

NEWS LETTER



Vocational training center for undergraduate university students and teachers in Jordan



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Issue # 1

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WHAT IS VTC PROJECT

VTC is a three years project started on October 15, 2015, and funded by the European Union through Erasmus+ programme that concentrates on providing Jordanian students with competencies and skills needed by the market.

The project aims at institutionalizing vocational training within the Jordanian universities so that it becomes a main component of students' life at the university.

The EU experience is a major component in the success of the VTC project. The EU countries in this project including Germany, Spain, Portugal, and Slovakia have an excellent experience in the fields of vocational skills training.

Specific Objectives

- ❖ Construct a vocational training center for graduate and undergraduate students in partners universities.
- ❖ Apply a vocational training for the students to enhance and to develop their abilities and to build bridges between their theoretical study and vocational training skills
- ❖ Develop a vocational training program in order to create and publish common methodology and legal documentation for the lifelong Learning, E-learning and Distant Education, practical training for all universities in Jordan in accordance with European standard.
- ❖ Develop and enhance the staff abilities who will lead the vocational training.

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PROJECT TIMELINE

Work package	Title	Delivery Date
Preparation	Review, State of the art and Network between partner	Oct-Nov, 2015
Development	Assessment studies for the needs of students	Nov, 2015-June, 2016
	Employment sector database collection	Apr-June, 2016
	Purchase of teaching equipment and bibliographic material	Oct, 2016-Jun, 2017
	Make vocational skill competency development an integrated part in Teaching	Dec, 2016-Sep, 2017
	Career guidance and counselling programs for the career sector	Oct, 2016-Jun, 2017
Quality	Quality control and monitoring	Oct, 2015-Oct, 2018
Dissemination	Project Dissemination	Oct, 2015-Jul, 2017
	Exploitation of results and sustainability	Mar, 2018
Management	Project Management	Oct, 2015-Oct, 2018



VTC Project Number: 561708-EPP-1-2015-1-DE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

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KICK OFF MEETING

23th – 25th Feb, 2016

The VTC kick off meeting has been organized by P5. The meeting was held at JUST, Jordan University of Applied Science in Irbid, in (Jordan), on 23th-25th February..

More than 30 participants from 5 Countries attended the kick off meeting.

A detailed list of the Participants is enclosed in this report.

Managers, administrative and technical staff of HTWK, JUST and JO partners have been involved for the organization and management of the meeting.



2.1 First day of the kick-off meeting



During the first day of the kick-off meeting, 23 of February 2016, all participants were transferred to the campus of JUST in Irbid, where the meeting of two parallel projects of Jordanian universities with European partners was held (INVENT and VTC). Both projects have been funded with support European Commission (Erasmus+ KA2). The coordinator of both projects decided to join the meeting for two projects and give them all the fundamental information common for both projects at the same time. Some of the activities in this day:

1. Meeting with the president of JUST
2. Presentation of JUST
3. Presentations on the main aim of the two projects
4. Presentation about the Erasmus+ Project Management from the Director of the Erasmus+ Office in Jordan
5. Visit the University Campus, International Office, University Library, and others.

2.2 Second day of the kick-off meeting

During the second day of the kick-off meeting, 24th February 2016, a plenary session with an overview of the whole project structure and objectives, the presentations of each partner and each WPs (task and deliverables) have been outlined. During this day there were presented, discussed and specified nine WPs.



2.3 Third day of the kick-off meeting

During the third day of the kick-off meeting, 25th February 2016, WP10 coordination and management of the project was presented and discussed. HTWK Leipzig as a coordinator for the VTC has introduced this WP. Prof.K.Hänßgen and Dr.R.Qashi from HTWK clarified the conditions and the subsequence of solutions of VTC project as well as the obligations, which all partners have from their position in the project. Some of the activities in this day:

1. Extensive discussions on the WPs.
2. Determination of specific deadlines for the implementation of WPs
3. Discussions the process of the project work packages and tasks.

The University of Jordan

Title of the event: The International Conference of Sustainable Electricity Generation for the MENA-Region - Challenges & Opportunities

Date: October 4-5 2016

Audience: Researchers from Jordan, Germany, Tunisia, and Libya, in addition to Engineering Students

Description: In the framework VTC was promoted in the International Conference of Sustainable Electricity Generation for the MENA-Region - Challenges & Opportunities on October 4th-5th 2016, Amman-Jordan. The VTC brochures was distributed among the participants, and Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh presented a brief about the project.



Second Steering Committee Meeting held in Leipzig, Germany

26-29 October, 2016

The Second steering committee meeting took place on October 26-29, 2016 in Leipzig, Germany, with the participation of all Jordanian partners.

The meeting included presentations and discussions for the progress in all work packages with a special session dedicated for the financial management in addition to visits to Research Transfer Centers.



Participation in Job Fair at JUST

On May 3, 2016 The VTC project team at Jordan University of Science and Technology has participated in a Job fair at the university to disseminate the project among the companies and participants.



Monitoring Visit to VTC Project at UJ



On October 30, 2016 the National Erasmus+ Office in Jordan and European delegation conducted a monitoring visit for VTC project at The University of Jordan (UJ).

The visit aimed to follow up the progress and the achievements in different work packages. An overview from the local Jordanian coordinator was presented as well as the progress in different work packages in each partner university was conducted by university representatives.

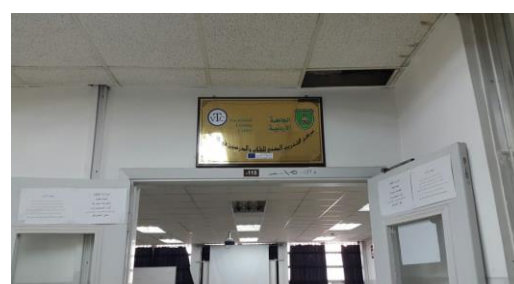
VTC CENTER OPENING AT MUTAH

On November 28, 2016, the Vocational Training center in MUTAH was inaugurated in presence of the Vice president of MUTAH university for Academic Affairs and Scientific research, and the representatives from HTWK university and the Jordanian partner universities.



VTC Center Opening at UJ

In November, 2016, the vocational training center has been equipped at The university of Jordan and became in service.



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VTC Dissemination at UJ events

Title of the event: The International Conference of Sustainable Electricity Generation for the MENA-Region - Challenges & Opportunities

Date: October 4-5, 2016

Audience: Researchers from Jordan, Germany, Tunisia, and Libya, in addition to Engineering Students

Description: The VTC was promoted in The International Conference of Sustainable Electricity Generation for the MENA-Region - Challenges & Opportunities on October 4th-5th 2016, Amman-Jordan.

The VTC brochures was distributed among the participants, and Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh presented a brief about the project.



Title of the event: Info Day for Erasmus+ Projects

Date: December 22, 2016

Audience: Faculty members and graduate students and those interested in acquiring the needed skills that enable them to translate their ideas into proposals "projects" worthy to compete for.

Description: The Accreditation and Quality Assurance Centre at UJ held an info day on December 22, 2016 to introduce the European funded projects under Erasmus+ Program. The Erasmus+ projects in which UJ is a grant holder or a partner have been publicized to faculty members, students and the administration staff at UJ and also for external guests.

Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh delivered a lecture entitled "How to write and apply for Erasmus+ Project".

The lecture also dealt with the financial management of these projects, and the typical distributions for the budget was displayed.

In addition; the VTC project model and its successful story was introduced to the audience, to encourage them to apply for such projects.

Moreover; Prof. Al-Salaymeh presented the different benefits that might be offered by the Erasmus+ projects for universities, academic staff and undergraduate or graduate students, such as offering a golden opportunity to build the capacities of the staff in these institutions and giving them new experiences to modernize the teaching methodologies by transferring the European experience.



Made in Jordan Workshop at UJ

Title of the event: Made in Jordan Workshop

Date: March 26, 2017

Audience: Faculty members and graduate students, NGOs, Companies

Description: The event aims to introduce the status of the industry in Jordan, and the success stories of some industries. Moreover; the workshop was accompanied with an exhibition for many local companies that succeeded in manufacturing their products in a high quality. The VTC project was introduced to the participants during the workshop.



Marketing Course held by JUST

On August 12, 2016, a two day training course on Marketing skills was delivered by the local coordinator of VTC project in Jordan, Prof. Fahmi Abu Al-Rub. The training course took place at Jordan Engineers Association-Irbid Branch.

3D Models Design as co-curricula workshop at GJU

Title of the event: 3D Models Design as co-curricula workshop for GJU students

Date: March 22, 2017

Trainer: Mr. Faisal AlNemri from Mixed Dimensions Company

Target Group: Engineering Students

Description: In the framework of continuous cooperation between the German Jordanian University and Mixed Dimensions Company, a workshop was organized on designing 3D models using sketch up software.

The workshop was organized on the March 22, 2017 by GJU Program Innovation & Entrepreneurship and hosted at the Vocational Training Centre as a co-curricula activity for more than 15 engineering students. The session was delivered by Mr. Faisal AlNemri from Mixed Dimension's Hackatari program which is a unique program as it offers several activities and skills development for university students to complement their academic learning that enable them to be ready for the market needs.

The students had to develop three models suitable for 3D printing utilizing the software tools techniques. As a prize to the participants, the best developed models will be printed in the GJU Innovation Lab which will be officially opened on the 12th of April along with the GJU Vocational Training Centre.



Meeting with the Jordanian Media Institute about the digital education package

The Jordanian Media Institute organized a workshop on digital education in cooperation with Almotahida Education Group (AEG) and Hawwaz Platform for Digital Training, they talked about digital education package and how to promote the creative thinking among students and disseminate some material about VTC project.



Training workshop at BAU

Title of the event: Training workshop

Date: November 30, 2016 and March 5-12, 2017

Target Group: Students

Description: Training for students on

- Diction skills and public speaking
- Digital Educational Package: interactive books, smart libraries, virtual laboratories, digital encyclopedia enrichment, learning platforms and digital remote training
- Communication skills and self-management.



Vocational Training Center opening at GJU

Date: April 12, 2017

Audience: Project members, Faculty members and graduate students.

Description: On Wednesday, the 12th of April 2017, Prof. Natheer Abu Obeid, President of the German Jordanian University (GJU), and invited guests celebrated the opening of the Innovation Space and the Vocational Training Center of the University during a launching event in the main campus of the University.

Prof. Abu Obeid welcomed the attendees of the launching and shared the vision of the university in Education for Entrepreneurship and Employment and how the university is actively and continuously focusing on applied education and the engagement of the university with the industry.

Following the president's speech, H. E. Eng. Hani Khleifat, the Director General of the Vocational Training Corporation of Jordan discussed the Importance of Vocational Training in Jordan in preparing the youth with the skills to match the job market needs.



From his side as the chairman of Maani ventures, H. E. Eng. Omar Maani, highlighted the importance of innovation and vocational education skills for universities that develop high quality graduates who can excel in the job market. He added also the value of collaboration between the universities and industry not only to prepare the graduates to the job market but also to enhance the competitiveness and innovation of the industry and the economy.

Dr. Ziad Abuelrub, the project coordinator at GJU, gave an introductory speech about the background of the launched VTC center at GJU. This center is an outcome of a three-years Erasmus+ project started on Nov. 2015 and coordinated by the Leipzig University of Applied Sciences. The project is entitled "Vocational Training Center for undergraduate university students and teachers in Jordan". Four countries take part in this project: Germany, Slovakia, Spain and Jordan. Moreover, the project has five European partners and seven Jordanian partners including six public Jordanian universities.

Following the introduction session, the president along with the guests officially opened both the VTC lab and the Innovation Space. Then they were introduced to the services and offers that the new facilities will provide for students and staff members.

Both programs the VTC and PIE complement other related GJU units, which foster the implementation of the university's vision of "Education for Employment and Entrepreneurship" through the collaboration with local and international industrial partners towards applied education.



Opening VTC Center-BAU

The Vocational Training Center was equipped and opened for training.



Workshop on (Digital Learning Package and Market Needs) in BAU

On December 1, 2016, The Salt College of Human Sciences in cooperation with the Vocational Training Center for students and teachers at the university, has organized a workshop on the digital education package in the presence of the Dean of the College, Dr. Ihab Al-Ghubaish and Dr. Tareq Al-Azab, coordinator of the Erasmus+ Plus project at the university and a number of university students.

Dr. Riyad Qashi (University of Leipzig, Germany) spoke about the establishment of the vocational training center for students and teachers, which was equipped with the support of the European Union - Erasmus Plus program. Dr. Al-Balouna from the United Education Group spoke about the Smart Learning Package, which includes the interactive book, smart library, Virtual laboratories, digital enrichment encyclopedias, digital learning and training platforms.



Specialized workshop on water



PROJECT COORDINATOR



Leipzig University of Applied Science

PARTNERS



The University of Jordan



Consultores Associados



Instituto Superior de Paços de
Brandão



Jordan University of Science and
Technology



Slovak University of Agriculture



الجامعة الألمانية الأردنية
German Jordanian University

German Jordanian University



Al-Balqa' Applied University



AGORA Institute For Knowledge
Management



Al Albayt University



Almotahida EducationGroup



Mutah University