

Dr. Narimane Hadj Hamou

Founder and CEO,
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Dr. Narimane is the Founder and CEO of the Center for Learning Innovations and Customized Knowledge Solutions (CLICKS). Prior to this, she served as the Assistant Chancellor for Learning and Academic Development (Provost) at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University in Dubai, UAE. In this role, she established and led the academic, research, and eLearning vision for the first online university recognized and accredited by the UAE's Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (now the Ministry of Education).

With a career spanning over 20 years, Dr. Narimane has held several leadership positions, including Provost, Dean of Student Affairs, Dean of Learning and Teaching, and Director of e-Learning. She has also served as senior advisor to numerous universities and as a consultant for prominent organizations such as UNESCO and the European Training Foundation. Additionally, Dr. Narimane is an active member of various organizations and university advisory boards including the Times Higher Education (THE) regional advisory board.

Dr. Hadj-Hamou's vast expertise spans technology integration and e-learning in higher education, teaching and learning, quality assurance and accreditation, and governance. She has been a driving force in promoting online education and blended learning in the region since 2004, leading many pioneering projects and initiatives.

Her contributions to quality assurance are noteworthy; she has served as an external reviewer for many quality assurance agencies and participated in over 40 institutional and programmatic accreditation reviews since 2012, either as a chair or a review member. She was also involved in reviewing and providing expertise on the Saudi eLearning Standards for Higher Education in 2020 and designed and delivered a training program for certifying external reviewers under the direction of the NCAAA during 2021-2023. Dr. Narimane trains and consults extensively in quality assurance and in supporting universities with developing internal quality systems.

She is the founder of several regional initiatives and projects; she was the founder and first elected President of the Middle East e-Learning Association (MEeA) in 2008-2010, and led the establishment the MENA Higher Education Leadership Forum in 2013 which she chairs to date and the Arab Consortium of Teaching and Learning Centers in 2024.

Over the years, Dr. Narimane has delivered more than 120 keynote addresses worldwide, including in the USA, China, the UK, KSA, India, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Lebanon, Germany, Algeria, Morocco, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Oman, and Qatar, among many others. She has also led numerous round-tables and panel discussions. She has facilitated and delivered over 300 workshops on governance, strategic planning, policy development, quality assurance, innovative pedagogies, online learning, and other topics to various target audiences, including university presidents and vice presidents. Dr. Hadj-Hamou has also been active in publishing articles, book chapters, and case studies and was the founder and editor of the International Journal of Excellence in e-Learning for several years.