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April 2021

EADTU NEWS

A banner for the I·HE2021 conference. It features the EADTU logo on the left, the University of Bari Aldo Moro logo and name in the center, and the dates "3 · 4 · 5 November 2021" on the right. Below the main text, it says "Wednesday 3rd - Friday 5th of November 2021" and "University of Bari, Italy". The Erasmus+ logo is in the bottom right corner. The background is a photograph of a large, classical building with a clock tower and palm trees.

I·HE2021 conference in Bari; call for abstracts still open!
EADTU and the University of Foggia are organising this year's onsite I·HE2021 conference in Bari (3–5 November 2021). We are currently inviting abstracts, until the closing date on the 21st of May. Please check our [conference website](#) for more information and subscribe to the dedicated newsletter to receive regular updates.



Presentations of the Empower Webinar Week

From the 6th to the 8th of April, we learned more about the opportunities of digital education during & after COVID-19 by hearing from experts from the field of online, blended and hybrid education. Don't worry if you missed out; all recordings can be found online:

- [Tuesday 6 April 2021](#)
- [Wednesday 7 April 2021](#)
- [Thursday 8 April 2021](#)

Please visit our [Slideshare page](#) to find all presentations.

On 8, 9 and 10 June 2021, we will organise the next Webinar Week on 'Diversity and Inclusion in Education'. More information will follow in the upcoming weeks, so stay tuned!



DigiTeL Pro Strategic Partnership (Professional Development for Digital Teaching and Learning)

Digital Pro is a new project coordinated by EADTU that brings together excellent groups of experts from universities, well-known for research and innovation in digital education and having developed good practices in digital solutions during the Corona crisis. They will valorise their expertise in continuous professional development courses (CPD) in order to reinforce the ability of universities to provide high quality, inclusive digital education, with a focus on:

- synchronous hybrid learning
- blended learning
- Online and distance learning
- Student readiness for digital learning
- Institutional policies and strategies

Please find further info on project and partnership on the [dedicated website](#).

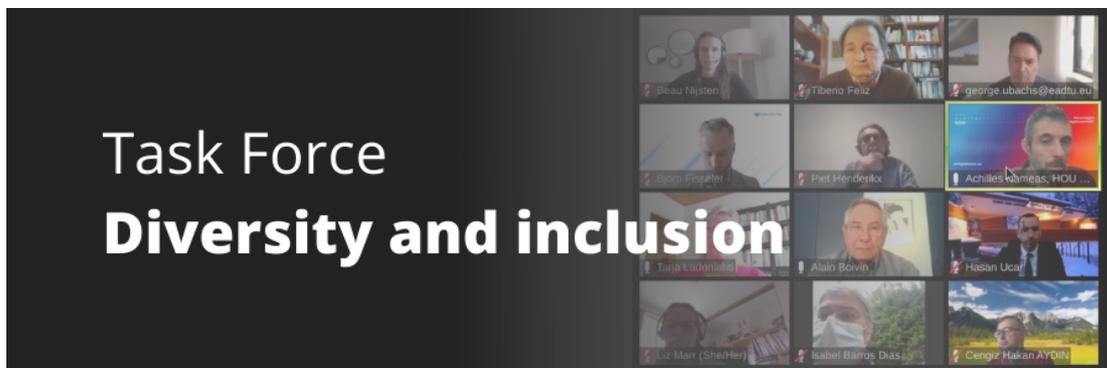


Special Interest Group on Online Assessment

Recently, EADTU launched a Special Interest Group on Online Assessment. This SIG will share expertise on institutional strategies and expertise and experiences on online assessment. We explore how universities currently address the challenges of online assessment and how they implement of various supportive measures.

Part of this is making inventory of several operational examples fit for exchange. The group of experts consists of 17 EADTU member university representatives with a specific field of expertise or interest in the field of online assessment.

A full report of the SIG on Online Assessment is to be expected at the I-HE2021 conference in Bari, 3-5 November 2021.



Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion

EADTU members have a dedicated task in organising education also for disadvantaged groups of students by offering them easy accessible learning paths made fit for a great diversity of students. Open and distance teaching universities are inclusive, innovative and responsive, promoting social justice and equality of opportunity and represent strategic positioning of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The Open and distance teaching universities therefore represent a great variety of policies, approaches, expertise and experiences in this field that we are sharing within this dedicated Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion and by the following subgroups represented in the TF-DI;

- Gender
- Migrants / ethnicity
- Specific learning disabilities (eg dyslexia)
- Functional disabilities
- Prisoners
- Athletes/Artists/Army staff
- social inclusion
- digital accessibility

A full report of the TF–Diversity and Inclusion is to be expected at the I–HE2021 conference in Bari, 3–5 November 2021.

MEMBER NEWS



I4EU Key competences for a European model of Industry 4.0

The “Industry 4.0” paradigm have generated new opportunities and new challenges for companies. In order to increase their competitiveness and efficiency, companies have to face the digital transformation of the production and logistics chains (smart manufacturing) and of products (smart interconnected objects). The impact of the forth industrial revolution is huge in terms of involved stakeholders and in potential economic growth. The forth industrial revolution have also triggered a huge educational challenge, bringing the need to re–train millions of employees to models and technologies unknown even ten years ago.

The I4EU project, in which UNED is partner, has been designed in order share good practices and new business models, raise awareness about new technologies supporting the digital transformations at European level and qualify professionals able to operate inside European companies, enhancing their digital competences and up/re–skill them to Industry 4.0 key competences. The I4EU partnership involves 8 partners coming from 6 different countries (France, Austria, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain).

More about the output of the I4EU project can be found on the [project website](#).



UNED administers more than 300,000 exams in 122 countries

In total, 309,664 online exams have been administered to students through AvEx. AvEx is a new examination tool developed by the UNED IT Department to give a solution to the ensued situation of having to carry out the final exams online as a consequence of the Covid pandemics. This is more than twice as many exams as those carried out in June 2020, when this system was used for the first time. Student attendance has increased by 11%, from 55.6% to 66.7%, as

compared to the same call the previous year. In addition, the number of face-to-face exams within the UNED 100% Project corresponding to this call has been 2,624. These global figures include the Bachelor's, Microcredentials, Master's and University Admission exams.

A survey was conducted in order to find out how students might be affected by the situation (UNED100% Survey), with the idea of adopting the necessary measures to guarantee the right of every single member of the student body to be evaluated.

More can be read (in Spanish) on the [UNED website](#).



Enel and Uninettuno launch 'Re-Generation'

Enel Italia and Università Telematica Internazionale Uninettuno have launched the Re-Generation training project to offer professional refresher training courses and academic training opportunities to the energy company's employees on the issues of technological innovation and digitalization. The initiative is aimed at Enel employees over 50, who will be able to study online on the e-learning platform of the digital University by choosing their own program from a selection of 13 courses collected in three scientific areas of high strategic value: Digital Economy, Law in Digital Society, IT and New Technologies. The courses will also become part of the employee's training curriculum within Enel's dedicated e-Education platform.

More on the launch [can be read here](#).



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HOU climbed in the 4th place among 147 distance learning universities. The past month has proven to be very important for the development and strategy of HOU. For the first time, HOU succeeded, with honors, in the evaluation by the National Authority of Higher Education in Greece. Furthermore, HOU ranks 4th in the international Webometrics ranking, among 147 distance learning universities globally. Those achievements, resulting from the strong dedication and effort of the University's faculty, raise the stakes for the

upcoming months, with the HOU being already in the process of development and internationalization.

Due to the pandemic, HOU carried out distance, online graduations for about 6 thousand students, with great success! The degrees and the necessary complementary documents were delivered to the graduates immediately upon the graduations, within a few days.



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Onlabs: simulating the biology lab of Hellenic Open University
Universities face constantly the challenge of training their students in the use of their laboratories. However, space and time limitations, safety rules (now, more than ever before), and the cost of equipment maintenance and consumables, may all compromise the hands-on training process. At the Hellenic Open University, we have developed Onlabs, an interactive 3D virtual biology laboratory, to be used by students learning at a distance. We are currently working on a multi-user edition, where more than one student will be able to roam in the virtual lab, compete for the use of equipment or co-operate in experiments.

[Visit the Onlabs website.](#)



OUC joins a project for inclusive school education

The Open University of Cyprus (OUC) is a member of the consortium implementing the research project “I_AM: Inclusive education using Animation and Multimedia”. I_AM, funded by the Erasmus+ programme, aims to achieve the long-term goal of an effective and inclusive education for children with special educational needs and disabilities in mainstream schools. The OUC’s research team is led by its Rector, Prof. Petros Pashiardis. The consortium is led by CMT Prooptiki, and partners are: Maria Grzegorzewskiej University, Institute of General and Special Education Studies and Research, NGO Platforma – Urban Culture Company, Hand in Hand Foundation.

[More information can be found here.](#)



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OUC academic year 2021–2022: Call for applications

The Open University of Cyprus (OUC) announces the applications period for enrolment in four (4) Undergraduate and twenty-one (21) Postgraduate Programmes of Study for prospective students interested to start their studies in the 2021–2022 academic year.

The following three (3) postgraduate programmes are offered in English:

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Cognitive Systems (joint degree with the University of Cyprus)
- Enterprise Risk Management (joint degree with the Hellenic Open University)

The deadline for submitting an online application is May 25, 2021.

[More information can be found here.](#)



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JYUOpen: 'Right guidance helps to succeed in studies'

Suitable guidance and sufficient study skills are key factors for succeeding in studies.

“University studies require academic study skills, which you can learn. Once learned, you can utilise the skills throughout the studies”, says teacher Tuisku Takala, who is part of the JYUOpen's pedagogical development team. She has developed an interactive study skill workshop to support open university students in their studies.

Due to demand and good feedback, the number of workshops has been increased in JYUOpen.

[Read more here.](#)



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Anadolu University launches weekly online seminars

[Anadolu University](#) has begun to organize weekly online seminars as of the spring semester of 2020–2021 Academic Year. As such, every week an expert guest explains a topic in his/her field online in related faculties. These recorded seminars, which are open to the participation of students and staff, are delivered via ZOOM or MERGEN, which is the learning management system of Anadolu University. Seminars in Open Education System include a wide range of topics such as open and distance education activities, interactive teaching model design, digital culture, video lessons in distance education, and artificial intelligence.



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UniDistance: Designing a Pedagogical Scenario

When planning a new course, moving to a blended teaching format or switching fully online, we need to ensure a coherent integration of all the different aspects of a course. The [UniDistance](#) Pedagogical Scenario Model offers a visual representation of the whole course. Teachers can easily check the coherence between the learning objectives, activities, and assessment, the availability of resources and the flow between synchronous and asynchronous activities. The pedagogical scenario is also useful for the students, giving them a clear overview of the course. Do try the tool out for yourself. It is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [German](#).

vademecum for the remote assessment of students

Elements for determining remote evaluation modalities



Évelyne Brunschweiler, Van de Poel Jean-François
Caroline Hennevis, Julien Jean-Benoît
Vademecum for Remote Assessment
April 2020
Translated from French by Caroline Hennevis and Van de Poel Jean-François
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FernUni.ch
UniDistance.ch



A Vademecum for Online Assessment

[UniDistance Switzerland](#) and [UNIL](#) developed a guide to help teachers move their exams online. The Vademecum starts with the fundamental questions teachers need to ask themselves. The four main types of assessment are then described: advantages, disadvantages, and specific recommendations. Moreover, each

modality is described graphically, showing the experience from the student's point of view.

Finally, the Vademecum offers a full checklist of what teachers need to do to prepare the exam, during the exam and then after, for each type of test. The Vademecum is available here in [English](#), [French](#), and [German](#).

In Memoriam Börje Holmberg

Born in Sweden, Börje Holmberg died on April 10, 2021 (aged 97). He was professor and director of the Institute for Distance Education Research at Fernuniversität in Hagen (1975–1989) and Chairman of ICDE (1972–1975). He was also an Honorary Doctor of the Open University of the United Kingdom. He has over 200 publications to his credit in the field of distance learning and on the role of distance learning and educational technology in the innovation of higher education. Much of his work has been about the guided didactic conversation between students and teachers in distance learning. As a welcome guest and expert, he contributed to distance learning conferences and meetings with ICDE, EDEN and EADTU. His theoretical work was based on practices and developments in the field, starting with correspondence education in the 1960s and developing further through the establishment of the Open University UK and the other open and distance universities in Europe. He will be remembered as a great distance learning expert and an endearing friend.

EVENTS 2021

- * [Webinar Week on Diversity and Inclusion in Online Education](#), Online, 8–10 June 2021
- * [EMOOCs 2021 x Learning@Scale 2021](#), Online, 22–25 June 2021
- * [I·HE2021](#), Bari, 3–5 November 2021



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3

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