

Academic Cooperation Agreement

Between

Damascus University in the Syrian Arab Republic

And

Fafo, Institute for Applied Social Science in Oslo, Kingdom of Norway

INTRODUCTION

In a meeting in Damascus on 16 March 1996, between representatives of the Department of Philosophy and Sociology of Damascus University, Syria and Fafo, Institute for Applied Social Science, Oslo, Norway, it was agreed in principle to establish academic cooperation and exchange between the two institutions.

A Letter of Understanding was signed on 7 September 1996 expressing the mutual interests of the two institutions in academic cooperation. Subsequently, Fafo invited the Department of Philosophy and Sociology to a joint seminar in Oslo on 6-10 October 1996. The seminar was generously supported by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both institutions were satisfied with the results of the seminar.

In order to build upon this successful beginning, an agreement has been concluded between the University of Damascus, of the Syrian Arab Republic and Fafo, Institute for Applied Social Science, Oslo, Kingdom of Norway, henceforth referred to herein as the *parties*.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the parties agree that there is a potential for increased academic cooperation and exchange, as part of strengthened bilateral relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Kingdom of Norway;

WHEREAS the parties have expressed shared interest in social and economic research for development in general,

WHEREAS the parties recognize the importance of research in recent scientific trends in socio-economic development in Syria,

AND WHEREAS the parties understand that the implementation of the terms of this agreement are contingent upon the availability of adequate funding and upon formal approvals and permissions that may be required from the relevant authorities of the two countries;

The parties hereby agree

AGREEMENT

1. THAT they will call on the Norwegian government to provide financial support to an academic exchange program between Syrian and Norwegian academics and researchers;
2. THAT the University of Damascus hereby designates the Department of Philosophy and Sociology in the Faculty of Letters and Center for Population Studies in the Faculty of Economics as the principle partners for Fafo in its cooperation with Damascus University;
3. THAT a second workshop will be held in the near future in order that the cooperation partners (the Department of Philosophy and Sociology, the Center for Population Studies and Fafo) should explore terms and prospects of cooperation,
4. THAT the cooperation partners will explore the possibility of jointly seeking to:
 - i) Identifying requirements of joint research.,
 - ii) identifying areas which would benefit from future joint research efforts,
 - iii) strengthening present research capacities;



5. THAT the cooperation partners will identify potential cooperation activities and projects based on the knowledge gained and mutual interests developed during implementation of the initial stages of their cooperation as outlined in this agreement;
6. To exchange research reports and academic literature and to make the published research reports and academic literature of their two institutions available to each other free of charge;
7. To expand the academic cooperation agreed to herein to include interested Syrian, Norwegian and other institutions at a time and in a manner agreed by the cooperation partners;
8. THAT, the duration of this agreement is two years from the date of signature and can be renewed by agreement of the parties expressed in an exchange of letters;
9. THAT, in view of the prerequisites for implementation described in the Preamble of this agreement, they will proceed as follows:
 - i) Fafo, acting on behalf of both parties, will apply to the Norwegian Government for funds sufficient to cover an initial phase of the academic exchange program agreed herein (paragraph 3 above) and the possibilities for further funding for a second phase (paragraph 4 above)
 - ii) Each party will explore the need for permissions and approvals from the relevant domestic authorities in their respective countries and complete the required procedures to ensure that all necessary formal requirements are met in a manner to permit the implementation of the academic cooperation outlined herein;
 - iii) The cooperation partners will communicate with each other – assisted by the diplomatic missions concerned - in a timely manner in order to establish a program for the workshop in Damascus (paragraph 3 above) and to keep each other updated on progress in implementation of the academic cooperation outlined herein.

10. THAT the undersigned have all the necessary authority to make this agreement on behalf of their respective institutions.

Done in Damascus on the 10th of September 1997

For the University of Damascus

For Fafo, Institute for
Applied Social Science

Prof. Dr. Hamed KHALIL

Dean of the Faculty of Letters

Dr. Jon HANSEN BAUER

Research Director

This agreement consists of four pages and has been signed under the witness of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Damascus.