Press Release
Jerusalem
12 February 2018

Dar Al Hikma Girls School Wins the First Place at the "Know Europe" Contest in Palestine

The European Union and Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education crowned today Dar Al Hikma Girls School from East Jerusalem after winning the first place at the "Know Europe" contest. European Union Representative Ralph Tarraf and Minister of Education Dr Sabri Saidam attended the final round of the "Know Europe" contest organised in Ramallah.

For the second year in a row, the contest was organised in Palestine with the participation of 80 schools and over 500 students across the West Bank and Gaza. It took place in Ramallah, Jenin, Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Tulkarem, Qalqilia, Gaza city, and Rafah.

The "Know Europe" contest was introduced in cooperation with the Ministry of Education to communicate to the Palestinian public the founding principles of the European Union, as well as cultural and historical ties with the region. The contest is an interactive way to share European culture and history with Palestinian students. At the final rounds, Mustafa Hafeth Primary school from Gaza won the second place while Rameen Boys School from Tulkarem won the third.

In this context, **Dr. Sabri Saidam, Minister of Education and Higher Education**, stressed the importance of this competition in demonstrating the strong ties between Palestine and Europe as well as enriching the knowledge of students with regards to the European continent. Dr. Saidam commended the efforts exerted to execute this competition. He expressed his pride in the partnership with the European Union, while congratulating the winning schools and participants of the competition. The Minister stressed the ministry's constant quest to organize such competitions which connects the Palestinian student with the world and which creates a competitive spirit that positively reflects on the students.

"*I am very pleased to have witnessed such enthusiasm for this contest. It was a great opportunity to highlight the links that connect the EU and Palestine. It is important that we work hand in hand in order to promote a deeper understanding of Europe, its institutions, culture and history. All the schools showed great commitment to the contest and did an outstanding job in preparing the children*," said **EU Representative Ralph Tarraf**.

Students expressed their happiness and joy to take part in this interactive contest. Bushra, a 12 year old from Tulkarem said that "The *Know Europe contest was great! I got to learn about Europe's history and accomplishments around the world. The questions in general were good but I wish we had prepared better for it to win!*"

The European Union and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education launched the competition in Hebron on 29 October with the participation of public, private and UNRWA schools.

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