



EUROPE'S LEADING INSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
ONLINE, OPEN & DISTANCE HIGHER EDUCATION

2022 IN 22 PAGES

EADTU // ANNUAL REPORT

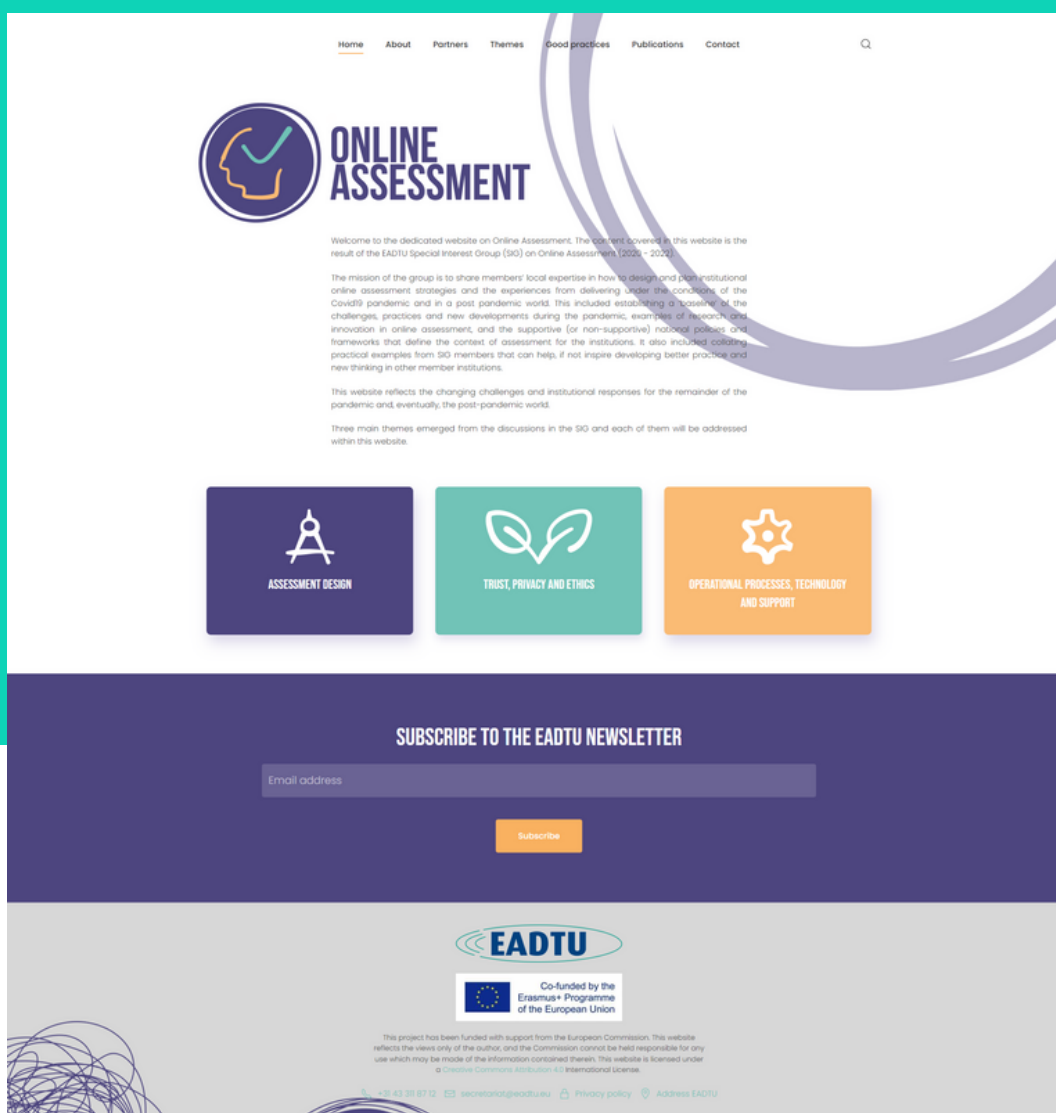


ONLINE ASSESSMENT

In EADTU's Special Interest Group (SIG) on Online Assessment, EADTU members share local expertise on how to design and plan institutional online assessment strategies and the experiences from delivering under the conditions of the Covid19 pandemic. In 2022, we published a full SIG report and website.

The **report** includes a 'baseline' of the challenges, practices and new developments during the pandemic, examples of research and innovation in online assessment, and the supportive (or non-supportive) national policies and frameworks that define the context of assessment for the institutions. It also includes practical examples ('Good practices') from SIG members.

The **website** will grow dynamically, reflecting the changing challenges and institutional responses for the remainder of the pandemic and, eventually, the post-pandemic world. It is envisaged that the SIG will become a permanent element in the portfolio of EADTU and contribute to further community building around assessment strategy, policy and practice, with potential further joint publications down the line.



WEBINAR WEEKS

EMPOWER supports collaboration and sharing of expertise between European universities and provides specialist advice and guidance for institutional leaders on the latest developments in online, open and flexible education. Last year, EMPOWER experts supported three webinar weeks on a diversity of topics.

DESIGNING ONLINE ASSESSMENT



In this Empower webinar week, we shared expertise on designing online assessment. We focused on the challenges, practices and new developments during the pandemic, examples of research and innovation in online assessment, and the supportive (or non-supportive) national policies and frameworks that define the context of assessment for institutions.

EADTU put the European approach to micro-credentials in context. It looked at various national responses to the Council Recommendation, how universities and QA agencies plan to deal with micro-credentials and what the perspectives and preferences are of learners and employers.

MICROCREDENTIALS IN CONTEXT



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN 2030



Recently, several new approaches have been developed to ensure rigorous academic assessment. Still, Higher Education Institutes are reporting a steady rise in cases of academic misconduct, in the form plagiarism, impersonation and the use of so-called 'essay mills'. In this webinar week, EADTU extrapolated current trends by asking what academic integrity will look like in 2030.

MCE

In 2022 the MCE project - coordinated by EADTU - was kicked off. MCE-stands for Modular Continuing Higher Education by Micro-credentials. MCE aims to further conceptualize micro-credentials, adding the learners' perspective on modularization and micro-credentialing as a core dimension, so far underexposed.

OUTCOMES 2022

This report presents a systematic literature review investigating the learner's perspective towards micro-credentials format, taking into consideration the research carried out in the last five years. After applying the PRISMA methodology, a total of 48 papers were included. Check out the document to find the results.

From November 28th to November 30th, MCE partners presented some of the results from the project in an Empower Webinar week on the European approach to micro-credentials. There were presentations from **Mareike Weiß** (FernUniversität in Hagen) **Diogo Casa Nova** (Universidade Aberta) and **Carles Bruguera Trabal** (UOC).



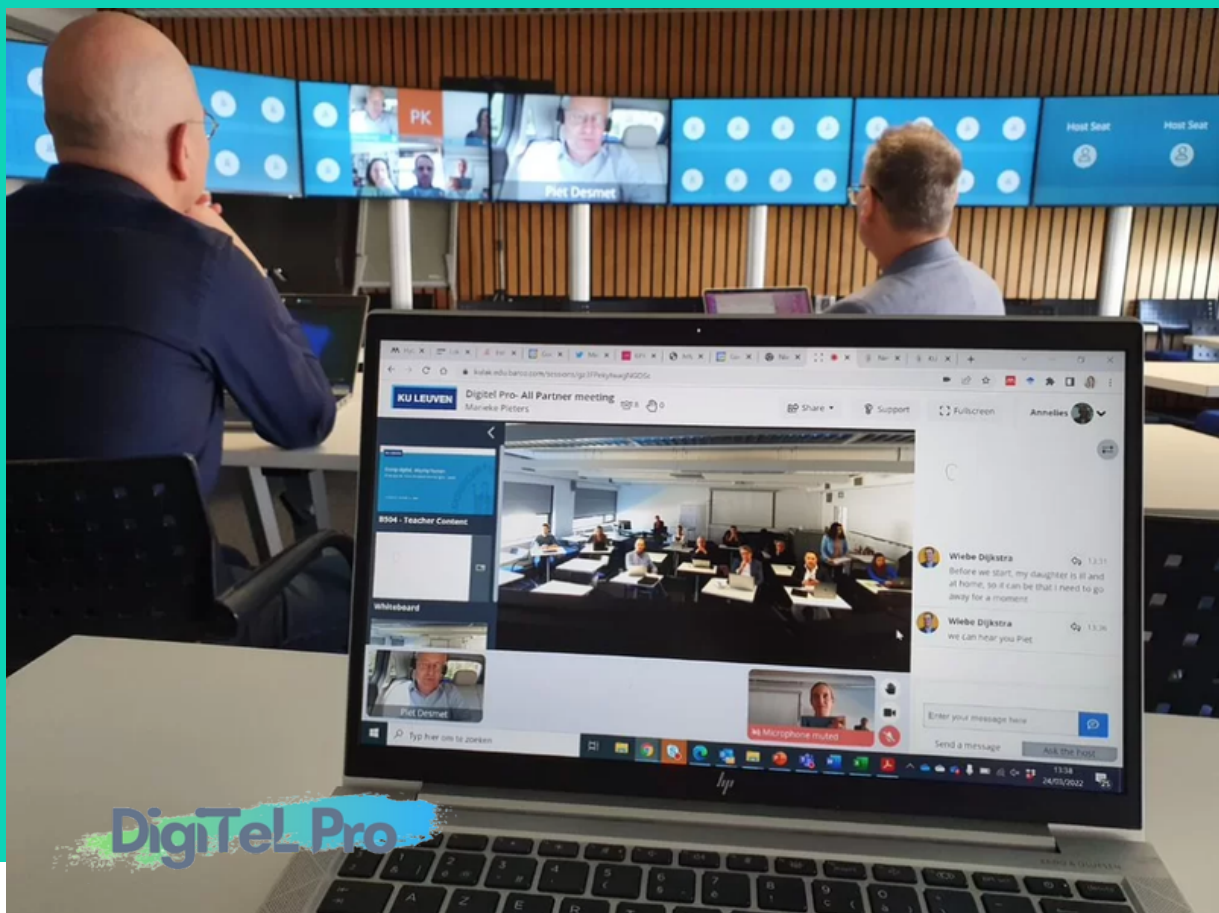
DIGITEL PRO

The DigiTeL Pro Strategic Partnership (Professional Development for Digital Teaching and Learning) brings together groups of experts from universities, well-known for research and innovation in digital education.

The project offers focused **courses** on: Synchronous hybrid learning (KU Leuven), blended learning (TU Delft), and online and distance learning (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), Open Universiteit (OUNL), UNINETTUNO).

In the DigiTeL Pro **Multiplier Event** at TU Delft, we provided participants with state-of-the-art expertise of the three formats of education: Synchronous Hybrid, Blended and Online education.

We organised also two **Peer Learning Events** in 2022. The aim of these events was exchanging experiences in blended education among DigiTeL Pro project partners.



INTRODUCING THE HUB

The European Digital Education Hub (EDEH) is an initiative of the European Commission, funded by the Erasmus+ programme (2021-2027) and operated by a consortium of eleven organisations, under a service contract with the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

For a nice overview of the targets of the EDEH, please check out the introductory **presentation** by Alexander Knoth (Head of Section Digitalisation, German Academic Exchange Service) during the I-HE2022 conference in Athens.

EADTU is actively contributing to the Hub by organising targeted mentorships, clinics and Peer Learning Trajectories. To get access to these events, you can **sign up** to the digital environment of the European Digital Education Hub.



MLEARN 2022

The 21st World Conference on Mobile, Blended and Seamless Learning (mLearn 2022) was hosted by the Open Universiteit and EADTU, in Heerlen, as an online and face-to-face conference, from October 10-12, 2022.



Open Universiteit



In the conference we explored and discussed how personal mobile devices and their affordances currently do and potentially could affect personal (formal, non-formal and informal) learning processes in and across contexts and what these alternate perspectives mean for the learning design field.

The conference theme touched upon several priority action lines that EADTU represents. It combined paper submissions, panels and demos.

More on the MLearn series can be found [here](#).



MICRO CREDENTIALS

EADTU member institutions are actively involved in European and national discussions about microcredentials.

On top of the MCE project, EADTU has contributed to numerous relevant reports & events. EADTU developments are appreciated as exemplar approaches to microcredentials.

The **MICROBOL** project partners and experts published the Microbol Framework, the results of two years of work. The framework, published on **microcredentials.eu**, was presented during the final conference of the MICROBOL project on 8 March 2022.

EADTU contributed to the framework and the closing event.



EADTU continued work in the STACQ project, coordinated by NUFFIC. It supports institutions in their evaluation of micro-credentials. The project aims to make it more accessible for them to include online and non-formal learning in their recognition and admission practices. In 2022, STACQ published a key **report** on stacking modules and the future of microcredentials.

The **European MOOC Consortium**, coordinated by EADTU, is strengthening the credibility of massive open online courses (MOOCs) as a learning approach in higher education by taking a leading role in developing the discourse relating to MOOCs and other innovative developments in online learning in Europe. In 2022, **AI Campus** joined the consortium.



I-HE2022 ATHENS

From 19 - 21 October 2022, the Innovating Higher Education Conference was organised in close co-operation with Hellenic Open University. Almost 300 experts from the world of online, blended and distance learning shared their expertise. The conference combined keynotes, paper presentations, panel sessions, workshops and a dedicated research track coordinated by the COER network.

The **Proceedings** of the Innovating Higher Education conference 2022 are now available. The publication, including the **Message of Athens**, is a reflection of a successful conference.

Recordings of the plenary sessions during the conference are available here:

[Day 1](#)

[Day 2](#)

[Day 3](#)



ENCORE & MORE

EADTU is involved in various international projects as full or associate partner. Have a look at the projects below to see our work.

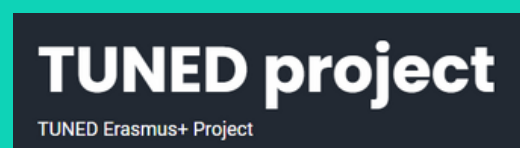
With the **ENCORE** project, the partners (including EADTU) are developing courses to teach skills that will help students face the macro-trends of digitalization, climate change, and post-COVID economic recovery challenges.

Have a look at the ENCORE [website](#) for results from 2022.



NEFELE fosters synergies between research and innovation in the field of education. The project aims to impact HE practices by improving innovative teacher methodologies for middle school teachers in supporting adolescents career construction' based on Massive Open Online Courses, Tangible User Interfaces, and Open Educational Resources.

The goal of the **TUNED** project is to promote new teaching skills based on collaborative learning. To do this, it will involve teacher trainers from different higher education institutions and experts in innovative teaching methodologies in hybrid environments.



BLUE ARROW aims to improve teachers' preparedness to support digital learning, in a broad sense. Rodari's "Blue Arrow" is a novel strongly addressed to the tangible aspect of the toys and their "souls". The project aims to take inspiration from this idea, reapplying this in the digital era by providing innovative practices for teacher education programs in HEIs.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

EADTU's Task Force Diversity and Inclusion published its final results in a report and website in 2022. Diversity and Inclusion generates great attention for EADTU members as they have a dedicated task in organising education for disadvantaged groups of students by offering them easily accessible learning paths made fit for a great diversity of students.

The **report** is the end result of work done in 8 subgroups: Social Inclusion; Digital Accessibility; Functional Disabilities; Specific Learning Disorders; Migrants and/or ethnicity; Gender; Prisoners; Army and athletes. It shows a great variety of higher education institutional policies, approaches, expertise and experiences in the field of Diversity and Inclusion.

Expertise shared and explored within the **website** concerns: institutional strategies for DI, including examples from practice; new developments in the field of DI; research and innovation within and outside the EADTU membership on DI; (supportive) national policy agendas (eg. funding for facilities and actions).



CLOSING OPENU

The Erasmus+ KA3 project "Online Pedagogical Resources for European Universities" (**OpenU**) addresses the EU Commission priority to foster excellence, innovation and inclusion in higher education by creating a European digital hub called BLOOM, that provides the digital infrastructure for higher education policy experimentation.


CLOSING EVENTS

The OpenU project came to a successful closing in 2022, with three closing events: (1) the international Conference 'Experimenting with Online Pedagogical Resources in European Universities'; (2) the Online Workshop 'How to design for the digital classroom - from practices to pedagogical guidelines' and (3) a closing event 'Setting priorities within digital education policy: Recommendations from institutional practice' (video below).

GUIDELINES

The BLOOM hub presents a series of models and guidelines by EADTU for key educational digital formats for higher education courses and programmes, international collaboration and mobility.

The guidelines can be found on the **Bloom Hub**.



Digitalisation in the European context

Education and Training 2020
"Strategic guidelines for European cooperation on the level of higher education" (2014)

Digital Education Action Plan (2020)

New Agenda for European higher education (2017)

European University Initiative

OPEN U

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

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Policy aims in the OpenU project
A brief introduction to policy experimentation in the European Higher Education
by Kathleen Clancy & Dagmar Willems, German Academic Exchange Service

2022 SUMMIT

EADTU's annual **EADTU-EU Summit** is a returning opportunity to discuss latest developments and new policy lines in higher education.

The Summit is a unique moment in bringing together European umbrella organisations and stakeholders in Higher Education (HE) as well as the national representatives of national governments.

On the 11 May 2022, **the 10th EADTU-EU Summit** took place in Brussel.

We look back at a successful event with many interesting presentations. A full recording of the on-site event is available below.

We addressed, amongst others, Higher Education in Emergency by Svitlana Shytikova (National Erasmus+ Office - Ukraine); the DigiTel Pro training programme digital education by Iwan Wopereis (Open Universiteit NL); Diversity and inclusion by John Butcher (Open University UK); Online Assessment by Klaus-Dieter Rossade (Open University UK) and the State of affairs Microcredentials by George Ubachs and Alessandra Antonaci (EADTU)

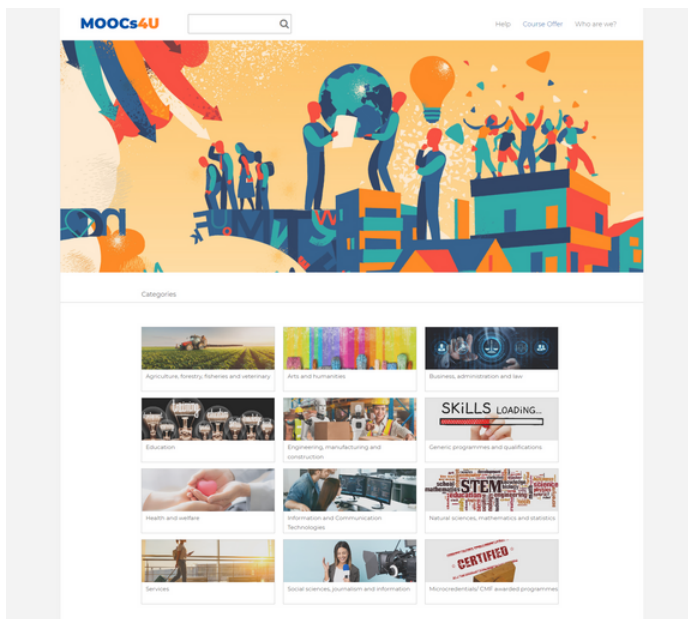


MOOCS

OPENUPED

EADTU's **OpenupEd** is a community of European universities that offer MOOCs to 'open up' education to the benefit of individual learners and wider society. OpenupEd is a member of **EMC**, coordinated by EADTU.

In 2022, the new OpenupEd website was launched.



MOOCS4U

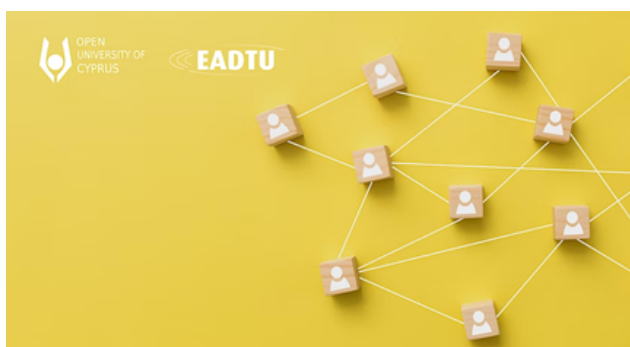
The **MOOCs4you** portal collects the offering most relevant for our stakeholders coming from the following MOOCs platforms: FutureLearn, MiriadaX, EduOpen, FUN, iMooX, and NAU.

The portal has been designed in the framework of the Erasmus+ funded project 'European MOOC Consortium Labour Market' coordinated by EADTU. It pursued the overall European Union commitment to boost employment opportunities and labour market relevance across all member states.



SHARING EXPERTISE

As part of the I-HE2022 conference, EADTU organized a Peer Learning Activity (PLA) on **Recognition of Prior Learning** (RPL). In this PLA, EADTU explored current recognition of prior learning concepts and practices at European open and distance universities and examine the potential for its further contribution to lifelong learning. The session was chaired by Liz Marr (former Vice-President of EADTU)



Together with the Open University of Cyprus, EADTU organised an online event on **staff support services** in Open and Distance Teaching Universities.

It was an opportunity for support staff to meet, share expertise, and learn from their peers about different ways to organise support structures for online distance education.

'Sharing expertise' is the motto of EADTU's **Empower** group. It supports collaboration and sharing of expertise between European universities and provides specialist advice and guidance for institutional leaders on the latest developments in online, open and flexible education. In 2022, we had various online meetings with Empower experts as well as an on-site gathering during I-HE2022 in Athens.



ENVISIONING REPORT 2022

In 2022, EADTU published the sixth edition of the **Envisioning report** for Empowering Universities, by the expert pools of the Empower programme.

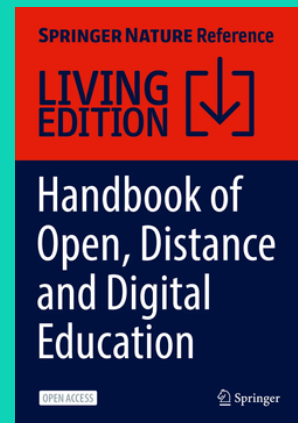
It covers the latest trends and developments in new modes of teaching.



QUALITY TIME

Quality assurance approaches in higher education are well-established, but it is important to develop quality assurance and enhancement methods which apply to new modes of teaching and learning. EADTU is supporting high quality, engaging education by various publications, events, projects and methods.

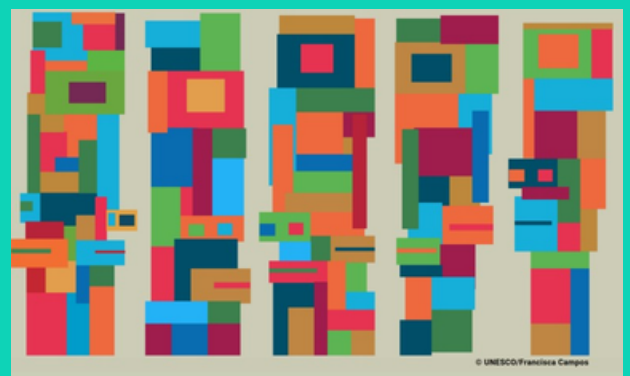
This article by EADTU, published in the Springer Handbook of Open, Distance and Digital Education (2022), illustrates how quality assurance models and practices in Europe have evolved towards a multilevel and multi-stakeholder approach. It describes the development of quality assurance systems and guidelines for digital higher education in Europe in recent decades.



After a dynamic evaluation and quality development process with EADTU, the Open University of the University of Jyväskylä became the first recipient in Finland of the **E-xcellence** quality label.

In completed study credits, JYU Open University is the most popular open university in Finland, thanks in part to pioneering work in flexible and largely online studies.

EADTU was the **ICDE Focal Point** on Quality in Europe. It has been re-appointed for the period 2023 - 2024. EADTU regularly contributes to events and reports from the ICDE Quality Network. During **WHEC2022**, George Ubachs, Managing Director of EADTU, contributed to the Round Table: ICDE - Quality in online, open and distance Higher Education Across borders: A multi-sectoral, cross country policy dialogue.



COMING SOON...

Besides running projects, EADTU was active in the following - successful - project applications, with starting dates in 2023.

XR2LEARN

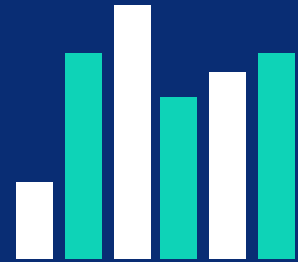
The XR2LEARN project aims at establishing a cross-border innovation community for XR (extended reality) in learning, bringing XR technology providers, application designers, education experts, application developers, endusers and decision makers in direct access to communicate, collaborate and matchmake interests, enabling also bottom-up innovation creation. Within the project, EIT Manufacturing will contribute to the design and establishment of the XR2Learn ecosystem, bringing in its already established community of learners, training providers and manufacturing companies.

AR25

Automatic Recognition in the EEA, 2025 (AR25) aims to support the implementation of the Council Recommendation on microcredentials and achieve automatic recognition by 2025. The project will help to bring institutional recognition procedures in line with LRC principles through promotion of the Spotlight self-assessment tool. Besides, it will support (future work on) the recognition of study periods in upper secondary education via mapping national arrangements in recognition and identifying challenges and areas for improvement.



ONLINE TRAFFIC, SOURCES & SOCIAL SHARING 2022



61 presentations added
by EADTU to Slideshare

EADTU uploaded **64 videos**
to Youtube



EADTU sent **24 newsletters & alerts**
to (roughly) 50.000 subscribers

1.508 followers on
Twitter in 2022



**782 followers on
LinkedIn in 2022**



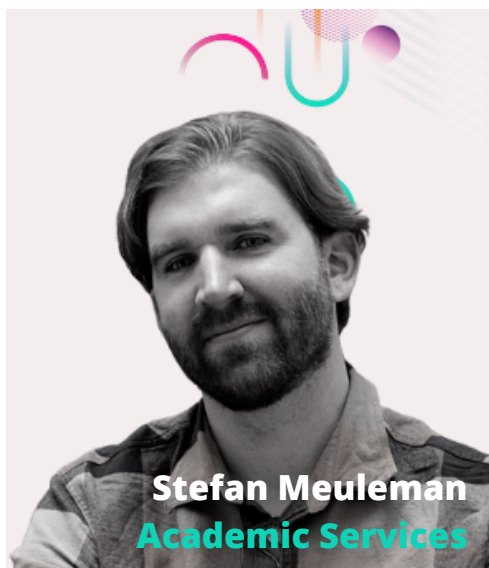
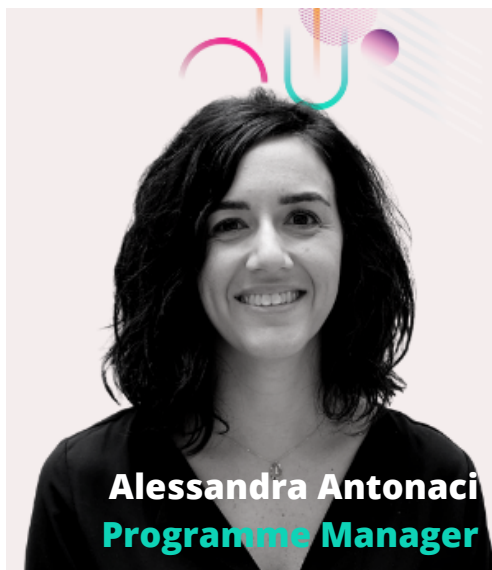
EADTU launched 4 websites
on Online Assessment, Diversity & Inclusion
Microcredentials (MCE) and OERs (ENCORE)

**745 followers on
Facebook in 2022**



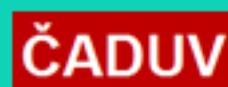
12 days of online public events
hosted by EADTU with **750+**
unique registrations

EADTU TEAM



EADTU MEMBERS

EADTU and its members have built up a long experience and in-depth expertise in the field of online, open and distance higher education. Our activities are set up in permanent interaction with our member institutes and their experts. More about EADTU's members can be read on the dedicated [page](#) on our website.



DISTANCE EDUCATION CENTRE OF LATVIA

