

# NEWSLETTER

3<sup>rd</sup> ISSUE - JUNE 30, 2024

## Enhancing ICT Competencies of Early Childhood Educators at HEIs in MENA Countries 2023-2025

### HALFWAY THROUGH THE PROJECT

As we approach the midpoint of the project's lifespan, remarkable groundwork has been completed. This includes curriculum development, capacity building for academics, and the establishment of ICT labs. These preparations pave the way for upcoming phases, including initiating staff training and implementing the developed curricula with students at the beginning of the academic year.

Additionally, effective project dissemination has ensured that students, academic staff and community of the partner universities are well-prepared, understanding the project's goals and details, which is crucial for the successful implementation of the curricula.

This issue will explore the milestones that the project has reached thus far, alongside the latest activities and events that have contributed to these achievements in the past six months.



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Cairo, Egypt

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Culture Exchange in Egypt



# PARTNERS



# PROJECT PROGRESS

## NAVIGATING THE PATH TO ACHIEVEMENTS



### CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMING TO COMPLETION

#### Finalizing the updated Courses:

Creation of detailed syllabus and teaching materials is near completion, and co-pilot implementation has started, moving to the process of validation and accreditation of new curricula.

#### E-Courses development:

Partners are creating new mutual ICT competences e-courses, to be offered on the e-learning platform, These courses are created as committees, with 2-3 MENA partners and 1 EU partner for each course.



### ACADEMICS' CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN SET TO BEGIN

The plan includes a series of five-day workshops hosted by our EU partners, focusing on the topics: Advanced Digital Technologies for Active Learning, ICT-Enabled Education for sustainable development with a focus on Early Childhood Education, Developing Early Childhood Education Curricula, and Pedagogical strategies for ICT in education contexts. Each workshop will be attended by two participants from every MENA institution, totaling 18 participants across all sessions. The plan is scheduled to kick off in July 2024.



### ICT LABS ON THE VERGE OF OPENING

Significant progress has been made in establishing our ICT Labs across partner institutions. All partners have been working on the process of purchasing and installing the equipment and are now finalizing their action plan for the labs' opening soon.



### RESEARCH PAPER READY FOR PUBLICATION

Our team has successfully completed the scientific paper based on our survey findings. This paper aims to disseminate valuable insights to a broader audience, fostering greater utilization and impact across educational settings. Stay Tuned for its publication!

# THIRD MANAGEMENT MEETING

## CAIRO, EGYPT



February 13-14,  
2023



Al-Azhar University Campus



59 person



The meeting activities included the partners presenting the progress of their workpackages and discussing upcoming tasks. A workshop took place in 4 panels where MENA and EU partners discussed the updating of courses progress and implementation.

## » HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS



New e-courses, and the committees for developing new courses were agreed on.



e-learning platform, UJ will set it up and give access to the partners to add materials.



Capacity building plan, both Academics' and Students' visits to EU partners.



Info Days and National workshops plan has been discussed

# THIRD MANAGEMENT MEETING

## WORKSHOP: DISCUSSION ON CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

A workshop took place in 4 panels where MENA and EU partners discussed the updating of courses progress and implementation. The panels were as follows:

- 1- University of Padova with the University of Jordan and Palestine Technical University.
- 2- Frederick University with Heliopolis University, Irbid National University and Suez Canal University.
- 3- Polytechnic Institute of Porto with Mutah University and Palestine Technical College.
- 4- University of Bucharest with Al-Azhar University and Al-Istiqlal University.

The partners discussed Curriculum Development progress, with focus on: Comments on the content, guidelines on the updating process, Accreditation of the updated courses, and Teaching materials.



# NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

## ENHANCING CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Across three MENA countries—Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine—partners came together for national workshops on curriculum development. Technical committees from each partner university attended these workshops, which were held to review, discuss, and carry out all final work of the validation of the curriculums.

These workshops brought together project partners and stakeholders in early childhood education to collaboratively discuss and evaluate the developed courses. The discussions encompassed both educational perspectives and the alignment of the curricula with market demands.



**Egypt**  
February 12, 2024

**Palestine**  
May 16, 2024



**Jordan**  
May 29, 2024

# INFO DAYS

## CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY

As part of our ongoing project outreach, we hosted Info Days across our partner universities. These events were dedicated to effectively communicate project details to students and staff. The Info Days provided an interactive setting to showcase our project's goals, milestones, and to gather valuable feedback from our university community.



It was a meaningful opportunity to deepen our collective understanding of the project's impact and its future potential and implications within our academic community, and to ensure that students and academic staff of the partner universities are well-prepared, understanding the project's goals and details, which is crucial for the successful implementation of the curricula.

# UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN



The University of Jordan, in its capacity as coordinator of the ICT4EDU Project, has proactively promoted and disseminated the project through participation in several significant events. This strategy aimed at increasing visibility within both the local community and the international projects community.

## Key events included:

- 3rd NEXUS Conference
- International Staff Week
- INNOMED & COSMO Kick-off Meeting
- Erasmus+ Exhibition Day
- NUCT Job Fair
- Healing Final Conference
- Eco-Car Final conference





# AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY



 125 Participants

 June 24, 2024

Al-Azhar University hosted an engaging Info Day that brought together students, faculty members, academics, and educational technology specialists. The event provided an overview of the project and curriculum development process, highlighting the role of developed courses in improving students' digital competencies, as well as the project's impact on enhancing faculty members' competencies.

In addition, technical talks were held featuring insights from educational technology experts, who shared their practical experiences in applying educational innovations within diverse institutional settings. This initiative aligns with the project's vision to meet workforce demands. The technical talks covered topics such as e-learning, instructional design, gamification, virtual and augmented reality, and artificial intelligence.



# HELIOPOLIS UNIVERSITY



 25 Participants

 June 13, 2024

Heliopolis University hosted the Info Day at the newly established ICT4EDU lab. The Info Day underscored the university's commitment to integrating advanced ICT into early childhood education. The Info Day provided a comprehensive overview of ICT4EDU, highlighting partners, objectives, and project progress.

The event included a dynamic Q&A session, fostering direct engagement with attendees. Closing remarks left participants enthusiastic about the project's potential to transform education.

# SUEZ CANAL UNIVERSITY

 86 Participants  March 4, 2024

The Info Day session at Suez Canal University began with opening remarks and an overview of project objectives, followed by an exploration of the current state of ICT in early childhood education. This was followed by a discussion on the importance of ICT competencies for educators, leading into a group discussion and Q&A session where attendees engaged directly with the presenters.



# IRBID NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



 30 Participants

 August 15, 2024

Irbid National University have organized Info Day Workshop for educators, administrators, technology coordinators, researchers, policymakers, and anyone interested in the integration of ICT in education. The event included Keynote Speakers to hear from renowned experts in the fields of education and technology, interactive sessions covering a wide range of topics, including digital literacy, e-learning platforms, and the future of education, Exhibition to explore the latest educational tools and technologies from leading companies and startups, and Networking Opportunities: Connect with peers, industry leaders, and innovators to share insights and forge new partnerships.

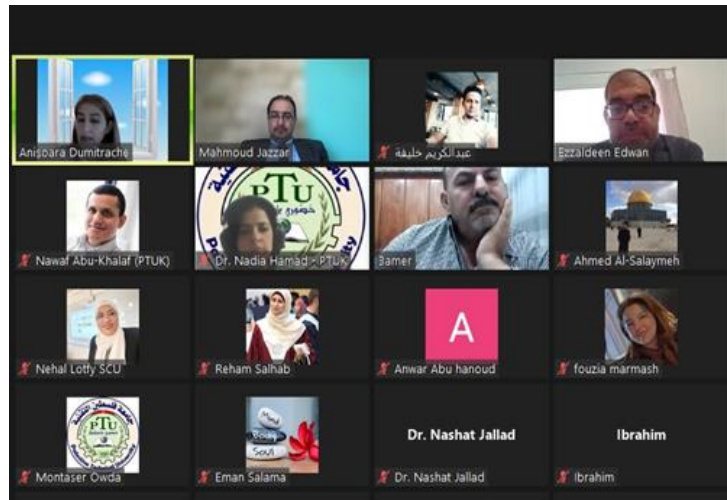
# PALESTINE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY - KADOORIE ( PTUK )

 27 Participants  April 2,2024

Palestine Technical University - Kadoorie have organized Information Day to PTUK students, staff and teachers online via Zoom. PTUK used the university internal Human Resource Management System (HRM) for dissemination and as a communication mean to distribute the call for participation.



# PALESTINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE - [ PTC ]



 54 Participants

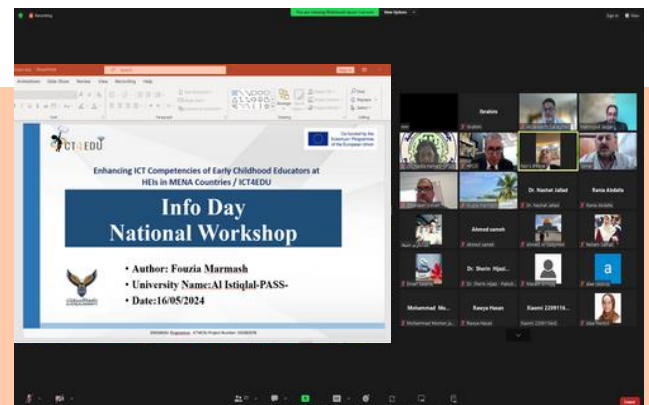
 May 16, 2024

The project coordinator from PTC, Dr. Ezzaldeen Edwan presented two presentations: the first is about the status of the project and the progress achieved at PTC, the other presentation is about a new course entitled “Maker Spaces” developed at PTC by Dr. Edwan. It should be mentioned that due to the ongoing tragic events in Gaza, it is not easy to access electricity and internet there. However, enough participants managed to attend the workshop at PTC.

# AL-ISTIQLAL UNIVERSITY

 47 Participants  May 16, 2024

The Info Day session at Al-Istiqlal University began with presentation of specific project developments within Al-Istiqlal University, including pilot courses and new programs, followed by guest speaker Dr. Anwar: Sharing practical experience from an external trainer, highlighting the real impacts of the project on the ground.



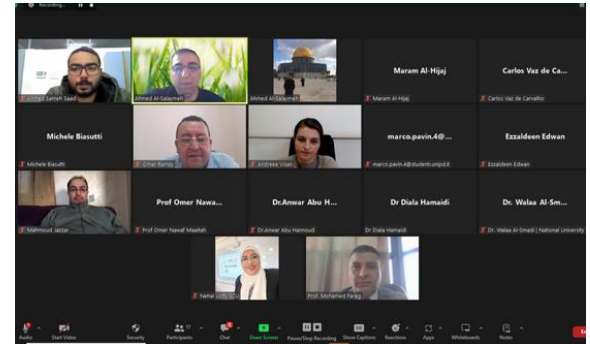
# ONLINE MANAGEMENT MEETINGS



CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING WITH PARTICIPATION FROM ALL PARTNERS.

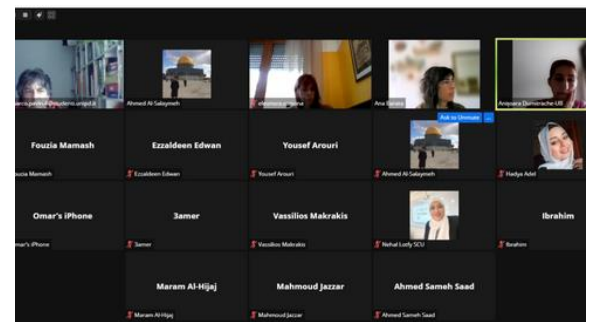
**THE 8TH ONLINE MANAGEMENT MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024**

The main discussion highlighted was the new courses, the content of the updated courses, the capacity building plan, and the 3rd Management Meeting at Cairo.



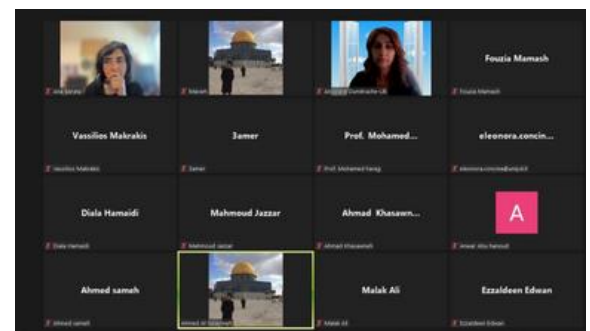
**THE 9TH ONLINE MANAGEMENT MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024**

The main discussion highlighted was the teaching materials, the new courses and the Academics visit to Porto.



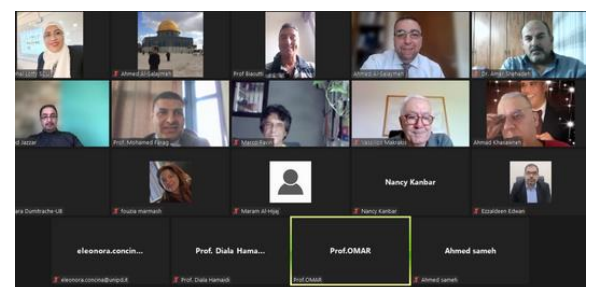
**THE 10TH ONLINE MANAGEMENT MEETING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024**

The main tasks and progress in different work packages were discussed during the meeting., with focus on updated and new courses progress.



**THE 12TH ONLINE MANAGEMENT MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024**

The meeting focused on developing a management plan, progress reporting, financial submissions, ToT preparation in Padova, and required partner actions.



# CLOSER TOGETHER CULTURE EXCHANGE IN EGYPT



We believe that international projects are more than formal obligations—they are invaluable opportunities to unite and learn from the diversity of global cultures. Recently, on the sideline of the Third Management Meeting held in Egypt, Al-Azhar University organized a series of activities dedicated to showcasing Egypt's rich heritage to our project partners.

Among the highlights of these activities was a talk by Prof. Salama Dawood, President of Al-Azhar University, who provided an overview of the history of Al-Azhar and its esteemed scholars. The Egyptian Tourism Authority also played a significant role, offering guests documentary booklets and souvenir gifts to introduce them to Egypt's ancient civilization.

The activities also featured the artistic flourish of Arabic calligraphy, where guests' names were inscribed, and virtual tours using VR technology showcased Egypt's most iconic landmarks.

These initiatives were not just about cultural display; they served as pivotal moments for fostering communication and cultural exchange among participants. We eagerly anticipate future collaborations that further enrich our collective understanding of the world's cultural tapestry.



## UPCOMING

First Training Workshop for Academic staff

Fourth Management Meeting

 July  Portugal

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