Digitalization of universities in the Maghreb and Switzerland: strengthening the skills of academic staff

Project duration in months : 24 months

Starting date : 3 January 2022

Project leader : Prof. Abdeljalil Akkari

Lead Institution : University of Geneva

Swiss and MENA Partners :

1) Haute école de travail social - HES-SO, Geneva: Dr. Théogène-Octave Gakuba

2) Université de Sousse, Tunisia: Dr. Lilia Cheniti

3) Université Mohamed Lamine Debaghine - Sétif 2, Algeria: Dr. Naouel Abdelatif Mami

4) Université de Genève: Dr. Adel Ben Taziri & Dr. Barbara Class

Overall objective:

Explore and compare digital and pedagogical institutional responses of the 4 partner universities to the Covid-19 crisis to scaffold good practices for the future in terms of digital skills of the academic staff.

Specific objectives :

1) Analyze strategies of partner universities to ensure pedagogical continuity through ICT (e.g. staff support and training, policies, recommended media)

2) Present and discuss uses of digital technologies by Higher Education scholars in the high emergency context of Covid 19 (Spring 2020) and in its post-emergency context (e.g. media used, adaptation of the pedagogical scenario)

3) Evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of strategies in terms of scaffolding good practices (e.g. multi-modal instructional design literacy, digital and open education literacy)

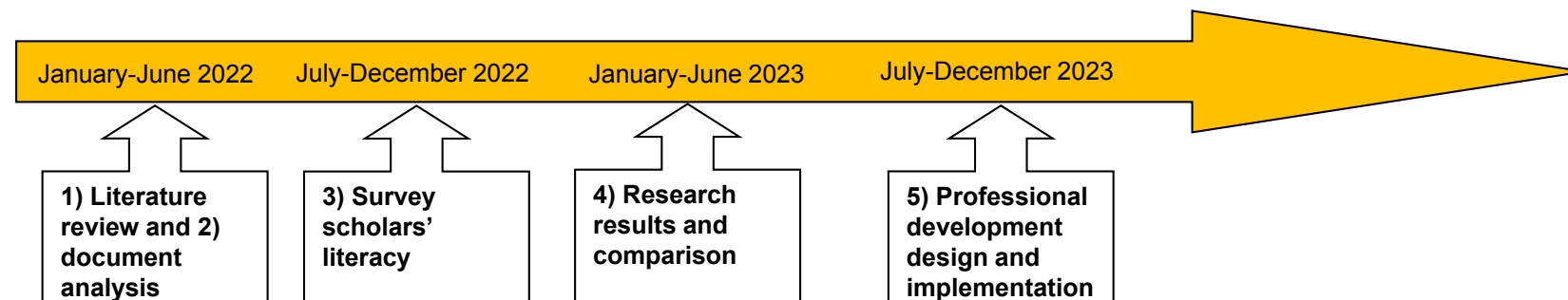4) Sharing good practices through the design and implementation of a joint professional development plateform

Main activities / Work Packages :

1) Literature review in international contexts (see references as a preview)
2) Document analysis of partner university's strategies (surveys, reports, policies, services, e-mails)
3) Surveying scholars' practices in partner universities (Faculty of Humanities, sustainable practices)
4) Analysis and comparison of results & recommendations for the design of professional development
5) Design and implementation of professional development training

1 Literature review in international contexts

2 Document analysis of partner university's strategies

3 Surveying scholars' practices in partner universities

4 Analysis and comparison of results obtained with recommendations

5 Design and implementation professional development training

Expected Outcomes :

1) International literature review on scholars' literacy in digital, open and multi-modal instructional design and universities' support
2) Document analysis of institutional strategies
3) Adaptation and partial development of a survey instrument to capture scholars' literacy (as mentioned in outcome 1) and universities' support
4) Research results in the 4 partner universities with regard to scholars' literacy and institutional support
5) Design and implementation of a professional development platform for sustainable digital and multi-modal instructional good practices

January-June 2022	July-December 2022	January-June 2023	July-December 2023
1) Literature review and 2) document analysis	3) Survey scholars' literacy	4) Research results and comparison	5) Professional development design and implementation

Risk Management :

1) Readiness of scholars to participate in surveys and interviews delaying the research
 => Regular stakeholders' meeting to monitor the study and reorient it if necessary

2) Screening of scholars to be trained by stakeholders of partner universities
=> Selection of scholars upon application forms and commitment to engage

3) Sustainability of the project: digitalization activities beyond the project
=> Partner universities from southern Mediterranean countries act as national hubs for geographic strengthening and extension
=> Involvement of all stakeholders from the start to co-design the study ensures appropriation, relevance and identification with the project
=> Capacity building of scholars with regard to digitalization, Open Education and Open Science