



# D-ChallengHE Newsletter

Issue no. 1

April 2023



## 1. What is D-ChallengHE?

D-ChallengHE is an Erasmus+ project for Higher Education which promotes **the building of network and inter-connected Higher Education systems** looking at **digital transformation and innovation in learning and teaching practices**. The main goals of the project are:

- create a **hub of universities and research institutes as a permanent observatory that can work on the issues of digitization of the HE system at the European level, share best practices, and promote collaboration among different institutions of the HE system**;
- build an **online training course** to empower professors and teachers, to perform high-quality online/blended teaching actions in HE, in the logic of LLL;
- identify and develop **new online environments** for HE, enhancing the **gamification logic** to improve transversal and soft skills, i.e. e-leadership and digital maturity;
- elaborate **assessment processes** to safeguard quality standards and academic integrity in the context of online learning for a **more flexible approach** to address the online and blended delivery of study programmes;
- favour **social innovation** in the online and blended European HE Area through the sharing of experimented best practices among partner countries.

## 2. The starting of D-ChallengHE

The academic community perceives that it's still difficult to **define e-learning standards** able to inform academic governance and stakeholders about the quality of e-learning processes. D-ChallengHE project recognises the need to produce and validate a series of new quality assurance standards that consider the qualitative dimension of educational interaction in online learning environments and the need to communicate best practices at European level. The definition of these standards relies on the intersection among policy, technology, education, society, and the labour market.

## 3. Work Packages

Each Work Packages is developed to support the general objectives of D-ChallengHE project.

### WP1 - Project Management Plan

The WP1 ensures proper project life cycle management to guarantee quality, effectiveness and efficiency. The process is divided into different levels, to carry out continuous control and monitoring:

1. The *operational* level: referring to the executive sphere;
2. The *managerial* level: connected to the decision-making processes;
3. *Project quality assurance*;
4. The *dissemination* level: necessary to make certain the sharing of the project results.



### WP2 - D-ChallengHE HUB - European Digital Innovation Hub in HE

The main goal of this WP is to create a HUB of universities, research institutes, and stakeholders directly involved in the digital transformation. The general aim is to develop a permanent **observatory** that can work on the digitisation of the HE system at the European level. The Hub will share best practices and promote collaboration among different HE institutions.

### WP3 - Training for innovative online teaching in HE

This WP aims to produce an online environment for online professors in HE, framed in the project D-ChallengHE. It contributes to the project's main aims by targeting the priority of the digital transformation: development of digital readiness, resilience and capacity of HE professionals and institutions. The overall goal of the activity is to provide professors and the educational community a skill set that will enable them to improve their digital availability for education.

### WP4 - Engagement tools for tutors and learners in a HE online learning environment

WP4 intends to develop engagement tools for students and young researchers of HE, with the intention of:

- a) enhance the digital skills of students and young researchers or support staff;
- b) develop innovative methodologies and tools to be integrated into Higher Education online learning environments.

### WP5 - Guidelines for online and blended learning: design, delivery, assessment, evaluation of study program

This WP is related to an essential outcome of the project, aimed to define a quality assurance framework for online and blended education. It will be focused on e-learning quality assurance standards and changes and new requirements in teaching professionalisation.

## 4. The development of a European Digital Innovation Hub in HE

D-CHALLENGHE Hub (WP2) is a technology-enabling agent, partnering with universities, education institutions, education entities, and external research centres **to create a digital ecosystem on involvement in HE digitalization and research on the effect of digital transformation**, sharply accelerated by the pandemic crisis.

The project HUB brings together scientists by providing a platform for collaboration: to participate in scientific events, trainings, projects and to work as a unit and share the same goals and KPI's, are governed by the same vision, scope and work with the same metrics and analytics.

The **D-CHALLENGHE HUB** focus on intervention and research on the effect of digital transformation, sharply accelerated by the pandemic crisis, in terms of:



- a) logistical or technical capacities, pedagogical training and support of professors and staff, student recruitment and retention, achievement of learning outcomes and employability;
- b) accessibility of research infrastructures, data collection and international research collaborations;
- c) university partnerships with external communities and the new universities' role in responding to societal needs;
- d) universities actions to support staff and students in dramatically different working conditions;
- e) university governance and management and
- f) the social dimension of the HE.

**The area of interest and discussion are as follows:**

- the digital revolution issue in the European perspective and in relation to the pandemic emergency due to coronavirus;
- the online and blended learning in the European Higher Education Area for promoting inclusion, LLL and innovation, as defined in the Bologna Process and the Communication on Rethinking Education;
- the emerging key skills and competencies for teaching in online and/or blended environments in HE how outlined in European documents;
- the professors' professional development in HE as a digital area, as requested by all European documents;
- the centrality of online teaching quality standards for HE.

The activity of the HUB is aimed to **create a permanent observatory** to increase knowledge, which give an account of the latest developments that are being prepared in the world of education with the use of technology.

**D-Challenghe Observatory** provides last publications and conversations in related scientific field by the hub scientific interests categories (e.g. digital revolution issue in HE, online and blended learning in the European Higher Education Area, the emerging key skills and competencies for teaching in online and/or blended environments in HE, professional development in HE as a digital areaonline taching quality standarts).

**The observatory intended to bring together teams of scientists for project activities:** connect academics, research centres and stakeholders on the issue of digitalization of the HE system and exploit and advance innovative data capture and analysis in Education. Research groups carry out research, projects, conduct research in the field of relevant interests.

During all over the project the hub promote two calls for papers and two call for panels related to the main issues of the Hub.



## 5. 1st Project Workshop: Reinventing University: the Digital Challenge in Higher Education

The next June, 19th 2023 the D-ChallengHE Hub will organize the 1st workshop *Reinventing University: the Digital Challenge in Higher Education*, during the HEAD23 Conference in Valencia, Spain.

The overarching goal of this workshop is for Researchers, students, educators, teachers, scholars, academics, scientists, professionals, experts, and decision-makers interested to cooperate in promoting an inter-connected HE system and address digital transformation and innovation in learning and teaching practices with the aim to create a hub of universities and research institutes that can work on the issues of digitization of the HE system at the European level, share best practices, and promote collaboration among different institutions of the HE system.

The main goal of the workshop is to reflect on two main topics:

*Governance and digital innovation in HEs*

*The present and the future of Research in front of digital transformation*

For the registration to the workshop see [this link](#)

[The workshop programme](#)

**HEAD 23**  
June 19 - 22, 2023  
Valencia, Spain

19 June 2023  
Workshop: 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM

**REINVENTING UNIVERSITY  
THE DIGITAL CHALLENGE IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Chair: Stefania Capogna, Link Campus University

**TRACK 1. GOVERNANCE AND DIGITAL INNOVATION IN HES**

The Symbiotic Learning Paradigm: an open pedagogy approach to curriculum design for lifelong learning in Higher Education  
Finola McCarthy, Séamus Ó Tuama  
University College Cork

Optimization of university operations by the means of fuzzy cognitive maps  
Vasilisa Stylianakis, Perivolaris Panagiotis  
University of Patras

Self-assessment methodologies and tools used in VET and Higher Education  
Laura Evangelista, Concetta Fonzo  
INAPP

Digital innovations as the basis for the implementation of the Concept for the development of T-shaped skills in Higher Education  
Mishemina Halyna  
Klaipeda University

Discussant: Erika Župerkienė, Klaipeda University

**BREAK H 04:00 -04:30 PM**

**TRACK 2: THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH IN FRONT OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

The impact of digitalization in scientific research: risks opportunities and ethical challenges  
Maria Chiara De Angelis  
Link Campus University

The best practices in training and skills development for "onlife learning" in Higher Education  
Paresch Rathod & Pasi Kamppli  
LAUREA University

The design of a Lecturer training program for online Higher Education  
Paolo Ravio, Marco Rondonotti, Irene Mauro  
E-Campus University

University teachers' data literacy for pedagogical decision making  
Aleksandra Batuchina, Julia Melnikova  
Klaipeda University

Discussant: Ligita Simanskiene, Klaipeda University

Registration  
<https://headconf.org/registration/>  
More Information

E-mail: [d-challenghe@unilink.it](mailto:d-challenghe@unilink.it) - Website: <https://d-challenghe.unilink.it/>



## 6. 1st Transational Meeting in Presence - Maribor

In May, Academia hosted the first project meeting in Maribor, where partners from Link Campus University (Italy), Academia (Slovenia), Entropy Knowledge Network (Italy), The Institute for Education (Romania), Hellenic Open University (Greece) and Klaipeda University (Lithuania) gathered.



The D-ChallengHE project recognizes the importance of establishing e-learning standards that inform academic leadership and stakeholders about the quality of online learning processes. Therefore, we strive to develop and validate new quality assurance standards that consider the quality interaction between teachers and students in online learning environments. We focus on the intersection of policy, technology, education, society, and the labor market.

Stay with us and follow our future updates as we embark on this inspiring journey of digital transformation in higher education!



**Follow us**

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