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October 2017

EADTU NEWS



The Online, Open and Flexible Higher Education Conference 2017 (OOFHEC2017) Higher Education for the Future; Accelerating and Strengthening Innovation'

Hosted by the Open University Milton Keynes, OUUK.

More information ([preliminary programme](#)) at the [EADTU conference website](#).

Join us! **It's still possible to register.**



The European Maturity model for Blended Education (EMBED)

Recently EADTU's project application "The European Maturity model for Blended Education (EMBED) was selected for funding under Erasmus+ KA2 strategic partnerships for the coming three years. The EMBED project is about introducing innovation in higher education by the implementation of state of the art blended learning (B-learning) models in Europe. EMBED will create a maturity model on B-learning, building on research, experiments and proven practices by frontrunner universities in B-learning. The Partnership consists of EADTU (Coordinator), Delft University,

University of Edinburgh, KU–Leuven, DCU–Dublin, Aarhus University and Tamk–Finland.



Survey report on European MOOC Strategies

This report on [MOOC Strategies of European Institutions](#) is a continuation of previous surveys on the MOOC strategies of European HEIs as conducted in [2014](#) and [2015](#). It confirms a mature uptake of MOOCs in Europe with a strong focus on innovation in online pedagogy and flexible learning opportunities. Next, the report discusses some initial trends indicating that more universities are using MOOCs beyond pilot phase and apply MOOCs as part of the social dimension in the European context. Most European HEIs are eager to collaborate on scalable services in MOOC provision, preferably at a regional level.

The survey is published as part of the [MOONLITE project](#) and will be continued for the upcoming years. In addition, collaboration will be strengthened with other similar European studies including those from European MOOC platforms.



New MOOC offerings OpenupEd

OpenupEd partners now offer more than 280 MOOCs of which many are self-paced MOOCs and easily accessible through the OpenupEd [course overview](#).

Interesting newly developed MOOCs by international partnerships are the new MOOC offering on 'Planning for Climate Change in African Cities' by IHS of Erasmus University Rotterdam starting on 23 October, and [two MOOCs](#) by the BizMOOC project: 'Learning with MOOCs for Professional Development' and 'How to generate innovative ideas and how to make them work,' also starting still this month.

Check the OpenupEd website for a full overview and MOOCs starting in [October](#) – [November](#).



Check recently added publications on [our website](#).
Short list:

- [Reimagining Education for the Digital Age](#)
- [EUA's Response to the Renewed EU Agenda for Higher Education](#)
- [Free digital learning opportunities for migrants and refugees](#)

MEMBER NEWS



Please vote and share!

The [RAGE project](#) by the Open University of the Netherlands has been shortlisted for the European Innovation Radar Prize and so would welcome your support! This European Commission initiative identifies and promotes high potential EU-funded innovations and innovators, to help them get their innovation 'out of the lab' and into the markets.

The **deadline for voting is 15 October.**

Please vote and share!



EDELNet open courses

The FernUniversität in Hagen, the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) and the Open University of the Netherlands (OUNL) are three leading European distance learning universities firmly devoted to further the principle of equal opportunity by safeguarding equal access to top quality higher education to everyone, using a methodology based on the principles of modern distance learning focused on the needs of the student.

The [EDELNet Programme](#) is now approaching the end of its first phase (09.2015–08.2018) and many of our outputs are already available on their website as open source to the academic community at large. We herewith present the open source courses that are already available and include legal English (beginner and advanced), intercultural communication and academic integrity and ethics.



Scientists transform industrial learning with cutting-edge AR technology

A trans-European team of researchers which includes a team at the Welten Institute of the Open University of the Netherlands is transforming industrial learning and training with the use of innovative Augmented Reality and Wearable Technology (AR/WT). [Wearable Experience for Knowledge Intensive Training \(WEKIT\)](#) is a 2.7 million EURO research and innovation project funded by Horizon 2020, to develop and test a novel way of training using smart wearable technology within three years. Using AR, WEKIT effectively brings textbooks to life using digital visual and aural

information that overlay on the physical environment, for example in the form of animations. The WEKIT.one soft- and hardware system shows the trainee what to do through the eyes of the expert, allowing the trainee to learn by experience rather than simply reading about it or watching a video tutorial. It also allows an expert to create instructions easily – by capturing performance using WT.



OUC signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access

Open University of Cyprus signed the [Berlin Declaration](#) on Open Access to Knowledge in Sciences and Humanities., initially promoted in 2003 by [Max-Planck Gessellschaft](#), and is considered to be one of the most important milestones in the course of developing Open Access activities and initiatives.

By signing the Declaration, OUC symbolically validates its commitment to supporting/promoting Open Access. This initiative follows a number of activities undertaken by OUC in this field, including, its active contribution to the formulation of the National Open Access Policy, the organization of relevant seminars and the implementation of Digital Open Access Repositories.

[More information](#)



Mixed reactions to e-assessment amongst distance education students

TeSLA is an EU-funded Horizon 2020 project with partners in 18 organisations from 10 different countries. The aim of the project is to develop technology to assure authentication and authorship verification in e-assessment through the use of face- and voice recognition, forensic analysis (writing style), keystroke dynamics (typing rhythm) and plagiarism control. These instruments are being tested in pilots carried out by 7 universities involved in the project. At the Open University of the Netherlands (OUNL), one of the pilot universities, 228 students took part in pilot 2.

The survey results provided interesting insights into student preferences. For instance, although 89% of students see the reduction of travel time as an advantage of e-assessment, 52% of students say they do not want to share video recordings of their face. Other personal data is more readily shared however substantial numbers still do not want to share data like voice recording, simple images of the face or keystroke dynamics.

[Read full report](#)



University of Sanctuary

In December 2016, Dublin City University (DCU) was recognised as Ireland's first University of Sanctuary. Since this time DCU has developed a number of new initiatives to support refugees and asylum seekers, including 10 scholarships for online study. The successful recipients of the DCU University of Sanctuary Scholarships commenced their online study in September and gratefully received a package from several sponsors including a laptop computer from eBay, and a free mobile phone from Vodafone. Many of the educational initiatives DCU currently has underway to support refugees were recently presented at the EU funded Conference on Higher Education and Refugees in the Mediterranean Region in Beirut.

[More information](#)



UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA
INTERNAZIONALE UNINETTUNO

UNINETTUNO FOR THE GOALS OF GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The “[University for Refugees](#)” project from Università Telematica Internazionale UNINETTUNO has been just awarded by IEELA – *International E-learning Association* the 2017 an honorable mention at the *International E-Learning Award 2017 (Academic Division)*.

The International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, with its mission aimed at the democratization of the access to education through the new technologies, is today the only distance teaching university present in the website of [HESD](#) (Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development). Thanks to the many cooperation activities and, in particular, to the “University for Refugees” project, UNINETTUNO joins the list of the universities selected by UNESCO because of their commitment in achieving the 17 “Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)” of the United Nations. The “University for Refugees” is an e-learning web-based portal – available in English, French, Italian and Arabic – aimed at integrating immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers by the access to higher education and the recognition of their study qualifications and professional skills acquired in their countries of origin. The portal makes also available several language (including Arabic) courses and an access to online healthcare services.



OUC participates in new research projects

Open University of Cyprus faculty, research teams, and laboratories engage in six (6) new high-profile collaborative

research projects, which have secured European funding during 2017:

- RISE – Research Center in Interactive Media, Smart System and Emerging Technologies
- BalkanROAD – Towards farms with zero carbon-, waste- and water-footprint Roadmap for sustainable management strategies for Balkan agricultural
- GYPWorld – A global initiative to understand gypsum ecosystem ecology
- Byzart – Byzantine Art and Archaeology Thematic collection for Europeana
- CSRC – Center for STEAM Education, Research, Science Communication and Innovation
- Enlivened Laboratories within STEM Education

[More information](#)

EVENTS 2017

- ICDE2017: 17–19 October 2017, Toronto (Canada)
- EADTU OOFHEC2017: 25–27 October 2017, Milton Keynes (UK)
- Legal Implications of Brexit: 8–9 November 2017, FernUniversität in Hagen (Germany)
- OEB 2017: 6–8 December 2017, Berlin (Germany)
- OBHE–Global Forum “Ready or Not – The Role of Online Learning in Higher Education”: 11–12 December 2017, London (UK)
- International conference FIED: 13–14 December, Paris (France)



Distance learning, a lever for pedagogical transformation: prospectives views on the evolution of practices

On its thirtieth anniversary, the Federation organizes, with the support of the Mission for Pedagogy and Numeric for Higher Education (MiPNES) of DGESIP (MESRI), an international conference on 13 and 14 December 2017 in Paris.

Beyond the anniversary, our objective is to examine the trajectories of the universities in France in order to identify the lines of force that allow clarifying strategies for the future in distance learning.

[More information](#)

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