sustainability of project results. These include institutional support, national support and socio-economic support. First, institutional support is pillar for the project’s sustainability especially when the project is aligned with the university’s strategy. Second comes the national support of institutions through the competent ministries, political and administrative means. Finally, the more a project corresponds to socio-economic needs, the more support it will be able to obtain from local socio-economic actors.

Bearing in mind the above factors, it can be concluded that planning for sustainability is a continuous process that starts from the very early stages of the project lifetime and
nurtured throughout the project’s implementation. As this will provide a solid ground for sustainability beyond the project lifetime, it will also secure a wider impact of the project.

As it is in all funded projects, sustainability is a key element in Erasmus+ and other EU funded projects. However, despite all the demand for sustainability of projects by different donors and providers of support, including the EU, there is still an issue with inadequate projects’ sustainability. For these reasons, NEO Lebanon is organising a webinar to discuss sustainability as seen by the Erasmus+ programme and understand how EU projects nurture the necessary conditions/factors for sustainability. For this purpose, a panel of Erasmus+ and other EU-funded projects will be conducted.

The panel involves a diverse set of projects. Some projects are closed while others are ongoing which will allow an exchange of experiences and learning. It also includes projects from Erasmus+ Capacity building projects of both Higher Education and Youth as well as ENI CBC MED to learn about different approaches to sustainability. The more projects are exposed to different examples and approaches for sustainability, the better plans they will develop.