Newsletter

16 December 2024

IncluDE starting soon

We're excited to announce that the IncluDE project will Kick-off in January 2025. The project, funded by the EU, will be coordinated by EADTU.

IncluDE is a collaborative European project dedicated to creating a fairer, more inclusive higher education system for everyone. The project focuses on developing an Inclusion Reference Framework that higher education institutions can use to assess their practices, identify gaps, and plan for improvements to support educators, administrators, and students in building inclusive learning environments.

The consortium is composed of: FernUniversität in Hagen, JYU Open, Hellenic Open University, Anadolu University, The Open University, Universidade Aberta, European Students' Union, Tampere University for Applied Sciences, JKU, Artevelde Hogeschool, University of Ljubljana, Support Centre for Inclusive Higher Education, Aarhus University.

More information will soon by shared via eadtu.eu

I-HE2024 Proceedings

We're excited to announce that the Proceedings of the Innovating Higher Education Conference 2024 are now published!

The publication features 26 full papers showcasing innovations in hybrid, blended, and online education. These contributions pave the way for more inclusive and personalized learning experiences, shaping the future of higher education.

View publication

Save the date | I-HE2025 in Hagen, Germany

We are delighted that the Innovating Higher Education Conference 2025 will be hosted by FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany, from 8–10 October 2025.

Please save the dates in your calendars—we look forward to welcoming you and your colleagues!

I-HE2025 | Hagen, Germany
08 - 10 October 2025

ADMIT partner meeting in Maastricht

On December 11-12, 2024, the ADMIT consortium met in Maastricht, Netherlands, to discuss progress on their work integrating generative AI and large language models (LLMs) into higher education.

The first day featured updates on key project areas, including mapping the impact of LLMs, developing ethical guidelines, and designing professional development programs for educators. Each work package presented its findings, sparking constructive dialogue on challenges and next steps. Day two was dedicated to peer learning activities, focusing on course design and sharing practical approaches for incorporating AI into teaching and learning.

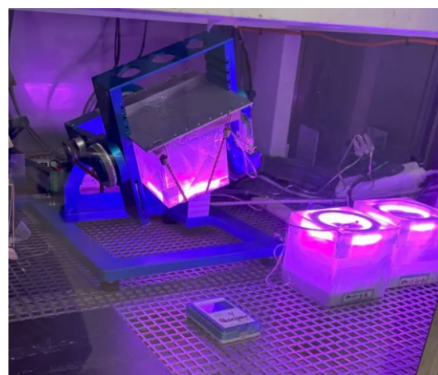Go to admit.eadtu.eu to stay updated about project!

MEMBER NEWS

UNED student leads research on farming on the Moon

Josu Egea Carro, a recent UNED graduate in physics, is working from the Earth on the future of the Moon. He leads a pioneering research project, Selenar Fungi, that is funded by the European Space Agency. The purpose of this research is to test whether mycorrhizal fungi can help to improve the growth of crops on the barren lunar soil. Farming the Moon with the aid of these fungi would thus offer a sustainable source of food for future space missions, reducing dependence on Earth's resources. Josu Egea leads a team of researchers from France, Iceland and the United Kingdom.

Read more

Universidade Aberta celebrates its 36th anniversary

On December 2nd, Universidade Aberta held a special ceremony to celebrate its 36th anniversary and unveil a significant milestone aimed at enhancing student academic performance - a new scholarship scheme for the highest-graded students.

The event took place at the Pavilhão do Conhecimento in Lisbon, bringing together approximately 150 attendees, including students, academic and administrative staff, and distinguished guests from the Ministry of Education and civil society.

Conversational robots to support learning

Université TÉLUQ exploited the latest advances in generative AI to add value to its courses, which are both distance and asynchronous. It has made available to students in four of its courses a prototype chatbot capable of answering questions about course content at any time. The results of this experiment highlighted the prototype's usefulness in preparing for assessments, enhancing the learning experience and improving students' sense of competence. The project team, appointed to the Cercle d'excellence de l'Université du Québec for this initiative, has written a chapter on the experiment. It will be included in a collective work directed by UniDistance.

Kwe l'Université! portal co-launched by TÉLUQ

Kwe l'Université! facilitates access to higher education for Indigenous Peoples considering or pursuing university studies. In collaboration with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners, it offers culturally relevant preparatory training and support. The program includes distance learning preparatory courses that don't require internet access, enabling participants to study from home or within their communities. *Kwe l'Université!* also acts as a virtual laboratory where students in fields like educational technology and computer science contribute to curriculum and tool development. This initiative, led by Professor Isabelle Savard for TÉLUQ University, fosters dialogue between communities and creates culturally safe spaces for learning, growth, and exchange.

https://portailkweuniversite.ca

Distance Learning: Discover the new FIED website!

FIED has launched a redesigned website to meet the growing needs of professionals in distance higher education. With a new accessible design, at www.fied.fr.

It provides extensive resources on pedagogy, organisation, and innovation, tailored for educators, instructional designers, and institutions. Professionals can also participate in work groups, events, and online educational projects.

Additionally, the site features a comprehensive search engine for French online and blended programmes, accommodating students with specific needs, such as athletes or incarcerated students. FIED reaffirms its commitment to fostering inclusive and innovative education and invites professionals to explore its offerings.

Applications are now open for 3 Undergraduate and 37 Postgraduate programmes at the Hellenic Open University

Applications for the spring semester of the 2024-2025 academic year can be submitted from November 28, 2024 to January 27, 2025. The semester will begin in March 2025. The invitation for enrollment includes 3 Undergraduate programs and 27 Postgraduate programs, among which the following are offered in English: -MSc in Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship - Supply Chain Management -Precision Medicine and Novel Therapies - Interaction Generative Design -The Teaching of English as a Foreign/International Language -Language Education for Refugees and Migrants Also, the programmes "The Teaching of French/German as a Foreign Language" are offered in French and German respectively.

Empowering Europe's Workforce with Skills for the Future

The DAISSy Research Group of the Hellenic Open University advances workforce development through two key EU projects, ESSA and EDIFY-EDU, that tackle critical skills gaps in software sector and inclusive management, respectively.

ESSA, equips software professionals, learning providers and organizations with tools to meet Europe's growing demand for software skills. Meanwhile, EDIFY-EDU bridges the management education skills gap by connecting Higher Education and the labor market. It offers a free online course on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) competencies, simply accessible via this registration form.

Both projects highlight DAISSy-HOU's commitment to developing tools based on business and societal transformations needs.

Contact details:

- DAISSy-HOU: http://daissy.eap.gr/en
- ESSA: https://softwareskills.eu/
- EDIFY-EDU: http://www.edifyedu-project.eu

New app makes it easy to gamify and personalize educational experiences

Daniel Benitez, a computer engineering graduate from UOC, has developed an app that combines augmented reality, geolocation, and QR codes to create interactive educational experiences. Primarily designed for outdoor settings, it allows users to design personalized content. Aimed at cultural and educational institutions, ARCamp offers a gamified approach to learning, making museum visits and classroom lessons more engaging. Its versatility and adaptability make it suitable for various educational levels, providing interactive experiences that engage users with customized characters and stories.

Read more

Edtech journal ETHE celebrates 20 years as a global leader in open access

The International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education, led by editor-in-chief Josep Maria Duart, celebrated its 20th anniversary in October 2024. Founded in 2004 by the UOC, ETHE became a leading open-access journal in educational technology, focusing on e-learning and higher education transformation. Its impact grew significantly after its inclusion in Scopus and Journal Citation Reports. The journal has adapted to technological changes, including the rise of artificial intelligence, and continues to address challenges in ethics and academic integrity. ETHE has published over 800 articles from 1,800 authors across 39 countries, with strong partnerships worldwide, including in China and Colombia.

Read more

Three OUC academics amongst top cited scientists

Three faculty members of the **Open University of Cyprus** (OUC) ranked amongst top researchers worldwide according to the latest edition of "**Updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators**" study:

·   **Professor Michalinos Zembylas**, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management and Director of the OUC MA Programme "Educational Sciences".

- **Associate Professor Antonis Zorpas,** Director of the OUC MSc Programme "Sustainable Environmental Engineering", head of the OUC Lab of Chemical Engineering and Engineering Sustainability.
- **Associate Professor Jahna Otterbacher,** Dean of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, head of the Cyprus Centre for Algorithmic Transparency of the OUC.

Read more

Meaningful learning with the support of technology

At JYU Open University, we have 40 years of experience meeting new technologies with curiosity and interest. New solutions enable learning in diverse situations, for diverse needs. Personalisation is what makes learning meaningful.

In this blog, Directors Jukka Lerkkanen and Merja Karjalainen discuss the potential of technology to support learning going forward.

CfP: ICS Exchange 2025 - University of Foggia

University of Foggia promotes ICS exchange 2025, an international conference in June on inclusion, communication, and social engagement. A three-day event bringing together professors, researchers, professionals, and educational developers to discuss multidisciplinary approaches. Following 2024's success with 54 scholars, 38 scientific papers, and 200 participants, the 2025 edition will explore innovative and inclusive learning paths. Main topics: social media applications in psychology and education, intersection of emotions and learning, new teaching and assessment strategies. Free participation, contributions due by March 29, 2025. Info: https://ics-exchange.com/

ICS EXCHANGE

EVENTS

Retention and Student Services in Online and Distance Education
EADTU
Online
16 - 17 October 2024

Innovating Higher Education Conference 2025
EADTU
Hagen, Germany
08 - 10 October 2025

30th ICDE World Conference 2025
ICDE
Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington
10 to 13 November 2025

Call for contributions now open