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November 2019

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Enjoy reading and please let us know if you have questions or remarks!

Kind regards,

Fenna Joosten-Adriaanse
EADTU



OOFHEC2019: Message of Madrid and Conference Proceedings

UNED in Madrid was the perfect setting for EADTU's Online, Open and Flexible Higher Education Conference 2019 (OOFHEC2019), bringing together key players in innovating education within the scope of this year's conference: "Blended and online education within European university networks" Contributions in plenary and parallel sessions as well as many workshops focused on trends and high impact factors in the global and European higher education like European university networks, internationalisation and virtual mobility, AI in education, micro-credentials for continuous education and MOOCs, equal opportunities and inclusion and many more.

Please find OOFHEC2019 - Proceedings including the Message of Madrid [here](#). A taste of the conference in a visual summary you can find [here](#) and on content in video [here](#).

We hope to meet you all next year at OOFHEC2020, 28-30 October, hosted by the university of Bari, Italy.

EADTU's TF Artificial Intelligence in Education (TF-AIED) stakeholder workshops

While Artificial Intelligence is increasingly being used to support teaching and learning in distance universities, most of the development and deployment takes place in what is essentially a moral vacuum. No guidelines have been provided, no policies have been developed, and no regulations have been enacted to address the specific ethical issues raised by the use of AI to enhance distance teaching and learning (Holmes et al., 2019).

The TF-AIED workshops of OOFHEC2019 and ICDE's World Conference on "The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence to Enhance Distance Teaching" were organised to identify key ethical issues, to map out how to address the multiple challenges, and to inform best practice.

The overarching aim of involving stakeholders from universities was to help establish a basis for meaningful ethical reflection necessary for innovation. In the beginning of 2020 we will add a survey for students and organise a Peer Learning Activity on the same topic to generate a full picture by stakeholders.





Support Staff Event OUNL: How to support the student life cycle in online distance universities

The Open University of the Netherlands in cooperation with EADTU organised on the 20–21st of November 2019 an open forum for administrators and staff of support services in online distance universities with EADTU's main purpose in mind: the promotion of online, open & flexible education. This two day Staff Event on support services in distance teaching universities included a training and peer event with an opportunity for the 35 participating support staff to meet, share expertise, and learn from their peers about different ways to organise support structures for online distance education. The Staff Event focussed on the implementation and support of (new) educational concepts, approaches, structures and instruments within the student services & IT of our universities. Considering the success of this event, it was decided to continue with a 2nd edition at the Open University of Cyprus, end of 2020.



EADTU webinar week on Quality Assurance in Blended and Online Education

EADTU organised the [Quality Assurance in Blended and Online Education webinar week](#) 12 & 13 November 2019. During this webinar week Jennifer Mathes (Online Learning Consortium) and Alan Tait (OUUK) spoke about Global quality in online, open, flexible and technology enhanced education. George Ubachs (EADTU) more specifically talked about the European SWOT analysis on Quality Assurance in online education. Both presentations were referring to the [ICDE report](#) capturing developments in quality in online, open, flexible education in all regions of the world. Next, Lampros Tsiknas (HOU) gave a presentation about Quality Assurance strategies in distance

education at the Hellenic Open University. Lastly, Tarja Ladonlahti (Jyväskylä University) presented “Equal opportunities for all: Accessibility in higher education online studies – from quality guidelines to the practice”. Click [here](#) for the recordings and presentations.

Welcome Alessandra Antonaci at EADTU

Alessandra Antonaci joined the EADTU team on November 1st, 2019 in the role of Programme Manager. Here she deals with several EU projects coordination, all related to the area of lifelong learning.

She holds a PhD in Technology Enhanced Learning, with a focus on Gamification and (massive) open online learning (here a link to her [thesis](#)), and a Master degree in Adult Education and Orientation.

She has two mottos that guide her life and career: “Treat the others how you would like to be treated” and she always keeps in mind that “difficult concepts do not exist, but only difficult ways to express them”.

She aims to enrich the EADTU team with her experience and ideas. You can communicate with her in several languages: Italian (native), English (C1), Spanish (B2) and Dutch (B1). For more info feel free to contact her [here](#).



New EADTU Supervisory Board member

In EADTU’s General Assembly meeting on the 16th of October 2019 at UNED in Madrid, EADTU’s Supervisory Board was up for (re-)election. We are pleased to announce that all former SB-members were re-elected and we welcome one new Supervisory Board member. Jukka Lurkkanen, director at the Open University of Jyväskylä in Finland, to join our team.

Please find a full overview of EADTU Supervisory Board members [here](#).

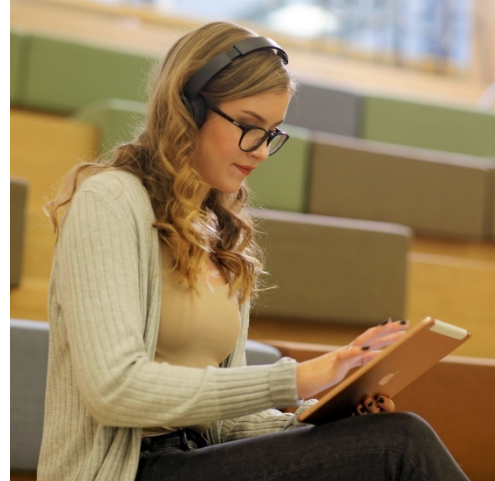
MEMBER NEWS

JYU: Orientation studies for upper secondary schools

The new General Upper Secondary Schools Act requires schools to cooperate with universities in Finland. As one form for such cooperation, the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, is offering online orientation studies through which the upper secondary school students can get a taste of university studies. The implementation of the orientation studies at JYU is coordinated by the Open University.

“Orientation courses give upper secondary school students better insight into what they would really like to study in the future,” says Henna Haapala, University Teacher of the Open University of the University of Jyväskylä.

[Read more](#)



UOC participates in documentary series on higher education and social impact

The Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) has spent nearly twenty-five years working to democratize knowledge and guarantee people's access to high quality higher education. This is what we wanted to explain in the documentary series, *Aiming Higher*, developed by the International Association of Universities (IAU) and produced by BBC StoryWorks. Recorded in some thirty countries on six continents, the series looks at how universities contribute to building sustainable, democratic societies. One of the episodes focuses on the UOC and lets us give details on our learning model and what makes us different.

[Check it out!](#)

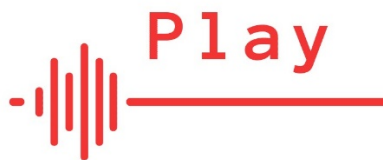
FernUniversität in Hagen joins Scholar at Risk



In October 2019, FernUniversität joined the international network Scholars at Risk, based at New York University (US) and advocating for the protection of academic freedom. The network comprises over 500 member institutions from 39 countries and supports individual scholars under threat, ranging from imprisonment to physical assaults or removal from the workplace. Through its membership, FernUniversität affirms its commitment to the core values of academic freedom – and currently develops a *remote affiliation* scheme to support at risk researchers in maintaining an institutional affiliation to foster their research and remain part of their respective scientific community.

[Link](#) to FernUniversität

[Link](#) to Scholar at Risk



OUC joins a new Erasmus+ research project

[Open University of Cyprus](#)' Educational Technology Lab led by Prof. Thanasis Hadzilacos is part of the consortium to implement a new Erasmus+ project entitled **"PLAY: Play, Learn, fight back Anxiety**". PLAY aims to develop a 3D Virtual World using the potential of a gamification-based approach in which university students will anonymously engage in activities that will help them better prepare for curricular activities, and ultimately help them reduce anxiety while monitoring their mental health. Project consortium: [University of Patras](#) (coordinator), [OUC](#), [Maiêutica Cooperativa de Ensino Superior Crl](#), [Profexcel.Net Limited](#), and I. Panaretou – Char. Kostopoulos.

More [info](#)

OUC digitalizes archives for Europeana

[Open University of Cyprus](#), through the European project "Byzantine Art and Archaeology on Europeana" (BYZART), undertook the scientific documentation of 30 hours of audiovisual material from the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation's Archive, which is now available online through Europeana and CyBC's Digital Herodotus II website <https://www.digital-herodotus.eu/>.

Detailed documentation of the CyBC's archive material on Byzantine Art and Archaeology by OUC research team led by Assoc. Prof. Georgios Deligiannakis, which added metadata, contributes to maximizing its value for educational and research purposes. Moreover, the fact that this archive is now available online adds to promoting Cyprus's cultural heritage internationally.



More [info](#)



DCU Partners with InStride

Dublin City University (DCU) announced its partnership with global online learning services enterprise [InStride](#) during the World Conference on Online Learning. InStride enables employees of multi-national companies to access educational opportunities and earn online degrees from prestigious universities around the world. DCU is InStride's first European partner. This new global partnership reflects DCU's commitment to lifelong learning through [DCU Connected](#) and builds on the success of corporate partnerships such as the Starbucks College Achievement Plan with Arizona State University (ASU), as well as similar partnerships with Adidas and Uber.

[Read more](#)

Great Interest in IODL 2019

Anadolu University held the fourth International Open and Distance Learning Conference on 14-16 November 2019 in Eskişehir, Turkey. The theme of the conference was global open and distance learning opportunities and dynamics. A total of 265 participants from different countries attended the conference, which provided an excellent platform for researchers and practitioners to present and discuss a broad range of topics related to open and distance learning. The keynote speakers of IODL 2019 were Liz Marr from Open University, Rory McGreal from Athabasca University, Taerim Lee from Korea National Open University and Ramesh Sharma from Ambedka University.



Read [more](#)



UNINETTUNO trains Mediterranean film directors

UNINETTUNO with COPEAM_ Permanent Conference of the Audiovisual of the Mediterranean, presented new training approaches to enhance the uprising production of the Mediterranean area, during the International Debate hosted in Rome, at the XXV edition of the MedFilm Festival.

As the final result of the Project "FIEST_ Formation Internationale à l'écriture de Séries TV", UNINETTUNO and the partners of the project made available on the www.openuped.eu the MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) "La Bible d'une série Tv" in French language, aiming at teaching everyone how to write a TV series. Composed by 10 lessons from FIEST registered modules, the course analyzes different case studies for television writing with video lessons by international authors, directors and producers, involving the cinema schools from: Bruxelles (INSAS); Toulouse (ENSAV); Beirut (ALBA); Tunes (ESAC); Marrakech (ESAV) and France Télévisions.

Link to [OpenupEd course](http://www.openuped.eu)

OTHER NEWS

ICDE World Conference

At the start of November, the [National Institute for Digital Learning](http://www.nidl.dcu.ie) (NIDL) at Dublin City University (DCU) successfully hosted the ICDE World Conference on Online Learning. The Irish Minister of State for Higher Education officially opened the conference and over the 5-days of the event the ICDE World Conference attracted over 800 delegates from 80 countries. The [Dublin Declaration](http://www.dublindeclaration.com),

prepared by the two conference Moderators and Chair, provides a useful synthesis of many of the key discussion points. Video highlights for each day are available below with full recordings of the major keynote speakers accessible on the [conference website](#).

Day 1 Highlights <https://youtu.be/UjcxUEzO3sE> <https://youtu.be/Sr2xOkPoGe4>

Day 2 Highlights https://youtu.be/XwoaQj_OTNs <https://youtu.be/qZmbu4vfi5g>

Day 3 Highlights https://youtu.be/0LkaP_I1hlo

Day 4 Highlights <https://youtu.be/2YfeY8PeTIw>

EVENTS 2019

- * Multiplier Event EMBED, 22 January 2020 – Brussels (Belgium)
- * EMBED Training Seminar, 15 – 17 April 2020, Aarhus (Denmark)
- * EADTU–EU Summit, 30 April 2020, Brussels (Belgium)
- * [UNESCO World Conference](#), 2 – 4 June 2020, Berlin (Germany)
- * OOFHEC2020, 28 – 30 October 2020, Bari (Italy)

More information about the events will follow soon

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EADTU Newsletter

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