Ripples

EdTech Bilateral Training Network

Project duration in months : **36**

Starting date : **January 1st, 2022**

Project leader : **Denis GILLET**

Lead Institution : **EPFL**

Swiss and MENA Partners

1) **EPFL**, Interaction Systems Group and Center for Learning Sciences
  Denis GILLET, Head and Board member
  Isabelle VONECHE CARDIA, Deputy Head

2) **Birzeit University**, Center for Continuing Education
  Osama MIMI, Director, Learning Innovation Unit
  Rania QASIM, Head of Professional Development Program

3) **An-Najah National University**, Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching
  Abdelkarim DARAGMED, Director

Objectives

SDG4: Quality Education, **SDG5**: Gender Equality, **SDG9**: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

1) Complement a project on "enhancing the Startup Ecosystem in Palestine through **Digital Business Professional Qualification for Entrepreneurs** and Early Start-ups", funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC),

2) by developing a specific training track in **educational technology** (EdTech) to strengthen the SDC project in its **social entrepreneurship** dimension for digital education,

3) implemented by offering a **one-week accelerator program** series in Switzerland for the most promising Palestinian students and young entrepreneurs chosen from the SDC project interested in EdTech.

4) Ripples is providing them with further **coaching and interaction opportunities** with Swiss stakeholders in EdTech and **create an education network for innovation and entrepreneurship** between Swiss Higher Education institutions and academic institutions in the MENA region.

Main activities / Work Packages

1) **Creation of the skill-building workshop program and the associated digital content**

2) **Preparation of the online coaching and training network**

3) **Selection of the participants** (subset of the SDC cohort, enforcing gender plurality)

4) **Implementation and evaluation of the one-week accelerator program (twice)**

There will be at least two iterations of the workshop, one in 2022 and one 2023 (each with 5 trainees and one expert from Palestine). Plans for a sustainable yearly workshop series will be devised and validated in 2024.

The **Graasp.org** platform will be implemented to facilitate synchronous and asynchronous interaction, coaching, carrying out collaborative design thinking activities, as well as delivering blended learning EdTech innovation and entrepreneurship resources as digital capsules.

Expected Outcomes

1) A **white paper** on the organizing and implementation of the accelerator, including lessons learned that could become a model for implementing a yearly workshop series that will benefit digital innovation and quality education in a long-term perspective in Palestine.

2) A special focus will be put on **role model women entrepreneurs**. In the long term, this will allow the **establishment of a training network in EdTech** and beyond between Switzerland and Palestine.

3) The participants will act locally as a **multiplier** to share their experience with other local entrepreneurs. They could also become the experts for the yearly workshop series.

Risk Management

1) Reemergence of the 2021 Israel-Palestine crisis.

2) COVID-19: Emergence of new variants.

3) Cohorts: Not enough students and young entrepreneurs in EdTech within the SDC project.

4) Difficulties to travel for the Palestinian stakeholders.

5) Difficulties to get Schengen visas for the participants.