EADTU
NEWSLETTER

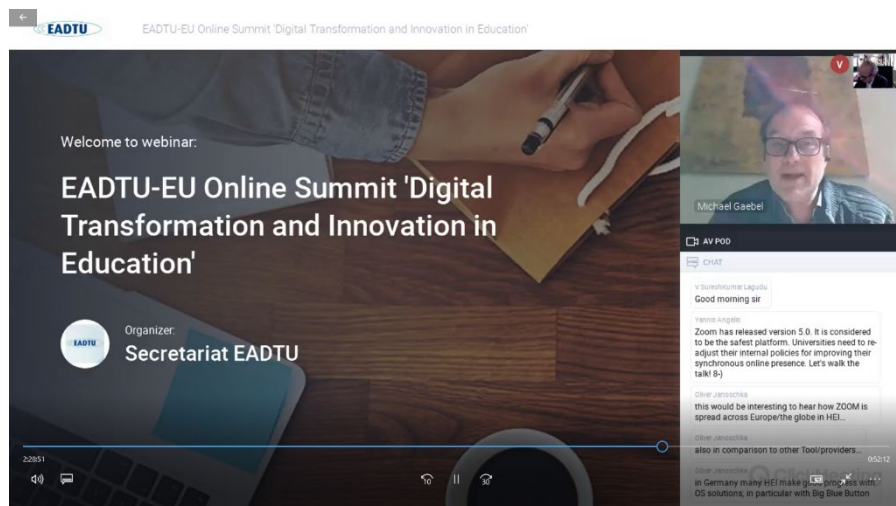Read more about EADTU ⊕

May 2020

EADTU NEWS

EADTU Presidential call for Corona crisis support

During the EADTU-EU Summit, a call was done for supporting innovation and digital education during and after the Corona crisis. Join our group of supporters by sharing initiatives in online education. You can find all shared material so far on our dedicated web page "Join online teaching now!"

Read more

EADTU-EU Summit "Digital Transformation and Innovation in Education"

The 8th annual EADTU-EU Summit on "**Digital Transformation and Innovation in Education** took place on the 30th of April and was fully online considering the current situation of the COVID-19 crisis. Invited were like former years, next to universities and European university alliances, staff of the European Commission, members of the European Parliament, members of the national delegations for the EU, university networks and other stakeholders (enterprises, social partners). With 500 registrations a real success, certainly also due to the priority topics addressed like:

- Microcredentials; embracing a new qualification; implementing CMF in (MOOC-Based) Short Learning programmes
- The concept and role of online Short Learning Programmes in European Higher Education
- Empowering education by artificial intelligence
- EMBED; the European Maturity Model for Blended Education; launch of the EMBED MOOC

Please find here the link to the Summit presentations and full the recordings of the Summit here.
We will go deeper into the topics and questions of the Summit during our Innovating Higher Education conference this year in Bari, 28-30th of October.
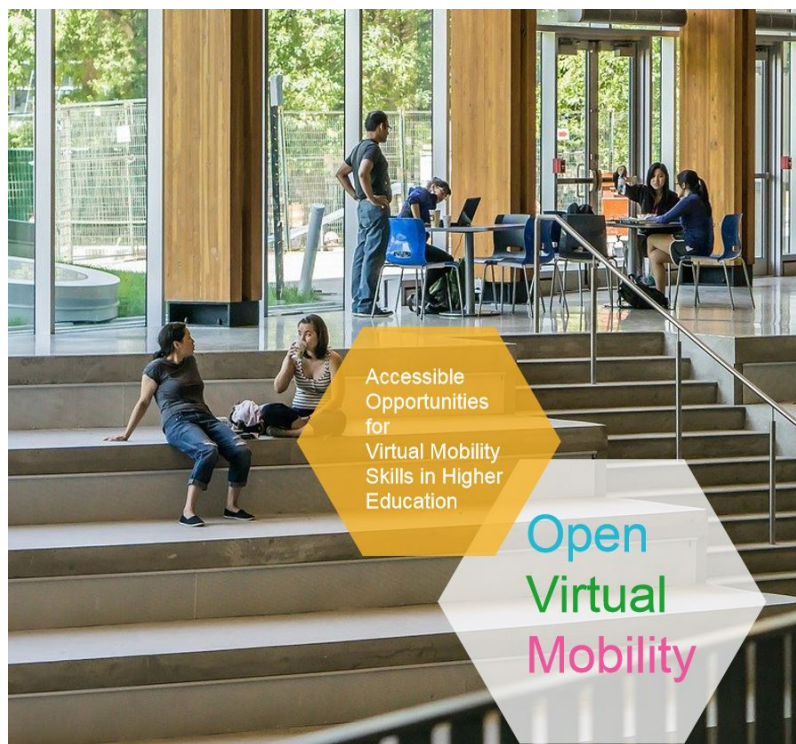
EMBED MOOC Launch: **Making Blended Education Work**

How do you create an exceptional blended learning environment? As technologies advance, universities face fresh challenges delivering courses through this evolving method of teaching, more so than ever after #COVID-19 disruptions. Making Blended Education Work, a free online course, offers solutions to the higher education community on how to create, implement and advance blended learning courses. Started on Monday 11 May 2020.

Sign up

Read more

OpenVM Learning Hub launched

The Open Virtual Mobility project (OpenVM) in which EADTU is a partner has created a Learning Hub that is an open, multilingual online learning environment for the development, assessment and recognition of virtual mobility skills in higher education. The OpenVM Learning Hub further hosts a set of eight mini-MOOCs, in which learners can develop skills for virtual mobility at three levels: Foundations, Intermediate and Advanced.

In related brochure that is now released the format and opportunities of OpenVM are all further explained.

Please find the OpenVm brochure here

The fourth Envisioning Report for Empowering Universities in the uptake of new modes of teaching and learning

We herewith present to you the fourth edition of the EMPOWER Envisioning report on innovating higher education. The report is set up by the expert pools of the EMPOWER programme established by EADTU to cover the latest trends and developments in new modes of teaching. The Envisioning report is a selection of good practices and studies done by the experts connected to EADTU's EMPOWER programme. In this 4th issue of 2020 we cover new initiatives related to Open Educational Resources and Open Practices; Learning Analytics and Artificial Intelligence; Continuing Education and Curriculum and Course Design. We certainly believe also this edition of the year 2020 is an inspiration for many to further innovate education and start

cooperation and sharing of expertise with fellow innovators.

Read more

The Envisioning Report for Empowering Universities

4th edition
April 2020

empower EADTU Erasmus+

How Short Learning programmes look like, who has already developed them and how to design them?

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) in collaboration with the rest of the E-SLP project partners have elaborated two reports, the first related to design guidelines for flexible and scalable Short Learning Programmes and, the second is a compendium of good practices. Both reports are important tools to help higher education institutions understand how SLPs look like and how they can be designed. For more information feel free to contact us via the project website.

Visit Website

EMPOWER Artificial Intelligence Webinar Week

The next EMPOWER Webinar Week is coming up in the third week of June, dedicated to Artificial Intelligence in Education.

Topics addressed are a.o.:

- Empowering education by artificial intelligence
- Artificial Intelligence in Teaching (AIT): A roadmap for future developments
- AI applications in higher education
- Good practices and ethical issues in Artificial Intelligence in Online education

Please join us and register here

I·HE2020 "Innovating Higher Education Conference"

Currently many events for the coming months are cancelled due to the Corona crisis. The I·HE2020 organisers are constantly monitoring the situation with regard to the outbreak of Covid-19. The planning of our I·HE2020 conference onsite in Bari will continue to be organised under our firm hope the world has returned back to normal by end of October, but we have now lengthened the

time for abstract submission up till 31st of July. If IHE2020 cannot be organised on 28–30 of October, we will postpone the event to the beginning of 2021. So, please do not feel hampered in submitting your abstract here and now.

Highly appreciated!

Launch Virtual Mobility website

Anticipating on new developments in mobility European wide, EADTU established a Task Force Virtual Mobility in 2018, focusing on mapping blended and online mobility in the context of international collaboration. The results are now captured in a dedicated website on Virtual Mobility models, formats and related good practices.

Visit website

Shaping education in the era of COVID-19: A MOOC responding to the urgent needs of teachers in primary and secondary school education

Because of the corona-virus pandemic more and more institutions are closing campuses and move their classes online. The pandemic also led the Greek government to declare a state of country lock-down keeping all schools and educational institutions closed for over a month requesting that classes should be moved completely online for Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) but also partly for primary and secondary education institutions. While HEIs adapted rather easily to this situation due to the higher degree of practicing e-learning methodologies, the new educational framework turned out to be hard to be adopted by schoolteachers. Therefore the Educational Content, Methodology and Technology Laboratory of the Hellenic Open University in collaboration with the Institute of Educational Policy of the Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs developed a MOOC presenting all required methodologies and practices of e-learning focusing on the training of schoolteachers and providing them with practical guidelines for succeeding in their new assignments that urgently the pandemic shaped. The MOOC will be made available in the first week of May 2020 and can be accessed here.

The UOC celebrates 25 years

25 years ago, on April 6, the Catalan Parliament unanimously passed a law to create the UOC. In the words of the UOC's founding president, Gabriel Ferraté: "We wanted to use new technology to break down the barriers of time and space." In a world of landlines, dial-up modems and no Google, the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya arrived in this world to become the first ever university

to be fully online. Over the years, the UOC has built a community of people who are connecting their talent to transform society. Today, 25 years later, everything has changed. We're remembering these roots despite the difficulties we're all going through – a situation that's challenging our ability to respond as a community to the crisis that hit us.

See more

The UOC's Emergency Remote Teaching initiative

The UOC responds to the global emergency situation with a training proposal that accompanies university professors as well as secondary and professional training teachers to implement remote solutions to their teaching.

Since April 6th, coinciding with its 25th anniversary, the UOC makes its knowledge and experience in virtual education available through a series of webinars and MOOCs with the aim of accompanying teachers who require it so that they can implement a contingency plan for the crisis in their compulsory distance teaching.

All the information is available on the dedicated portal (only available in Catalan and Spanish)
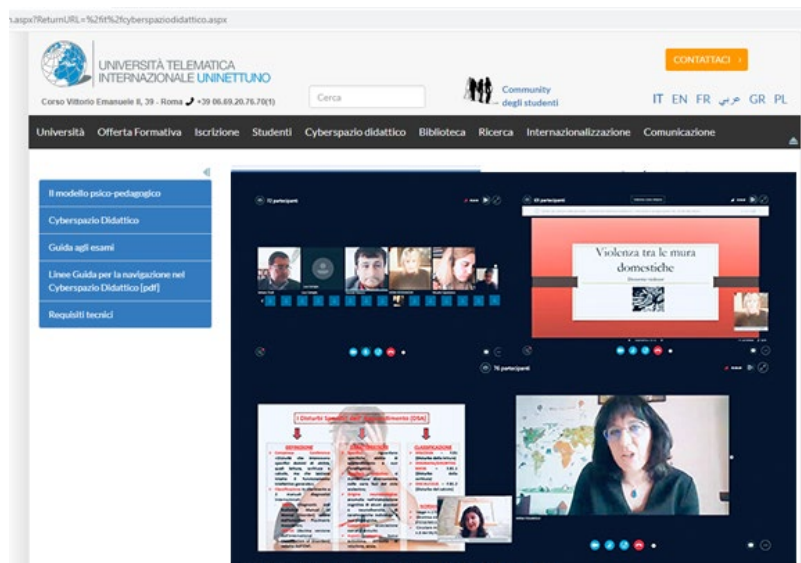

DCU Launches First Credit Earning Micro-credential

In February, Dublin City University's (DCU) launched a new online, stackable, credit-earning micro-credential as part of its global strategic partnership with FutureLearn. This exciting new initiative in the rapidly growing area of Fintech draws on the European Common Framework for Micro-credentials launched last year with leadership from EADTU and DCU plans to launch further fully online, credit-bearing micro-credentials over the next year. DCU's first micro-credential

recognises that the rise of Financial Technologies (Fintech) is opening the world to a host of new possibilities but also creating both business and organisational challenge in the financial sector. The Irish Times recently featured a story about this initiative.

Read more

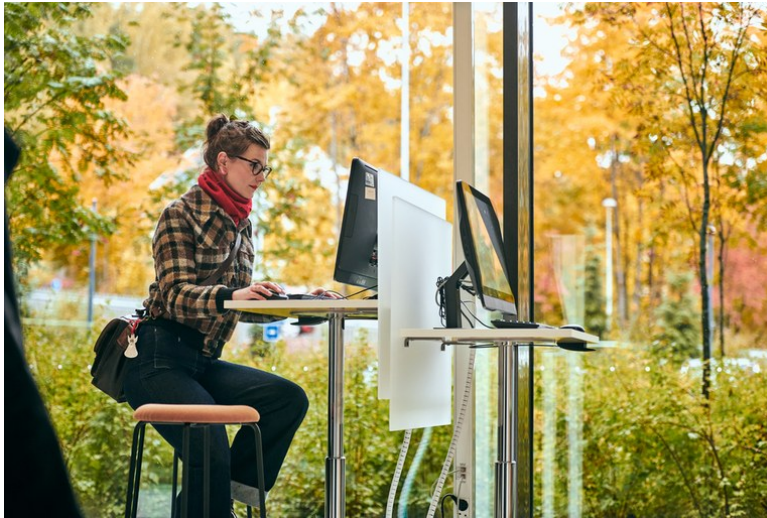**Online Discussion Theses by UNINETTUNO to front emergency**

On the 12th and 13th of March 2020, the candidates of the Psychology Faculty of the **UNINETTUNO Telematic International University** had the possibility of discussing their graduation thesis statement online through Interactive Classrooms, a new discussion mode was implemented by the University for this purpose, in this period of nation-wide emergency.

Read more

The Interactive classrooms are available in UNINETTUNO's Didactic Cyberspace, set up for all the Faculties, the lecturer members of the Graduation Commission, in collaboration with the candidates started and completed the works of discussion of the thesis, implementing an online process that was designed, tested and simulated based during the previous days which made it possible. Thanks to the organizational, psycho-pedagogical and didactic models of UNINETTUNO.

The discussion from distance made a participation of over 80 connected people on average, among them student friends and relatives.

Link to the press release

JYUOpen offers courses for free to degree students

Due to the situation caused by the coronavirus, Finnish universities suspended contact teaching in mid-March. This created a huge need for online studies among degree students from different universities.

Eleven Open universities in Finland, including the University of Jyväskylä, provide support to degree students by opening multiple courses free of charge. A part of the distant teaching offerings available for spring and summer 2020 are now offered free of charge to degree students of all universities.

Read more

Faculty Vacancy: Environmental Chemical Engineering

The Open University of Cyprus invites applications for the **one tenured academic position** in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences **at the rank of Associate Professor in the area of**

"**Environmental Chemical Engineering**" and particularly in the fields of "Management of solid and liquid waste" and "Environmental management systems".

Please click HERE for the Call for Applications.

Applications must be completed and may be submitted only through the OUC e-recruitment portal by June 22, 2020.

Read more

OUC operation under COVID-19

The Open University of Cyprus, following health-related measures announced by the Cypriot Ministry of Health, announced a series of precautionary measures for COVID-19, to continue smoothly all its educational activities, teaching and learning processes through the OUC eLearning Platform eClass. **OUC students and staff continue to have regular 24/7 access to the Library's digital collections, and its main administrative services continue to support virtually and without disruptions the University's community. The final examinations will also be carried out with alternative forms of evaluation without students having to be present physically in examination centers.**

Read more

OUNL Free Online lectures about digital didactics

The Open Universiteit offers live online lectures about digital didactics to all who now want to offer their education online due to the corona crisis. OUNL wants to support teachers from other educational institutes to offer their schooling online during the corona crisis. The webpage brings together much of the knowledge that the OU has gathered on this topic in a usable way, including (scientifically underpinned) advice for teachers of all education levels and above all practical tips and tricks.

The first live online lecture 'Engaging Online Education' took place on 17 March 2020. In the series of online lectures educational experts provide explanation on diverse topics while teachers and other interested persons can ask questions. The recordings can be re-watched via the webpage.

Read more

OTHER NEWS

ICDE Quality Network and Regional Focal Points

Following up on the renewal of its mandate to support the global initiative for quality in distance and online education, the ICDE Quality Network and Regional Focal Points had its first meeting on the 29 April, 2020.

The Quality Network is chaired by Alan Tait, (UK) and consists of a Regional Focal Points (RFP) from various regions of the world. EADTU is the focal point for Europe. Read more about the Network and its mandate here.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR OPEN AND DISTANCE EDUCATION

A global network for online, open and flexible education

EVENTS 2020

* The Open edX Conference, 19-22 May 2020, Lisbon (Portugal) <u>CANCELED</u>
* UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, 2 – 4 June 2020, Berlin   (Germany) <u>postponed until further notice</u>

* Erasmus+ Staff Week 2020, FernUni, postponed to 13 – 15 October 2020
* OOFHEC2020, 28 – 30 October 2020, Bari (Italy)
* EQAF Espoo, 12–14 November 2020 (Finland)

More information about the events will follow soon