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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](mailto: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 fourth issue of our Project Newsletter, providing you with the latest update on METHODS Project progress!

This newsletter is focused on our Networking group which will present the facilities that Methods project can offer to its members. Furthermore, this newsletter contains information of what we have accomplished in the project, what we are working on now, what we plan to work on next, and how the project is going in general.

We hope you will enjoy it!



Girona, Spain



ERASMUS+ Programme – METHODS Project number: 561940-EPP-1-2015-1-JO-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

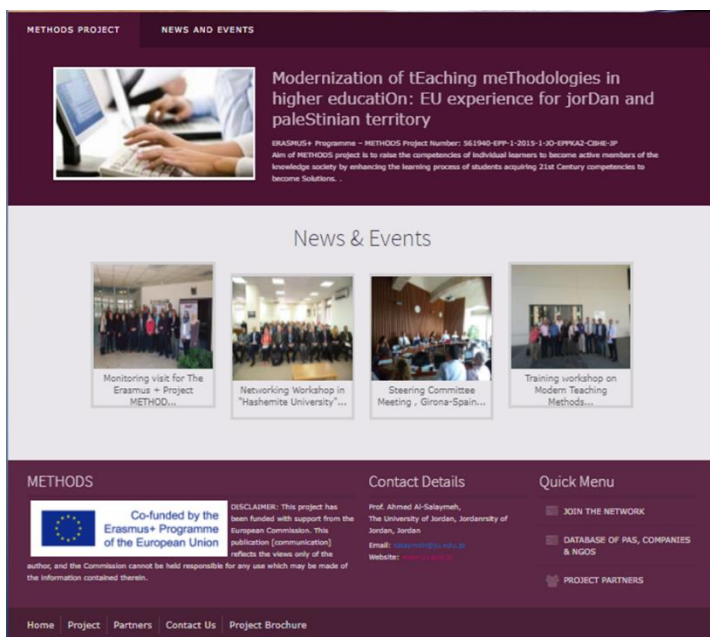
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*Interconnection between companies and universities*



*Interconnection between companies and universities*



Join the network on [Methods website](#)

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*How Methods Project can  
support my organization?*

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Methods project can be a good tool for your institution!

If we are implementing ICT in education, it can help our universities and can promote with virtual training in your business!

Our open Network has the following advantages:

- ❖ The chance to exchange good practices between the members through the METHODS portal and twinning procedures and to promote transfer of knowledge among its members;
- ❖ To access a transnational forum of discussion in ICT in Higher Education;
- ❖ To participate 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;
- ❖ To participate in training workshops to be held under the theme of ICT in Higher Education;
- ❖ To encourage the submission of common proposals and development of projects between the members of the network;
- ❖ To assist in the establishment of METHODS best practices;



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*Forth Project Meeting, September 6-8, 2017*



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***Fourth Steering Committee in  
Girona, SP  
September 7-9, 2017***

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Forth steering committee meeting for METHODS Project held on September 7-9, 2017 in Girona-Spain. It was hosted by University of Girona and WUSMED and attended by 20 representatives from different project partners including Jordan, Palestine, Denmark, United Kingdom of Britain, Germany, and Spain.

After 3 days of meetings and more than a half of project done, we are very happy to announce that Methods project is ready to be implemented to the Jordan and Palestinian students during next semester.

Furthermore, two good practices in modern learning developed at the UdG were presented: Dr. Sílvia Simon, Chemistry professor, presented how to develop a MOOC, which are the more important aspects to take in account in the design and its added value as a teaching and learning methodology. Also Dr Joan San, Dean of the Medicine Faculty, explained the PBL design of the Medicine degree, where the whole program is based in this methodology.

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*Training Workshop in Dead  
Sea, JO  
May 12-13, 2017*

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The University of Jordan in collaboration with other partners organized a two-day training workshop, held in Dead Sea for the faculty members from the Jordanian and Palestinian partner universities on 12 and 13 May, 2017.

The training programme focused on modern methods of teaching at University, including Problem based Learning (PBL), Flipped Based Learning, Competency-based Teaching (CBT), Massive open online course(MOOC), and flipped Learning. Also; a special session was dedicated for the quality assurance guidelines for the process of developing the courses according to these new teaching methods.

The workshop aimed at strengthening the faculty members capacities on modern learning methods. This workshop is considered as the second training workshop in METHODS project following the first one that was held on March 27-31, 2017 in United Kingdom, and it was conducted to give the opportunity to other academic staff who weren't able to attend the first training and to monitor the process of developing the courses according to METHODS framework.

The participants were very satisfied about the training workshop, recognizing that the knowledge acquired will be instrumental for METHODS activities at all levels.

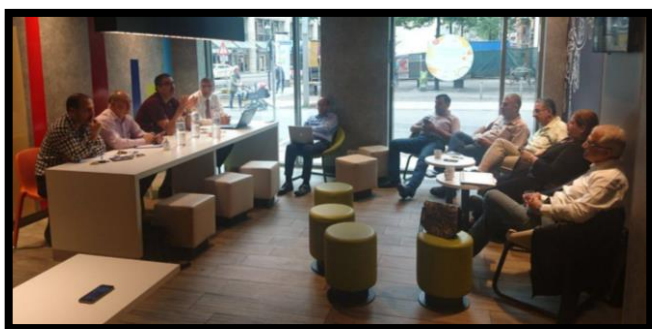
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*Training Workshop in Leipzig, GE  
August 7-11, 2017*

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*Training workshop-HTWK-GE, August 7-11, 2017*



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The workshop at the HTWK, Leipzig, Germany was conducted in the framework of the project METHODS on August 7-11, 2017. During the training week the main goal of the workshop - to train the faculty members and administrative staff from the project partner universities in Jordan and Palestine on different modern learning methodologies was successfully achieved.

The first day of the training was dedicated to the following topics “European Credit Transfer System and Experience of HTWK Leipzig and HfTL”, “Creative Common Licenses, copyright, Open Education Resources” as well as to “Learning Management Systems at HfTL and usage of ICT Centers”.

On the second day the “Massive Open Online Course” was in focus.

The third day was enlightened with the visits to the campus of the classical University of Leipzig together with the “Experience in Learning Management Systems at the University of Leipzig. It was possible to get to know about and see live examples of the seminar rooms, E-learning facilities at the Leipzig University, to visit to Video Rooms and to discover more about Digital systems of evaluation and assessment as well as about examples of tests and assessment materials.

The fourth day of the workshop allowed partners to discuss and share their experience in Moodle, Mahara and analyze chances and challenges in Open Education Resources.

The last day of training was dedicated to discussions of the management issues of the project. In addition, highlighted with the visits to the University Library “Albertina” as well as to the allocated educational center.

***Networking and Dissemination  
Workshop in Birzeit University,  
PS  
November 4, 2017***

The workshop was conducted at Birzeit University and different stakeholders as Palestine Technopark, Ultimate Company, Partners for sustainable development, participated in it. Furthermore, all of them signed the METHODS agreement to join Methods project network. Also; every university presented the progress in course development, the achievements, challenges, and future aspects. Finally, different key questions were raised in enhancing Methods Role in networking and dissemination in order to improve it in the future.



*Networking and Dissemination Workshop -Birzeit  
University-PS, November 4, 20*

***Networking and Dissemination  
Workshop in Hashemite  
University, JO  
October 31, 2017***

The workshop was conducted at Hashemite University under the patronage of Prof Ali AlKarmi, the Vice-president of Hashemite University. The workshop goes in line with the University's efforts for providing professional development opportunities for its staff members. The workshop included a session to introduce METHODS project to audience, delivered by Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh, the General Coordinator of METHODS Project. In addition, training sessions were delivered by experts about e-Learning and tools of eLearning, Flipped Learning, Problem-based Learning (PBL), and Smart Learning. Also; a Studies in e-Learning were presented by students from Faculty of Educational Sciences. Different stakeholders have attended the workshop such as Microsoft and Target Scientific company.



*Networking and Dissemination Workshop -Hashemite  
University-JO, October 31, 2017*

## **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES**

### **Capacity Building and Development Work Package**

Within the framework of the capacity building and development work package; which aims to develop the capacities of faculty members, technical assistants and students; two training workshops on modern learning were conducted, the first was local training workshop in Dead Sea, Jordan, and the second was a European training workshop in Leipzig, Germany.

### **Implementation Work package**

Many achievements were accomplished among this work package, the major achievements include:

- ✓ At least 4 courses from different disciplines (Engineering, Science, Health, Humanities) at each partner university in Jordan and Palestine are being developed according to METHODS concepts.
- ✓ Most of these courses are being piloted during fall semester (2017/2018)
- ✓ Methods Educational Portal was launched and available on:  
<https://moodle.methodsx.org/>

### **Equipment Work Package**

The Educational centers for UJ and BZU are being equipped by the modern audio visual and ICT equipment.

Two partner universities in Palestine have implemented the smart classrooms. Partner universities in Jordan are in the implementing stage of the smart classrooms.



## *Meetings and Events*

### *UPCOMING PROJECT MEETING*

The Fifth Project Meeting will be organized by The University of Jordan (UJ) on January 11-13, 2018, it will be held at Dead Sea, Jordan. The meeting aims to discuss and follow-up on the different project deliverables.



*The University of Jordan (UJ)*



*Dead Sea, Jordan*

The University of Jordan (UJ) is the oldest established University in Jordan. UJ was established in 1962, since then it has applied itself to research and community research knowledge. UJ offers 94 bachelors in different programs. At graduate level, UJ provides 38 doctoral Programs, which represent more than 50% of doctoral programs in Jordan, and 111 master programs, which represent about 25% of master programs in Jordan, 16 higher specialization programs in medicine and one in dentistry, and 3 diploma programs.

Since its foundation, the number of UJ graduates have exceeded 200,000 graduates around the world, and UJ's employment reputation is 330 worldwide according to QS World Universities Ranking.

UJ is the General Coordinator of METHODS project for Jordanian, Palestinian and European partners. It is responsible for coordinating, managing and following-up the project activities through all partners. Also; UJ is responsible to provide its gained expertise in the project to introduce the best practices in utilizing ICT in education, and delivery of professional training in this area to staff members, and professionals through mutual visits to European countries. UJ will establish a well-equipped national ICT center to be as a hub for training, developing and sharing e-content built by trainees from different disciplines using best-practices in utilizing ICT in education on the proposed educational portal. UJ is participating in all WPs including the dissemination and exploitation, and in the quality assurance of METHODS.



## ***Upcoming Workshops***

To build the capacities of the faculty members and the administrative staff at the partner universities, many training workshops will be conducted during the project life. The closest workshops to be conducted are:

### **TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS IN EUROPE**

Two-week training workshops during summer 2018 in European partner Universities will be arranged for students who are attending the piloted courses of METHODS.

Each partner university in Jordan and Palestine will select and send three students according to the prepared selection criteria.

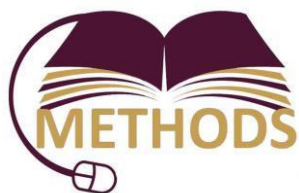


### **TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR FACULTY MEMBERS IN PLOVDIV, BULGARIA**

Plovdiv University (PU), Bulgaria will organize a training workshop entitled “use of digital resources with mobile devices in teaching” on February 26-March 1, 2018. The workshop aims to enrich the professional training of teachers with knowledge of modern methods and teaching approaches using mobile technologies.



PU is the largest humanitarian higher educational and research establishment in South Bulgaria. It delivers degrees on a wide range of disciplines including Humanities, Computer Science and Information Technology, Business Administration, Economics and Social Sciences, Pedagogy and Psychology etc. The main activities: Development and implementation of ODL Methodology and ICT as an innovation in education; Provision of educational and training services; Design and production and dissemination of ODL materials; Development and implementation of a learning environment and computer communication as a delivery tool for distance education and training.



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## Project Coordinator



[The University of Jordan](#)

## Partners



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[The Hashemite University](#)



[An-Najah National University](#)



[Palestine Polytechnic  
University](#)



[University of  
Wolverhampton](#)



[Leipzig University of Applied  
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