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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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Contact Information

Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh
(UJ, General Coordinator)

Tel: +962-6-53 55 000 Ext. 22816

Fax: +962-6-53 00 237

Email: methods@ju.edu.jo

Project website:

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

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WELCOME TO THE METHODS PROJECT

Dear reader,

Welcome to the October issue of our Project Newsletter, providing you with the latest update on METHODS Project progress!

The newsletter contains information of what we have accomplished on the project, what we are working on now, what we plan to work on next, and how the project is going in general. We also want to provide insight into the different aspects of the cooperation between the different Partner Organizations.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue!



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Aalborg University, Copenhagen-Denmark



Second Project Meeting, May 26-27, 2016



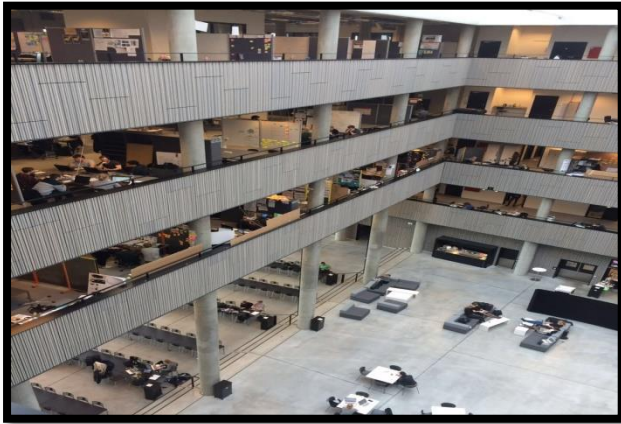
Second Project Meeting, May 26-27, 2016

SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Second Steering Committee meeting took place in Copenhagen within the period 26th - 27th of May, 2016. The meeting was held to discuss and follow-up the project deliverables. Furthermore, a special session was conducted for METHODS Set Up, Baseline Analysis and Capacity Building Work Package. Decisions concerning activities to be implemented as well as the Action Plan as a whole were also discussed and accepted. A special session was devoted to review the operational arrangements and financial issues.

Each partner has presented a short presentation about his university: infrastructure, facilities, organization, staff, as well as its role in the project.

The participants were also taken in a tour around University in Aalborg to view the state-of-the-art facilities and the Technological Center linked to the university. A unique feature of the university is that most students have their own group room where they can work on their projects without interruptions.



Aalborg University, Aalborg-Denmark



Training visit-Aalborg-Denmark, May 24-25, 2016



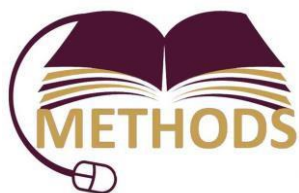
Training visit- Aalborg-Denmark, May 24-25, 2016

Training Visit to Aalborg University

A team from Jordanian and Palestinian Universities conducted a two days training visit to Aalborg University in Aalborg – Denmark in the period of 24th - 25th of May, 2016, prior to the Second Steering Committee meeting. The visit were supervised by Prof. Rikke Magnussen from Aalborg university.

The team visited the **Computer Science Department**, to recognize the best practices in Problem based learning. Also; they conducted a visit to the **eLearning Lab**. In addition, they visited the **Problem Based Learning (PBL) lab**, and met students from different disciplines and discussed the PBL with them.

The training visit also included lectures about the role of ICT and Moodle in a PBL environment, and Learning theory underpinning the AAU PBL Model.



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MAJOR ACCOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES

Implementation of Baseline Study Work Package

In order to achieve project's objective, a thorough Baseline Study on using ICT and the ICT facilities and infrastructure in Partner Countries was worked out. It was accomplished after conducting a well prepared surveys that summarized the status of utilizing ICT in education in both Jordanian and Palestinian Partner Universities.. This report constitutes part of WP2 of the METHODS project which aims to analyze and identify different entities to utilize ICT in education, verify the facilities of partners to develop the existing resources in partner universities, and proposed guidelines to develop and update the strategies to utilize e-Learning practices in education.

Implementation of Networking Work Package

In the past six months a wide network for METHODS project was set-up. It consists of educational public administrations, ministries, companies, NGOs and employment agencies in modernizing higher educational methodologies in all partners' countries. This network will enhance the cooperation and will boost the exchange of good practices between the members through the METHODS portal and twinning procedures in order to promote transfer of knowledge between its members. It will also 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](#)

Capacity Building and Development Work Package

Within the framework of the capacity building and development work package; which aims mainly toward developing an innovative Teaching and Learning Centres in both Birzeit University and University of Jordan; a team from Aalborg university which was hosted in Birzeit University conducted a sequence of focus group interviews and two workshops with faculty members and students from partner universities in both Jordan and Palestine.

Activities of Capacity Building and Development Work Package in Palestine



Birzeit University:

A test of the focus group interview was run with students in September 20, 2016, and with faculty members in October 4, 2016. The purpose of the test is to try some of the questions, word cards and statements to get an understanding of the context that are being researched.



Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU):

On October 9, 2016, the focus group interview with participants was conducted. The focus group interview was divided into two sections, one with faculty members and one with students.



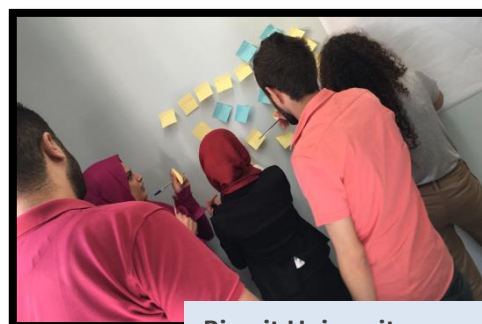
Bethlehem University:

On October 7, 2016, the focus group interview with participants was conducted. The focus group interview was divided into two sections, one with faculty members and one with students.



An-Najah National University:

On October 16, 2016, the focus group interview with participants was conducted. The focus group interview was divided into two sections, one with faculty members and one with students.



Birzeit University:

On October 24, 2016 a workshop with faculty members and students from all partner universities in Palestine was conducted. The workshop was separated between faculty members and students. The purpose of the workshop was to get the participants to generate ideas towards an ICT teaching and learning center.



Activities of Capacity Building and Development Work Package in Jordan



The University of Jordan:

On October 31, 2016 the focus group interview with participants was conducted. The focus group interview was divided into two sections, one with faculty members and one with students.



Jordan University of Science and Technology:

on November 1, 2016, the focus group interview with participants was conducted. The focus group interview was divided into two sections, one with faculty members and one with students.



The University of Jordan:

On November 3, 2016 a workshop with faculty members and students from all partner universities in Jordan was conducted. The workshop was separated between faculty members and students. The purpose of the workshop was to get the participants to generate ideas towards an ICT teaching and learning center.



Meetings and Events

Monitoring Visit to Methods Project

On October 25, 2016 the Erasmus+ National Office in Palestine conducted a monitoring visit for METHODS project at An-Najah University. The visit aimed to follow up the progress and the achievements in different work packages. An overview from the local Palestinian coordinator was conducted as well as the progress in different work packages in each partner university was conducted by university representatives.



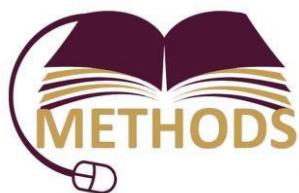
October 25, 2016 in An-Najah University monitoring session by Erasmus + office

Upcoming Meeting

The Third Project Meeting will take place at Birzeit University during the period from 11th of January to 12th of January, 2017. The meeting will be held to discuss and follow-up on the project deliverables.



Birzeit University (BZU) is a leading regional partner in contributing to development of partnership with enterprises as well as local universities. BZU will provide its expertise gained in the project to introduce the best practices in utilizing ICT in education. The University will validate, implement and institutionalize the courses on the educational portal to be developed and will provide a pool of teachers and staff members for training and curriculum delivery. Decision-making bodies within the BZU will give basic infrastructure for a Center to be a hub for training, developing and sharing e-content. BZU will actively participate in all Work Packages including the dissemination and exploitation, as well as in the quality assurance of METHODS. Finally BZU will coordinate the project activities in Palestine.



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Project Coordinator



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Partners



[Birzeit University](#)



[The Hashemite University](#)



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[Palestine Polytechnic
University](#)



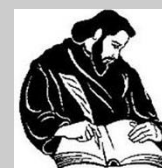
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