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METHODS PROJECT NEWSLETTER

MODERNIZATION OF TEACHING METHODOLOGIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION: EU EXPERIENCE FOR
JORDAN AND PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (METHODS)

<http://methods.ju.edu.jo>

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WELCOME TO THE METHODS PROJECT

Dear reader,

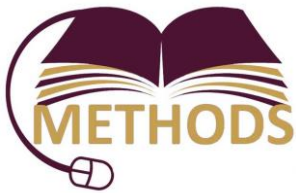
Welcome to the first newsletter from the METHODS project!

Methods is a 3-year project that started on the 15th October, 2015 and is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. It is coordinated by The University of Jordan (UJ) with 14 partners from Jordan, Palestine and European countries.

The project aims at improving the quality of teaching and learning at the partner universities with cooperation of EU-experience through incorporating technological tools in consistence with pedagogical best practices and by building the capacity of the universities to evaluate, develop and design e-curricula.

The main aim of the project will be achieved through Establishing a national centers in both Jordan and Palestine interested in modernizing higher education to be as a hub for utilizing best practices in ICT in education, and for hosting a portal for sharing these experiences; Implementing smart class rooms in partners' universities; Developing the capacity of the staff at the partners' universities from diverse discipline, to be responsible for developing learning objects built in best practices in utilising ICT in education; and also through Cooperation with EU partners through mutual visits to develop strategies for moving from teaching to learning and develop scalable sustainable solutions.

The project is expected to have a wide impact in the partner countries' universities. Internally, partner universities will hold the capacity to develop, design and evaluate e-enabled curricula for their courses.



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Kick off meeting, February 16-18, 2016



Kick off meeting, Main Library at UJ



Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh presenting METHODS project

KICK OFF MEETING

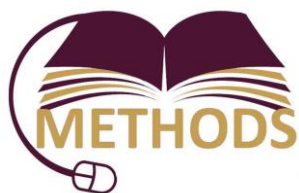
A kick off meeting was organized at the University of Jordan (UJ) on 16th-18th of February, 2016, to launch the project ‘METHODS’ (Modernization of teaching methodologies in higher education: EU experience for Jordan and Palestinian territory).

The project is funded with the support of the European Commission within the Erasmus+ programme. The meeting was attended by UJ Vice-president Prof. Azmi Mahafzah and representatives of the project’s partners and National Erasmus+ office, as well as many professors and lecturers in UJ.

During the Kick off meeting Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh (UJ, General Coordinator) declared that the programme will be implemented in partnership with fourteen universities from Germany, England, Denmark, Spain, Bulgaria, Palestine and Jordan Universities. Furthermore, Prof. Al-Salaymeh presented METHODS aims, vision and describe each Work package for implementing the project.

Each partner has presented a short presentation about his university: organization, staff, and their role in the project.

Moreover; the participants were taken in a tour inside the University of Jordan campus; to view Athear Center: a smart classroom in the School of Educational Sciences.



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MAJOR ACCOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES

Implementation of Base line Study Work Package

The project gets underway by the execution of the Baseline Study Work Package; this Working Package aims to analyse and identify different entities to utilize ICT in education, Verify the facilities of partners to develop the existing resources in partner universities, and to find a full plan and methodology to develop and update the strategies used to ensure the sustainability to utilize ICT in education, taking into consideration the past experiences and lessons learnt of both EU and PC universities. Two questionnaires were designed and circulated to target the academic staff and the students at Jordanian and Palestinian partner universities.

Implementation of Quality Work Package

The quality plan was prepared aiming to process the quality assurance activities and impact evaluation of the project. It describes the goals, the impact criteria, the methodology and the outcomes of our quality assurance in the project, including a verification of targets and success indicators.

MAJOR PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Implementation of Networking Work Package

Building a wide network for METHODS project will be one of the most important goals of to be achieved in the next six months; by inviting the educational public administrations, ministries, companies, NGOs and employment agencies in modernizing higher educational methodologies to join METHODS network in all partners' countries. This network will enhance the cooperation and the exchange of good practice between the members through the METHODS portal and twinning procedures in order to promote transfer of knowledge between its members; also it will attain an access to a transnational forum of discussion in ICT in Higher Education; furthermore it will facilitate the participation in common actions between the members of the METHODS Network, such as: seminars, submission of proposals and development of projects, submission of publications in scientific journals and scientific conferences. For more info; please visit: [The Networking page](#).

Implementation of Capacity building and development Work Package

Developing a first prototypes of training materials and benchmarks will be one of the major activities in the next six months; this will help to make sense of the theory of utilizing best practices of ICT in education and enable real world application.

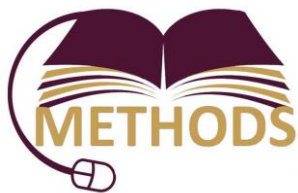
Upcoming Meetings and Events



The Second Steering Committee meeting will take place at Copenhagen during the period from 26th to 27th May, 2016. The meeting will be held to discuss and follow-up the project deliverables. Also, special session will be conducted for METHODS Set up, Baseline Analysis and Capacity Building Workpackage and taking decisions about the activities to be implemented as well as on the Action as a whole. A special session will be devoted to discuss the operational arrangements and financial issues.



Aalborg University; the leader of Work package (WP3): Capacity building and development; intends to send two representatives of their university to visit JO & PS partners in August, 2016; in order to propose an action plan for implementing the tasks of WP3: Capacity building and development.



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Partners:



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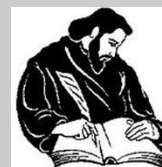
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