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December 2020
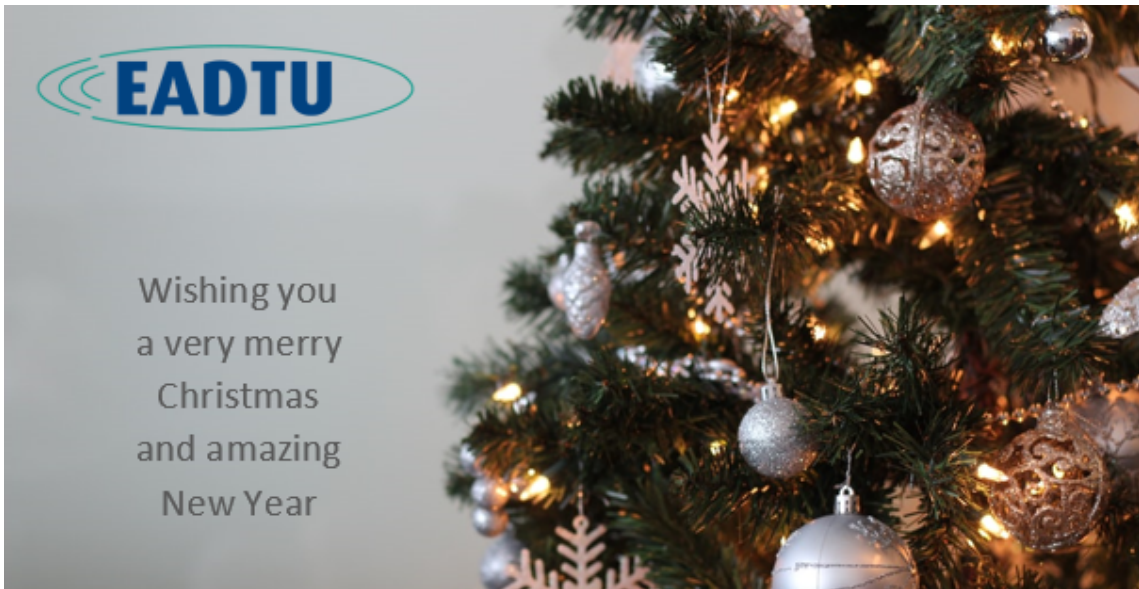
EADTU NEWS

SAVE THE DATE FOR I·HE2021

EADTU is now organising next year's onsite I·HE2021 Conference in Bari (3–5 November 2021). Save the dates and stay informed on the programme and call for abstracts by our dedicated conference website.

EADTU Message to the Ministerial EHEA Conference 2020

EADTU transferred a message to the Ministerial EHEA Conference 2020 in Rome. This message is the result of EADTU's Innovation in Higher Education Conference (I·HE2020 online Bridging Event, 28–30 October 2020). EADTU's Message refers to post COVID responses, the University of the Future, the role of micro-credentials and short learning programmes and the further support of European policies.

Please read the I·HE2020 – Message here.

The official Short Learning Programmes webinar week was a success (13–15 October 2020)

The Short Learning Programmes webinar week took place from 13–15 October 2020. It was a real success with insightful contributions from both presenters and audience. We opened the first day with the concept and characteristics of SLPs and the guidelines for designing SLPs. On the second day we looked at the implementation and recognition of SLPs. On the last day it was all about the lessons learned from designing and implementing collaborative SLPs. Overall, this was a very insightful webinar week.

- Find here the recording of the webinar sessions
- Find here the presentations of all sessions

Ricardo Mairal Usón (UNED) elected as President of EADTU

During the online EADTU 2020 General Assembly meeting, 28 October 2020, Ricardo Mairal Usón, Rector de la Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) was elected for the next term 2020–2022 as President of the Association. We thank Liz Marr (OUUK) for her dedicated work as president of the EADTU for the past two years.
Ricardo Mairal Usón is Full Professor of Linguistics at UNED since 2002. He has been the Vice rector for Research and Knowledge Transfer (2013–2016), Vice rector for Teaching Staff and Academic Planning and First Vice rector (2016–2018), and he is currently the Rector of the UNED.

More information here.

On 26 November 2020, EADTU organised the second seminar for staff and leadership of the European MOOC Platforms FutureLearn, France Université Numérique (FUN), OpenupED, Miríadax and EduOpen within the EMC–LM project. This year's focus of sharing expertise and experience was on:

- MOOC platforms offering pedagogies and services to universities
- Labour market collaboration
- Microcredentials for MOOC based programmes (Common Microcredential Framework)
- How did COVID19 impact the role of MOOC providers?

Read all about the EMC's collaborative actions, the EMC–LM project and the Common Microcredential Framework (CMF) here.

Contribute to shaping the future of micro-credentials!

Join the ECCOE open public consultation

Review our proposed set of quality criteria for credential description as well as a Model of Digital Credential template providing the most important data about the

Model of Digital Credential template providing the most important data about the learning opportunity to be recognised by a given credential. Are they appropriate for a valid and successful credentialisation process and the recognition of learning results at your own institution?

You are also invited to test our Model Credit Recognition Agreement (MCRA) tool and experiment with generating sample agreement templates between HEIs with a view to recognising and validating courses between your institution and other HEIs. This consultation is open until 1 February 2021.

Questions? Write to deborah.arnold@aunege.fr

MEMBER NEWS

"Reporting climate change and sustainable development".
A new e-learning training project on the e-learning platform of Uninettuno.

Universitá Telematica Internazionale Uninettuno and COPEAM joined forces to organize a multilingual (English and Arabic) e-learning training program titled "Reporting climate change and sustainable development". The online training will target a group of TV and Radio journalists coming from the Mediterranean Region, selected through a specific call for participation to provide specific skills to better communicate on the issue of Climate change to their regional audience. The training consists of 15 videolessons and several case studies from international experts in the field who will adopt the UNINETTUNO e-learning model for teaching and learning by distance and will be available online on the multilingual e-learning platform of Uninettuno.

Click here for more information.

nQuire and the OU win Guardian University award

nQuire, the online citizen science platform developed by members of IET at the OU, received the prestigious Guardian University Research Impact award 2020 from a panel of experts who commented on the platform's capability to involve members of the public throughout all stages of scientific enquiry.
Project Lead, Dr Christothea Herodotou, Senior Lecturer at IET shared: "nQuire has scaled up learning from participation in citizen science projects to thousands of citizens. Its impact has been greatly boosted by a significant collaboration with the BBC. We are delighted to have been named the winner at this year's awards".

Read the OU News article here.

GO-GN wins Open Education award for Excellence by OE Global

GO-GN (Global OER Graduate Network) has been awarded the Open Education award for Excellence for its Research Methods Handbook, produced by members of the network, providing an accessible overview of a range of research paradigms. Members of the GO-GN open education scholarship community produced the Handbook, with academics from The Open University, to support researchers working in open education (up to a doctoral level). The handbook provides an accessible overview of a range of research paradigms, as well as practical guidance on research ethics, risk management, time management and personal development.

Read the OE Global article here.

Digital Assessment Transversal STEM Skills

Assessment of Transversal Skills in STEM or ATS STEM for short is a large-scale Erasmus+ project being conducted across nine European countries led by researchers at Dublin City University. It aims to equip students with key skills and competences that solve real-world STEM problems. The interventions are focused around digital assessment of key transversal skills. Learners are engaging currently online and in classrooms using conceptual tools derived from a series of research informed reports published by the project and available on our website.

Please contact Eamon Costello (eamon.costello@dcu.ie) if you want to learn more about this major 3-year project.

2021 Learning and Teaching Thematic Peer Groups

The Digi-HE project led by the European Universities Association (EUA) has opened a call for participation in a number of thematic peer groups with a digitally-enhanced learning and teaching focus.
Three thematic peer groups will be supported in 2021 based on the level of interest several themes. The peer groups provide a valuable opportunity for European higher education institutions to share and exchange information with colleagues about their strategic approaches to digital education. Under this call, around 20 institutions will be selected.

The deadline for applications is 29th January 2021, click here for more information.

Distance Education in the Lusophone Space

The Association for Distance Education in the Portuguese-speaking Countries (EADPLP) organized its II International Meeting from the 9th to the 11th November.

The main subjects of the Association were addressed: online teaching training; pedagogical innovation; and quality and regulation in distance education. The event was organized in synchronous moments, through live conferences, and asynchronous, that is, recorded conferences and discussion forums, moderated by the chair-person of each panel. About 600 participants from different parts of the globe were able to interact and share their ideas in the discussion forums over these days.

Read more here.

Virtual Mobility at Universidade Aberta – Portugal

Distance Learning has driving educational change and substantially expanding the number of students in higher education, allowing global access to education. Expanding the notion of mobility as a structuring and founding idea of higher education, virtual mobility adds new possibilities to the exchange of students, teachers and employees, allowing greater flexibility in the ability to overcome territorial boundaries and in the transformation of personal, social and cognitive experiences that would otherwise be impossible to accomplish.

Read more here.

The next digital level in equal opportunity policy: "Global Campus"

One of the worldwide pioneers in ODL, Anadolu University currently offers higher education programs to more than one million students.
With a total of 50 examination centers in 29 different countries, the University has fruitfully carried out its "equal opportunity policy" around the world. It has now launched a new era with Global Campus website in order to provide better services to learners. Having an innovative and user-friendly interface, Global Campus facilitates lifelong learning by offering easy access to academic programs, country-specific support, information, and much more.

Please visit Global Campus and get more information about us.

Science attracted people to the Researchers' night

Researchers' Night at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, was organised this year as an online event due to the coronavirus epidemic. More than a thousand spectators, both children and adults, attended the science event. Some parts of the programme is still available for a couple of weeks, free of charge.

Read more here.

Hellenic Open University (HOU): Mainstream University in Higher Education in Greece

Hellenic Open University is the only state-funded university in Greece that exclusively offers long distance learning at undergraduate and postgraduate level. HOU includes four departments (Humanities- Applied Arts- Social Sciences and Technology) and is currently running eight undergraduate programs, 45 post-graduate programs; 9 Joint Degree Programs, one special program and 10 MOOCs. HOU currently has approximately 45.000 active students, while the faculty consists of 2685 professors.
During the last year, HOU had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with national and international organizations and Universities in the context of the university's extroversion, aiming at the promotion of educational and scientific knowledge, the promotion of culture and the offering the possibility of education for vulnerable groups through scholarships.

Hellenic Open University (HOU): Mainstream University in Higher Education in Greece

HOU's mission is to provide distance (DL) education at undergraduate and postgraduate level, to promote scientific research and to develop technology and methodology related to DL scientific area.
During the last year, HOU was academically and technologically upgraded by strengthening academic units (e-CoMeTLab, Internal Evaluation and Training Unit), setting in use new modern platforms, create new structures such as New Courses Team, DL Certification Centre, improve and restructured the existing Courses, leading to the attraction of foreign and post-secondary education students. Furthermore, HOU reduced the number of students per department and develop new, modern courses, in English, such as "Protection of cultural heritage and monuments of nature from the effects of climate change". All these attempts realized in an impressing increase of new students, by almost 40%, this year.
Last but not least, HOU developed the Hellenic Open University Press.

PhD Positions: Information Retrieval/Scientometrics

The Open University of Cyprus (OUC) announced doctoral candidate positions in the research area "Information Retrieval and Scientometrics". Applications are submitted online until January 11, 2021.

More info: admissions@ouc.ac.cy

More info: admissions.ou.nl/

Digital Competencies of Academic Teachers

Digital transformation of universities has never been more crucial. However, to make it work universities need to take up the development of teachers' digital competence seriously and structurally, on a strategic level. In the CUTE project "Competencies for Universities – Using Technology in Education" we design a policy recommendation and methodology, tailored to achieve that goal. It is based on the DigCompEdu – "Digital Competence Framework of Educators" – a powerful medium for advancing teachers' digital literacy. Never heard? Check our website!

Read more here.

EVENTS 2020

* EADTU-EU Summit, April 2021, Brussels (Belgium)
* EMOOCs, 22-25 June 2021 Potsdam (Germany)
* I·HE2021, 3-5 November 2021, Bari (Italy)
* 3 years of Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange, 14 December 2020

More information about the events will follow soon

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EADTU | Parkweg 27 | 6212 XN Maastricht | The Netherlands
Tel. +31 (0)43 311 87 12 | secretariat@eadtu.eu | www.eadtu.eu

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EADTU Newsletter December 2020

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