



Project No.: 618103-EPP-1-2020-1-PS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Edu4ALL

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

Deliverable D4.2.2	Edu4ALL Project: Launching Inclusive Education Units at UJ for Students with Disabilities
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WP Leader	The University of Jordan
WP members	Palestine Technical University Kadoorie National & Kapodistrian University of Athens Irbid National University Partners for Sustainable Development The University of Jordan Al-Ummah University College Palestine Technical College Int@E UG
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Project partners



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Project information

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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
AU	Accessibility Unit
IEU	Inclusive Education Unit
AT	Assistive Technology
UJ	The University of Jordan
HCD	Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
NEO	National Erasmus+ Office



1 Executive Summary

As part of Task 4.2, titled "Organizing a conference for opening the Edu4ALL to students with disabilities and launching the Inclusive Education Unit at both PC HEIs," The university of Jordan organized and launched opening conference on May 15, 2023. The conference was entitled "Edu4ALL: Empowering and Including Students with Disabilities in Higher Education."

This document is a deliverable related to the Edu4ALL project, aiming to report the main activities conducted at this conference.

2 Introduction

The level of care provided to people with disabilities is a basic criterion for measuring the civilization and development of nations. By 2050, it is anticipated that 937.5 million people with disabilities will be living worldwide. People with disabilities have the right to equal opportunities in all areas of life, including education, and to live in dignity and freedom. According to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, all individuals have the right to equal education without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity. The convention states that people with disabilities should have access to inclusive education on an equal basis with others in their communities. Inclusive education means that all students, regardless of any challenges they may have, are placed in one classroom to receive high-quality instruction, interventions, and supports that enable them to succeed in the core curriculum.

On May 15, 2023, The University of Jordan (UJ) organized a conference to open the accessibility unit as part of Edu4ALL, Erasmus+ project. This conference was titled "Edu4ALL: Empowering and Including Students with Disabilities in Higher Education." The conference hosted talks from decision makers and disability unions. Followed by opening the unit and witnessing use of Assistive technology (AT) tools by several of the university students with disability. Brainstorming session among university administration, Jordan-NEO, HCD, and disability unions took place.

The main vision of the unit is to create an academic environment that engage students with disabilities by supporting their academic, social, and psychological needs with the tools of assistive technology and relevant policies. The modernized lab, trained staff, developed tutorials, committee of practice, and the modernized curricula are the main components of the unit.

The unit aims to achieve its mission of adapting the university's academic environment to the requirements of students with disabilities, providing them with equal opportunities, bolstering their independence, nurturing their cooperative spirit, and bringing out their full potential. The goal is to cultivate confident, active individuals



who can contribute to community development and advancement. Higher education levels for people with disabilities improve their chances of integrating into society and employment, allowing them to sustain themselves financially with dignity.

Edu4ALL committee of practice at Edu4ALL made two professional sessions with representative group of SwD in the UJ. The group included Blind, visually impaired, deaf, students with hearing difficulties, and students with motor disability. Members of the committee of the practice summarized the Achievements of Edu4ALL project at the UJ, and the expected benefits of the AU in the first session. The second sessions was allocated to listen to the students with disability and to answer their questions.

Over 100 participants attended the conference, including representatives of Jordanian Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with disabilities (HCD), and Unions and clubs working with disabled peoples. Also, Director of National Erasmus+ office (NEO) in Jordan attended the conference. A detailed list of participants is included in this report. The conferences are part of Task 4.2, organizing a conference for opening the Edu4ALL to students with disabilities and launching the Inclusive Education Unit at both PC HEIs.

3 Objectives of the Deliverable

This document is a deliverable related to the Edu4ALL project and aims to report the main activities conducted at the conferences.

4 Methodology

The Conference was organized as four key activities that took place at the same day as it follows:

- Opening Ceremony of the AU at UJ.
- Meeting between the administration of UJ with HCD and three other unions concerning with different types of disability.
- Professional brainstorming sessions between the committee of the practice and the representatives of UJ's students with disability.
- Closing session and gala dinner





Figure 1. UJ opening conference Invitation

دعوة لافتتاح المختبر المتخصص للطلبة ذوي الإعاقة في وحدة المكتبة ضمن مشروع
Disability as Diversity

UJ e-Library <elibrary@ju.edu.jo>

Thu 5/11/2023 11:34 AM



Figure 2. UJ Opening conference email



Edu4ALL D4.2.2 Edu4ALL project: Launching Inclusive education Unit at UJ for Students with Disabilities

The English version of the agenda is shown below.



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ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

CBHE: Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education

Opening Conference: Accessibility Unit at the University of Jordan

Project: Edu4ALL

“Disability as Diversity: The inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Higher Education”

Project No.: 618103-EPP-1-2020-1-PS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Date: May. 15th 2023

Location:

University Library, The University of Jordan

Library Lobby, Ground Floor

Area: Main entrance of the University of Jordan, opposite to the presidency building

Google maps link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/tFyDajwTaxkxkfvD8?g_st=iw

Google maps coordinates: (32.0153671, 35.8699421)

Time	Activity
12:00 – 12:10	Meet and Greet (Registration)
12:10: 12:15	Royal Anthem followed by reciting Holly Quran
12:15 – 12:20	Speech of the director of the UJ library (Dr. Mujahed Thneibat)
12:20 – 12:25	Brief description of Edu4ALL (Edu4ALL coordinator at UJ, Dr. Ismail Altaharwa)
12:25 – 12:30	Speech of director of the National Erasmus+ office, Jordan (Prof. Ahmad Abu-El-Haija)
12:30 – 12:35	Speech of the president of the University of Jordan (His Excellency, Prof. Nathir Obeidat)
12:35 – 12:40	Overview of Project's Activities (Brief documentary video)
12:40 – 12:45	Opening of the Unit
12:45 – 13:00	Practice tools of assistive technology by students with disability
13:00 – 13:15	Coffee break
13:15 – 14:15	Brain storming session (Accessibility unit, university library)
13:15 – 13:45	Needs analysis of SwD in HEIs (Prof. Alia Alghwiri, School of Rehabilitation sciences, UJ)
13:45 – 14:15	Assistive technology and digital accessibility (Dr. Nazeeh Ghatasheh, School of Information Technology and Systems, UJ-Aqaba)



Figure 3. Agenda of the opening conference (English version)



WP4: Dissemination & Exploitation – Task 4.2: Organising a conference for opening the Edu4ALL to students with disabilities and launching the Inclusive Education Unit at both PC HEIs

Edu4ALL D4.2.2 Edu4ALL project: Launching Inclusive education Unit at UJ for Students with Disabilities

The Arabic version of the agenda is shown below.



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برنامج Erasmus+

CBHE: Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education

بناء وتطوير القدرات في مجال التعليم العالي

حفل افتتاح: المختبر المتخصص للطلبة ذوي الإعاقة في الجامعة الأردنية

المشروع: Edu4ALL

"Disability as Diversity: The Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Higher Education"
"الإعاقة كتتنوع: إدماج الطلبة ذوي الإعاقة في التعليم العالي"

رقم المشروع: 618103-EPP-1-2020-1-PS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

بتاريخ: ٢٠٢٣/٥/١٥

المكان: مكتبة الجامعة الأردنية، الطابق الأرضي
الدخول من البوابة الرئيسية مقابل مبنى رئاسة الجامعة

رابط خرائط جوجل: https://maps.app.goo.gl/tFyDajwTaxkxfvD8?g_st=iw
إحداثيات خرائط جوجل: (32.0153671, 35.8699421)

الوقت	الفعالية
12:00 – 12:10	استقبال الضيوف وتسجيل الحضور
12:10 – 12:15	السلام الملكي ويليه قراءة القرآن الكريم
12:15 – 12:20	كلمة مدير مكتبة الجامعة الأردنية (الدكتور مجاهد ذنبيات)
12:20 – 12:25	وصف موجز لمشروع Edu4ALL (منسق مشروع Edu4ALL في الجامعة الأردنية، د. إسماعيل الطهايرة)
12:25 – 12:30	كلمة مدير مكتب Erasmus+ الوطني في الأردن (أ. د. أحمد أبو الهيجاء)
12:30 – 12:35	كلمة رئيس الجامعة الأردنية (معالي أ. د. نذير عبيدات)
12:35 – 12:40	نظرة عامة على أنشطة المشروع (فيلم وثائقي موجز)
12:40 – 12:45	افتتاح المختبر
12:45 – 13:00	تجربة أدوات التكنولوجيا المساعدة من قبل الطلبة ذوي الإعاقة
13:00 – 13:15	استراحة قهوة
13:15 – 14:15	جلسة "عصف ذهني" (المختبر المتخصص للطلبة ذوي الإعاقة، مكتبة الجامعة)
13:15 – 13:45	تحليل الاحتياجات للطلبة ذوي الإعاقة في الجامعات (أ. د. علياء الغويبري، كلية علوم التأهيل، الجامعة الأردنية)
13:45 – 14:15	التكنولوجيا المساعدة وإمكانية الوصول الرقمي (د. نزيه غطاشة، كلية تكنولوجيا المعلومات والأنظمة، الجامعة الأردنية - العقبة)



Figure 4. Agenda of the opening conference (Arabic version)



WP4: Dissemination & Exploitation – Task 4.2: Organising a conference for opening the Edu4ALL to students with disabilities and launching the Inclusive Education Unit at both PC HEIs

4.1 *Opening Ceremony of AU at UJ*

The opening conference for the ERASMUS+ project, titled "Edu4ALL: Disability as Diversity - The Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Higher Education," was held on Monday, May 15, 2023, from 12:00 to 18:00 at the University of Jordan (UJ) in the Library of the University. Over 100 participants from Jordan attended the conference, including his excellency, Prof. Natheir Obeidat, the President of the University of Jordan. Prof. Ahmad Abu El-Haija, the director of National Erasmus+ office (NEO) in Jordan. All Vice presidents of the University of Jordan, Several deans of UJ's schools, several instructor, administrative staff and students of the UJ. Representatives of the Jordanian Higher Council for the Rights of Pearsons with Disability (HCD). Three Unions of Disability (Blindness, Deaf and mute, and motor). Representative of Prince Ali Ibn AL Hussein club for deaf and mute. The General manager of the Jordanian first sign-language translators. Over 25 UJ's student with disability. Additionally, several civil and community associations and institutions, as well as persons with sight, hearing, and motor disabilities, participated in the workshop. To ensure accessibility for all deaf or hard-of-hearing persons, the workshop was interpreted with sign language.

The conference discussed a number of issues facing persons with disabilities, especially in terms of integrating them into university education, in addition to the mechanisms for overcoming all obstacles and difficulties that may hinder their path, and how to overcome challenges in front of them. Registration took place from 11:30 to 12:00, followed by the official opening with the recitation of the Holy Quran and the National Anthem from 12:00 to 12:15. Dr. Mujahed Thneibat, the director of the university library, delivered a short speech emphasizes the role of the library, the change toward electronic material, and the new shapes of higher education as MOOCs. He draw attention to the importance of engaging student with disability in higher education utilizing the accessibility unit.

Dr. Ismail Altaharwa, the coordinator of Edu4ALL project at UJ, stressed the objectives and the aims of the project, and summarized Edu4ALL achievements at the UJ-level. Dr. Altaharwa briefly described Edu4ALL arranged activities and the gained benefits by UJ staff. He also described the Assistive technology tools of the accessibility unit and the general purpose by these tools. Prof. Ahmad Abu El-Heija, the director of National Erasmus Office, congratulate the successful opening of the unit. Briefly talked about the key priorities of Erasmus+ projects and encouraged academic staff at UJ to apply to those calls. The President's speech was delivered from 12:30 to 12:35, His Excellency, Prof. Natheir Obeidat, Appreciated EU supports given to the Jordan in all means and he thanked NEO in Jordan for the life-long cooperation. Also, his Excellency stressed the importance to provide better opportunities to the students with disability and advised treating students with disability in class as kind of diversity instead of difference. After his excellency speech, Dr. Thneibat, the director of the library, invited his excellency and the attendees to the official opening of the accessibility unit at 12:40.



His Excellency, Prof. Natheir Obeidat, President of the University of Jordan opened the Accessibility Unit at 12:40. His excellency and the accompanying attendees walked through the unit stopping at each assistive technology tool. Dr. Ismail Altaharwa, and Edu4ALL team members described the purpose for the tools and how does each tool work. They invited students with disability to try the tools and to provide their feedback. After spending 30 minutes in the unit. Attendees moved to the library garden for a coffee break.

4.2 Policy maker meeting

During the coffee break, His Excellency, Prof. Natheir Obeidat, President of the University of Jordan commenced a detailed talk with the representative of the HCD and the representatives of the three disability unions. The committee of practice administer the talk. The key concerns were about utilizing the AU to the benefit of SwD and the opportunities to maximize the impact of Edu4ALL project. Dr. Ismail Altaharwa stressed the importance of streamlining activities related to the services provided to the student with disability through the accreditation and quality center by preparing forms. He also advised to consider the needs of the SwD when developing/updating the university platforms (e.g., registration, LMS ,...). Altaharwa close by proposing adding training workshops about digital accessibility to the university center of excellency and to ask all staff members who apply to promotion to attend one accessibility workshop at least.

4.3 Committee of practice meeting with SwD

Committee of practice meet with the attending SwD. Prof. Alia Alghwiri made a presentation about the need study that incurred early at the beginning of the project. Prof. Alghwiri spotted the satisfaction levels revealed by the study against the different types of services provided by the university. While both digital preparation and assistance in class gain the highest satisfaction levels. Both environmental facilities and psychological needs got the lowest satisfaction rates. Dr. Nazeeh Ghatasheh, in his presentation about digital accessibility revealed that SwD showed satisfaction with the digital services because they don't know a lot about assistive technology and digital accessibility, and this is the key objective of Edu4ALL project. SwD used to believe braille embosser and speakers for hearing impairment are all they need to fully engage in the daily-life endeavors. Members of the committee of practice answered all questions of the attendees and invited all of them to the dinner offered by the university library.



4.4 *Dinner*

Dr. Mujahed Thneibat, the director of the university library, invited guests, attendees of the opening conference and SwD to the dinner in the university main restaurant. Open-buffet dinner was served at 17:00.

4.5 *List of Participants*

While the whole activity was attended by over 150 participants, about 60 attendees signed the attendance sheets. Some attendees lately arrived and left without signing the sheets.



Edu4ALL D4.2.2 Edu4ALL project: Launching Inclusive education Unit at UJ for Students with Disabilities



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Opening Conference of the accessibility unit at the University of Jordan


Monday, May 15th 2023

Seq	Name	Position	School/Unit	Signature
1	Najm Khammar	Prof.	العلوم التطبيقية	
2	Mohammed Mamani	Ph.D.	العلوم التطبيقية	
3	Aliya Alghwiri	Prof. Univ. of J.	العلوم التطبيقية	
4	Nazeh Ghatashah	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
5	Issam Al-Jarrah	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
6	اسامه محمد عواد	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
7	محمد عواد	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
8	نور عدنان القصب	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
9	دانا عدنان القصب	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
10	اميرة عواد القصب	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
11	بسمة عبدالقادر	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
12	خديجة	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
13	زهة العبد	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
14	ليلى معاذ عواد	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
15	محمد عواد	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
16	محمد عواد	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
17	فضل العبد	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
18	احمد عواد	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
19	اميرة عواد	Dr.	العلوم التطبيقية	
20	Prof.	Engineering		
21	Dr.	Engineering		
22	Dr.	Engineering		
23	Dean	Engineering		
24	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
25	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
26	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
27	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
28	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
29	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
30	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
31	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
32	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
33	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
34	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
35	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
36	Charlie Shin	Prof. Incap	Executive Director	
37	مها	العلوم التطبيقية		
38				
39	Najjar Sava	مها		
40	مها	مها	العلوم التطبيقية	
41	مها	مها	العلوم التطبيقية	

Figure 5. List of Participants 1



WP4: Dissemination & Exploitation – Task 4.2: Organising a conference for opening the Edu4ALL to students with disabilities and launching the Inclusive Education Unit at both PC HEIs



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

Opening Conference of the accessibility unit at the University of Jordan
Monday, May 15th 2023

Seq	Name	Position	School/Unit	Signature
42	خالد عبد الصالح	طالبة	كلية العلوم	
43	وسيم محمد النور	طالب	العلوم التطبيقية	
44	عليه - فاد حنا القضاة	طالب	العلوم التطبيقية	
45	ساره محمد الحنون	طالبة	العلوم التطبيقية	
46	حسن حسان الخراطة	طالبة	العلوم التطبيقية	
47	محمد كمال	طالب	العلوم التطبيقية	
48	محمد محمد الخراطة	طالبة	العلوم التطبيقية	
49	راية محمد خزام الرعي	طالب	العلوم التطبيقية	
50	مروان محمد ابو صيف المثلث	طالبة	العلوم التطبيقية	
51	غدير عزالدين كحلان	طالبة	العلوم التطبيقية	
52	محمدة صالح محمد العبد	طالبة	الأشياء الساعية	
53	فاخرة حليمة الخوالدة	طالبة	كلية العلوم التطبيقية	
54	تسليم طلال ابو عبد	طالبة	كلية الزراعة	
54	نور احمد ابو صيف	طالب	كلية الفنون	

Figure 6. List of Participants 2

4.6 Photos of the day

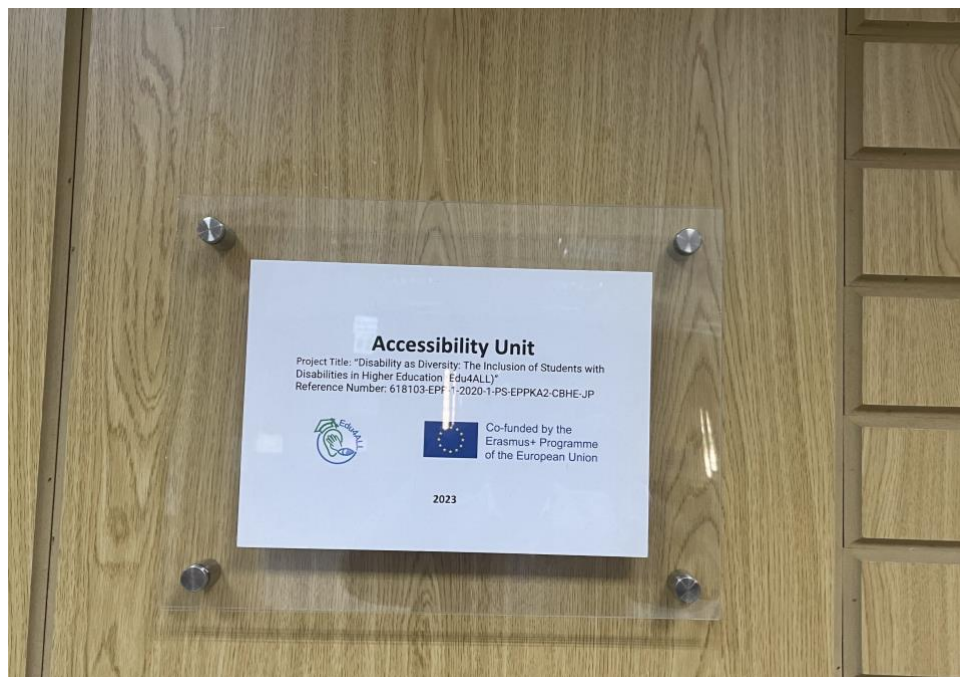


Figure 7. Sign of the unit





Figure 8. Students with Disability (SwD) try assistive Technology (AT) tools in the Unit



Figure 9. His Excellency, Prof Natheir Obeidat, President of the University of Jordan delivering his speech





Figure 10. A blind student use screen reader tool



Figure 11. Group photo



Edu4ALL D4.2.2 Edu4ALL project: Launching Inclusive education Unit at UJ for Students with Disabilities



Figure 12. Sign language translator in the conference



Figure 13. Prof. Ahmad Abu-Elhaija, director of NEO-Jordan, delivering his speech





Figure 14. . Dr. Mujahed Thneibat, the director of the university library



Figure 15. Dr. Ismail Altaharwa, Director of Edu4ALL in the University of Jordan





Figure 16. Committee of practice meeting with SwD -1



Figure 17. Committee of practice meeting with SwD -2



Figure 18. Committee of practice meeting with SwD -3



5 Results

The participants in the conference agreed that the establishment of the Accessibility unit at UJ is one key step toward engaging students with disability in higher education. Also, they admitted it remain one step in a long journey. And the university administration has a lot to do soon. Attendees agreed on the pivotal role of the committee of the practice and the importance facilitating its work.

6 Conclusions

The Edu4ALL conferences, held at the University of Jordan (UJ) marked significant milestones in promoting inclusive education for students with disabilities in Jordan. This conference not only facilitated the launch of the Inclusive Education Unit but also underscored the commitment to providing equal educational opportunities for all students, regardless of their disabilities.

The conference highlighted the importance of creating an academic environment that addresses the academic, social, and psychological needs of students with disabilities. Through the modernized labs, trained staff, developed tutorials, and relevant policies, the accessibility unit (AU) is well-equipped with Assistive technology (AT) tools to support students with disabilities in achieving their full potential.

The conference reinforced the need for continued collaboration between educational institutions, civil society, governmental bodies, and the private sector. This collective effort is essential for enhancing the capabilities of persons with disabilities and ensuring their full integration into higher education and society at large.

In conclusion, the Edu4ALL project represents a significant step forward in empowering students with disabilities in higher education. By fostering an inclusive academic environment and leveraging modern technologies and practices, the project aims to ensure that all students can achieve academic success and contribute meaningfully to society. The success of this conference sets a strong foundation for future initiatives and reinforces the commitment to inclusive education in Jordan.

