



## German-MENA university network for waste management and circular economy | Factsheet

<b>Period:</b>	01.2021 – 09.2022
<b>Countries:</b>	Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco
<b>Project partners:</b>	<a href="#">University of Rostock</a> <a href="#">Dresden University of Technology</a> <a href="#">Hamburg University of Technology</a>
<b>Local partners:</b>	<a href="#">Constantine University 3</a> <a href="#">Ain Shams University</a> <a href="#">JUST University</a> <a href="#">Cadi Ayyad University</a>
<b>Contact:</b>	PD. Dr. Ing. habil. Abdallah Nassour <a href="mailto:abdallah.Nassour@uni-rostock.de">abdallah.Nassour@uni-rostock.de</a>
<b>More details:</b>	<a href="https://prevent-waste.net/en/pilotprojects/mena/">https://prevent-waste.net/en/pilotprojects/mena/</a>

### Solid Waste Management – a growing challenge:

Improper waste management has become one of the major environmental problems in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Many countries in the region face the challenges of illegal dumping and open burning of waste. The problem worsened over the past few years with sharp increases of waste generation and changing compositions. The lack of effective solid waste management practices for its collection, treatment and disposal has a significant impact on public health and the environment. To address the waste problem, each country requires a new integrated solid waste management system, sufficient financing and a skilled workforce to manage the rapidly growing waste amounts sustainably.

### Project target group:

- Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as research/teaching staff
- National decision-makers
- Public authorities and organisations
- Waste management experts and other key stakeholders



### Solution:

An online study programme on integrated solid waste management and circular economy was developed to qualify future personnel of the public and private sector. The network of German and MENA universities transfers practical experiences on state-of-the-art waste management and circular economy solutions for the region. The online programme helps to improve the solid waste management sector by building the capacities of waste management experts. Additionally, the online programme's practical format minimises the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application in this field.

### Impacts & results:

- A collaborative German-MENA university network was established.

- An online educational programme on state-of-the-art technologies in waste management and circular economy for undergraduate and graduate students was developed and implemented – in total 300 students of all four MENA partner universities participated in approximately 38 lectures.
- The online programme was scaled to other universities, educational institutions and decision-makers in the region, e. g. in Tunisia, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia.
- PREVENT members, public institutions and industry experts from Germany were involved in the online courses and accompanied students' research projects and theses.
- Research activities related to marine litter prevention, EPR, recycling, mitigation of CO2 from landfill, waste to hydrogen, cost recovery, or institutional framework increased.
- A study tour was organised for the partner universities, which included international networking at IFAT Munich and on-site experiences at waste management facilities and research institutes in Germany.
- 15 online lectures on best practices of waste management and circular economy, which can be used for education and know-how transfer worldwide, will be published and accessible on Hamburg Open Online University by the end of 2022.

Through the online programme, the German-MENA University Network transfers know-how that can be quickly shared and updated across geographical locations to create a more sustainable future for waste management in the region.

### PREVENT Waste Alliance

The PREVENT Waste Alliance serves as a platform for exchange and international cooperation. Organisations from the private sector, academia, civil society and public institutions jointly engage for a circular economy. The PREVENT members contribute to minimising waste, eliminating pollutants and maximising the reutilisation of resources in the economy worldwide. They strive to reduce waste pollution in low- and middle-income countries and work together for the prevention, collection, and recycling of waste, as well as the increased uptake of secondary resources.

This project was selected in a call for innovative and scalable solutions to build a circular economy.

The PREVENT Waste Alliance was launched in 2019 by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



## Imprint

### Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
PREVENT Waste Alliance  
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36  
53113 Bonn  
Germany

T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
[contact@prevent-waste.net](mailto:contact@prevent-waste.net)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

August 2022

Credits: Cover © Pixabay  
Picture in text © Constantine University 3

### On behalf of

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)  
Environmental policy, urban development, mobility, circular economy, marine conservation  
Bonn, Germany

This project is funded by the PREVENT Waste Alliance, an initiative of the German Federal Government.

More information: [www.prevent-waste.net/en/](http://www.prevent-waste.net/en/)