

August 2026

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Testimonial from Sakhnin Academic College

Dear Sir/Madam,

Professor Rhonda Sofer has played a pivotal role in the internationalization of Sakhnin Academic College and in positioning our institution as an active participant within European Programs in Capacity Building.

Our collaboration began when Professor Sofer invited Sakhnin Academic College to join the TEMPUS IV Capacity Building project **DOIT**, opening the door to international partnerships and European Union funding opportunities that we did not access before. Through her vision, professional guidance, and extensive international network, our college subsequently became a partner in several major Erasmus+ Capacity Building projects, including **DARE**, **DEMO**, **CURE**, and **ASSET**, significantly expanding our international collaborations and institutional capacity.

One of Professor Sofer's most significant contributions was encouraging Sakhnin Academic College to take on the leadership of the **MANDELA** Erasmus+ Capacity Building project. After an earlier proposal had not been selected, Professor Sofer worked closely with our team, substantially redesigning and strengthening the proposal. Her strategic expertise and deep understanding of the Erasmus+ programme were instrumental in its eventual success. As a result, Sakhnin Academic College became the **first Arab academic college in Israel to coordinate an Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) project**, an important milestone in our institutional history.

Beyond her technical expertise in proposal development, Professor Sofer has consistently demonstrated exceptional professionalism, strategic vision, generosity, and collegiality. She has always been willing to share her extensive experience, mentor colleagues, connect institutions with international partners, and provide thoughtful advice throughout every stage of project development and implementation.

Professor Sofer possesses a rare ability to recognize institutional potential and transform ambitious ideas into successful international initiatives. Her contribution to the international development of Sakhnin Academic College extends far beyond individual projects; she helped establish a culture of international engagement that continues to benefit our institution today.

We are pleased to recommend Professor Rhonda Sofer as an outstanding expert in higher education internationalization, Erasmus+ Capacity Building programmes, strategic partnership development, and institutional capacity building. Her knowledge, integrity, commitment to excellence, and collaborative approach make her an exceptional partner for any institution seeking to expand its international profile and develop sustainable global partnerships.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Yaser Awad

(Prof. Yaser Awad)
Vice_President

Vice-President of Strategic Planning & Internationalization