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**Fostering Outreach
within European Regions,
Transnational Higher Education
and Mobility**

FORTHEM Digital Academy Empowering Teaching WORKSHOP 2#

May 21st

from 9:00 to 13:45 CET

from 10:00 to 14:45 EET

UniPa 9:00-9:20

Simona Mercantini
WP 3 Manager, IRO staff, University of Palermo

Short introduction to the Digital Academy

Ignazio Vinci
Full professor, Department of Architecture, University of Palermo

Introduction to the workshop

JGU / UBE / UiA/ ULBS 9:25-9:55

Tobias Helms, Christelle Seree-Chaussinand, Mathieu Guerriaud, Mauricio Omar Cifuentes and Eugen Popescu

The Toolfinding Initiative – First Steps

Our presentation introduces the Toolfinding Initiative, a bottom-up project launched by instructors and facilitators from several FORTHEM partner universities. The initiative aims to create a space for dialogue and collaboration among university teachers and facilitators interested in digital tools and digitally enhanced teaching approaches. In this session, we will share and discuss our initial ideas and invite you to join the initiative.

LU 10:00-10:30

Zinta Zālīte-Supe
Scientific assistant, University of Latvia, Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology

Best Practices for Integrating Educational Technologies into the Study Process at the Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology.

This presentation explores integration of educational technologies into the study process at the Faculty of Education Sciences, and Psychology, which is one of the largest faculties at the University of Latvia, with over 4,000 students. The faculty delivers a range of study programmes across different academic levels in fields such as education sciences, psychology, arts and sports sciences. A key focus is placed on the faculty's innovative approach to technology-enhanced learning, supported by Virtual Reality Lab, Robotics Lab, and 3D Prototyping Lab. These resources play a central role in enriching the educational experience and promoting forward-thinking pedagogical methods.

UV 10:35-11:05

Prof. Ana Juan-García
Associate Professor, University of Valencia. Faculty of Pharmacy and food Science.

ToxiCOIL in the era of learning in European Universities.

The ToxiCOIL program, part of the COIL initiative, has been carried out during two editions at the University of Valencia. ToxiCOIL connected students from Spain, Colombia, Romania and Spain on the first edition (2023/2024) and from Dijon, Palermo and Valencia in the second edition (2024/2025). Both editions have merged students and professors in a collaborative, interdisciplinary project focused on toxicology, food safety, and entrepreneurship. Integrated into existing courses during the two independent academic year, students worked in international teams to analyze food alerts, regulations, and propose entrepreneurial ideas.

Activities included online presentations, cultural exchange, and dynamic sessions designed to boost intercultural competence. ToxiCOIL highlighted the value of global learning and collaboration within higher education with students and professors from different Universities.

Break 11:10-11:25

JGU 11:25-11:55

Helen Callaghan
Full Professor, Department of Political Science, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

Particify! *Audience-Response-Systems and other digital means of encouraging active learning in the lecture theatre*

Active learning elements, embedded directly into lectures, offer several advantages over purely frontal teaching. They strengthen concentration and retention, motivate students to engage with lecture content, and facilitate formative feedback. Digital tools such as audience response systems or collaborative whiteboards offer the additional advantage that quiz results can be collected and displayed instantly, thereby allowing lecturers to adjust the lecture speed where needed. As part of the Mainz Models for Digitally Enhanced Teaching and Learning, the Institute of Political Science at JGU Mainz, along with other departments, has been systematically experimenting with low-threshold digital activation options since 2022/23. This talk presents our motives, some examples, and lessons learnt.

UniPa 12:00-12:30

Salvatore Di Dio
Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, University of Palermo

Design Synergy: Service Learning, Peer Mentoring, and Generative AI for Adaptive Design Education

Traditional design programs often isolate technical training from real-world collaboration and ethical tech engagement. This presentation outlines an experiential framework integrating Service Learning (community-driven projects with 200+ students), Peer Mentoring (student-led co-design critiques and workshops), and Generative AI (a creative and critical tool for ideation, reflection, and automated learning resources). The model bridges academia and societal needs, fosters collaborative problem-solving, and challenges students to interrogate technology's role in design. This presentation shows how this triad cultivates adaptive designers equipped for interdisciplinary, tech-integrated practice—and discover lessons from its implementation, pitfalls, and outcomes in reimagining pedagogy for a rapidly evolving field.

UiA 12:35-13:05

Kostas Kokogias
Senior engineer, IT media services, University of Agder

Video production principles in online education

The speaker teaches audio at UiA´s ICT department and has worked extensively with video production for the IT Media Services department. He has a background in multimedia and educational technology, as well as productions for entertainment purposes. Professor Kokogias is responsible for the video and audio studios at UiA´s Grimstad campus, and has been working together with academic staff in transforming classroom material to online content. This presentation will cover practices and tips on producing educational video for the web.

13:05-13:45
Final discussion and conclusion