Upskilling Digital Pedagogy for Teachers and Future Teachers

Eleventh E-newsletter

THIS ISSUE

PROJECT PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

On February 1, 2024, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel organised the latest transnational meeting of the e-Teach Project and welcomed representatives from all partner institutions. The morning session provided a platform for collaborative discussions and updates on project developments, managements, and results. Participants also reviewed the quality assurance of the project and its impact on contemporary education. Moreover, the afternoon session extended its scope to incorporate participants from the LEAD Academic Network, thereby enriching the conversation on academic innovation and encouraging additional interaction among E-Teach collaborators. This is fruitful for Project dissemination and beneficial for multiplying the Project effect.

Following this, on February 2, 2024, the U-Residence of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel hosted the E-Teach Conference & Multiplier event on Digital Pedagogy. This full-day event brought together a diverse array of international experts, educators, and researchers to explore the transformative potential of digital pedagogy in digital education and beyond. Through interactive discussions and presentations, participants delved into innovative approaches and best practices, highlighting the importance of leveraging digital tools for enhanced learning experiences.

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E-TEACH PROJECT TRANSNATİONAL MEETİNG

On the morning of February 1, 2024, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel hosted the seventh transnational meeting of the e-Teach Project. Attendees hailed from partner institutions Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Baltic Education Technology Institute, University of Social Sciences, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, University of Helsinki, and University of Social Sciences (SAN).

During the first part of the meeting, partners reviewed the summary reports of the E-teach outcomes, mainly, of the OER and the certificate program as well as the reports of the national multiplier events conducted by each partner.

Next, partners discussed the dissemination process of the project results and set up the management procedures for documenting the multiplier events taking into considerations particular elements, such as, detailed records, participants numbers, institutions involved, and evaluation forms.

Moreover, collaborators evaluate together the quality assurance of the project and exchange ideas about its impact on future education.

The morning session of the meeting wrapped up with partners engaging in discussions and summarizing the development, advancement, and collaboration within the E-teach project.

E-TEACH PARTNERS AND LEAD ACADEMIC NETWORK MEETING

The afternoon session extended the project outreach to include not only the E-Teach direct Partners but also members of the LEAD Academic Network, thereby nurturing a more extensive discourse on academic innovations.

The meeting started with an overview of the LEAD Academic Network and its agenda for 2024. The session progressed into a dynamic networking among European and international academic leaders who presented their institutions, research focuses, and ongoing projects. The networking round tables included representatives from University of Helsinki, Baltic Education Technology Institute, National Academy of Education Administration, Center for European Studies Renmin University of China, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University and the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences. A robust exchange of ideas, interests and experiences laid groundwork for potential cross-border collaborations.

A notable moment of the session was the Digital Academic Leadership panel, moderated by Prof. Chang Zhu, which featured a diverse panel of experts discussing the challenges and opportunities presented by the digital era in academic leadership. This panel discussion included representatives from the University of Zagreb, Renmin University of China, National Academy of Education Administration, University of Helsinki, Baltic Education Technology Institute and Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University.

Thus, the extension of the E-Teach Transnational Meeting in collaboration with the LEAD Academic Network is beneficial for future endeavors and cooperation, highlighting the importance of collaboration, innovation, and leadership in adapting to the changing educational landscape.

E-TEACH FINAL CONFERENCE AND MULTIPLIER EVENT ON DIGITAL PEDAGOGY

The E-Teach Conference & Multiplier event on Digital Pedagogy was held on the 2nd of February 2024, at the U-Residence of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Global experts, educators, and researchers were involved in this conference to explore the profound impact of digital pedagogy on digital and contemporary education.

The conference started with opening remarks delivered by Prof. Chang Zhu of VUB, establishing the tone for a day filled with informative presentations and dynamic panel discussions. Marta Luchetti from VUB, offered an overview of the E-Teach Project, outlining its significant outcomes including Knowledge Paper, Modular Course Curriculum for Digital Pedagogy, Scenario-based Digital Pedagogy Teacher Guide, OER Online course and e-Teach Certificate training program, as well as highlighting its impacts on digital educational initiatives. Prof. Hasan Arslan from COMU emphasized the pivotal role of digital pedagogy in contemporary education, particularly in distance learning contexts, through his presentation entitled "Why is digital pedagogy important in distance education activities?". Laura Salo from the University of Helsinki shared her presentation "Perceptions and Experiences of Programming as Part of Curriculum and Teaching" which includes insights on the incorporation of programming into the curriculum and teaching practices of compulsory education in Finland, highlighting the research and practical efforts of the Innokas Network. Dr. Yunhua Liu's presentation "Digitalization of Teacher Education in Germany" spotlighted innovative strategies and methodologies employed in the digital education of teachers in Germany. Dr. Liu reflected on the challenges faced during the digital transformation, such as slow policy implementation due to federal-state negotiations, disparities between states, and potential issues with prioritizing digital over education. She highlighted concerns about privacy, teacher attitudes toward digital tools, and the need to connect theoretical research with practical implementation.

E-TEACH FINAL CONFERENCE AND MULTIPLIER EVENT ON DIGITAL PEDAGOGY

The panel conversation regarding the presentation "Teacher Competences in Digital Pedagogy: Integration of Emerging Tools & Student Engagement.", overseen by Dr. Aysun Caliskan of VUB, facilitated an energetic interchange of viewpoints concerning the utilization of digital tools to enrich student involvement, offer increased adaptability and customization, and nurture critical thinking and collaboration. Nonetheless, participants also addressed obstacles, such as, the generational gap between digital immigrants (teachers) and digital natives (students), and apprehensions surrounding digital technologies in education, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a balance between conventional and digital learning approaches.

In the afternoon sessions, different aspects of digital pedagogy were presented and shared. This included Greta Volodzkaitė from the Baltic Education Technology Institute (BETI) discussing the establishment of digital bridges in education which refers to maximizing learning with integrating technological tools. Milcu Teodora-Maria from Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (LBUS) addressed ways to improve teachers' skills in developing digital content for enhancing teaching and students' engagement. The utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) in higher education was a central topic, with Prof. Melita Kovacevic who engaged the attendees into deep discussions about the challenges, the opportunities, and the implications of using AI in education, while Prof. Anna Maria Migdał delving into its implementation and the ethical challenges it poses.

Last input in the conference was the panel moderated by Anthony Antoine from VUB who discussed the practical applications, potential benefits, and challenges associated with the use of AI tools in education. Experts including Prof. Jan Cornelis, Marijke Van Vlasselaer, Prof. Anna Maria Migdał, and Prof. Melita Kovacevic shared insights and perspectives on AI's role in educational environments.

The conference was culminated with Dr. Aysun Caliskan summarizing the panel sessions, followed by closing remarks by Prof. Chang Zhu. Prof. Zhu highlighted the essence of the day's discussions and underscored the ongoing exigency and continued cooperation for innovation in digital pedagogy.