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:

IUL Telematic University

Founded in 2005, IUL Online University is an accredited institution established by the IUL Consortium, consisting of INDIRE (Italy's National Institute for Documentation, Innovation, and Educational Research) and the University of Foggia. It operates under the supervision of ANVUR, ensuring compliance with high academic and quality standards.

IUL's mission is to provide accessible, high-quality education through distance learning, catering to students who cannot attend traditional universities. The university actively promotes research and knowledge dissemination through studies, reports, and academic events such as seminars and conferences. Its research activities span six key areas, with a focus on communication, media, and the impact of digital technologies on education.

As the research hub of INDIRE, IUL plays a leading role in educational innovation, developing advanced curricula, integrating modern teaching methodologies, and ensuring competency certification. It leverages MOODLE as its e-learning platform, enhancing interactive and flexible learning experiences.

Through its strong partnership with INDIRE, IUL remains at the forefront of educational research and technological integration, continuously advancing the online learning landscape while fostering academic excellence and professional development.

IUL leads and participates in many Erasmus+ projects.

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EVENTS

DICE WORKSHOP AND 3RD TPM

As the DICE project progresses, we look back on two significant events that took place this semester: **The Digital Accelerator Workshop (DAW) and the Third Transnational Project Meeting (TPM)**. Both were held in October in Alcalá de Henares, Spain and hosted by UAH.

The DAW brought together educators to explore tools like the Value Maps and the Digital Accelerator platform. Through hands-on sessions and collaborative discussions, participants gained confidence in applying these methodologies in their courses, exchanging ideas on how to strengthen connections between universities and communities. Feedback emphasized the value of interactive learning while suggesting improvements such as clearer remote participation guidelines and more real-world examples.

Meanwhile, the 3rd TPM was held to evaluate the progress of the DICE project thus far and plan the next steps. It provided a space for partners to align on the piloting phase, ensuring a smooth implementation of the Digital Accelerator. Also, the consortium focused on refining the tool's functionalities based on insights from the workshop and optimising its integration across institutions.

As the DICE project moves forward, these events are key to progress in bridging academia and communities through digital innovation. The experiences and learnings from this semester will shape the next steps, ensuring that educators are equipped with effective strategies to foster meaningful community engagement.

VALIDATION OF THE ACCELERATOR
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WHAT WE'VE CREATED SO FAR?

PILOTING PHASE OF THE DIGITAL ACCELERATOR

The piloting phase of the Digital Accelerator is underway, bringing digital community engagement directly into classrooms across Slovakia, Spain, and Italy. Since February, nine educators have been testing the updated courses, integrating the Accelerator methodology into their teaching across diverse disciplines. This hands-on implementation is allowing both educators and students to explore innovative ways to bridge academia and society through digital tools.

As the pilot continues through April, participants are providing valuable feedback on the Accelerator's usability and impact. Their insights will guide further refinements, ensuring that the platform evolves into a sustainable and adaptable resource for designing community-focused courses. This phase is crucial in shaping the future of digital community engagement in higher education. By testing these methodologies in real academic settings, the DICE project improves current teaching practices and also lays the groundwork for long-term innovation. The experiences and outcomes of this pilot project will help consolidate the Accelerator as a transformative tool for universities seeking to foster deeper connections with their communities.

UPCOMING RESULTS

DICE MANUAL FOR DESIGNING DIGITAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COURSES

The Manual for Designing Digital Community Engagement Courses is in its final stages and will be launched very soon. Reviewed by project partners, the last refinements are being made to ensure a comprehensive and practical resource for educators looking to integrate digital community engagement into their courses.

Designed to be both accessible and actionable, the manual translates complex concepts into clear, step-by-step guidance. It equips educators with the tools to create dynamic, student-centered learning experiences that bridge academia and real-world community needs.

This manual provides a structured approach to designing DICE courses, equipping educators with methodologies that foster student engagement and social impact. Built upon the insights from the DICE Value Maps and complemented by the Digital Accelerator platform, it breaks down the course design process into actionable steps, offering guidance on content creation, innovative teaching strategies, and the development of digital skills.

As we prepare for its official release, this manual will serve as a key tool for university educators and course directors, helping them navigate the transition towards community-focused, digitally enhanced learning experiences. Stay tuned for the final version coming soon!