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## **ICT4EDU: Enhancing ICT Competencies of Early Childhood Educators at HEIs in MENA Countries**

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME | Project Number: 101083078

### **Report on the In-house Training Workshop in Heliopolis University**

<b>Event type</b>	In-house Training Workshop (transferring of knowledge and know-how)
<b>Author(s)</b>	HU
<b>Organisation name(s)</b>	Heliopolis University
<b>WP Number</b>	4
<b>WP Leader</b>	Polytechnic of Porto
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## 1. Introduction

Heliopolis University (HU) recently conducted an in-house training program on December 12, 2024, titled "ICT-enabled Education for Sustainability in Early Childhood Teaching, Learning, and Curricula." This Training of Trainers (ToT) initiative was designed to empower educators with cutting-edge ICT skills and innovative strategies to enhance early childhood education. Through a carefully curated series of workshops, discussions, and hands-on activities, the program aimed to transform traditional teaching methods by seamlessly integrating digital tools into curriculum planning and delivery.

With a strong emphasis on interactive and adaptive learning, the training introduced participants to a range of modern educational technologies while reinforcing sustainability-focused pedagogical practices. Educators explored how to blend traditional teaching techniques with digital resources, creating an engaging and immersive learning environment for young children. The training also highlighted the role of ICT in fostering creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking skills, essential for holistic child development.

A diverse group of 15 participants (9 female and 6 male educators) took part in the program, reflecting HU's commitment to inclusive professional development. Over the course of the training, they engaged in collaborative learning experiences, gaining hands-on exposure to digital storytelling, gamification techniques, and AI-powered educational tools. These methodologies were explored in-depth, demonstrating their potential to enhance cognitive, emotional, and social growth in early learners.

A key component of the training was curriculum innovation using ICT. Participants were guided on how to design technology-enhanced lesson plans while aligning with global developmental learning standards. Special sessions were dedicated to effective digital assessment strategies, enabling educators to monitor progress and tailor learning experiences based on individual student needs. Ethical considerations surrounding screen time, data privacy, and responsible tech use were also thoroughly discussed, ensuring a balanced and child-friendly approach to digital education.

By the conclusion of the training, educators expressed increased confidence in their ability to integrate ICT tools into their teaching methodologies, enriching the learning experience for students at HU and SEKEM. Equipped with practical resources, access to modern teaching aids, and a deepened understanding of digital pedagogy, participants left the training prepared to drive meaningful educational transformation within their classrooms.

## 2. In-house Training Workshop Description

### 2.1. Agenda

### 2.2. Syllabus and Training Material

The syllabus that was used was the one that was given to the participants in the ToT in Cyprus.

### 2.3. List of Participants

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### **2.3. Dissemination**

## **3. Conclusion**

The Intensive in-house training held at Heliopolis University (HU) on December 12, 2024, titled "ICT-enabled Education for Sustainability in Early Childhood Teaching, Learning, and Curricula." focused on empowering educators with cutting-edge ICT skills and innovative strategies to enhance early childhood education, with the aim of integrating technology into teaching through active learning techniques. A total of 15 participants attended, comprising 9 female and 6 male educators.

The training introduced participants to a range of modern educational technologies while reinforcing sustainability-focused pedagogical practices. Educators explored how to blend traditional teaching techniques with digital resources, creating an engaging and immersive learning environment for young children. The training also highlighted the role of ICT in fostering creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking skills, essential for holistic child development

A distinctive aspect of the event was its focus on real-time feedback and adaptive learning platforms, which ensured that participants left with actionable, technology-driven strategies they could immediately implement in their classrooms