CAIRO, EGYPT — On Sat., Nov. 28, the American University of Beirut (AUB), represented by the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS) ranked in first place for the “Most Civically Engaged University Campus” in the MENA region. The Ma'an Arab University Alliance for Civic Engagement hosted its first annual competition at the American University in Cairo (AUC). Among the finalists were: The American University of Beirut (Lebanon), Hassan II University (Morocco), Palestine Technical University Khadoori (Palestine), Suez Canal University (Egypt) and Qatar University (Qatar). The competition aimed towards creating an interactive platform in which universities share new and progressive ideas on how to place civic engagement at the forefront of higher education. The AUB delegates presented CCECS’ methodological and operational framework on current projects which tackle the pressing issues and challenges affecting Lebanon. Jurors of the competition applauded the University for its high-impact and innovative approach to an organically-linked, multidisciplinary, and cross-faculty process for bringing change to underserved communities. CCECS emphasized the significance of building sustainable strategic partnerships with stakeholders and communities in order to integrate theory and practice. The representatives from AUB included the Director of CCECS, Rabih Shibli, Coordinator of Service Learning, Hala Fleihan, Coordinator of Community Development Projects, Ali Basma, Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Majdi Abou Najm, and University Scholarship Program student, Omar Tantawi.