



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Issue # 1 & #2, Newsletter arranged by UJ and Int@E November 15, 2021

Disability as diversity: The inclusion of students with disabilities in higher education Edu4ALL

WHAT IS Edu4All PROJECT

Edu4All is a three years project started on November 15, 2020, and funded by the European Union through Erasmus+ programme CBHE.

Edu4ALL aims at supporting the inclusion of students with disabilities in HE by establishing an "Inclusive Education Unit" that follows the international standards with the objective of equality in Education, Activities, and Services. We target students who are blind or low vision, deaf or hard of hearing, or those who have motor disability. To achieve the general aim of the project, four sub-aims are identified: reaching the target students to increase their participations in university programs, professional development for staff to teach and to serve those students, equitable access to a high-quality education, and maintaining sustainability.

- To raise the awareness about the inclusive education among students with disabilities.
- To build the capacity of staff to teach and to serve students with disabilities through professional development.
- To improve the level of competencies and skills of staff at PC HEIs by
 - (i) training visits for staff to EU partners to modernize Inclusive Education expertise in innovative learning
 - (ii) providing research collaboration opportunities with EU staff through joint supervision of students' projects.
- To support students with disabilities in HE.
- To establish the Inclusive Education Unit at PC HEIs.
- To modernise the disability statement at PC HEIs.
- To modernise laboratories at PC HEIs equipped with the needed assistive technologies to be used for teaching and research.
- To enhance equality in education by including students with disabilities in university programs
- To empower people with disabilities and prepare them for future careers.
- To create opportunities of collaboration between academia and industry.
- To develop training tutorials for faculty and staff that are compatible with the best EU practice guides in order to be used for staff training.
- To gain the required experience in defining the quality framework for the project, and implementing project quality assurance control plan.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Eman Daraghmi, Project Coordinator,
PTUK, Tolkarm, Palestine

Email: e.daraghmi@ptuk.edu.ps

Prof. Georgios Kouroupetroglou,
NKUA, Athens, Greece

E-mail: koupe@di.uoa.gr

Dr. Nestor Garay Vitoria,
UPV/EHU, Spain

E-mail: nestor.garay@ehu.eus

Prof. Ahmad Khasawneh,
INU, Irbid, Jordan

E-mail: akhasawneh@hu.edu.jo

Dr. Ismail Altaharwa,
UJ, Aqaba, Jordan

E-mail: i_taharwa@ju.edu.jo

Dr. Mohsen A.Qawasmi,
UUC, Jerusalem, Palestine

E-mail: mohsenk90@msn.com

Dr. Ezzaldeen Edwan,
PTC, Deir El-Balah, Palestine

E-mail: ezzedwan@ptcdb.edu.ps

Eng. Jawad AbuOwn,
PSD, Palestine

E-mail: jawad@psdpal.org

Dr. Riyadh Qashi,
Int@E, Leipzig, Germany

E-mail: jum.ebdah@gmail.com

Edu4ALL Partners

P1	Palestine Technical University Kadoorie (PTUK)
P2	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)
P3	University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)
P4	Irbid National University (INU)
P5	The University of Jordan (UJ)
P6	Al-Ummah University College (UUC)
P7	Palestine Technical College - Deir Elbalah (PTC)
P8	Partners for Sustainable Development (PSD)
P9	Int@E UG, Leipzig, Germany

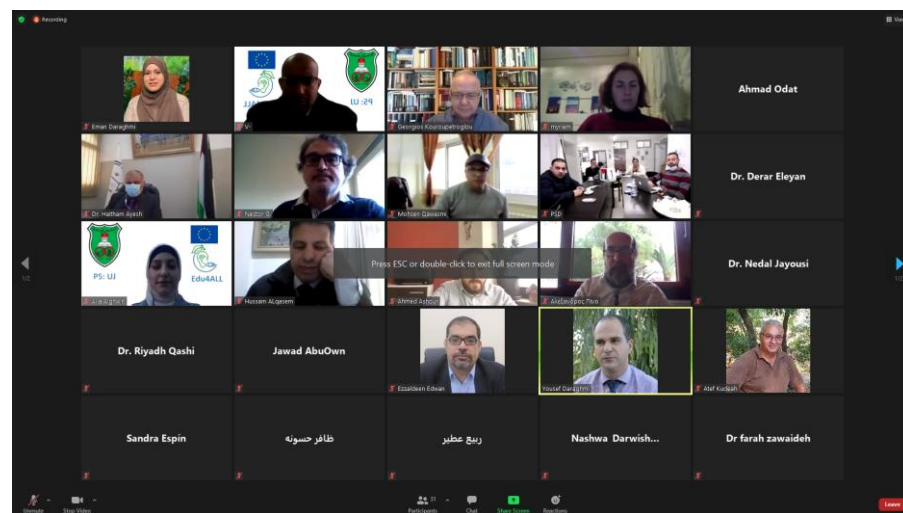




Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Edu4ALL kick-off meeting- Online via Zoom Jan. 18-19 2021

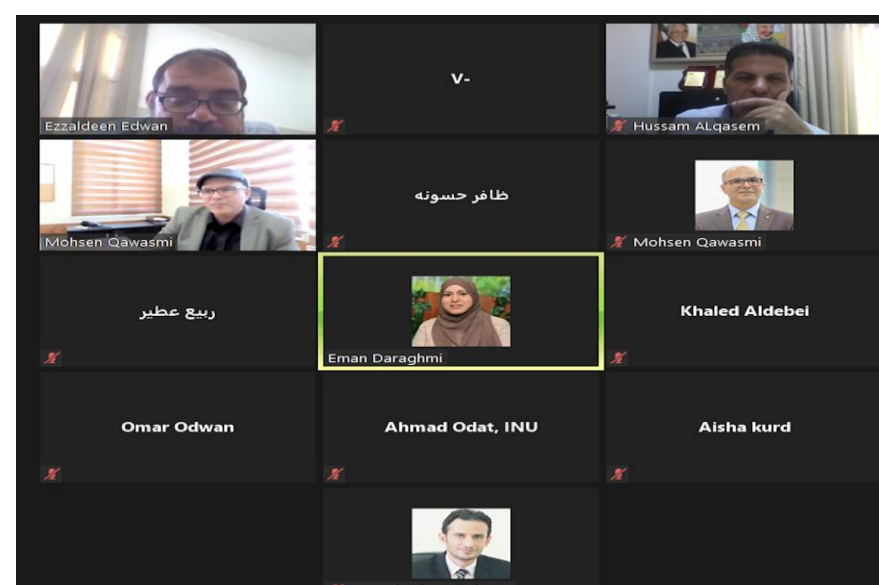
The Kick-off Meeting was held Online by Zoom from the 18th to 19th January 2021. Participants have presented their organizations, rules and WPs working on. During the kick-off meeting, all work packages were discussed. Work package leaders presented in detail the specific objectives, the work plan, the expected deliverables and indicators of each work package. Project partners agreed on the key management issues. Project committees formed. Communication channels and platforms chosen. Project evaluation procedures presented by Dr. Eman Daraghmi, project manager. Dr. Yousef Daraghmi came through financial issues, regulations, and policies. Tentative schedule of upcoming events discussed and agreed on. Partners emphasized on the humanity perspective of the project and its noble goals. They stressed the importance of increasing project visibility even among people with disability through the proper maintenance of assistive technology. The meeting minutes of the kick-off meeting is available on the project website.



Regional meeting for PS & JO partners

Jun. 08 2021

A follow up meeting held by PTUK virtually via Zoom platform. All regional partners from both Palestine and Jordan attended the meeting including Palestine Technical College, Al Umma University College, University of Jordan, Irbid National University, and Partners for Sustainable Development. Dr. Eman Daraghmi, project coordinator, managed and coordinated the meeting. She made a brief description of Edu4ALL project progress, stressed the key accomplishments and the already completed tasks. About the next step. Dr. Daraghmi focused on finalizing the already accomplished tasks by preparing the required deliverables according to the adopted quality plan. And to enrich Edu4ALL Website with content reflecting project progress. Dr. Daraghmi discussed the importance of preparing for an awareness workshop in both Palestine and Jordan. Dr. Yousef Awwad, from PTUK, discussed the financial issues of the project. He presented the monetary forms and reports to be filled by all partners. And showed how to prepare those documents in a professional way. Further, Dr. Awwad, discussed the equipment preparation, showed samples of prepared lists and urged all partners to review their lists and submit the final version within five days. All partners from Palestine and Jordan participated in the meeting and share their progress, ideas and future plans.





Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

UJ Team visiting the school of Rehabilitation sciences at the university of Jordan

UJ - Amman, Feb. 2nd 2021

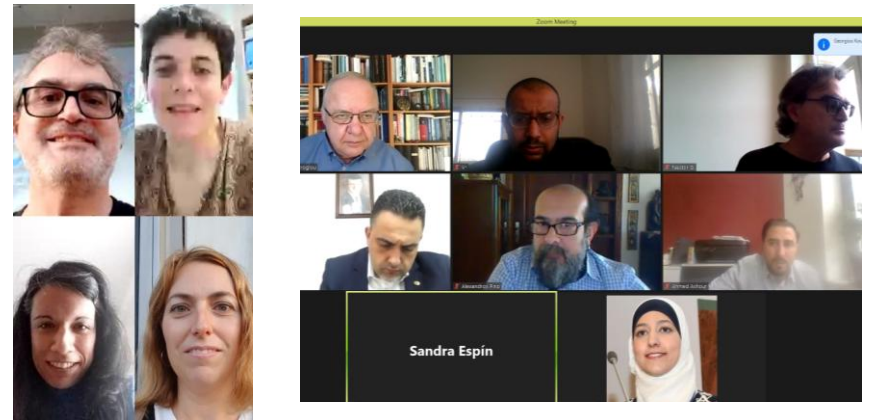
The University of Jordan Edu4ALL team visited the School of Rehabilitation Sciences and met with the dean of the School and the head of the committee of students with disability at University of Jordan Dr. Ziad Hawamdeh. At the meeting, Dr. Ismail Altaharwa explained the aim of the Edu4ALL project and discussed with the group several issues related to the implementation of the project such as the best location of the accessibility unit and the committee members that will supervise the unit as well as the sustainability of the project after the end of the funding.



UPV/EHU participating in project's Quality assurance

UPV/EHU - Basque

Since the beginning of the project, the UPV/EHU members have been working on different tasks mainly related to quality assurance work package, but also in the preparation and the dissemination and exploitation packages of the project. These activities include the development of deliverable D3.1 "Defining the quality framework for the project". The development of this deliverable was one of the key pillars of the project, as its objective is to define a Quality Plan to facilitate the project's management and guide all partners on the evaluation and quality issues, establishing a coherent set of guidelines by which all aspects of the project are managed and measured



Team project meeting at PTC, PTC - Gaza, Jun. 12th 2021

The Edu4all project team at Palestine Technical College - Deir El-Balah (PTC) met to discuss the progress of the project and the practical steps to admit deaf students in the college's academic programs in the first semester, which will start next September. The team will coordinate with the Ministry of Education and specialized deaf schools to implement this goal so PTC becomes a diversified place for students with different needs. Moreover, the members of the team who will attend the project management meeting in August were nominated.



An essential component of D3.1 deliverable was the development of the Document Templates used to draft the expected documents (deliverable/WP result), and the Project Quality Assessment Forms, which provide indicators relevant to the quality of the project management, coordination, structure, support mechanisms, content, and resources.





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Fields visit to Universities in Gaza Strip by PTC team

PTC - Gaza, Feb. 26th 2021

Edu4All project team at Palestine Technical College Deir El-Balah (PTC) visited a number of higher education institutions in the Gaza Strip - Palestine that provide services to the disabled students, in order to be aware of the latest efforts of these institutions and to learn about the challenges they face. The visits included the center for the education of the disabled at the University College of Applied Sciences (UCAS) and the Center for Disability and Inclusion Services at the Islamic University of Gaza. The project team met with the staff at the center for the education of the disabled at the University College, headed by the Head of the Rehabilitation Department, Dr. Salah Saleh and head of the Center for Education with Disabilities a. Ibrahim Eslim and discussed ways of joint cooperation to achieve the goal of the project, which is the integration of students with disability in higher education. Moreover, the project team met with the administration of the Center for Disability and Inclusion Services at the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG), headed by the director of the center, Mr. Bahaa Sarhan and center coordinator Dr. Hassan Abu Al-Amreen and discussed ways of joint cooperation to achieve the goal of the project, which is the integration of students with disability in higher education. The project team was briefed on the devices used in the center that serve the visually and hearing impaired, and it was agreed to work on a framework for future coordination between PTC and the IUG. Further field visits by PTC team to other HE institutes at the Gaza Strip to learn about experiences in integrating students with disability in the HEIs.



Edu4ALL – Second Management Meeting in UJ-Aqaba

UJ - Aqaba, Jul. 28th-30th 2021

Edu4ALL management meeting was held both physically in UJ, Aqaba, Jordan, and virtually by Zoom from the 28th to 30th of July 2021. Dr. Muath Abu Faraj, Dean of Information Technology and Systems faculty in the University of Jordan - Aqaba campus, opened the meeting by welcoming all partners. He appreciated the role of Erasmus+ programme and projects to support the remote areas and the minorities within the local community. Participants have presented their contributions to the project. All work packages were discussed. The progress of the project was reviewed and the plan for the next six months was discussed and approved. Partners agreed on reviewing some deliverables and modifying them. Two capacity building meetings and one management meeting were planned.





Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Edu4ALL Awareness raising Workshop at INU

INU - Irbid Jul. 26th 2021

Raising Awareness and Dissemination Workshop for Edu4ALL project at Irbid National University and The University of Jordan in Aqaba. Edu4ALL is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. Edu4ALL aims at supporting the inclusion of students with disabilities in HEIs by establishing an "Inclusive Education Unit" that follows the international standards with the objective of equality in Education, Activities, and Services. We target students who are blind or low vision, deaf or hard of hearing, or those who have motor disability. To achieve the general aim of the project, four sub-aims are identified: reaching the target students to increase their participations in university programs, professional development for staff to teach and to serve those students, equitable access and high-quality education, and maintaining sustainability. More Information about the E+-Project Edu4ALL can be found under Edu4ALL project Website:





Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

National Erasmus Office (NEO) Meeting - Palestine PTUK - Tulkarm, May. 20th 2021

On the May 20th 2021, a Preventive Field Monitoring Visit was carried out by the NEO team to CBHE project: "Edu4ALL Disability as diversity: The inclusion of students with disabilities in higher education". Edu4ALL project aims at establishing an "Inclusive Education Unit" that follows the international standards with the objective of equality in Education, Activities, and Services for students with disabilities. The NEO Director/ Dr. Nedal Jayousi together with the NEO Programme Officer opened the meeting and welcomed participants. Dr. Jayousi highly appreciated the efforts of the project team. The meeting was attended by representatives from all local partners including: Al-Ummah University College (UUC), Partners for Sustainable Development (PSD) and by the Head of Disability Union. The team of the project presented an overview about the project in terms of activities implemented and outputs achieved. The team of the project also presented the upcoming activities of the project based on the work plan; as well as the progress of the project. This meeting was an occasion for NEO Evaluation Team to learn about the status of the project in its preparatory year regarding the partnership agreements, the management and financial plans. The ET reviewed the documents and became more aware of the committees as well as the action plans and how overall work plan of the project were distributed amongst the partners. The NEO Director Dr. Jayousi posed a number of recommendations helpful for the project team to proceed on and to overcome some bottlenecks.



National Erasmus Office (NEO) Meeting - Jordan INU - Irbid, Sep. 19th 2021

Edu4ALL field monitoring visit was held on September, 19th, 2021 under the supervision of National Erasmus Office (NEO)- Jordan in Irbid National University (INU). In the meeting, key achievements and progress of Edu4ALL project that has been funded by European Union under Erasmus+ CBHE program were discussed. From Jordan, the University of Jordan (UJ) and Irbid National University (INU) are the participants in Edu4ALL project which is led by Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie. All members from UJ and INU attend the monitoring visit either onsite or online. Dr. Ahmad Alodat from INU, Dr. Ismail Altaharwa and Dr. Alia Alghwiri from UJ presented accomplished achievements of Edu4ALL project. NEO-Jordan office, represented by Dr. Ahmad Abu-El-Haija, discussed the project progress in details. They valued the project objectives and accomplishments, and thanked project members for their cooperation and teamwork. Furthermore, Dr. Abu-El-Haija provided some suggestions and guidelines to help participants execute Edu4ALL project objectives successfully based on the European Union guidelines and rules.



WP1: preparation (1st year)

Activity	Total duration (number of weeks)	MS	MS2	MS3	MS4	MS5	MS6	MS7	MS8
1.1 Investigating the rules and regulations of inclusive education for students with disabilities in higher education	12	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
1.2 Analyzing the current practices of inclusive education for students with disabilities in UJ and UoA	12	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
1.3 Forming the committee of practice in each institution of both partner countries	2							24	
1.4 Organizing Assessment Rating Workshop on "Inclusion" (Edu4ALL)	2								24

Joint activities

1. Meeting with HEIs at PCs organized by INU → UJ team joined the meeting
2. Meeting with EU partners organized by INU → UJ team joined the meeting
3. Report draft submitted on Jul. 27th 2021 → UPV, Int@, and UoA



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Project follow up meeting at UUC

UUC - Joreslam, Jun.6th.2021

The project team, headed by Eng. Abdul Mohsen Al-Qawasmi / Vice Dean of the Ummah University College - Jerusalem for Academic Affairs & Planning and Development Affairs, met on June 6, 2021 to discuss the technical and administrative issues and equipment required in the edu4all project, through which a recommendation was made to establish a support unit for students with disabilities headed by Mr. Ayman Al-Ghalayini / Head of Student Affairs Department and team member. Those who are scheduled to receive training at partner European universities in Greece and Spain and learn about their experience and related units They have and benefit from their experience to establish a special unit for the college.



Athens Development Training

NKUA - Athens, Oct 18th - 22nd 2021

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) organized and hosted intensive training for all project partners from the 18th till the 22nd of October 2021 in Athens, Greece. The main theme of the training was the professional development and capacity building of partner country staff under inclusive education theme.

The training started with a warm welcome by Prof. Dimitrios Karadimas (Vice Rector for Academic and Student Affairs at NKUA) and Prof. Georgios Kouroupetroglou (Edu4ALL Coordinator at NKUA). Highly competent staff of the Accessibility Unit at NKUA presented the NKUA experience in supporting students with disabilities. They explained the crucial role and potentials of assistive technologies in leveraging the abilities of disabled students. Also, they introduced a number of inspiring success stories that were realized.

By the end of the training Prof. Dimitrios Karadimas (Vice Rector for Academic and Student Affairs at NKUA), Prof. Georgios Kouroupetroglou (Edu4ALL Coordinator at NKUA), His Excellency Mr. Ahed Sweidat (Jordan Ambassador to Greece), and His Excellency Mr. Marwan Tubasi (Palestine Ambassador to Greece) met in person all the training participants.



Edu4ALLProjectNumber:618103-EPP-1-2020-1-PS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

DISCLAIMER: This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Assistive Technology Definition and Tools

Assistive Technology Definition

- Technology related Assistance for individuals with disabilities
- Assistive technologies are equipments, items or devices used to improve or keep functionality of an individual with a disability. This will allow an individual with a disability to be more independent in life, this includes: education, recreation, and any daily activity.

Augmentation and Alternative Communication (AAC) software

AAC software helps someone with speech or language impairment to communicate. It enables them to have voice, control their environment and live more independent lives.



Tactile graphics maker

Also called Picture in a Flash (PIAF)

Can a picture be touched? Can touch see a picture. Images and graphics help understand what is difficult to be described by words. Images rise and are ready in an instant. Draw, print or copy pictures onto the Piaf swell paper and pass it through the Piaf and all the black lines and shapes swell to create a drawing that can be read with the fingers.



Adaptive Switches

Access devices that allow movement-limiting disabilities to use technology and operate electronic devices. Instead of performing complex actions such as turning a knob, adaptive switches offer easier movement solutions, such as pressing a button, move mouse pointer or pressing mouse button.



Braille Embosser

Is an impact printer that renders text as tactile Braille cells. Using Braille translation software, a document or a digital text can be embossed with relative ease. This makes Braille production efficient and cost-effective.



Refreshable Braille Display

Is an electro-mechanical device for displaying characters, usually by round-tipped pins raised through holes in a flat surface. Visually impaired computer users who cannot use a standard computer monitor can use it to read text output.





Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Where to Know about Edu4ALL:

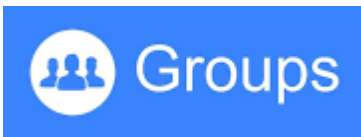
- **Web and Social Media**



Link:
<https://www.ptuk.edu.ps/projects/edu4all/>
Search keyword: Edu4ALL PTUK



Link:
<https://m.facebook.com/Edu4ALL.EU>



Link:
https://web.facebook.com/groups/2719947914885728/?_rdc=1&_rdr



Link: <https://twitter.com/Edu4allSocial>
Tag: Edu4allSocial



Link: <https://youtu.be/ubOHhvmDUso>
Youtube channel: Edu4ALL



Link:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/edu4allsocial/>

- **Partner HEIs**



<https://www.ptuk.edu.ps/projects/edu4all/>



<http://www.egokituz.org/en/proyectos/disability-as-diversity-the-inclusion-of-students-with-disabilities-in-higher-education-edu4all/pr-6-32-0-126/>



http://offices.ju.edu.jo/en/oir/Lists/EUPprojects/Disp_form_new.aspx?ID=30

Upcomming Events:

- Joint activities
 - Joint Development Training
UPV/EHU Jan. 10th-14th 2022
Theme: Quality assurance and control of the accessibility unit
 - Management meeting
Leipzig, INT@E Jan. 17th - 18th 2022
- Local Activities
 - Training within PC HEIs
 - UJ-Aqaba, Nov. 2021
 - UJ-Amman, Dec. 2021
 - INU, Dec 2021
 - PTUK Dec. 2021
 - UUC Dec. 2021
 - PTU-DA Dec. 2021
 - Awarness raising in PC
 - Higher Council for the Right of Persons with Disabilities, Jordan
 - Association of Will making for people with disability, Aqaba - Ninth residency
 - Aqaba special education center, Aqaba - Fifth residency
 - Association for people with determination, Irbid - Almasharei
 - The First Jordanian Association for Sign Language Interpreters, Amman
 - Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein Club for Deaf and Mute, Amman - Downtown
 - The Palestinian Disability Coalition (PDC), Bait Jala
 - Princess Basma Association for disabled children. Jerusalem
 - Al-Amal association for Deaf, Hebron
 - Palestinian General Union of People with Disability, Ramallah
 - Palestinian General Union of People with Disability, Tulkarm
 - Palestinian Association for Hearing and Pronunciation, Deir Albalah - Gaza
 - Al-Amal association for People with Disability Rehabilitation Rafah- Gaza



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



Edu4ALL: Disability and diversity: The inclusion of students with disabilities in higher education

Contact:

Project Coordinator: Dr. Eman Daraghmi, Associate Professor

Palestine Technical University Kadoorie,

Phone: +970-595765601

Email: e.daraghmi@ptuk.edu.ps

Project Website: <https://www.ptuk.edu.ps/projects/edu4all/>