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Edu4ALL

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

Deliverable D1.3.4	Edu4ALL – The Committee of Practice Enhancing Accessibility and Inclusion: A Comprehensive Report on the Establishment and Activities of the Accessibility Unit and Committee of Practice at Al-Ummah University College
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List of Acronyms

This table shows the acronyms used in this deliverable in alphabetical order.

Acronym	Description
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
HE	Higher Education
HEI	Higher Education Institution
PC	Partner Countries

1 Executive Summary

Within the framework of the outcomes of the Edu4all project funded by the European Union (Erasmus + programme), the Accessibility Unit was established at Al-Ummah University College (UUC) in mid-2023. Which aims to support and enable access for students with disabilities and help them complete their higher and university education by providing the necessary contemporary and modern tools, programs, and technologies that make it easier for them to integrate with their peers and access and perform all the tasks, jobs, and activities required of any student. A structure for the unit, systems, instructions, and laws were established, an administration and secretariat were appointed for it, and a practice committee (Committee of Practice) was formed, consisting of a number of employees in the college from various departments and students, in addition to members of the General Palestinian Union for Persons with Disabilities (GUPWD) in Palestine and the Ministry of Social Development.

This committee has held more than one meeting:

- 11/27/2023 AD.
- 02/20/2024 AD.

In the presence of a number of members, including:

- AbdalMohsen AlQawasmi, project team coordinator at the college
- Mai Khanfar, project team member from the Engineering Department
- Ahmed Draidi, member of the project team and head of the computer networks department at the college.
- Kawthar Hassan, unit secretary
- Rasmieh Adawieh, Secretary of the Registration Department
- Ayman AlGhalayni, unit manager and project team member
- Rola Harb, project team member from the Department of Education
- Amjad Merie from GUPWD
- Yousef Frehat from GUPWD
- Hamza Naser from GUPWD



- Akram Kaabneh from the Ministry of Social Development.

The most important topics discussed in the meetings.

- Promoting the new unit to attract students with disabilities for the academic year 2024/2025.
- Ways to develop the unit.
- Training student volunteers.
- Training employees and students on new equipment, software, and technologies in the unit.
- Preparing teaching and training units related to accessibility technologies.
- Approval of a training program from the Palestinian Ministry of Labor on access-enabling techniques.
- Encouraging graduate students to work on projects related to providing accessibility for students with disabilities.
- And other related topics.

2 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed account of the Committee of Practice meeting held on 11/27/2023, at UUC. The meeting aimed to discuss and identify the accommodation needs of a SWD who wants to use the facilities of the Edu4ALL lab. This report covers the discussions and findings from the meeting, including Preparing teaching and training units related to accessibility technologies.

3 Objective of the deliverable

The objective of this report is to document the findings and decisions made during the Committee of Practice meeting concerning Promoting the new unit to attract students with disabilities for the academic year 2024/2025. And how to develop the unit. In addition to Training student volunteers.



4 Committee of Practice Meeting Report

Date: 27/11/2023 **Time:** 10:00 AM **Location:** UUC

Attendees:

- **AbdalMohsen AlQawasmi**, project team coordinator at the college
- **Mai Khanfar**, project team member from the Engineering Department
- **Ahmed Draid**, member of the project team and head of the computer networks department at the college.
- **Hamza Naser** from GUPWD
- **Akram Kaabneh** from the Ministry of Social Development.
- **Ayman AlGhalayni**, unit manager and project team member
- **Rola Harb**, project team member from the Department of Education

5 Agenda:

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Unit Development Strategies.
3. Volunteer Student Training
4. Staff and Student Training on New Equipment, Software, and Technologies in the Unit.
5. Action items and next steps

6 Introduction and Welcome

The Committee of Practice at UUC convened to review the current situation of students with disabilities (SwD) at local Community, identify the challenges they face, discuss potential solutions, and evaluate the available lab equipment for suitability. The goal is to provide a comprehensive accommodation solution tailored to the needs to them. And how to attract them and let them know about new Unit.



7 Unit Development Strategies

The Committee of Practice at UUC Discussed the timeline for unit development. And how to Allocate necessary financial and human resources for achieving development goals.

8 Volunteer Student Training

The Committee of Practice at UUC Defined training programs and required skills for volunteer students. And Scheduled training sessions and locations.

9 Staff and Student Training on New Equipment, Software, and Technologies in the Unit

The Committee of Practice at UUC Discussed how to Identify tools and technologies used in the unit. And how to Set up a training schedule for staff and students.

10 Action Items and Next Steps:

This meeting captures the key points discussed during the meeting and outlines the next steps to ensure the student receives suitable accommodations for their learning needs.

- Resources (financial and human) required for program implementation will be determined.
- Training dates and qualified trainers will be identified.

11 Photos



Figure 1. part of the meeting.



Figure 2. field visit to the Accessibility Unit

