

Press Release**Fransabank supports the educational sector and offers grants and cash prizes for school and university students**

Within its firm commitment to corporate social responsibility and its solid belief in the educational sector in general and in the youths in specific, Fransabank recently launched three initiatives with the General Secretariat of Catholic Schools, Saint Joseph University USJ and the Lebanese American University LAU, distributing cash prizes and university grants.

Fransabank distributed cash awards of USD 27,000 to 21 students out of 180 participants in the educational contest launched by Fransabank under the title "*Talents for Lebanon*". The ceremony witnessed the renewal of the cooperation protocol which was signed earlier in 2013.

Fransabank, which organized the competition distributed prizes among the winners according to 6 academic subjects: Dictation in Arabic, Dictation in English, Dictation in French, mathematics, physics, and biology.

In his speech, Mr. Nadim Kassar, General Manager of Fransabank, noted that Fransabank is keen to support the younger generation, with the belief of the Bank in their talents in various activities, whether educational or academic, and in order to offer them an opportunity to invest in their knowledge and direct their energy towards success.

In another context, Fransabank participated in USJ Entrepreneurship Awards 2017 targeting students with business projects in social entrepreneurship, with economic viability and environmental impact. Candidates (individuals or teams) presented ideas that could be developed to startup phase within a three-year frame. Fransabank distributed cash prizes of USD 10,000 for the three winning projects out of 7 projects tackling environmental and technological fields. The prizes were as follows: First prize: USD 5,000; second prize: USD 3,000; third prize: USD 2,000. The competition was in collaboration with "la Fédération des Anciens" and Berytech. Mrs. Dania Kassar, Fransabank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Communication Department, pointed out that the contribution of the Bank, the main financier of the competition aligns with the Bank's belief in, occurs in education, dialogue and tolerance, as well as environmental projects."

Another initiative came at LAU, where for the third year in a row Fransabank launched the UDesign Competition, targeting this year students of Fine Arts who were asked to present a short movie about money spending and saving.

The first prize was a full scholarship at the University of Salzburg worth USD 7,000 provided by Fransabank to the winning student out of 7 participants. The main focus of this year was to prepare youths to be pioneers in learning how to deal with the financial system thus promote financial inclusion which appears to hold significant promise for their growth.

The three initiatives are part of Fransabank's continued support for the development of young Lebanese talents, and come within the Bank's sense of responsibility towards the young generation, appreciation of their potential and their role in the community, hence developing comprehensive competition academic programs to enable high-level candidates to develop their future career.

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