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

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Report on the In-house Training Workshop in Heliopolis University

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Author(s)	HU
Organisation name(s)	Heliopolis University
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1. Introduction

Heliopolis University (HU) recently conducted an in-house Training of Trainers (ToT) program on February 13, 2025, titled "Pedagogical Strategies for ICT in Educational Contexts." This transformative training was designed to empower educators with pedagogical strategies through the use of cutting-edge Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills and innovative teaching strategies, particularly in the realm of early childhood education.

Bringing together a diverse cohort of 12 educators (6 female, 6 male), the training emphasized HU's commitment to inclusivity and professional development. Through a combination of hands-on workshops, collaborative discussions, and practical demonstrations, participants engaged in dynamic learning experiences aimed at enhancing their technical proficiency while redefining traditional teaching methodologies. The sessions focused on seamlessly integrating technology into curriculum planning and instructional delivery, fostering an interactive and engaging educational environment for young learners.

A key highlight of the training was the exploration of pedagogical curriculum development using ICT. Educators were guided in designing curricula that incorporate digital resources, gamification, and digital storytelling, ensuring alignment with developmental learning standards. Additionally, they received training on leveraging technology for student progress monitoring and assessment, enabling a more personalized and adaptive approach to learning.

Beyond technical skills, the program addressed ethical considerations in introducing technology to young learners, ensuring a balanced approach that promotes digital literacy while maintaining developmental appropriateness. By the end of the training, participants left with a comprehensive toolkit of modern teaching aids, practical resources, and enhanced confidence in their ability to integrate ICT into their pedagogical practices.

This initiative aligns with HU's ongoing commitment to sustainable education, digital transformation, and educator capacity-building. The successful completion of the ToT ensures that students at HU/SEKEM will benefit from enriched, technology-enhanced learning experiences that foster creativity, engagement, and long-term educational impact.

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 Bucharest.

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 February 13, 2025, titled "Pedagogical Strategies for ICT in Educational Contexts." focused on empowering educators with pedagogical strategies through the use of cutting-edge Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills. A total of 12 participants attended, comprising 6 female and 6 male educators.

The training introduced participants to a range of modern educational technologies while reinforcing 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.