DIGIHEALTH

Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo
Mediterranean Universities Union
Union des Universités de la Méditerranée
إتحاد الجـامعـات المـتوسطـية

unimed

DIGIHEALTH

Innovative Digital skills & teaching methods 4 effective health education in Lebanon & Syria

Report from the impact survey

November 2022

Document History

Version	Name	Status (*)	Date	Summary of contribution/changes
1.0	UNIMED Marija Vasilevska, Cristina Stefanelli, Martina Zipoli	A	November 2022	First draft (shared with the consortium)

(*) A=Author; C=Contributor; REV= reviewer; EXT = external reviewer

Table of contents

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This Report from the partners' survey is elaborated by UNIMED, Mediterranean Universities Union, for the project "DIGIHEALTH - Innovative Digital skills & teaching methods 4 effective health education in Lebanon & Syria", coordinated by the Linnaeus University in the framework of an Erasmus+ Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education grant with the reference number 598243-EPP-1-2018-1-SE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP.

This report covers the whole project period, that is from November 2018 to November 2022.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND QUALITY WITHIN DIGIHEALTH

THE OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT

DIGIHEALTH aims at promoting excellence, creative and innovative digital Teaching & Learning approaches through advanced ICT solutions, to improve quality of Higher Education, to prepare well-qualified graduates who are able to adapt to the changing healthcare environment, meet societal expectations and sustain a healthy environment in Lebanon and Syria.

Specific objectives are to:

1. Support Lebanese and Syrian HEIs in adopting and implementing effective new technologies of digital skills and learning methods for an active and collaborative learning.
2. Develop the ability of academic staff at health disciplines in Lebanese and Syrian HEIs to employ modern pedagogical and didactic methodologies for innovative ICT teaching and learning settings.
3. Open up higher education in Lebanon and Syria to integrate refugees, IDPs and students from disadvantaged groups including women and rural areas inhabitants in inclusive virtual classroom settings.

The overarching expected outcome for the project the establishment of two centers for innovative Teaching & Learning in Higher Education (one foreseen in Lebanon and one in Syria) that will serve as hubs for training health educators on novel digital skills and interactive teaching and learning methods, in addition to developing e-modules that exploit digital revolution. Those centres will enhance regional collaboration through sharing e-materials, teaching experiences and best practices. They will develop e-materials that stimulate critical thinking and imagination, and make concepts easier to teach and understand, achieving greater student focus and higher retention.

The project is implemented by a consortium composed of 11 partners, as follows:

1. Linnaeus University, Sweden (grant-holder)
2. University of Genoa, Italy
3. Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain
4. Mediterranean Universities Union, Italy
5. Lebanese University, Lebanon
6. Beirut Arab University, Lebanon
7. Lebanese International University, Lebanon
8. Modern University for Business and Science, Lebanon
9. Damascus University, Syria
10. Arab International University, Syria
11. University of Hama, Syria

The project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union during the period 15 November 2018 - 14 November 2022.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND QUALITY WITHIN THE PROJECT

UNIMED carried out a formative and summative evaluation of the DIGIHEALTH project in order to assess the project's success in reaching its stated goals and performed an analysis of prospective impact. Purposes of monitoring and evaluation can be summarised as follows:

Summative purposes. For summative purposes, UNIMED supported the project managers to monitor ongoing activities, by using a monitoring grid to check the consistency between planned and expected outputs and between planned and actual delivery dates, and the achievement of the performance indicators.

Formative purposes. Formative evaluation as a repeated process of collecting qualitative data, reflection and (potential) re-planning, took place all over the project lifespan. For formative evaluation, different tools were used according to the target groups addressed and to the processes in place.

Measuring impact purposes. In order to explore the short-term impact, in addition to regular activities of collecting feedback and analysing data from beneficiaries and concerned stakeholders, further evaluation exercises were carried out during the last 6 months of the project.

EVALUATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE OF INTERNAL PROCESSES

As regards internal processes, the following processes have been evaluated:

Process	Target	Investigated dimension	Tool
Project management and consortium dynamics	WP Leaders and project partners	Internal communication and related tools	Questionnaires (partners' survey)
Project management and consortium dynamics	WP Leaders and project partners	Management and sharing of responsibilities	Questionnaires (partners' survey)
Project management and consortium dynamics	WP Leaders and project partners	Effectiveness of the adopted/developed tools in implementing the project	Questionnaires (partners' survey)
Project management and consortium dynamics	WP Leaders and project partners	Perception of local/transnational relationship	Questionnaires (partners' survey)

For the period under evaluation, the following evaluation activity has been carried out:

- Partners' survey – online questionnaire

1. Impact Survey

Description of the impact survey

The online impact survey was submitted to all partners on November 18th 2022 with a deadline for filling it out until November 24th 2022.

The following partners answered the questionnaire:

1. Modern University for Business and Science (MUBS), Lebanon
2. Arab International University (AIU)
3. Lebanese International University (LIU), Lebanon
4. Damascus University (DU), Syria
5. Lebanese University (LU), Lebanon

6. Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), Italy
7. University of Genoa, Italy
8. Beirut Arab University (BAU), Lebanon

.

Methodology

The collection of data was carried out by means of an online questionnaire administered to the all-project partners on November 18th, 2022. One answer per partner was requested.

The survey covered the following period of evaluation: November 2018-November 2022.

The items, including closed, scale and open questions, aimed at verifying the satisfaction and assessment of the partners` opinion on the relevance of the project, quality of the project implementation, final results and project added value and future plans. In particular, all questionnaire`s sections included the ranking of different statements and follow-up questions for an explanation of the respondents` rankings.

The questionnaire was divided into the following sections:

1. Relevance of the project
2. Quality of the project implementation
3. DIGIHealth final results and project added value overall
4. Future plans

Respondents

The questionnaire was submitted to all partners out of which answers from 8 partners were collected.

Survey analysis

Relevance of the project

The project proves to be relevant mostly to the organisation involved in it (3), then to the region/countries that it targets (2) and less to the health sector (1).

"*This project will enhance and support the digital skills and e-learning tools for academic staff in the health faculties of the Lebanese university and will impact effectively the performance of HEIs graduates from these faculties and then provide the effective health workers in the country*"- highlighted one of the partners` representatives. Another partner shared that digital learning in health education is an extremely beneficial tool in higher education. The training sessions of the DIGIHealth project were specific as quite useful and helpful to the professors and students since most of our students will travel and work outside. "*Digital health and technology use in education is a growing field; the know-how provided by the project in this framework is convenient and needed*"- *shared another partner*. It will be useful for the faculties of medicine and their students.

DIGIHEALTH
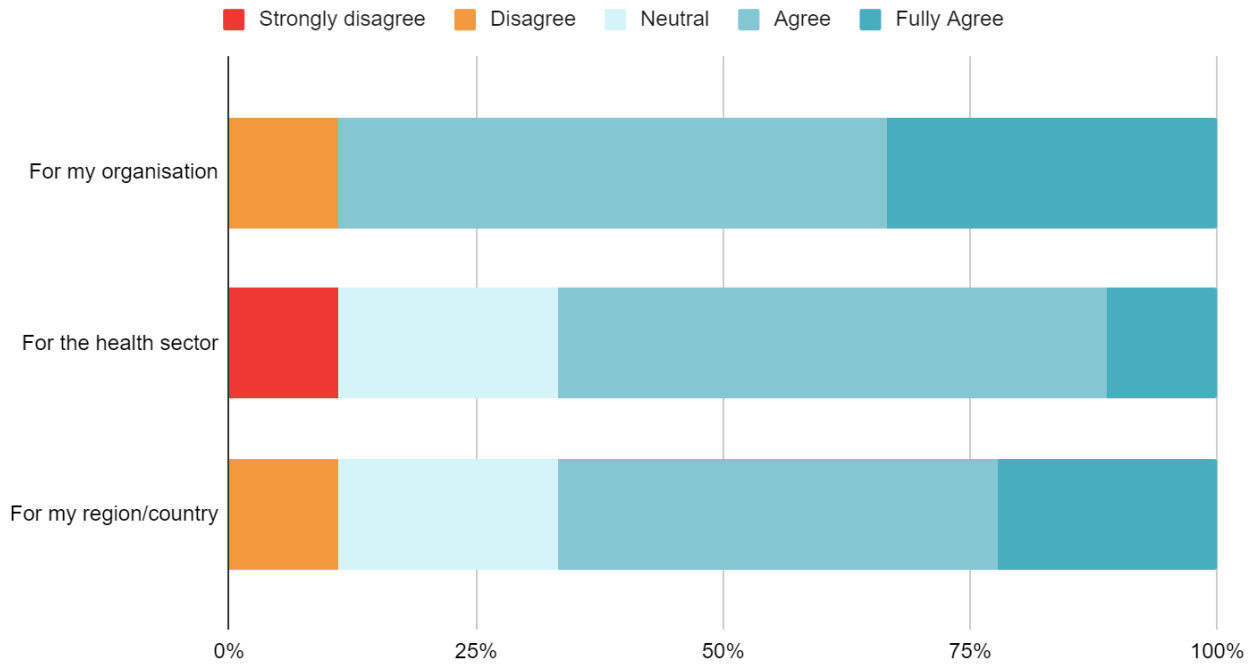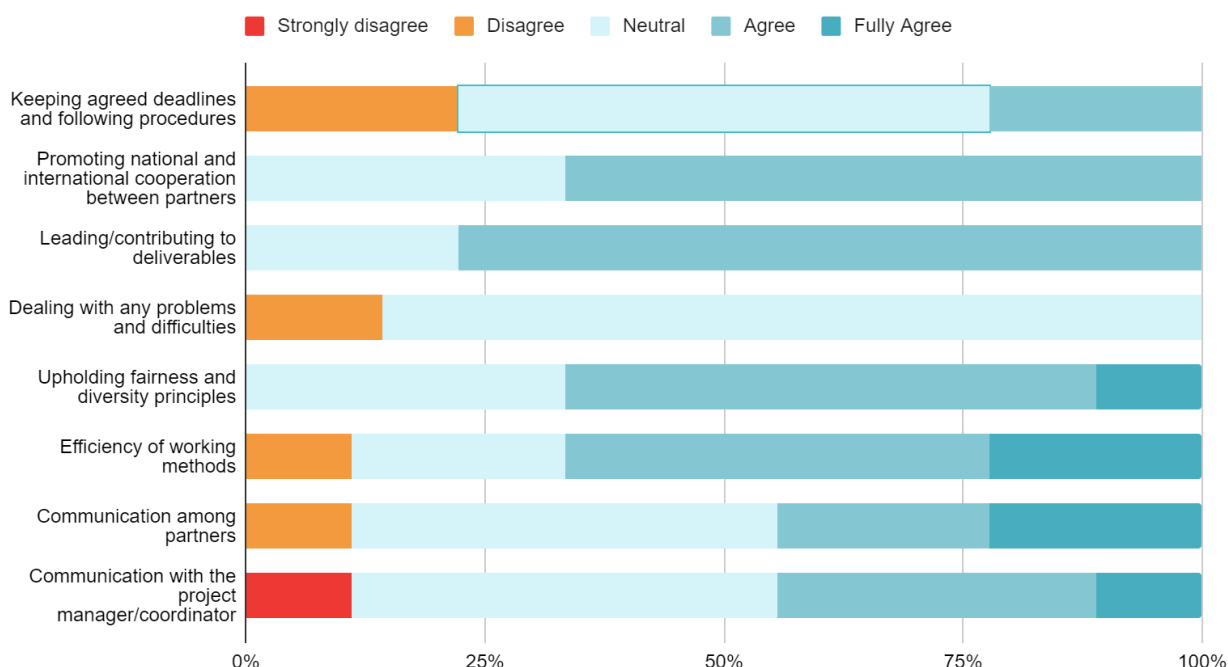
RELEVANCE

Graph 1: Relevance of the project

Quality of the project implementation

Quality of the project implementation

Legend: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Fully Agree

Graph 2: How certain activities have been implemented?

Keeping agreed deadlines and following procedures, dealing with any problems and difficulties, the efficiency of working methods, and communication among partners were weaker points in the project implementation. Promoting national and international cooperation between partners, and leading/contributing to deliverables upholding fairness and diversity principles were rated with a slightly better quality.

The partners shared some challenges with communication with the project manager and the effect of COVID-19 as the main enablers to a lower level of quality of project management. In addition to this, the situation in Lebanon and Syria was mentioned as a burden to the achievement of the anticipated results.

DIGIHEALTH final results and project added value overall

The quality of the project results have been evaluated with a score of 4 by most of the responses, while only one of them shared that the project`s results should be scored with the highest score.

One of the partners shared that the project has a good impact on health education. The partners` representatives shared the quality of the results to be good within the existing situation and the many delays were highlighted.

Most of the partners agreed there was involvement/participation of the users/stakeholders in the development of the results (6), and just a small number of them fully agree (2). Faculty staff, administrators and students were among the most involved users/stakeholders. The same results are in terms of dissemination of the project results, where most of the partners agree with the quality of the dissemination of the project`s results. The partners shared that every activity was disseminated with stakeholders through their websites at medical faculties and university levels.

MENA-EU value of the project results was recognized by almost all of the partners (7). "T*he MENA-EU value of the project results is high since the project has established greater communication between the MENA and EU countries*"- as one partner`s representative shared. Another partner`s representative shared: "*A good added value is obtained from EU universities to Syrian and Lebanese Higher Education Institutions*".

The national value of the project was recognized by six partner`s representatives. "*The project results are in line with the strategy of Higher Education on the national* level *and the impact of the established center at the Lebanese University"*- as shared by one of the partners. In addition, the Central lab and the material/modules developed will be shared with national institutions as detected as useful for some of the partners.

The partners agreed to gain knowledge and expertise by working on the project (7). In this regard, the following was shared by the partners:
- Some workshops were not up to the level
- Good knowledge and nice exposure
- We launched MOODLE for the first time based on this project and made video tutorials for teachers. The real added value was the practical introduction of the concept of a student-centered approach to the university
- Identification of gaps for digital Higher skills in Health Higher Educations, gaining best practices and required training, which were very useful within the COVID-19 period, where blended and online education modes were adopted.

Monitoring Grid / Variance Grid

WP	Ref. nr	Deliverable Title	Delivery Date	STATUS	INDICATORS (as in the proposal)	INDICATORS CHECK	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
1	1.1	Report on digital skills status & current T&L approaches in health disciplines & their impact & available & required ICT-based teaching (ICT-BT) tools	14/7/2019	DELIVERED	- Survey of digital skills status in health educators & its impact - Survey of current T&L in health education & its impact - Survey of available & required ICT-based teaching tools - Final report on digital skills status, current T&L process situation & availability of using ICT-based teaching tools	ACHIEVED	Responses of faculty members 191; students 640 (data available from the project repository).

	1.2	Seminar to present & discuss survey results	14/8/2019	DELIVERED	2 national workshops & 1 regional workshop in Lebanon to present & discuss survey results with Ministries, HEIs, Health sector & other stakeholders	ACHIEVED	The two national workshops and the regional workshop in Lebanon have been replaced with one seminar in Sweden
	1.3	List of training areas updated	14/8/2019	DELIVERED	List of training areas updated	ACHIEVED	
2	2.1	Training contents ready	14/2/2020	DELIVERED	Develop of the materials and hands-outs of TOT's	ACHIEVED	Three training delivered (Beirut, 3-5 March 2020; online 23 February - 23 March 2021, Genoa December 2021; Beirut, 4-8 November Lebanon)
	2.2	Know-how acquired on moving from teaching to learning, e-content development, the educational digital portal & running the centers.	14/9/2020	DELIVERED	5 visits to 3 EU partners' countries to attend TOTs & acquiring the know-how knowledge	ACHIEVED	2 study visits conducted in taly (Genoa, 10-13 June 2019) and Spain (Santiago de Compostela, 10-12 September 2019)
	2.3	Spill-over sessions through organizing seminars in PC	14/10/2020	DELIVERED	25 workshops & training courses will be organized in LB and SY, 10 seminars to update academic staff with digital skills, best practices & and methods of T&L	ACHIEVED	
	2.4	Pilot modules re-developed with EU expertise	14/11/2020	DELIVERED	30 pilot modules redesigned according to new digital skills and T&L methods	ACHIEVED	One training conducted in Lebanon (March 2020)
	2.5	Manual containing training materials & benchmarks	14/11/2020	DELIVERED	Manual for training on digital skills & innovative T&L	ACHIEVED	

					methods in Health Education		
	2.6	E-modules are developed & revised	14/8/2021	DELIVERED	10 e-modules are developed & revised	ACHIEVED	The modules were presented in Beirut, 4-8 November Lebanon
3	3.1	Centers established at LU/DU	14/11/2021	DELIVERED	Purchase of computers & ITC equipment, software packages % subscription 2 centers established at LU & DU	ACHIEVED	Centers established in December 2021; Beirut, 4-8 November Lebanon
4	5.1	Project homepage developed and updated	14/11/2021	DELIVERED	Homepages established and maintained	ACHIEVED	Project website available: http://digihealth-eu.aiu.edu.sy/home
	5.2	Promotion of project objectives & results in PC	14/11/2021	ONGOING	2 open days 4 meetings to network and present centers activities and development	ACHIEVED	
	5.3	Networking with public bodies, NGOs, non-partner Univ	14/11/2021	DELIVERED	6 dissemination visits to 6 LB & SY non-partner universities 10 workshops with health societies, NGOs representatives & other stakeholders	ACHIEVED	
	5.4	Media coverage & press	14/11/2021	DELIVERED		ACHIEVED	
6	6.1	Kick-off meeting	14/12/2018	DELIVERED		ACHIEVED	Kick-off meeting conducted in Beirut on 28/02 - 02/03 2019
	6.2	Steering Committee meetings	14/6/2021	DELIVERED			SC meetings conducted in: Sweden, 28/29/11/2019 Online, 03/02/2020 Online, 30/04/2020

						Online, 19/05/2022 Online, 01/08/2022
	6.3	Other Management outcomes	14/11/2021	DELIVERED		ACHIEVED	Contingency planning and Implementation delivered in November 2021
	6.4	Closure meeting	14/11/2021	DELIVERED		ACHIEVED	November 4-8 in Beirut

Future plans

The partners who answered the survey declared to have plans to continue using the project`s results or continue to implement some of the activities after the project's end.

The following plans for the continuation of the project`s results were shared:

- Conducting training replications on DigiHealth tools and methods in the health faculties of the Lebanese University for academic staff and students
- Development of more modules and syllabi that will apply the tools/knowledge/skills gained by the project. Also, organization of training for more faculty members on digital tools
- Usage of the smart classrooms, use of the national center, training as needed
- Smart classroom and courses updated
- We established a national center of 500 m2. this center is not a normal laboratory in the faculty of medicine it will become an official division for digitalization
- Expanded the training to include non-medical faculties
- Agreement between institutions
- Repetition of the training to the academic staff members, we will continue our collaboration with all partners.

The partners will ensure the project's results will remain available and be used by others after the project in the following ways:

- Ensure the sustainability of the national DigiHealth center in the Lebanese university in collaboration with the Lebanese partners
- Will organize more workshops and training sessions
- By dissemination and training
- We established a national center of 500 m2. This center is not a normal laboratory in the faculty of medicine it will become an official division for digitalization funded by Damascus university
- The foreseen cooperation between the national centres in Syria and Lebanon will be a good regional practice.
- Future scientific collaborations
- We ensure that in line with our internal policies

-   As a partner responsible for Quality Assurance will ensure that the project`s results will remain available and be used by others through its promotion on our website and promoting them through events organised by other projects.

Finally, almost all partners declared to have plans for future activities with the project`s partners.

CONCLUSIONS

According to the perceptions of the respondents, the project proved to be relevant mostly to the organisation involved in it, which is a success per sé, and least to the health sector in general. The quality of the project results have been evaluated with a score of 4 by most of the responses, indicating that the participants are highly satisfied with the project outcomes and the impact that the project has generated for their institutions and their work. Most of the partners agreed on the high level of involvement and participation of the staff and stakeholders in the development of the results, demonstrating the project has been a collaborative effort and participants felt the ownership of the results. The MENA-EU value of the project results was recognized by almost all of the partners, while the national value of the project was recognized by six partner`s representatives. The partners agreed that they gained knowledge and expertise by working on the project. Almost all partners that addressed the survey have plans to continue using the results of the project or continue to implement some of the activities after the project's end, ensuring the sustainability of DIGIHEATH over time. Finally, almost all partners declared to have plans for future activities with the project`s partners, demonstrating the collaboration has been fruitful and partners are willing to continue working together in the near future and for common goals.