

DICE Project NEWSLETTER



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MEET THE PARTNERS!

In each issue of the newsletter, we introduce the partners of the DiCE project.

Let's Meet:

The University of Alcalá

The University of Alcalá was founded in 1499 as a completely new educational project by Cardinal Cisneros, the Regent of Spain. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the University of Alcalá became the major centre of academic excellence and great masters of Spanish arts and sciences taught and studied in its classrooms. The new university was relaunched in 1977 thanks to the recovery of its historical memory and the fresh impulse to education during Spain's transition to democracy. The university's unique model, its historical contribution to literature and science, and the beauty and richness of its buildings led UNESCO to declare the University of Alcalá a World Heritage Site on 2 December 1998.



Today, the University of Alcalá is a medium-sized modern institution with more than 29,000 students, 1,627 teachers and researchers and 762 administrative and service staff members, engaged in more than 38 official degree courses, and a wide range of postgraduate and continuing education courses. In addition to classical humanistic studies and the social sciences, the University of Alcalá has incorporated the most modern qualifications in all scientific fields, such as Health Sciences and the various engineering sciences spread across its campuses, which with the Science and Technology Park are a decisive factor in its international profile and a boost to business in our region.

The Department of Computer Sciences leads and participates in many Erasmus+ projects.

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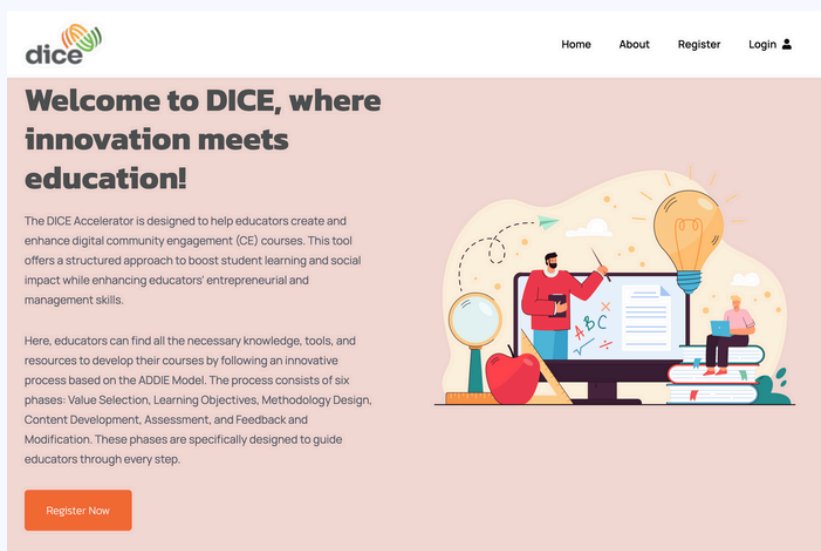


DIGITAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACCELERATOR FOR STUDENT LEARNING AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

Project Number: 2022-1-SK01-KA220-HED-000087668. Disclaimer: Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

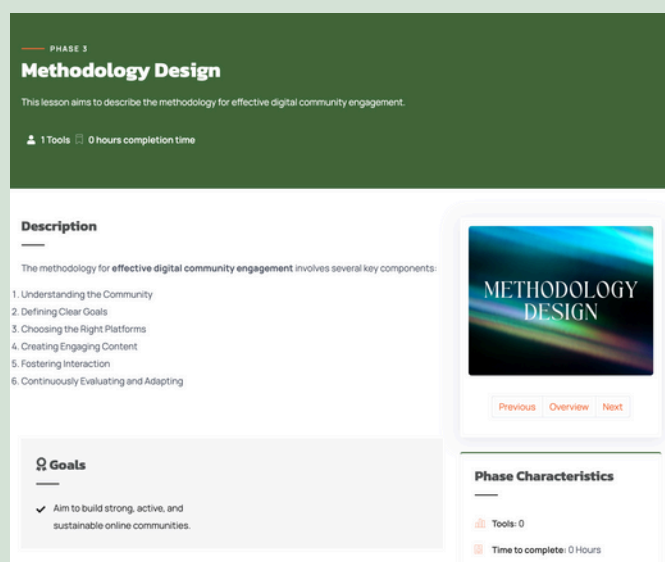
WHAT HAVE WE CREATED SO FAR?

Introducing the DICE Accelerator Platform



The DICE Accelerator Platform was created after the DICE Country Reports and the DICE Value Maps were developed. It is an innovative web-based platform aimed at helping educators and course directors design and improve digital community engagement (CE) courses. By offering a structured approach, it enhances student learning and social impact while also boosting educators' entrepreneurial and management skills.

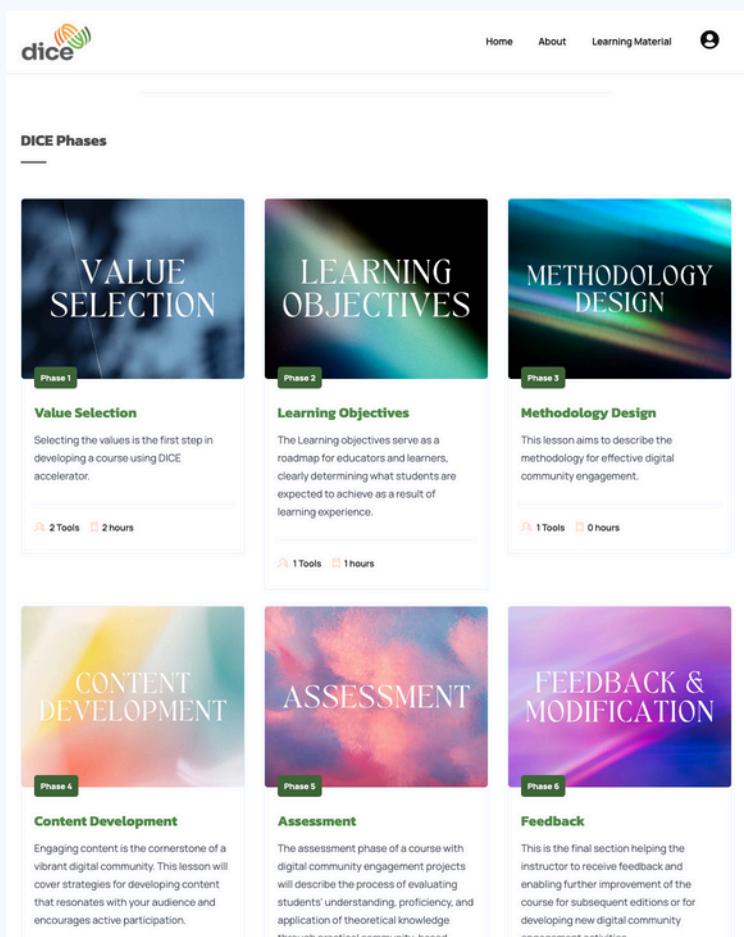
Educators can access an extensive set of resources, tools, and knowledge on the platform. This process is guided by the ADDIE Model, which includes six phases: Value Selection, Learning Objectives, Methodology Design, Content Development, Assessment, and Feedback and Modification.



Each phase includes specific tools to assist educators. For example, the Value Map for Students' Learning Tool in the Value Selection phase helps identify key drivers for skill development, and the Digital Engagement Community Learning Objective Generator assists in creating targeted learning objectives. Launched in July for validation of external experts, the DICE Accelerator is a valuable resource for educators to develop courses that are both educational and socially impactful.

UPCOMING RESULTS

DICE ACCELERATOR PILOTING



Now that the DICE Accelerator platform has been developed, the next phase is to test it through a structured piloting process. The piloting phase will ensure the platform's effectiveness and gather feedback for further adjustments.

The piloting will begin with the DICE Accelerator Workshop, a three-day training event from the 16th to the 18th of October 2024 in Alcalá de Henares, Spain. Hosted by UAH at the Escuela Politécnica Superior, this workshop will prepare university staff to use the accelerator. Participants will learn about Digital Community Engagement, service learning, and utilising the Value Maps and Digital Accelerator.

Following the workshop, the piloting execution will take place from November 2024 to April 2025. Educators and their students will implement and evaluate digital CE courses using the accelerator. The aim is for at least 70% of workshop participants to complete the programme and develop practical solutions. This phase will be led by UAH, with support from ACEEU and other academic partners.

Finally, the piloting evaluation and Digital Accelerator validation will occur from April to May 2025. This phase, led by UAH and ACEEU, involves analysing data to validate the platform, ensuring it is effective and user-friendly. The outcome will be a fully autonomous digital accelerator programme available for open access. A Best Practices Report, led by UAH and ACEEU, will be published in June 2025. It will summarise lessons learned and showcase successful case studies to guide future implementations of digital community engagement courses.

Stay tuned for more updates as we advance through the DICE project!