ABLE
ACCESSIBILITY FOR
A BOLDER LEARNING EXPERIENCE

1866

AUB **American University of Beirut**
Office of Information Technology

ABLE SUMMIT

#ABLE Summit

#ABLESummit2019

April 11 and 12, 2019

@ AUB OSB Maamari

A life changing experience…

Those who were there!

"unforgettable times in Beirut by listening, socializing and sharing experiences and best practices with wonderful leaders, including leaders with disabilities, from Arab countries and rest of the world"

Dr. Humberto Insolera - European Disability Forum (EDF)

"The first Assistive Technology conference in the Lebanon has been a great success as speaker after speaker spoke of making things more accessible for everyone."

Myles Pilling - British Assistive Technology Association (BATA)

"It was a real pleasure to talk about "Three Fundamentals for Improving Digital Accessibility and Inclusion" (trust me, I could have gone well beyond three) at the first ABLE Summit"

Jennison Asuncion, Co-Founder - Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD)

" Being involved in the ABLE Summit at the American University of Beirut was such an amazing blessing from God....So I wanted to also give recognition to the amazing people who went into making my trip to Beirut and involvement in the AUB ABLESummit2019 a life-changing and paradigm-shifting experience."

Jeremy Seda, IT Accessibility Coordinator North Idaho College (NIC)

"The event brought together local and international experts with university faculty, staff and students to explore the challenges of digital accessibility, and introduce some potential solutions"

Abby Sewell, The Daily Star, April 16, 2019

ABLE Ripples Reach

- 2 days, 4 thematic tracks, 30 sessions, 73 participants (speaker, panelist, workshop moderator)
- 347 Attendees
- 15 countries
- 164 Organizations
- 14 Partners
- 45 ABLE team member / volunteer
- 12 exhibitors
- 13 projects kicked off
- An accessible event with 6 lingual dimensions

International Audience

15 countries

164 Organization

- 20 Universities
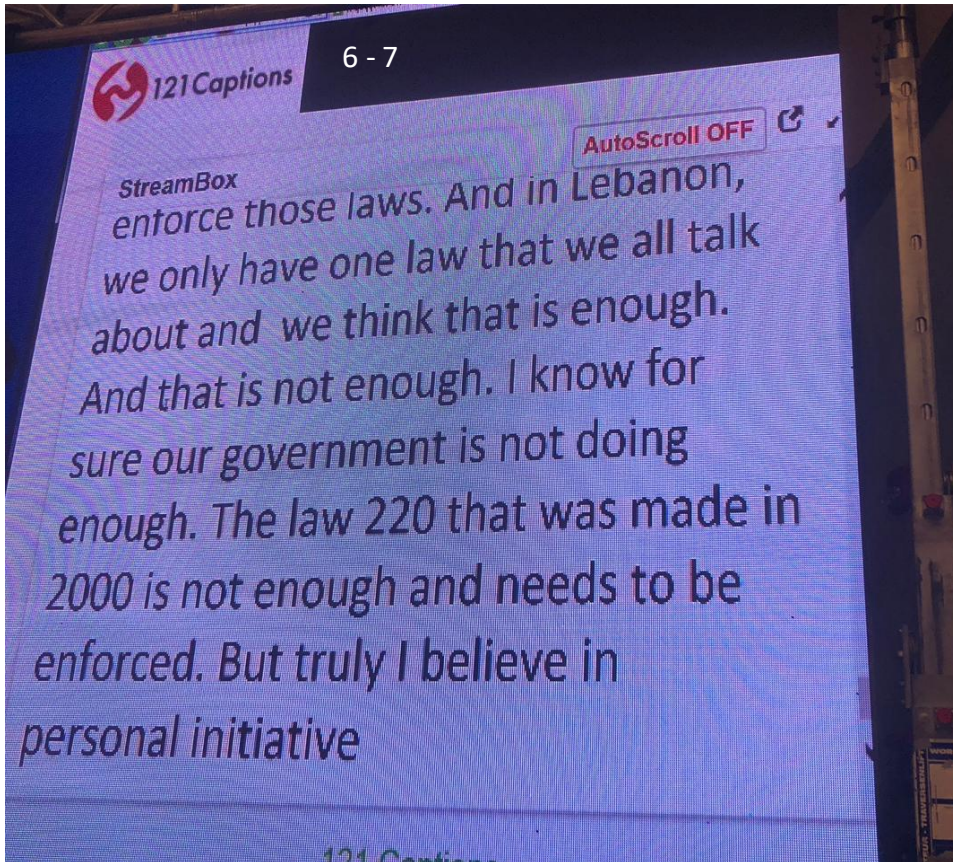- 59 NGOs

347 Attendees

- 90 Technology professional, designer or AT expert
- 83 Educators
- 74 Students
- 33 University officials
- 24 Accessibility professional or advocate
- 20 Student or alumni with special needs
- 11 Policy Makers

An Accessible Event

- Accessible website and communication for the event
- Accessible registration forms with accommodation request option
- English Arabic translation
- Bilingual sign language interpretation
- Live transcription
- Accessible event stage and premises
- Braille printed program
- Color coded cards for inclusive engagement
- Personalized accommodation
- Escort for attendees who require assistance
- Two quite rooms for emergencies
- Standby ambulance
- Live online streaming

Lingual Accessibility

1

2

3

6 - 7

1. The speaker speaks sign language or English or Arabic on stage

2. For sign language speakers, the interpreter translates to English speech

3. The translation booth translate to Arabic/English

4. The sign language interpreters, interpret to two sign languages (International and American) or English

5. The camera transmits audio visual to 121 Captions in the UK for live transcription

6. 121 Captions in the UK transcribes live on a connected computer

7. The camera and the computer feed dual input to the big screen on stage with sign language and live captions

4

Live streaming online and on premise outdoors

"We all have special needs and we are all talented" Georges Khabbaz

The ABLE Summit was crowned with the artistic touch of:

- The Lebanese star Georges Khabbaz

- LSBD Choir (Lebanese School for the Blind and Deaf)

- Al Hadi Institute for the Deaf, Blind and Learning Disabilities - "One Heart" Mime Show

Ferial Malaeb Khaddaj talking on stage representing His Excellency Mr. Akram Chehayeb, Minister of Education and Higher Education

His Excellency Dr. Richard Kouyoumdjian, Minister of Social Affairs

H.E. MP Nadim Gemayel, Chairman of the ICT Committee, Lebanese Parliament,
H.E. Former Minister of Telecom and MP Nicolas Sehnaoui, Chairman, UK-Lebanon Tech Hub
H.E. MP. Dr. Inaya Ezzeddine, Minister of State for Administrative Reform
Angela Zettler, Disability Focal Point, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Violette Safadi, Minister of State for Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth, Representing His Excellency Mr. Saad Hariri the prime minister

Fadi Yarak, Director General of Education, Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)

Mrs. Malaab representing the ministre of education
Dr. Hassan Diab Vice President for Regional Program
Violette Safadi representing His Excellency Mr. Saad Hariri the prime minister
Dr. Mohammad Sayegh Executive VP for medical affairs
Dr. Fadlo Khoury AUB president
Dr. Yousif Asfour AUB CIO

Governmental Engagement

Anthony Nahoul, B.S. In Computer Science
Manager, A.M.N International for Software Development

Ralph Kostantine,
Computer Science Student, NDU

Rima Kaddoura, Master's of Public Health
Research Assistant at the Department of Emergency
Medicine, AUBMC

Dr. Bassam Farah, PhD Business,
PhD Psychology
Professor, Olayan School of Business, AUB

Elias Kassab, Bachelor's Degree in Business
Administration Contact Center Data Support
Supervisor, Alfa

Lama Joudieh, Bachelor's Degree in in Fine and
Studio Arts , Head designer and Curator
Paintbuckethea

Success Stories

12 Internationally Renowned Speakers

Dr. Humberto Insolera, Executive Committee, European Disability Forum EDF

Koplewicz , Former Harvard Human Rights Fellow

Yousif Asfour, Chief of Information Technology (CIO), AUB

Jennison Asuncion, Co-Founder, Global Accessibility Awareness Day, Engineering Manager - Accessibility LinkedIn

Shadi Abou-Zahra, Web Accessibility Strategy & Technology Specialist, W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)

Jeremy Seda, IT Accessibility Coordinator, North Idaho College NIC

Myles Pilling, Council Member and Director, BATA

Beth Eyyuphan Keskin, Teacher Engagement Manager, Microsoft

Dr. Fredrick Larson, CTO and Founder, Readspeaker

Patrick McGrath, Education Technology Specialist, TextHelp

Dr. Soha Maad, Founder and Manager, IGROW EEIG

Malek Zuaiter, Business Development Executive, MindRockets

Souha Bourjeily, Corporate Communications and CSR Manager, Alfa

STATUS AND CHALLENGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN LEBANON
Moderated by Dr. Yousif Asfour, CIO, AUB

THE SPECIALLY ABLED STUDENT JOURNEY
Moderated by Dr. Talal Nezameddin, Dean of Student Affairs, AUB

POLICIES AND GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS
Moderated by: Dr. Hasan Youness, Strategic Advisor of GCNL

STRATEGIES FOR ACCOMMODATING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL NEEDS
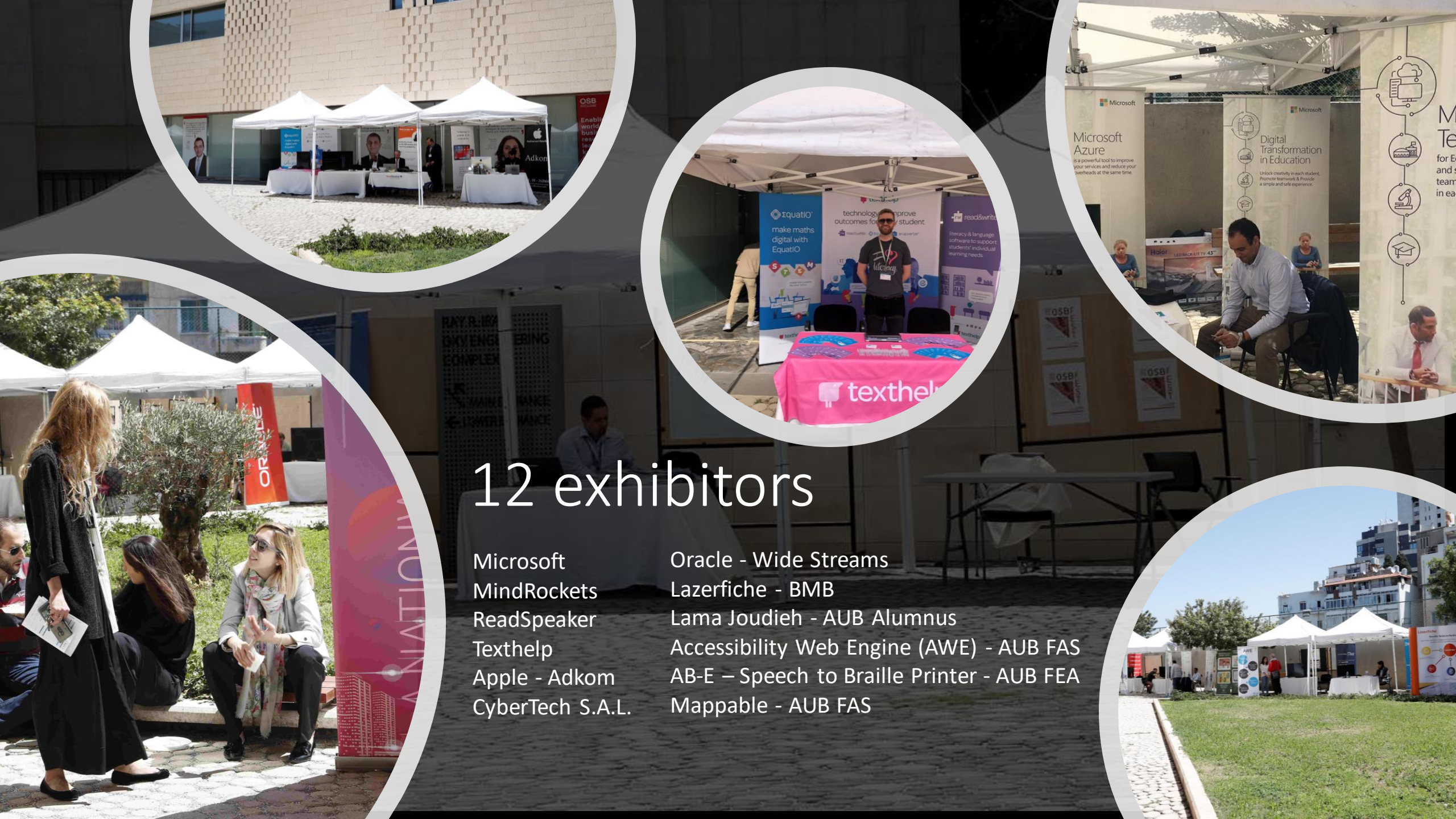Moderated by: Sergio Moukarzel, Consultant, ProAbled

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES
Moderated by Sylvana Lakkis, Chairperson LPHU

ROADMAP TO DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN LEBANON
Moderated by Rami Farran, Director IT Academic Services, AUB

6 Panel Discussions

12 exhibitors

Microsoft
MindRockets
ReadSpeaker
Texthelp
Apple - Adkom
CyberTech S.A.L.

Oracle - Wide Streams
Lazerfiche - BMB
Lama Joudieh - AUB Alumnus
Accessibility Web Engine (AWE) - AUB FAS
AB-E – Speech to Braille Printer - AUB FEA
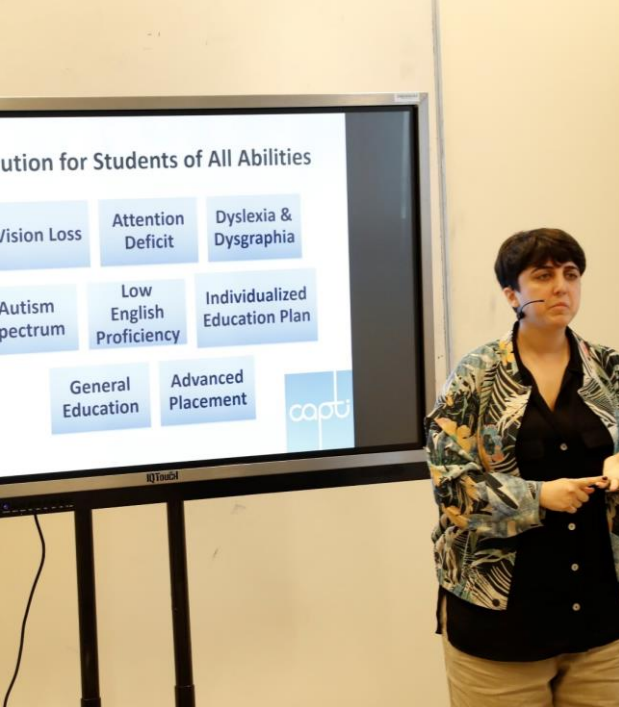Mappable - AUB FAS

2 Days of Knowledge Share and Collaboration

30 sessions, 73 participants (speaker, panelist, workshop moderator):

- 12 Internationally renowned speakers
- 6 Success stories
- 6 Panel discussions
- 19 Workshops and collaborative sessions

[Click here to see the detailed program](#)

4 thematic tracks:

1. Special Student Success
2. Governance & regulations
3. E-accessibility
4. Independent Living

Technical Workshops: recorded and available online

ABLE Connect: networking and collaboration

- Online application to connect with ABLE attendees and book meetings

- On premise connect facility for networking meetings

You can connect at:
https://aub.edu.lb/able/connect/

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ACCESSIBILITY FOR A BOLDER LEARNING EXPERIENCE

CONNECT AREA

CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONAL PEERS AND EXPERTS

through the ABLE connect application and meet them here at ABLE

ABLE 2019 Outcomes

- Helped connect special needs students with administration to support enrollment
- Led the first Lebanese participation in the Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) 2019
- Led 3 Web Accessibility sprints at AUB for staff, students and the public introducing techniques for inclusive web design
- Fostered 3 innovative students' projects (Automated Braille-Encoder, Mappable (campus accessibility navigation guide), Accessibility Web Engine (AWE)). These projects were exhibited during ABLE and are now being developed for deployment.
- Started REACH (Research for Education Accessibility Challenges), a collaboration with AUB's Department of Education, ABLE and the NGO T.I.E.S that focuses on inclusive education practices and tools. This collaboration will result in research and practical events.
- Created Arabic language accessibility to the "Global Accessibility Awareness Day" webpage and "Be My Eyes" application – courtesy of Anis Jradah @ AUBIT
- Started collaboration with AUB's Human Resources department in cooperation with the NGO ProAbled to conduct inclusive employment training in addition to inclusive recruitment cooperation.
- Partnered with the Office of Communications to elevate communications accessibility and spread awareness starting with accessible design tips and e-mail accessibility
- Conducted training for the IT staff on inclusive design
- Developed policies for Enterprise Accessibility, IT Procurement, Solution Development and e-Learning

Next steps

- Establish the ABLE Advisory Board (leaders from leading global organizations)

- Establish AUB Accessibility Executive Committee (cross functional)

- Train the IT support staff on inclusive IT support and commonly used assistive solutions

- Remedy all online content including AUB website, LMS (Moodle) and SIS (Banner)

- Insert an inclusive employment model in the HR courses/curriculum (in progress)

- Inserting a web accessibility model in the Computer Science curriculum (in progress)

- Avail braille printing in the libraries and central computer labs (in progress)

- Establish the ABLE students club to support accessibility projects and inclusion activities including peer support (in progress)

- Offer training and online courses through CEC

- Library content remedy (remedy unreadable PDF)

- Establish a Undergraduate Preparation Program (UPP) for special needs

- Pilot full learning content digital accessibility at a designated faculty

- Awareness sessions and training for the university executive key members

- Establish a center for Accessibility Development (research and capacity building) in partnership with industry leaders (ex: Microsoft)

- Fundraising to support digital inclusion and enterprise accessibility (web content remedy and assistive technology)

- Establish a collaboration chain for quality and knowledge dissemination with specialized NGOs, MEHE and MOSA

- Web Accessibility training via the IT and Engineering syndicates

- Accessible Authoring and inclusive design training at AUB and other public entities such as MOSA and MEHE

The ABLE ARMY: 45 Team Member

"Great perils have this beauty, that they bring to light the fraternity of strangers." - Victor Hugo

Partner with us!

Click here to check ABLE's partnership opportunities

See you in
The ABLE SUMMIT 2020

https://aub.edu.lb/able/