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## **Edu4ALL**

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

<b>Deliverable D1.3.2</b>	<b>Edu4ALL – The Committee of Practice Accommodating a low-vision PTUK master student: Committee of Practice Meeting Report and Action Plan</b>
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<b>Work Package (WP)</b>	WP1: Reviewing and analyzing the educational requirements for people with disabilities in partner countries HEIs
<b>WP Leader</b>	Irbid National University
<b>Task members</b>	Al-Ummah University College/ Palestine. National and Kapodistrian University of Athens/Greece Irbid National University/ Jordan. Palestine Technical College-Deir Elbalah/ Palestine. Palestine Technical University -Kadoorie/ Palestine. The University of the Basque Country/Spain The University of Jordan/ Jordan. Int@E UG Germany
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## Project partners



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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**

This report summarizes the meeting of the Committee of Practice held on 1, May 2024 to discuss the accommodations for a master's student with a low vision disability. The primary objective of the meeting was to identify the specific needs of the student and to develop an action plan to ensure the student's full participation and success in the academic program.

## **2 Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed account of the Committee of Practice meeting held on 1 May 2024, at PTUK. The meeting aimed to discuss and identify the accommodation needs for a master's student with a low vision disability wants to join PTUK and to use the facilities of the Edu4ALL lab. This report covers the discussions and findings from the meeting, including the challenges faced by the student, potential solutions, and the evaluation of available lab equipment to determine the most suitable accommodation solutions.

## **3 Objective of the deliverable**

The objective of this deliverable is to outline a comprehensive and actionable plan to accommodate and support a master's student with a low vision disability. This plan aims to ensure that the student can fully participate in their academic program and achieve their educational goals. It encompasses strategies for providing accessible academic materials, implementing assistive technologies, modifying classroom and examination environments, and offering continuous support services. By addressing these areas, the deliverable seeks to promote an inclusive and equitable learning environment that meets the unique needs of the student and upholds the institution's commitment to diversity and accessibility.



## 4 Committee of Practice Meeting Report

**Date:** 1-May-2024 **Time:** 10:00 AM **Location:** PTUK

### Attendees:

- [Eman Daraghmi], Chairperson/PTUK
- [Yousef Daraghmi], Committee Member/ PTUK
- [Hasan Daraghmi], Committee Member/ PTUK
- [Thafer Hassona], Committee Member/ PTUK
- [Amani Mohammed], Committee Member/ PTUK
- [Rania Ahmad], Committee Member/ PTUK
- [Saja Sous], Committee Member/ PTUK
- [Areej Jaber], Committee Member/ PTUK
- [Tuqa Hanoun], Committee Member/ PTUK
- [Rami Yossef], Committee Member/ PTUK
- [Nesreen Azzam], Committee Member/ PTUK
- [Yousef awwad], Committee Member/Guest Member/Parent
- [Eman Yasser], Committee Member/Guest Member/Parent
- [Mahmoud Hamdan], Committee Member/General Union of Disabled
- [Nadia Allan], Guest Committee Member/A charitable association to support people with disabilities
- [Yazeed Ahmad], Guest Committee Member/A charitable association to support people with disabilities
- [Ahmad Yasser], Guest Committee Member/A charitable association to support people with disabilities
- [Fadi Droubi], Guest Committee Member/A charitable association to support people with disabilities
- [Lyan Ahmad], Guest Committee Member/A charitable association to support people with disabilities



- [Sara Naser], Guest Committee Member/A charitable association to support people with disabilities
- [Feda Naser], Guest Committee Member/A charitable association to support people with disabilities
- [Zeana Naser], Guest Committee Member/Volunteer Student

## **5 Agenda:**

- Introduction and Objectives
- Understanding the Student's Needs
- Reviewing Available Resources and Technologies
- Developing an Action Plan
- Assigning Responsibilities
- Setting a Follow-up Schedule

## **6 Introduction and Objectives**

Dr. Eman opened the meeting by outlining the main objectives:

- To understand the specific challenges faced by the student with low vision.
- To review the existing resources and support mechanisms.
- To create a comprehensive action plan to accommodate the student's needs.

## **7 Understanding the Student's Needs**

The student provided an overview of their low vision condition, including specific difficulties encountered in the academic environment:



- Difficulty reading standard print materials.
- Challenges in accessing digital content.
- Issues with participating in visually-based classroom activities and assessments.
- Need for alternative methods of accessing visual information during lectures and practical sessions.

## **8 Reviewing Available Resources and Technologies**

Mr. Thafer, the Disability Services Coordinator, presented an overview of available resources:

- **Assistive Technologies:** Screen readers, magnification software, and Braille displays.
- **Accessible Formats:** Availability of textbooks and academic materials in large print, Braille, or audio formats.
- **Physical Accommodations:** Classroom seating arrangements, appropriate lighting, and access to visual aids.

Mr. Hasan, IT Support Specialist, discussed the potential implementation of specific technologies to support the student:

- Installation of screen reader software on university computers.
- Provision of portable electronic magnifiers for use during classes and research.

## **9 Developing an Action Plan**

The committee collaboratively developed an action plan addressing the identified needs:



### ***9.1 Academic Materials:***

- Ensure all textbooks and academic materials are available in accessible formats (large print, audio, Braille).
- Provide electronic versions of materials compatible with screen readers.

### ***9.2 Classroom and Lecture Accommodations:***

- Arrange seating to optimize the student's ability to see and participate.
- Ensure that all visual aids used in lectures are available in alternative formats.
- Provide lecture notes and presentations in advance.

### ***9.3 Assistive Technology:***

- Install screen reader and magnification software on personal and university-provided devices.
- Train the student on the effective use of assistive technologies.

### ***9.4 Assessments and Examinations:***

- Offer alternative formats for exams (e.g., oral exams, extended time).
- Ensure that examination environments are suitably adapted for low vision students.

### ***9.5 Support Services:***

- Regular check-ins with the Disability Services Coordinator to address ongoing needs.
- Access to counseling and peer support groups.



## 10 Assigning Responsibilities

Responsibilities were assigned to ensure the effective implementation of the action plan:

- **Disability Services Coordinator:** Ms. [Name] to coordinate the provision of accessible materials and assistive technologies.
- **IT Support Specialist:** Mr. [Name] to handle the installation and training for assistive technologies.
- **Academic Advisor:** Ms. [Name] to facilitate academic accommodations and monitor academic progress.
- **Faculty Members:** To adapt teaching methods and materials as needed.

## 11 Setting a Follow-up Schedule

The committee agreed to meet quarterly to review the progress of the action plan and address any new challenges. The first follow-up meeting was scheduled for 1 July 2024.

## 12 Conclusion

The Committee of Practice has developed a comprehensive action plan to accommodate the needs of the master's student with low vision disability. By leveraging available resources and technologies, and through ongoing support and adaptation, the committee is committed to ensuring the student's academic success and inclusion. The collaborative effort of the committee members will be crucial in maintaining an effective support system for the student.



## 13 Photos



Figure 3. Committee of Practice meeting 1



Figure 2. A student with low-vision disability



Figure 1. Committee of Practice meeting 2