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4EU+ Education days report

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On 20–21 June 2023, the 4EU+ Education Days were organised as part of the NAWA-funded “4EU+ for Ukraine” project. The event took place on-site at the University of Warsaw, online participation was also covered. The programme included various workshops, info-sessions and training sessions that covered such topics as strategies for digital teaching and learning, the European Degree label project, Erasmus Mundus Design Measures and Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters funding schemes, joint programmes accreditation in EHEA or the 4EU+ Quality Management System. The 4EU+ Education Days were open for academic and administrative staff of 4EU+ member universities and three partner higher education institutions from Ukraine: Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv and Karazin Kharkiv National University.

Over the span of two days participants, both online and on-site, could take part in four sessions, prepared for them by education experts of the 4EU+ Alliance with active input from Ukrainian colleagues. With the use of online, interactive tools like Mentimeter and Padlet, as well as active-learning techniques that facilitate work in groups, participants could share their experiences and shape the discussion during sessions.

Session 1: Forum of good practices: skills and competencies in 4EU+

The first opening session tackled issues related to the way recent years have affected the way universities support skills development in the European Higher Education Area. Speakers provided a context for skills agenda and demonstrated which tools and strategies we have developed in the 4EU+ Alliance to integrate skills and competencies in our daily work. The aim of this session was to open the dialogue and share experiences and good practices.

First part this session was devoted to introduction to the 4EU+ framework for the development and enhancement of key skills and competencies, departing from the European agenda and global drivers. The Alliance’s educational experts - Julie Hubeňáková (CU), Angela Maria Prativiera (UNIMI) and Vassiliki Michou (SU), introduced 4EU+ Graduate Skills, Competencies and Values portfolio to the audience: multilingualism, data literacy, critical thinking, entrepreneurship, and social engagement, and how the Alliance supports their introduction and integration into teaching and learning programmes via tools and trainings that were and are planned to be developed. Based on that, an interactive part of the session was planned by the speakers with support from the Andra Jeanina Jensen (UCPH), who conducted the part online. Participants were divided into groups (on-site, one group was comprised of online participants) and asked to provide their answers on assigned 4EU+ key skill:

- *How can you define the skill or competency e.g. critical thinking? Please elaborate.*

- *In which ways can the skill be used actively in educational activities? Give concrete examples.*
- *How does the labour market benefit from that particular skill or competency? Give concrete examples.*

The results of the exercise and discussion can be found here: https://padlet.com/vmichou/exercise-and-discussion_on-site-20-min-2o1wpfugv3b0sfsy

In the second part of the session the floor was given to practitioners from 4EU+ Alliance and Ukraine (Luděk Sýkora from CU, Carlo Pirola from UNIMI, Vahram Atayan from UHD, Jullien Kirschgesner from SU, Giovanna Di Marzo from UNIGE, Anna Bąkowska from UW, and Olga Sych from Ivan Franko National University of Lviv) who presented their success stories and how they have integrated work on European key competences into their educational projects and activities.

Session 2: How 4EU+ Alliance Universities Empower Teachers in Digital Teaching & Learning

The second session of the first day showcased universities' diverse approaches and practices to support teachers in digital teaching and learning. Through a series of presentations, participants gained insights into various strategies, resources, and initiatives that contribute to advancing digital education. Speakers from 4EU+ and Ukrainian partner HEIs shared their expertise and experiences in assisting teachers in adapting to digital environments. The session covered instructional design, online pedagogy, technology integration, and professional development opportunities.

During this session, an interactive part took place, the answers given by participants are accessible through Padlet: <https://padlet.com/pkqg87qip8/how-4eu-alliance-universities-empower-teachers-in-digital-te-qekni3knsoomyqfg>

Selected presentations and their focus:

Jaroslav Pěnička, Charles University, presented the role and activities of the CU E-Learning Support Center, which plays a crucial role in the university's structure and manages various e-learning systems. Speaker focused on the Center's unique approach to coordinating the e-learning strategy and supporting teachers in their pedagogical endeavours. The presentation highlighted three cases that demonstrate the Center's practices in empowering university members. In the second part of the presentation, the focus shifted to the Center's participation in the 4EU+ Alliance and how, through active participation in various activities and tasks, the Centre and its staff gains valuable insights, fosters collaboration with partner institutions, and leverages collective expertise to continuously enhance and refine its e-learning practices. Overall, the speaker emphasised the benefits of cross-institutional cooperation, knowledge exchange, and the continuous improvement of pedagogical approaches.

Valeriia Kochorba (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University) presented key points of e-learning organisation at her institution. The methodological and institutional aspects of distance education were considered, as well as the main legal framework used by the university during distance education. The speaker focused as well on the main problems that both teachers and students of higher education face when providing the organisation of e-

learning. The presentation also included analytical study of the application of various technologies and platforms during the implementation of e-learning emphasising the importance of distance teaching and learning for HEIs and the need to solve the key problems faced by the participants of the educational process during the organisation of e-learning and accepting new challenges for the effective implementation of distance learning.

Fabio D'Andrea presented a brief overview of three key aspects of the support that the University of Milan offers its teachers in the field of digital education. The university follows a comprehensive approach that includes technological support, methodological guidance, and the setup of multimedia classrooms and self-recording studios. During the presentation, we will briefly present the structure of the CTU - Teaching and Learning Innovation and Multimedia Technology Center. This Center was founded in 1975 as a University Television Centre, focused on audiovisual production, and currently serves as the university's hub for e-learning initiatives. Additionally, we will introduce the newly formed Faculty Development Group, dedicated to promoting and fostering pedagogical innovation.

Christelle Bozelle, who is a Head of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at the University of Geneva, provided an insight into of services offered by the MOOCs unit (Guidance for project definition, support in course creation, coordination of course design and production, technical support, central point of contact with our university services and platform, set-up for course evaluations). She also focused on examples of guidance given to teachers for the creation of MOOC videos (usually through specific workshops) and shared tips to maximise learner's engagement, manage cognitive load, and promote active learning in educational videos.

Christine Laclef from Sorbonne University discussed the quality approach as part of the process to enhance pedagogic and techno-pedagogic engagement. The Centre d'Accompagnement pour la Pédagogie et SUpport à L'Expérimentation - CAPSULE - is a part of the local structures dedicated to the pedagogical support in Sorbonne University. One of the core missions is to encourage teachers to use technology and to enhance digital education. CAPSULE provides an on-site and virtual learning environment adapted to disciplinary needs from the faculty of science and engineering, including a diversity of digital tools. And, most importantly CAPSULE offers a variety of training, as well as assistance and support to academic teachers for their pedagogical projects. An important question remains to know the efficiency of CAPSULE's services on learning and teaching efficiency in the faculty. We thus plan to make an assessment to measure the impact and identify the changes that might be implemented to improve the quality of CAPSULE's actions, and to fit with the evolutions of the academic environment. The overall objective being to continuously enlarge users' expertise in digital technologies and strengthen their pedagogical skills in order to facilitate students' learning.

Session 3: Joint study programmes within European Higher Education Area

During the third session, the participants were introduced to the structure and definition, management and implementation, funding opportunities, accreditation and quality assurance of joint study programmes in EHEA. Session facilitators offered their experience and outlook on how the European framework and policies address both the theory as well as practice of operating transnational joint study programmes from the HEI perspective.

The session was divided into four thematic blocks:

1. Covering the basics: Introduction to the joint study programmes (Marta Jaworska-Oknińska, UW) with a focus on clarifying the terminology used within EHEA, the history of international cooperation resulting in creation of joint programmes, already existing policies and new perspectives.
2. Moving forward: European Degree Label project ED-AFFICHE (Marta Jaworska-Oknińska, UW) - in this part special attention was paid to the project that 4EU+ is piloting with 5 other European Universities Alliances: "European Degree: Advancing, Facilitating and Fostering International Collaboration in Higher Education".
3. Funding opportunities: Erasmus Mundus Design Measures and Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (Ole Henckel, UCPH) - expert on joint programmes and Erasmus Mundus projects from the University of Copenhagen provided insightful information with a focus on funding principles of Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters opportunities.
4. Delivering the best offer: The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes (Michał Goszczyński, UW) - in the last presentation the subject of quality assurance of joint programmes was raised and EHEA tools - mainly European Approach - were presented in a more in-depth synthesis and step-by-step guidance.

Session 4: Introduction to the 4EU+ Quality Management System (workshop)

During the last session, the Alliance Referee for Quality Management, Swantje Schirmer, provided participants with a broad overview on quality management on an alliance-level, its implementation on the university-level and aims to incite initial reflections on potential synergies between quality management and higher education didactics, teaching and learning. Participants received an introduction to 4EU+QUALITY, the quality management system of 4EU+, its normative foundations and concrete procedures, that is initial certification, internal auditing and external reviewing. This overview was deepened by two university-perspective from the alliance on the implementation of this system into their existing local quality management systems (Heidelberg and Warsaw). Departing from a best-practice example for a cooperative approach on quality management and didactics, participants were then guided to reflect on potential for synergies at their own home universities.