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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.

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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



Edu4ALL Project Number: 618103-EPP-1-2020-1-PS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

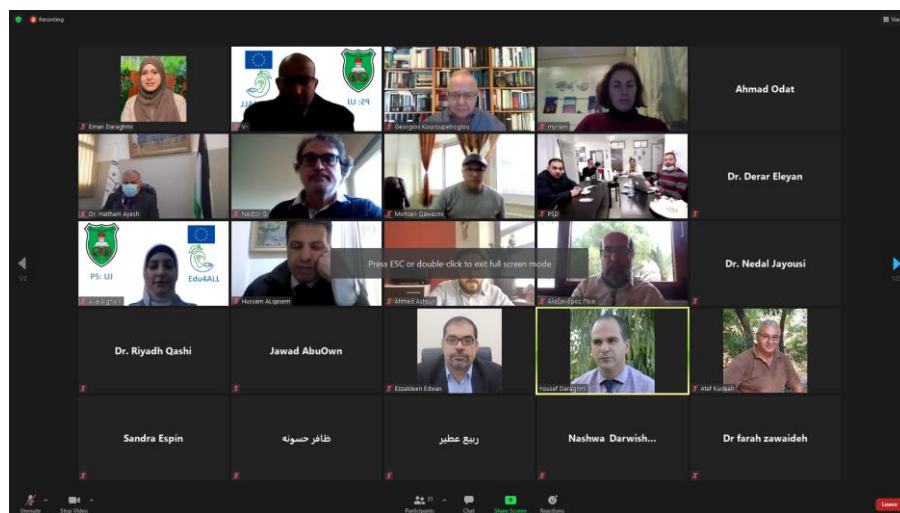
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Edu4ALL kick-off meeting- Online via Zoom Jan. 18-19 2021

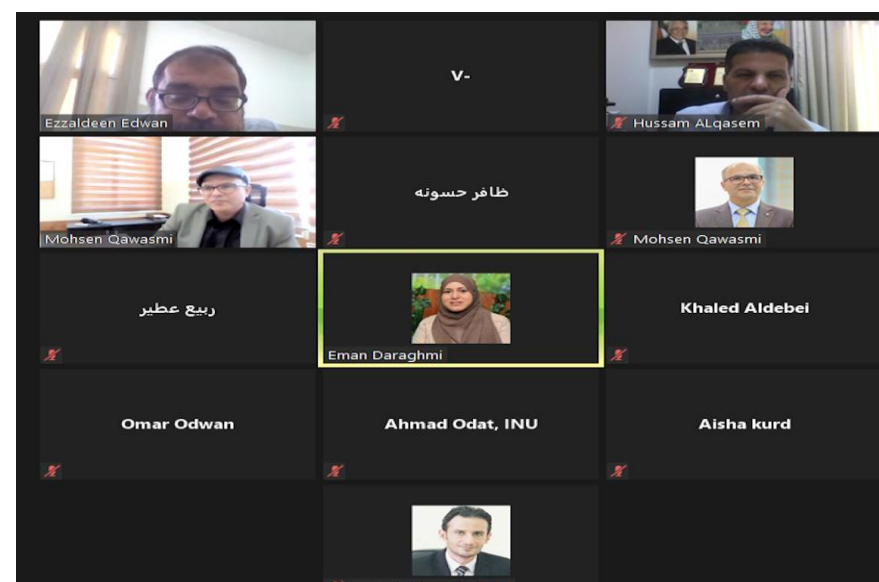
The Kick-off Meeting was held Online by Zoom from the 18th to 19th January 2021. Participants have presented their organizations, rules and WPs working on. During the kick-off meeting, all work packages were discussed. Work package leaders presented in detail the specific objectives, the work plan, the 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.





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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.





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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.



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.





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Upcomming Events:

- Joint activities
 - Awareness raising workshop
INU, Jul. 26th 2021
 - Management meeting
UJ-Aqaba, Jul. 28th - 30th 2021
 - Development Training
NKUA, Oct. 18th - 22nd 2021
- Local activities:
 - Visits to the students affairs units at HEIs in PCs
All HEIs in PCs, Jun - Sep 2021
 - Field monitoring visit
INU, Sep. 19th 2021

Target Audiance and Perspective Stakeholders

- Target Audiance
 - Academic staff at HEIs in PCs
 - Technical and administrative staff at HEIs in PCs
 - Students with disability at HEIs in PCs
 - Student community at HEIs in PCs
- Stakeholders
 - General unions of people with disabilities in PCs
 - Administration of HEIs in PCs
 - Studetnt affairs units at HEIs in PCs
 - Assistive technology provider including equipment manufacturer and software developers
- Project Advising and monitoring parties
 - National Erasmus Offices (NEOs) in Jordan and Palestine
 - Erasmus+ project officer for Edu4ALL project
 - International community

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/ubOHhvmDU0>

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/EUP projects/Disp_form_new.aspx?ID=30](http://offices.ju.edu.jo/en/oir/Lists/EUP%20projects/Disp_form_new.aspx?ID=30)



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Universidad del País Vasco
Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea



Partners for Sustainable Development
شركاء في التنمية المستدامة



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

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