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The beginning of the second edition of the DE.MA

All the students of the second edition of the DE.MA programme (Master in Democratic Governance - Democracy and Human Rights in the MENA Region) were warmly welcomed by Prof. Manfred **Nowak**, EIUC Secretary General, Dr. Barbara **De Poli**, DE.MA Academic Coordinator, Jihad **Nammour**, DE.MA Teaching Fellow, Valentina **Abita**, GC Project Manager, Caterina **Assenti**, DE.MA Executive Assistant, and all EIUC staff, on the 13 of January.

The Opening included the presentation of the EIUC staff, a round table of presentation of the DE.MA Masterini, the explanation of mandatory administrative issues, the tour of the Monastery with Luca Fantinel, Premises and Technical Services Manager, and a lunch.

During the Opening, Prof. Manfred Nowak illustrated the birth of the EIUC network, composed of 41 Universities and of the E.MA Master and of other Regional Master's programmes making up the GC network. The purpose of the DE.MA Master, which has joined the GC network from last year, similarly to the other fellow Regional Masters, is to form human rights professionals and also to share a pool of experts with NGOs, International organisations and academia.

Dr. Barbara De Poli, explained that the DE.MA is based on a network of 4 universities (University of Saint Joseph, Birzeit, International University of Rabat and Ca' Foscari) and that the benefits of this partnership are multiple: from the interdisciplinary programme to the different perspectives brought by the lecturers from the partner universities and mobility opportunities during the second semester.

The very intense programme will include lectures and workshops to deepen the knowledge and understanding of democracy and human rights especially in the context of the Mena region and build up

practical skills such as research skills.