



**Arab Expert Meeting for the development of
National Implementation Strategy (NIS)
in Arab Countries on Using Cloud Computing
in Education
Manama, Bahrain, 21-22 November 2017**



Draft Workshop concept note

Just as globalisation and technology have transformed huge sectors of the economy in the past 20 years, higher education faces today radical transformations. It is urged to adapt to the digital age and change its very DNA. Universities have to overcome the compelling challenge of preserving their soul and keeping what is most essential to their mission while thriving in the new digital age. Cloud computing is one of the most important vectors of the current and foreseen transformations in higher education. To foster its adoption in Arab countries, ALECSO and ITU have recently published a detailed report and proposed a set of key policy guidelines. As a follow-up to this valuable study, both partners agreed to launch in 2017 a specific program with the aim to offer their assistance to Arab countries in order to develop their national implementation strategies on using cloud computing in Education. The first event of the new program will consist of a 2-day workshop supported with the publication of a new report on "National Strategic Implementation plan for using Cloud Computing in Education". **The event welcomes decision makers from Ministries of ICT and higher education, experts in ICT and Arab universities faculty members using or foreseeing the use of cloud computing in teaching or research.**

The report aims at guiding participants in the elaboration of their own vision and national strategy for mass adoption of cloud computing in higher education. The new report will explain, synthesize, and complement the 2016 report. Key aspects covered will be:

- ❖ Analyze current challenges and trends in Higher Education and present an overall vision aiming at promoting the digital university concept in the Arab World.
- ❖ Provide an up-to-date status of ICT in the Arab World
- ❖ Explain the foundation of cloud computing and its key applications in Higher Education
- ❖ Present and explain the rationale behind the "AlecsO-ITU Guidelines to improve the use of Cloud Computing Technology in Education in Arab Countries"
- ❖ Propose country-customizable templates for SWOT Analysis, strategy design and actions planning to help participants in elaborating their own vision and national strategy for an effective migration to the cloud of their higher education institutions.



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The 2-day workshop or inception meeting will combine presentations, discussions, group brainstorming activities and the drafting of national implementation strategies by participants. The workshop will familiarize participants with the different concepts involved, explain the trends of HE digital transformations and highlight the key role of cloud computing in those transformations. It will outline the current status of ICT adoption in Arab countries and will enrich that overview with participants' contributions and discussions. Most importantly, the workshop will describe and explain the different proposed instruments and templates that will be used by participants during the group brainstorming sessions to elaborate their own vision and draft their customized national strategies. The workshop will also guide them towards translating those strategies into action plans while taking into consideration all management, resources allocation, monitoring and evaluation aspects.

Participants will use the templates, slides and mindmaps provided during the workshop to elaborate their own strategies drafts which will be presented as slides and mindmaps to their colleagues and discussed. For an effective use of the provided instruments, participants are invited to bring their own laptops. Internet connectivity should be provided by the workshop local organizers.