ICT4EDU

NEWSLETTER

Enhancing ICT Competencies of Early Childhood Educators at HEIs in MENA Countries
2023-2025

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT FACTS

TYPE
Erasmus+ Programme

GRANT HOLDER
The University of Jordan (UJ)

DURATION
3 years

START DATE
5 January 2023

ICT4EDU is a 3-years projects that started on January 2023, and is co-funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union. It's coordinated By The University of Jordan (UJ) with 12 partners from Europe and MENA regions.

The project (ICT4EDU) aims to ensure that newly graduated student teachers are able to employ ICT in teaching, and to improve the digital literacy of teachers and students, especially in dealing with children with special educational needs or disabilities as ICT plays a key role in facilitating their educational process.

The main objective of the (ICT4EDU) project is to improve the quality of ICT competencies of early childhood teacher's educators in the (9) higher education institutions in Jordan, Palestine and Egypt in line with the advanced EU practices, and thereby increase the quality of education in preschools in Jordan, Palestine and Egypt.

The cross-national implementation of the (ICT4EDU) project is essential for defining practices and influencing policies and curricula in schools of education and integrating ICT teacher training to meet the needs of digitally literate youth and children.
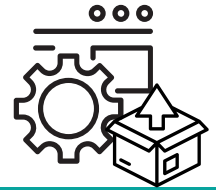
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https://sites.ju.edu.jo/en/ICT4EDU/home.aspx

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ICT4EDU.2023

PARTNERS

Al-Azhar University

Suez Canal University

Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development

Palestine Technical University — Kadoorie

Palestine Technical College — Deir El-Balah

Al-Istiqlal University

University of Bucharest

P.PORTO

Università degli Studi di Padova

ICT4EDU

WORK PACKAGES

WORK PACKAGE 1: PROJECT COORDINATION.
WORK PACKAGE 2: PREPARATION.
WORK PACKAGE 3: CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT.
WORK PACKAGE 4: CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING WORKSHOPS .
WORK PACKAGE 5: DEVELOPMENT OF THE ICT LAB TO SUPPORT THE NEW CURRICULUM
WORK PACKAGE 6 : QUALITY CONTROL AND MONITORING (QC AND M).
WORK PACKAGE 7: DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION

WP1 — PROJECT COORDINATION

Lead : The University of Jordan (UJ) – P1

This work package aim to ensure an accurate and effective management on a daily basis, a project management team, responsible for financial, operational and day-to-day management and keeping track records of all project activities.

ACHIVEMENTS

✓ **Kick-off Meeting**

✓ **Steering Committee**

✓ **Technical and Scientific Committee**

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WP2

PREPARATION

Lead: Palestine Technical University - Kadoorie (PTUK) – P7
Co-Lead University: Irbid National University (INU)-P2, Mutah University Ltd (MU)-P3, University of Turku (Turun Yliopisto) (UTU)-P10 & Suez Canal University (SCU)-P5

This work package aims at scoping the current situation of ICT utilization in ECE in the beneficiary partners including the extent of how the digital resources is represented in the study programs.
- **Identifying the real competences that have to be provided to teachers and students.**
- **Verify the facilities of partners to develop the existing resources**

ACHIVEMENTS

In-depth Survey on State of art of ICT in ECE (Curriculum Verification)

In-depth Survey on Teachers and Students Digital Competences

In-depth Survey on available facilities and resources at EC departments

Analysis of surveys' results and elaboration of final Reports

Arabic Surveys

University Name	University Acronym	Survey#1 Staff	Survey#2 Students	Survey#3 Facilities	Survey#4 Curriculum
The University of Jordan	UJ	68	169	10	98
Irbid National University	INU	81	531	13	26
Mutah University LTD	MU	27	62	6	40
Al-Azhar University	AZHU	18	462	12	40
Suez Canal University	SCU	32	84	6	9
Heliopolis University Association	HUSD	10	93	3	69
Palestine Technical University Kadoorie	PTUK	27	230	8	80
Palestine Technical College – Dier Elbalah	PTC	31	152	1	19
Al-Istiqlal University	PASS	50	237	14	4
Total number of responses		344	2038	73	386

English Surveys

University Name	University Acronym	Survey#1 Staff	Survey#2 Students	Survey#3 Facilities	Survey#4 Curriculum
The University of Jordan	UJ	3	3	0	3
Irbid National University	INU	0	0	0	0
Mutah University LTD	MU	9	5	2	1
Al-Azhar University	AZHU	0	0	0	0
Suez Canal University	SCU	1	0	0	0
Heliopolis University Association	HUSD	12	67	18	62
Palestine Technical University Kadoorie	PTUK	12	0	1	3
Palestine Technical College – Dier Elbalah	PTC	9	0	1	2
Al-Istiqlal University	PASS	0			
Total number of responses		48	75	22	71

Survey#5 Stakeholders		
	Jordan	151
	Egypt	24
	Palestine	264

Survey#5 Stakeholders		
	Jordan	0
	Egypt	3
	Palestine	5

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WP3 — CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT

Lead: University of Jordan
Co-leader : P4: INU and P8: Palestine Technical College -Deir Elbalah

The updated curricula will be based on the findings of WP2 to develop innovative and flexible techniques that respond to the target group's educational needs, challenges and required ICT skills and competences identified in WP2.
WP3 aims at preparing detailed educational materials on the basis of the surveys carried out (D3.1, D3.2 and D3.3), aligned with bologna standards for HEIs. Therefor syllabus for the new and adapted courses will be defined, lecture material will be collected and put together and adapted into study plan.

ACHIVEMENTS

Definitions and Selection of Courses to be designed updated

Design of new courses and restructuring of existing course

Courses Suggested for ICT4EDU Project

Field	course	UJ	INU	MU	AZHU	SCU	HU	PTUK	PTC	PASS
Education	• Child Computerized Program • Computerized children's programmes	*		*						
	• Using Computer in Education • Educational Computer • Educational Technology & Digital Transformation skills • 2D Animation for Education • Cloud-Based eLearning • Programming and Robotics in Education • Educational games	*		*	*					
	• Play In Early Childhood	*								
	• Educational Technology • Education technology and electronic content design • Instructional Design & eLearning • Design and production of educational aids						*	*		
	• Research Skills					*				
	• Introduction to writing							*		
	• Psychology of motivations and emotions								*	
	• Cognitive psychology								*	
	• Developmental psychology								*	
	• Principles of psychology • Educational Psychology								*	
	• Teaching Methods • Methods of teaching science and technology						*	*		

Field	Course	UJ	INU	MU	AZHU	SCU	HU	PTUK	PTC	PASS
Information Technology	• Digital skills • Computer Skills • Digital culture • Media Creating & Editing • Software Applications (focus on creating Cartoon films) • Computer Concepts	*		*			*		*	*
	• Social Media	*								
	• Introduction to Information Technology • Information Technology		*							*
	• Networks and communications							*		
	• Principles of Cybersecurity		*				*			
Science	• Data Science Principles		*							
Economics	• E-commerce (Electronic Commerce) • E-Marketing • E-Marketing for Freelancers • Statistical Software for Business and Economics		*							
	• Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management 1 • CSR & Sustainability							*		
Languages	• Advanced Grammar 2								*	
	• Introduction to linguistics								*	

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WP4

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING WORKSHOPS (TEACHER/TECHNICIAN STAFF AND STUDENTS)

Lead : Instituto Politecnico Do Porto (IPP)
Co-lead :P6- Heliopolis University (HU

This WP intends for developing PC HEIs' Teaching staff innovative and technology-enhanced ICT skills and Developing Early Childhood Curricula (Design of learning and Teaching Materials). Back from TOT courses the trained trainers will adjust TOTs to the local needs and organize in-house teacher training (TT) courses. Each couple of trainers will train at least a group of (10) teachers in their HEIs with the active support from EU partners.

Based on predefined selection criteria will be defined by the quality committee in total (40) teaching staff) will be trained per (2) TOT rounds in Europe.

LOADING ...

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WP5 — DEVELOPMENT OF THE ICT LAB TO SUPPORT THE NEW CURRICULUM

Lead: P10-University of Turku (UTU)
Co-Lead: P4- Al-Azhar University (AZHU)

Description: As School of EC. Education must give more attention to the interplay between the science of teaching - pedagogy and the art of teaching. The teachers must be anchored in pedagogy and blend imagination, creativity and inspiration into the teaching learning process to ignite a passion for learning in students.
ICT laboratories devoted to development and implementation of courses prepared during project realization will be established at each partner university.
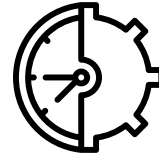
ACHIVEMENTS

Final List of Equipment

WP6 — QUALITY CONTROL AND MONITORING (QC AND M)

Lead P13: Padova University (UNIPD)
Co-lead:P1-UJ

Quality control and monitoring of the project implementation will oversee all the tasks necessary to ensure that the project is running within the scope, on time, and of expected quality. Internal as well as external quality mechanisms will function. The lead partner for WP.6 is P13-Padova University, and it will take care of overall implementation and reporting for WP6.
Quality Evaluation Committee (QEC) will be established consisting of representatives of EU partners and headed by IPP. QEC will conduct quality review/evaluation of completed WP deliverables. Evaluation will be carried-out by inspecting, testing and reviewing final products and executed activities, carrying out peer-reviews, auditing work records etc. to compare the actual work and output to the original plan. Particularly, the developed courses materials, conducted training sessions, workshops, seminars and study tours, ICT Lab.

ACHIVEMENTS

Quality Committee

Quality and Monitoring Plan

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WP7

DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION

Lead: P4- Al-Azhar University
Co-lead: P7- Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie (PTUK)

As a lead partner for this WP P4 and P7 will take the responsibility for coordination, monitoring and reporting of dissemination and exploitation. All partners will be involved in dissemination activities. The project will use different ways to disseminate and publicize project activities and results to different target groups and stakeholders, especially to target group of early education experts and policy makers.

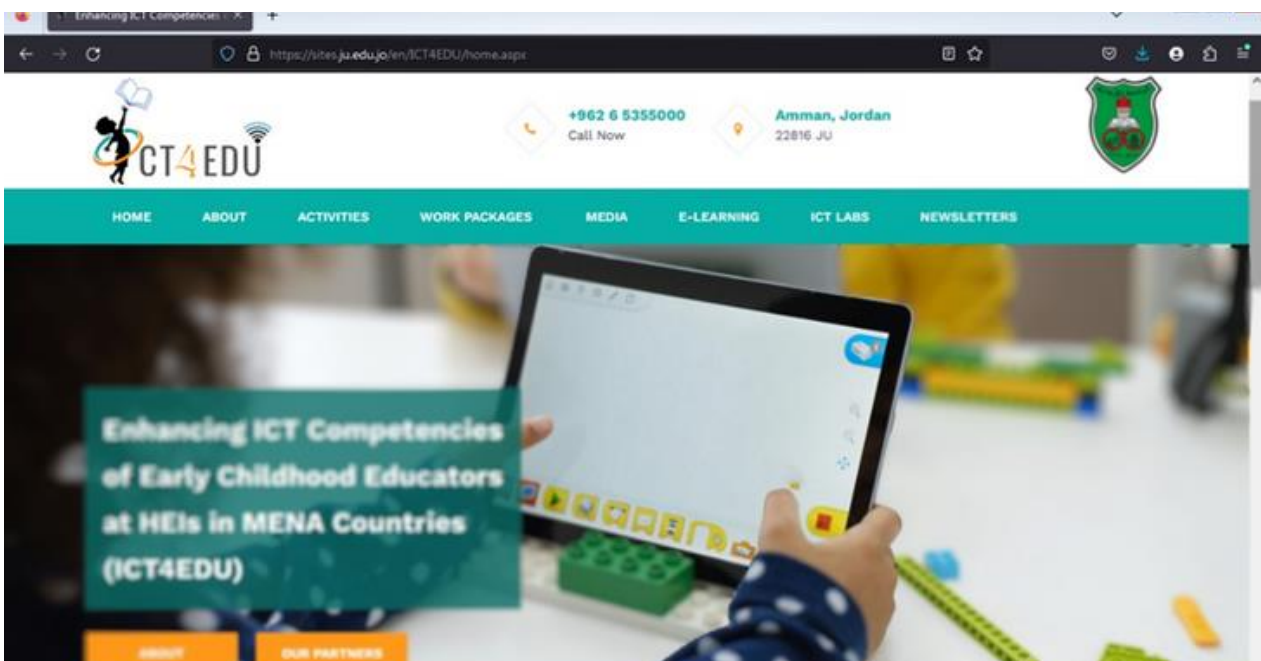## ACHIVEMENTS

Dissemination Committee and Dissemination plan

Project Website

Promotional Materials and Dissemination days

YOU CAN VISIT THE WEBSITE

https://sites.ju.edu.jo/en/ICT4EDU/home.aspx

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KICK-OFF MEETING

FIRST PART OF ICT4EDU PROJECT KICK OFF MEETING VIA ZOOM
JANUARY 16, 2023

The meeting started by a welcome speech form the project general coordinator, Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh, followed by Prof. Mohammad Al-Shraideh, Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs in the University of Jordan and Mr. Jihad Fraig, Director of the external funded projects in the International Affairs Unit, UJ.

During the meeting, the participating partners introduced themselves and their universities with a focus on their related experience in ICT and early childhood education (ECE).

Then, Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh introduced ICT4EDU Project with outlining the project objectives, expected results of each work package and their overall plan, in addition, to the work packages leaders and Co-leaders of the project and discussed the action plan for implementation with other partners.

The meeting was attended by 55 persons from the partner universities in Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, Finland, Romania, Portugal and Italy.

SECOND PART OF ICT4EDU PROJECT KICK OFF MEETING (PHYSICAL MEETING) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN CAMPUS
MARCH 8 – 9, 2023

The meeting started by a welcome speech and brief about the project from the project general coordinator, Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh, followed by Dr. Ines Alves, Programme Manager – Education and ERASMUS+, Delegation of the European Union to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, then Prof. Ahmed Abu ElHaija, Director of Erasmus+ office in Jordan, introduced a presentation about The European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens (DIGCOMP), followed by a speech by Prof. Omer Maaith President of Tafila Technical University and ICT4EDU Project Coordinator at MU, and finally Prof. Nathir Obeidat President of the University of Jordan welcomed the partners at the University of Jordan and congratulate them on the selection of ICT4EDU project.

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ONLINE MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING WITH PARTICIPATION FROM ALL PARTNERS.

THE 1ST ONLINE MANAGEMENT MEETING APRIL 12, 2023 2:00 PM (AMMAN TIME)

Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh the general coordinator for the project started the meeting by outlining the main tasks being worked on in the project and its progress and the meeting included discussion between all partners to discuss the next steps in the project.

THE 2ND ONLINE MANAGEMENT MEETING MAY 15, 2023 3:00 PM (AMMAN TIME)

The meeting started by Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh the general coordinator for the project, he mentioned the main tasks that are currently working on, the tasks that is needed to focus on it from partners and the progress of the project and the main task in WP2 that was the distribution of the surveys.

THE 3RD ONLINE MANAGEMENT MEETING MAY 29, 2023 4:00 PM (AMMAN TIME)

The meeting started by Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh, he mentioned the main tasks that are needed to be discussed during the meeting. The main task highlighted was the reports of the surveys (Report on Teachers and Students ICT Competencies, Report on State of the Art of ICT in ECE (Curriculum Verification), Report on available facilities and resources at EC departments and Report on stakeholders ICT competencies) to have the final reports to be submitted on the EU portal.

THE 4TH ONLINE MANAGEMENT MEETING JUNE 13, 2023 4:00 PM (AMMAN TIME)

The meeting started by Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh, he mentioned the main tasks that are needed to be discussed during the meeting. The main task highlighted was the courses provided from each partner and how to proceed in the process of updating courses.

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ERASMUS+ INTERNATIONAL STAFF WEEK

From 8th - 12th of May 2023, Erasmus+ international staff week took place at the University of Jordan, a 5-day event to network with Erasmus+ partners, the event included opening session by Prof. Dr. Hadeel Yaseen, Director of International Affairs Unit at the University of Jordan, Impact and Priorities by Prof. Ahmad Abu-El-Haija, director of the national erasmus+ office – Jordan, the eu-jordan partnership and the future of TVET in Jordan by Ms. Maria Hadjitheodosiou the ambassador of the european union to Jordan, the role of national qualification framework in (TVET) by Prof. Thafer Assaraira the president of accreditation and quality assurance commission for higher education institutions and a welcome address by Professor Nathir Obeidat the President of the University of Jordan. Then a "Plenary Session" included the match between (vocational educational training) vet education and the labour market. Also, many of sessions and activities had took place within the week.

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ERASMUS+ EXHIBITION DAY

ICT4EDU participated in the Erasmus+ exhibition that was organized on June 8, 2023, at the University of Jordan under the patronage of H.E. the Minster of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Azmi Mahafzah. The Erasmus+ exhibition aims to present the impact of the Erasmus+ projects and program on the participating Jordanian institutions and universities. Representatives of all Erasmus+ projects that were funded during the period 2015-2022 were invited to participate in this exhibition.

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