



**Enhancing Quality of Technology-Enhanced Learning
at Jordanian Universities, eQTel
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Rambla del Poblenou 156
Barcelona, Spain
9-10 February 2016
Minutes of Meeting**

9 February Participants

Abdallah Al-Zoubi	Princess Sumaya University for Technology
Adnan Atoum	Yarmouk University
Bashar Hammad	Hashemite University
Christine Appel	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Ivan Gonzalez	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Laia Canals	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Majed Abu Jaber	University of Jordan
Mamoun Dmour	University of Jordan

10 February Participants

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Ivan Gonzalez	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Laia Canals	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Majed Abu Jaber	University of Jordan
Mamoun Dmour	University of Jordan
Mike Blackmore	External Evaluator
Albert Basart	AQU Catalunya
Josep Grifoll	AQU Catalunya

Agenda

1. Discuss the recommendations to establish a TEL QA framework in Jordan
2. Presentation of the 3 eLearning courses
3. Feedback from Commission on intermediate report
4. Discuss the prospects of the eLearning Centre
5. Future Activities

Recommendations to Establish a TEL QA Framework in Jordan

First, the participants discussed the document entitled “Recommendations for Implementation of a Quality Assurance System in eLearning Programmes and other Educational Activities in Jordanian Universities” prepared by Josep Grifoll. The document utilizes the 10 EU standards for QA but enhanced with guidelines and indicators to adapt the eLearning programmes. This document emphasizes the fact that the European Standards and Guidelines (ESGs) are applicable for both traditional and eLearning programmes.

Abdullah Zoubi explained the difference between accreditation and QA from Jordanian point of view, then he then scanned quickly the Jordanian and international TEL QA reports (discussed in much details in Petra’s meeting). Bashar Hammad displayed newly approved HEAC QA standards (8 quantitative standards primarily for traditional programmes), HEAC by-law for the



eLearning accreditation (qualitative measures) and HEAC QA standards for eLearning programmes (9 quantitative standards).

Conclusion

After thorough discussion about this issue, the participants agreed on that Jordanian partners would produce a document to finalize DEV 2.3 “Recommendations for TEL Quality Assurance Framework” by:

- comparing HEAC QA standards for traditional and online programmes and studying the possibility of attaching HEAC QA standards for eLearning programmes to HEAC QA standards primarily for traditional programmes.
- implementing the recommendations (based on ESGs) mentioned in Grifoll’s document where applicable taking into consideration the need of Higher Education Institutions in Jordan and their current situation.

Present of the 3 eLearning Courses

Adnan Atoum from Yarmouk University (YU) talked about the English course that is being taught this semester at YU (Second Semester 2015/2016) After going quickly over the material posted on YU Moodle and the design of the course, he explained more about

Role of the faculty members

Training of the faculty members

Selection process of three sections (three different faculty members who also teach other traditional sections)

Exams and nature of questions

Orientation of the students

Survey forms (regular form offered by YU and a special form for this eLearning course)

Mamoun Dmour demonstrated how an experiment with actual Hardware can be performed remotely by accessing the VLE platform of the project (eqtel-vle.psut.edu.jo/moodle/). He talked about the scheduling and reporting processes.

Bashar Hammad from the Hasemite University (HU) talked about the Renewable Energy Course that has been designed at HU. The material for the course has been uploaded in VLE of the project (eqtel-vle.psut.edu.jo/moodle/) in addition to quizzes, supporting materials, study guide and other information that students need during his/her enrolment in the course. However, this course will not be taught this semester due the following reasons that he shared during the meeting:

- By the time the letter sent from PSUT to HU and went through the official channels, the students were already registered for the second semester courses. Most probably, the course will be offered in the Summer Semester and/or the First Semester.
- Many students showed concern about this new style of teaching and learning at HU. More effort is needed to promote eLearning courses and to convince them with the advantages of such a style.

In addition, he discussed the design of the study guide and how the continuous assessment have been implemented throughout the course.

Conclusions

Activities and continuous assessment

continuous improvement

Offer courses more and more

IR Feedback from Commission

The Project Coordinator, Abdullah Al-Zoubi, read the IR feedback report from the Commission completely and led the discussion about all issues raised in this report.



The participants requested that the Project Coordinator should apply immediately for 6-month extension for mainly the following reasons:

- Conduct pilot courses in more semesters in order to improve them from semester to the next and to expose more students to online courses before evaluating the success of these pilots and spreading the idea to other Higher Education Institutions in Jordan.
- Give more time to conduct the large number of remaining activities and select the idea target groups.
- Give more time for more EU partners and students mobility considering visa issues required by EU.

In addition, the participants discussed the remaining activities in terms of their objective, suggested location and dates. Full details are shown in the Future Activities Section later in these MOM. The participants suggested the dates based on the assumption that the project will finish in on 31 November 2016. However, new suggested dates for some activities would be proposed in case of granting 6-month extension.

Discuss the Prospects of the eLearning Centre

Christine Appel showed the case of the catalonian network that is formed to support eLearning. Work is distributed among partners where the staff is located at the secretary partner (UOC in this case). The network meets twice a year to discuss educational models, instructional designs, and decide the theme for the annual conference. The conference is one way to bring fund/income to the network in addition to sponsors.

The participants looked at the Sustainability Plan of the TEL centre prepared by Laia Canals. The participants had discussions about committees, structure, and members of Advisors Committee mentioned in this plan.

The participants supported the idea of an annual conference for eLearning in Jordan organized by TEL Centre that would be established as a milestone in eQTel project. The income for Tel Centre would be from training, consultation, partnerships, sponsors and annual fees of partners/members of this centre. The participants discussed the involvement of HEAC and MoHE in this centre in terms of the regulations and by-laws that support this national centre. The advisory committee formulated as part of this project activities would be in charge of sustaining this centre after the lifetime of the project. In addition, the participants discussed the issue of continuing capacity building and training of the trainers (TOT) and how to implement these concept in the coming activities.

Future Activities

DEV	Activity (and Comments)	Suggested Location(s)	Suggested Date
3.1	Creation of Courses (<i>Course designers and instructors with consultation from UOC</i>)	USGM and UTU and UOC	1-2 week of June
3.4	Students' Pilots (<i>pair with Alumni, PhD students, conduct research, and attend Research Day</i>)	UOC and USGM	18-22 April 2016
5.2	Study Tour 3	USGM	TBC
5.2	International Training of HEAC (<i>Josep to contact Maria Kilo</i>)	HEAC	Beginning of June
6.2	Advisory Committee	UOC or AQU or UTU	TBC
7.2	Best Practices Manual	UTU or USGM	End of Oct 2016
7.3	Final Conference**	PSUT	Check below



Final Conference

Suggested Dates: 21-22 November 2016 (or 24-25 April 2017 if extension is granted)

First Day

9:00-9:30	Registration
9:30-10:00	Opening
10:00-11:30	Keynote Lectures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UOC (Allison Littlejohn)• Jordanina Keynote speaker
11:30-12:00	Coffee Break
12:00-13:00	EQtel Project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Josep Grifoll (AQU)• Majed Abu Jaber (UoJ)
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EDRAAK• UOC
15:30-17:00	Prsenting the 3 pilots

Second Day: Workshops*

10:00-13:00	Technical Workshop
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-17:00	QA in TEL

**Certificate will be given to the participants*