

Jordanian Virtual Collaborative Courses for University Students – Project JOVITAL

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Abstract. The main objective of JOVITAL Project, is to build capacity of Jordanian academic staff members to modernise and enrich their teaching activities with interactive constructivist learning activities using the innovative approach of Virtual Collaborative Learning (VCL). An intensive training programme was developed and delivered in December 2018 and October 2019 to provide Jordanian academics with the required know-how to design and implement effective technology-enhanced learner-centred learning scenarios with project-based activities for self-regulated online students' group work. After receiving the qualification, a group of Jordanian teaching staff was selected by their institutions to individually implement and practice the learned concepts in some of their regular academic courses and reflect on their experience with the new methods and techniques. A total of 15 institutional Virtual Collaborative Learning (VCL) projects were integrated in existing academic study modules using the JOVITAL Learning Space (vcl.jovital.eu) and over 600 students and teachers joined the virtual learning community. This report presents the evaluation of the offered institutional VCL courses and the impressions of involved teaching staff.

Form the evaluation of 15 institutional Virtual Collaborative Learning (VCL) courses (a relatively high number for piloting) it can be concluded that Jordanian teaching staff members benefited from the capacity building programme developed and offered in the project and felt motivated and competent to design and implement VCL projects in their regular teaching practices. The courses offered over the three academic terms varied in duration, class size, and workload but were in total evaluated by the involved teachers as a successful experience they will recommend to their colleagues. A major positive result of the institutional VCL courses is the large growing learning community with over 600 members formed by academics and students from the partner HEIs on the virtual JOVITAL Learning space.

Keywords: Virtual Collaborative Learning, Jordan, interactive constructivist learning activities