



newsletter

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HGRA activities

University of Tripoli Rector Holds Strategic Meeting with ICO Team to Plan Upcoming HGRA Project Workshop

Tripoli, May 10, 2025 – The Rector of the University of Tripoli, Prof. Khaled Oun, met with the ICO Team at his office on Thursday, April 10, 2025. The meeting focused on finalizing preparations for the highly anticipated HGRA Project Workshop, which will be hosted by the University of Tripoli in collaboration with Granada University (Spain) and UNIMED (Mediterranean Universities Union).

Key discussion points included:

- Logistical arrangements for the workshop, including venue setup, participant accommodations, and technical support.
- Agenda development, ensuring alignment with the project's goals.
- Strengthening institutional partnerships between the University of Tripoli, Granada University, and UNIMED to foster academic and research cooperation.

The Rector emphasized the university's commitment to supporting international initiatives that contribute to Libya's higher education advancement. Meanwhile, the ICO team affirmed to ensuring the workshop's success, highlighting its potential to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity-building among participating institutions.

In alignment with the objectives of the HGRA Project, the International Cooperation Office (ICO) at the University of Tripoli organized a strategic planning meeting with senior academic leaders to ensure the successful execution of the upcoming workshop scheduled for October 2025. The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including the Dean of the Faculty of Media and Communication, the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Languages, and the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law, reflecting the interdisciplinary approach required to address migration-related challenges in Libya.

During the session, participants engaged in comprehensive discussions to structure the workshop's agenda, emphasizing critical themes such as migration policy frameworks, regional cooperation, and media representation of migration issues from an academic point of view. The collaboration aimed to foster academic expertise and practical solutions to enhance Libya's migration management strategies based on research.



Recent reports and academic publications

WFP, Libya Country Brief,
April 2025,
<https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/wfp-libya-country-brief-april-2025>

The WFP Libya Country Brief – April 2025 provides an overview of the World Food Programme's humanitarian activities and key developments affecting food security and assistance in Libya. It summarizes the number of people reached, the volume of food and cash assistance distributed, and updates on market conditions, including changes in the cost of living. The brief also outlines contextual developments impacting operations, such as the suspension of international aid organizations by Libyan authorities and the deteriorating security situation following the assassination of a key militia leader. Additionally, it highlights the growing needs related to the Sudanese refugee influx and the broader humanitarian response. This monthly report is intended to inform stakeholders of WFP's actions and challenges in delivering aid within Libya's complex and evolving context.

Alakhal, Almagbrok, Changing urban identity and character in Libyan historical cities: a case study of Tripoli,
March 2025,
<https://www.open-access.bcu.ac.uk/16189/>

This thesis examines the dynamic transformation of traditional Arabic-Islamic cities' identity, with a focus on Tripoli, Libya. Since the mid-twentieth century, globalisation's influence on urban form and function has yielded both advancements and disruptions that reshape culture, identity, and human activity. Increased urban migration has brought significant social, economic, and cultural changes in cities, often leading to urban decay due to the degradation of the built environment and urban fabric.

This thesis offers a holistic framework to better understand the factors impacting the identity of traditional Arabic-Islamic cities through the case of Tripoli. It employs policy analysis, expert interviews, resident input, and observations to identify key contributors to the evolution of urban form and identity in historic Tripoli. These factors include socio-cultural influences, the built environment, economy, law, and decision-making processes. Most notably, migration-induced social changes and specific property-related legislation have shifted urban identity, leading to urban decay.

This study has produced, first, a theoretical contribution that extends conceptual understandings of urban decay in contexts of Arabic-Islamic cities. The largely Western-dominated literature often cites economic factors as the driving force behind urban decay; however, this study reveals that urban decay also stems from a range of other factors, including the law and decision-making. Secondly, this work offers practical insights for academics, university students, planners, architects, and urban designers working on urban development projects and urban regeneration.



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Highlights

Academic Seminar Addresses Challenges of Illegal Migration: University of Tripoli Scholars Contribute Expertise

Janzour, March 19, 2025 – The Libyan Academy for Graduate Studies hosted a significant academic seminar titled "Illegal Migration: From Integration to Resettlement" on Wednesday, with notable participation from faculty members of the University of Tripoli. Under the leadership of Academy President Prof. Ramadan Al-Hadi Al-Madani, the event brought together migration experts, policymakers, and academics to analyze this pressing national issue.

A distinguished delegation from the University of Tripoli, comprising senior researchers and department heads, played an active role in the proceedings. Their contributions provided valuable interdisciplinary perspectives from Libya's premier public university, enriching discussions on migration policy and social impact.

Key discussion points included:

- The socioeconomic consequences of increasing irregular migration in Libyan cities
- Evaluation of current legal frameworks for migration management
- National security implications of uncontrolled migration flows

University of Tripoli faculty members emphasized the need for evidence-based policymaking, presenting case studies from their research on migration patterns. Their interventions highlighted the importance of academic institutions in developing sustainable solutions to migration challenges.

The seminar concluded with unanimous agreement on:

1. The necessity of treating migration as a multidimensional crisis requiring coordinated response
2. The vital role of Libyan universities in researching migration phenomena
3. The importance of preserving national sovereignty in migration policy decisions

Academy officials noted this collaboration with the University of Tripoli marks an important step in strengthening academic partnerships to address Libya's complex social challenges. Future joint initiatives between the institutions are expected to further this productive dialogue.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/193XEzkkSS/>





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Libyan Developments

Scientific Symposium on the Impact of Illegal Migration on National Security

The State Ministry for Illegal Migration Affairs organized a scientific symposium to examine the consequences of illegal migration on Libya's national security. The event brought together specialists, government officials, and academics, including representatives from the University of Tripoli, to discuss challenges and propose solutions. Key discussions focused on the socio-economic and security implications of irregular migration, as well as strategies to strengthen interagency coordination in addressing the issue. The symposium concluded with a set of actionable recommendations aimed at curbing illegal migration and enhancing cooperation among relevant stakeholders.

This initiative underscores the Libyan government's commitment to tackling migration-related challenges through informed policy and collaborative efforts.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16BNsSZChJ/>

Dialogue Session on the Settlement of Migrants in Libya: Social, Economic, and Security Risks and Challenges

On March 19, 2025, the Libyan Center for Strategic and National Security Studies organised and hosted a high-level dialogue session titled "The Settlement of Migrants in Libya: Social, Economic, and Security Risks and Challenges." The event brought together policymakers, security officials, academics, and subject-matter experts to examine the multifaceted implications of migrant settlement in Libya and explore actionable solutions.

Key Attendees:

- Dr. Abdussalam Nasiya, Member of Parliament
- Dr. Ihnein Al-Maawi, Deputy Minister of Environment
- Chief of Staff of the Libyan Border Guard
- Academics and experts in military and security affairs
- Academicians from the University of Tripoli, who provided critical academic perspectives and research-based insights to the discourse.

The session facilitated a robust exchange of ideas, with participants offering diverse viewpoints grounded in policy, security, and academic expertise. Contributions from the University of Tripoli's delegation were particularly instrumental in bridging theoretical research with practical policy considerations.

The dialogue concluded with a consensus on a series of actionable recommendations, which will be formally submitted to relevant government and institutional stakeholders for further evaluation and implementation.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1H31GqemFw/>



Libyan Developments

Illegal migration and some of its repercussions on Libyan society

Jamila Massoud Issa (University of Zawia)

Illegal migration is one of the challenges currently facing the Libyan authorities and stands as an obstacle to the efforts of many of its institutions working to combat it; due to its complexity and other factors and causes leading to it. The Libyan vast geographical area, its land borders with many Arab and African neighbouring countries, its proximity to Europe as well as the ease of living in the country, made it as an attraction and a destination for migration seekers who flocked to it either individually or in groups with the aim of staying and settling there and using it as a transit area to Europe.

The security and political tensions in Libya and the conflicts in neighbouring African countries have made it difficult to control the flow of illegal migrants. The lack of resources, the rise of illegal migration gangs, the extension of their influence and control, the lack of expertise and competencies, the poor performance of the government, represented by the security services, and the absence of serious international support, represented by international humanitarian agencies, have all contributed to the increase of this phenomenon.

Those who follow the illegal immigration in Libya find that there are many negative impacts caused by this phenomenon. Such impacts are varied and took many forms, including social repercussions, economic and political repercussions, in addition to security and cultural repercussions.

The social structure of Libyan society and its general appearance have been greatly affected by this phenomenon, as many illegal immigrants have infiltrated its structure and spread on a large scale, causing them to violate its sanctity and deviate from its customs, traditions and lifestyles, and by committing many offences and violations, such as theft and robbery, as well as security and cultural repercussions. Theft, murder, begging, spreading and carrying infectious diseases, human trafficking, drug trafficking and forgery and fraud are a part of a long list of dangerous effects causing a threat to the national security and stability of the state.

One of the most prominent manifestations of the illegal immigration, which have a negative impact on Libyan society is the phenomenon of begging which is considered as new phenomena in Libyan society.

The reasons behind this phenomenon are different; losing documents, need of money, being victims of organised gangs and absence of legal and social protection and other reasons push and encourage migrants to be involved in begging.

However, knowing the causes of illegal migration in Libya is not enough to find a solution for this phenomenon, it is necessary to confront and dismantle the real reasons behind it. The efforts needed to do that can't be done individually or by a specific entity or sector; all governmental or private sectors and international organisations should work together to stop it and to support the all efforts made to reduce this phenomenon.

The university can contribute by encouraging studies on the phenomenon of illegal migration to identify its causes and its negative impacts on Libyan society and find scientific solutions and strategies helping to prevent negative impacts that can touch all societies in Libya, Africa and Europe.

Libyan Developments

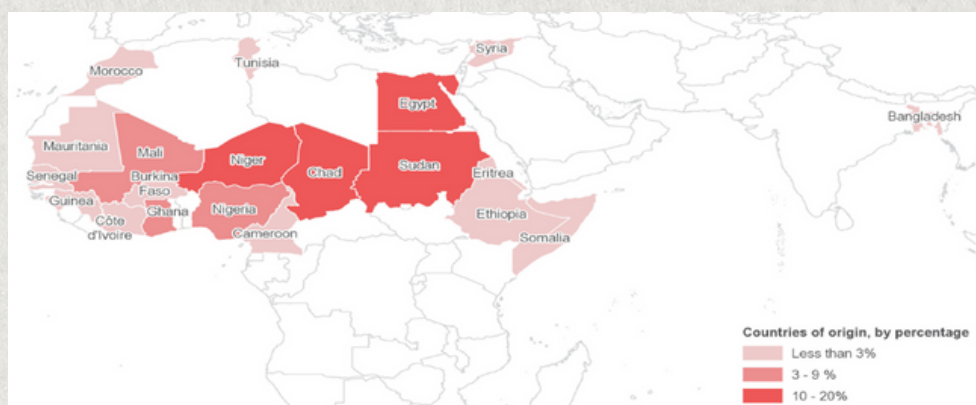
The Migration Impact on Social Structure of Transit Libyan Cities

Prof. Dr. Almokhtar Attwairi (University of Zawia)

Libya is considered the gate and corridor of migration to Europe throughout history. Migration is one of the most important components of population growth in Libya. The African migration towards Europe is significant in contemporary Libya. Illegal migration has affected the Libyan political, economic, and social structure.

Libya has been the central destination and transition towards Europe. Economic growth after oil discovery increases the labor demand. Migration of Arab countries increased significantly to 11% in 1970 due to the policy of Arabism. The proportion of foreign workers increased to 50% in 1982.

The legislation dwellers' demands, the Ouzo strip war, and citizenship were the turning points in Migration impacts. Since the 1990s, the pan-Africanism policy of "free movement of persons" led to massive migration flows from Sub-Saharan countries. In 2005, around 2 million migrants lived in Libya (36% of total population). There has been a marked increase in the southern cities in particular. For instance, the population of Ghat increased from 9,700 in 2000 to 17,374 in 2014. Similarly, the population of Murzuq doubled from 22,600 in 2000 to 43,732 in 2014, with high growth rates of 5.6 and 6.6 percent, respectively. Migration challenges have to be solved carefully as the situation escalates and political division deepens.



According to a refugee from Murzuq, the whole city was invaded by thousands of Tebu tribes and many other Africans. The eastern army attacked Tebu in Murzuq and then left, so Tebu invaded the city and took control again. More than 40,000 Arabs fled their homes after four months of the war in 2019. Today, an estimated 70,000 Tebu and Africans live in Murzuq. Additionally, Umm Al-Aranib, Alqatron, Ternisa, and Tragen became Tebu's strongholds and immigration hubs.

Regional Developments

Two summits for Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia on Libya before end of year

01/06/2025 – *The Libya Observer*

<https://libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/two-summits-egypt-algeria-and-tunisia-libya-end-year>

The Tripartite Neighboring Countries Mechanism, composed of Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia, will hold two meetings on Libya before the end of this year, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on Saturday.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued at the conclusion of the meetings of the foreign ministers of the three countries in Cairo that the next ministerial meeting of the mechanism will be held in Algeria, followed by Tunisia before the end of this year.

The tripartite mechanism between Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia was launched in 2017, but was suspended in 2019 before resuming on Saturday with the meeting hosted by the Egyptian capital.

European Developments

UK-based people smuggler jailed for orchestrating deadly Libya-to-Europe crossings

20/05//2024 – *The Libya Observer*

<https://libyaobserver.ly/news/uk-based-people-smuggler-jailed-orchestrating-deadly-libya-europe-crossings>

A UK-based Egyptian national has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for leading a major people-smuggling operation that trafficked thousands of migrants from Libya to Italy across the Mediterranean Sea.

Ahmed Ebid, 42, ran the £12 million network from his home in Isleworth, southwest London, while coordinating directly with smuggling groups inside Libya. According to the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA), Ebid arranged at least seven boat journeys between October 2022 and June 2023, transporting nearly 3,800 migrants — including women and children — in overcrowded, unseaworthy vessels.

In one case, over 640 migrants were rescued in Italian waters, while two bodies were recovered. Another vessel drifted for days with over 260 people aboard. Prosecutors said Ebid instructed his partners to kill and dump overboard any migrant found carrying a phone to avoid detection. He used Facebook to advertise crossings and was involved in sourcing boats, selecting crews, and overseeing logistics.

Ebid had previously served a prison sentence in Italy for drug smuggling and entered the UK illegally via a small boat in 2022. He pleaded guilty at Southwark Crown Court to conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration.

Authorities described him as a key figure in an organised crime network that profited from the desperation of migrants fleeing conflict and poverty in Libya and elsewhere. The average fee per person was £3,200, according to the NCA.

UK and Italian law enforcement coordinated closely to investigate and detain Ebid in June 2023.



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International Developments

SAFE project to award 56 fellowships to researchers at risk

19/05/2025

<https://www.uni-med.net/news/safe-project-to-award-56-fellowships-to-researchers-at-risk/>

The Supporting at-risk researchers with fellowships in Europe (SAFE) project has announced the results of the call for applications to award fellowships to international academics at risk to continue their research in the European Union. Out of 359 applicants, a total of 56 fellows from 15 countries will be supported to continue their work in 13 EU Member States. The top host countries of the selected researchers are Germany, France and Italy.

44 of selected fellows are postdoctoral researchers while 12 are doctoral candidates. Women researchers represent close to 60% of all fellows.

SAFE will support 27 researchers at risk who applied outside the EU while 29 fellowships will be awarded to researchers who are already in the EU (in line with the project's mandate, more details [available here](#)).

The main disciplines of the selected fellows are:

- law
- economics and social science
- language and cultural studies
- mathematics and natural sciences
- engineering

About the SAFE project

The SAFE project is the latest EU initiative to support researchers at risk and test the feasibility of a European fellowship scheme in the future.

This 3-year project with a budget of €12 million will provide fellowships for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers at risk to continue their work in the EU. It is a pilot initiative supported by the European Parliament to test the feasibility of setting up a European fellowship scheme for researchers at risk.

SAFE is implemented by a consortium comprising the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, coordinator), Campus France, PAUSE/Collège de France, the Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), supported by eight associated partners (Alexander-von-Humboldt-Foundation, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research, the Finnish National Agency for Education, the European University Association, the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, the Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education and Sofia University).

