University: University of Pécs
Country: Hungary

SDG17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

17,2 Relationships to support the goals

17.2.4. Collaboration for SDG best practice
Through international collaboration and research, review comparative approaches and develop international best practice on tackling the SDGs

Accelerating and Enhancing Green Transition: collaboration of universities in climate adaptation (Project ID: 22420082, Implementation period: 20/09/2024–20/02/2026)
The objective of the project is to explore opportunities for cooperation between universities, related to the topic of green transition through education, research and third mission activities of these institutions in regional development and economic development. The project aims at developing joint action plan and a best practice repository in order to become a catalyst for the transition.
Members of Consortium: Pannon European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Ltd.; University of Pécs; Masaryk University; J. Selye University; Jagiellonian University in Krakow; University of Sarajevo; University of Montenegro.

14 students from Shanghai in the Pécs Winter School Program
22/01/2024
14 students at University of Michigan - Shanghai Jiao Tong Joint Institute in China started their studies at the Winter School of University of Pécs on 22nd January, 2024. The focus of the three-week long program was the introduction of European culture. The 14 students were welcomed by the International Centre and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences jointly: the Faculty is responsible for the professional side; the cultural programs are going to be coordinated by the International Centre's Study Abroad and Summer School Office.

The challenges of sustainability in education
26/01/2024
On the 26th of January 2024, an international conference focusing on environmental education and sustainability was held at the Szekszárd Campus of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs.
The conference opened up a range of new perspectives in environmental education, with experts presenting their latest researches and educational innovations. Dr. Gábor Szécsi. Dean of the Faculty emphasized that "environmental education and sustainability play a fundamental role in modern education", while also giving insight into the challenges and opportunities of education for sustainable development. The presentation of Dr. Katalin Szili, the curator of the foundation which funds the University of Pécs -the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Alapítvány- focused on "the innovative methods and practical application of environmental education", displaying strategies which can be achieved in tertiary education. The presentations highlighted sustainable development as more than just a theoretical concept, but as a crucial part of education demanding practical implementation. The conference also focused on the methods of teaching environmental education and on the issues of social and economic sustainability. These presentations demonstrated the multidisciplinary nature of sustainability, illustrating it's wide social and educational impact.

Towards a more attractive career model
26/01/2024
The career model for researchers and teachers was in focus on 26th January 2024, in the senate hall of the University of Pécs. The work has been launched under the wings of the European Digital UniverCity, but the UP is now striving to meet the expectations of the European Commission by developing this area. The basis is the same for both: development of an appropriate career model is an integral part of the University of Pécs. We approached Mihály Egyed, Head of the Human Resources of the University of Pécs about the details.
"Today's meeting was a milestone in the on-going effort to examine where we have areas for improvement to match certain European standards in terms of the researcher career model and the opportunities in the development of the research profession. European Charter and Code for Researchers sets out 40 aspects of guidance on this, which provides the basis of the accreditation process, and was also the basis for both our questionnaire and focus group survey last year. This was an attempt to identify which weaker areas can or should be further improved, and in which areas we could create new services. This year, we will start working in four working groups to create an action plan and, at the same time, start practical implementations to catch up."
"The main goal is to ensure that the University of Pécs can provide a proper inspiration for both researchers and lecturers: it can attract and retain well qualified staff. This goal is also the main pillar of the strategy of the University of Pécs" – said Mihály Egyed
He added: "I think that, just like when a student prepares for an exam structuring their thoughts and organizing their notes, a process is already underway when we are in the phase of planning. By only recognizing the areas for improvement, we can already take measures to improve the well-being of teachers and researchers and their ability to progress professionally. The aim of this programme is not for only getting recognition from the European Commission, but ensuring that the university actually meets the expectations. That is why the Directorate of Human Resources is working in partnership with the academic area, as achieving this goal is impossible without the involvement of all involved parties" – emphasized the Director of Human Resources at the University of Pécs.

Promoting active engagement of the youth through diplomacy
22/02/2024
The Department of Political Science and International Studies of the University of Pécs organized a Kick-off meeting for the PACIFY-D Erasmus+ project on June 20-21, 2022, at the House of Civil Communities in Pécs. The two-day meeting brought together participants from 6 countries. The project, which started in spring 2022, will end in March 2024.
The purpose of the project's first meeting was for the partners to agree on the distribution of individual tasks. The participants came from Greece, France, Italy, Spain, the project was led by the Department of Political Science and International Studies at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the UP, and the project's leader was Associate Professor Dr. Andrea Schmidt. The PACIFY-D program aims to provide innovative training opportunities for young people and to establish national information points, strengthening active civic participation in connection with the training.

The network of training institutions of the University of Pécs is further developed
08/03/2024
The network of the training institutions of the University of Pécs is further improved by the agreement concluded between the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs, the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs, and the University of Pécs Kelemen Endre Health Vocational Secondary School.

The aim of the cooperation, which is a defining feature of the educational life of Szekszárd city with county rights and Tolna County, is to support higher education and individual learning paths for young people, providing a flexible, personalized career path in the fields of social and pedagogical studies.

Egyptian Opportunities
03/03/2024
The Hungarian–Egyptian Rectors' Forum took place on March 3rd, 2024 at the Government Administrative Center of New Cairo, hosted by the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, officially opened by the ministers responsible for the Hungarian and the Egyptian areas. The University of Pécs was represented by Dr. József Betlehem, Vice-Rector for General and Strategic Affairs.
The goal of the Egyptian Rectors' Conference and the Hungarian Rectors' Conference was to ensure that more higher education institutions from both countries collaborate in educational, research, and cultural exchange programs. The delegation was personally welcomed by Professor Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of Egypt, who urged for concrete agreements and collaborations as soon as possible – to achieve this, the two governments will set up a joint working committee in the near future.
"They are particularly interested in the European higher education field, because the degrees obtained here provide access to the European labor market, and employers in Egypt also highly value degrees acquired in Europe. Among other reasons, these factors contribute to the high reputation of Hungarian universities in Egypt, which is further strengthened by that because of the collaborations in the field of higher education, the Hungarian government is planning many related cooperations, even in the area of innovation" - said Dr. József Betlehem regarding the Forum. He added: "Recently, the Egyptian higher education has developed various concepts for cooperation, including dual and joint degree programs, and even the so-called branch campus, which allows a collaborating partner to implement the training locally, at a campus in Egypt."
There was keen interest in the University of Pécs. Professor Mohamed Loutfi, head of the British University in Egypt, had also visited the UP before, for the celebration of the 650th anniversary of the university's founding, and he is committed to exploring cooperation opportunities. The Cairo University, which is a public institution, and Future University in Egypt, a private higher education institution also expressed willingness to collaborate. The latter welcomes members from the UP to join the international editorial boards of its SCOPUS-indexed journals in the fields of pharmacy, dentistry, economics, engineering, and social sciences.

The UP becomes an accredited test centre of the NATO DIANA innovation network
22/03/2024
Innovations useful in both civilian and defence sectors are supported by NATO's so-called DIANA program, which works on the development and production of the most modern technologies through its network.
The potential of dual, both for defence and civilian purposes, usage ensures that innovative products can be presented and sold at the NATO level as well. Hungary joins NATO's dynamically growing defence industry innovation network with test centres, one of which is now the University of Pécs as of 2024.
In recent years, there were several discussions under the leadership of Brigadier General Dr. Imre Porkoláb, Ministerial Commissioner for Defence Innovation, about how the University of Pécs could make better use of its existing defence competencies. As a result of these negotiations, it became possible to join a test centre operated by NATO under the DIANA program" - said Dr. József Betlehem, general and strategic vice-rector of the UP. In the latest DIANA call for proposals, the UP performed well, and thus — alongside the ZalaZONE Vehicle Test Track

and the ZalaZONE Research and Technology Centre, which joined last year — it has become one of six new test centres.
The University of Pécs has won the NATO DIANA Test Centre title, which is also a recognition of the research activities at the UP, primarily in the fields of medical and health sciences, but also related to cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, automation, and 5G technology. I believe that this opportunity adds a new dimension to our professional and research work. The successful application is also significant for the University of Pécs because, within this NATO innovation ecosystem, we can have a role through Hungary and specifically through the cooperation of the Ministry of Defence. It is very important that the type of capability and capacity we have in the development and testing of civilian new technologies can, through dual use, if it can serve defence purposes as well, is available for defence industry applications. The defence industry wants to utilize our existing, well-qualified and proven capabilities too. Of course, this has much more defined frameworks and conditions than civilian research, as national security aspects must be considered.
Currently, NATO's thirty-two members not only provide international visibility but also allow innovations to be tested in a special environment both in North America and Europe. DIANA may also increase grant application success due to its investor network and broad industrial connections.

New Languages, New Opportunities!
09/04/2024
The EDUC University Alliance is launching a new round of its Staff Language Programme, continuing from the EDUC I phase. The program aims to improve the foreign language skills of administrative staff working at EDUC universities. The initiative connects two administrative colleagues and gives them the opportunity to practice a foreign language of their choice. Participants can also enhance their intercultural communication skills in a professional context. In addition to English, other EDUC Alliance languages are available (French, Italian, German, Spanish, Czech, Norwegian, and Hungarian).
As part of the program, two colleagues from different universities are paired and supported by a language tutor to ensure successful learning. The Language Tandem program runs from May to November and includes 12 online meetings. The program includes the following three components:

1. 2-hour online introductory training on the program and intercultural communication (mandatory).
2. E-Tandem program: 12 online meetings – 9 hours self-guided, 3 hours with tutor involvement (mandatory).
3. 30-hour optional self-paced online learning for those who wish to deepen their skills in intercultural communication and English (optional).

Inspiration for Digital Equity
8-10/04/2024
The broader implementation of digitalization and artificial intelligence in education, as well as the advancement of up-to-date teaching methodologies, were the key goals of the workshops held at the Faculty of Business and Economics between April 8–10, 2024 as part of the 8th International Teaching Week (ITW) organized within the EDUC Alliance.
One of the international speakers was Murtaza Mohiqi, associate professor of law at the University of South-Eastern Norway, who contributed to the success of the event with his research and experience in innovation and education. A renowned expert in the fields of human rights and private law, Mohiqi presented perspectives on innovation that promotes digital equity and on academic isolation.

He emphasized that innovation must ensure equal access and participation for all members of society, including marginalized communities. He outlined the core principles of equality, accessibility, participation, empowerment, and sustainability in the context of innovation for digital equity, and explained how these principles can be integrated into the design and implementation of new technological solutions. He also stressed the need for interdisciplinary approaches in order to make real progress in this field.
The strategies presented in his talk aimed to help ensure that all segments of society benefit from innovation, thus contributing meaningfully to social justice and equality.
In his second lecture, Mohiqi addressed academic isolation in conflict zones. He shared case studies on the creation of online universities in such regions and encouraged students to think about new methods and approaches to promote education and academic work under difficult circumstances.
Through real-life examples, he illustrated how online universities can overcome physical barriers, enabling individuals in conflict-affected areas to gain access to education and academic collaboration.
He added that innovation in education isn't just about technological development, but also about inclusion and meeting the unique needs of individuals, especially those from marginalized communities. Mohiqi encouraged participants to collaborate in developing and implementing new initiatives and solutions.
The International Teaching Week event fostered dialogue and collaboration, encouraging attendees to explore new pathways in educational innovation and inclusivity. Mohiqi's thought-provoking lectures sparked lively discussions and generated numerous creative ideas.

The EDUC event was highly successful, enriching participants with new insights and approaches for their educational and innovation-related work. His contributions marked an important step toward helping educational institutions and academic communities respond more effectively to the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Teacher's Journey – as part of the EDUC European Digital UniverCity
16-17/04/2024
Teacher's Journey is more than a virtual platform. It's a dynamic space for educators from across the EDUC alliance to connect, share, and grow. The UN Sustainable Development Goals give us a global framework, but we need strong partnerships to make it real. EDUC and its digital initiatives play a vital role in this effort.
Collaborative initiatives that connect the academic community at the University of Pécs (PTE) with faculty from other universities are gaining popularity. These efforts aim to co-develop new, international courses. One such initiative, the EDUC Teacher's Journey, offers inspiring opportunities for educators to bring their projects from conception all the way to implementation. This was the topic of discussion in a recent roundtable featuring Dr. Krisztián Simon (Pedagogical Engineer, Faculty of Humanities), Dr. Krisztián Kvell and Dr. Szilárd Pál (Faculty of Pharmacy), and Bianka Szijártó, Digital Education Support Coordinator from the EDUC Office.
The EDUC Teacher's Journey is an innovative program that encourages instructors to move beyond traditional course development practices and engage in collaborative work with fellow educators—both within and beyond their home institutions. Through this, educators are discovering new dimensions of academic cooperation while enhancing the quality and diversity of teaching.
More than just a guide to course design, the Teacher's Journey offers a comprehensive support system to help educators create world-class, interactive learning experiences. The demand for

such support is growing in academia, as these programs are key to driving educational innovation and continuously improving the student experience.
The EDUC Teacher's Journey is open to instructors looking to test themselves in a global, digital environment—one that supports innovative and collaborative course development, and provides space for exploring new directions and enhancing educational quality. Faculty at the University of Pécs have shown strong enthusiasm for the program, and further collaborative projects and innovative courses are expected to emerge through this initiative in the near future.

New Bat Virology Research Begins at the UP
25/04/2024
The Virology National Laboratory (VNL) of the University of Pécs (UP) has joined a consortium researching viruses found in bats. The internationally recognized project, known as "OneBAT," is supported by a non-refundable grant of HUF 126,574,700 from the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund of the Ministry of Culture and Innovation, under the funding program 2020-2.1.1-ED. The initiative focuses on studying bat viruses through the lens of the "One Health" approach.
The project, registered under the ID 2020-2.1.1-ED-2023-00256, is implemented through the collaboration of 13 international partners. Its aim is to study viruses found in European bats with a cross-disciplinary consortium involving ecologists, virologists, and modelers. OneBAT seeks to explore the complex interactions between natural viral hosts, occasional host organisms, pathogens, and the environment — relationships that are key to understanding how infectious diseases emerge. Beyond the concrete insights from the research, OneBAT also aims to develop innovative methods and procedures that enable rapid identification of new infectious diseases and the formulation of effective responses.
In addition to developing rapid protocols for serological and molecular biological testing of animals involved in the research, harmonized, long-term disease ecology surveys are also being conducted across Europe.
As part of the OneBAT program, receiver antennas are being installed in several European countries, including Hungary, to help study the behavior and migration of flying animals. This research also contributes to the protection of increasingly rare bat species, which are under strict conservation measures.

THE DAY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
09/05/2024
Delegates from four prominent universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina arrived at the Rector's Cabinet of the University of Pécs on 7 May. Their visit marked the beginning of the day devoted to Bosnia and Herzegovina, part of International Seasons, the acclaimed intercultural programme series organised by the International Centre.
The day began with a dynamic roundtable discussion. Professor István Tarrósy, director of the International Centre of the University of Pécs, emphasised the importance of the meeting, stating: *"Today we are joining forces and fostering the relations we have with our colleagues in Bosnia and Herzegovina."*
Representatives from the visiting universities introduced themselves, offering insight into the rich history and academic achievements of their institutions. Throughout the discussion, participants explored the various dimensions of academic cooperation.
Dr Attila Miseta, rector of the University of Pécs, highlighted the importance of nurturing relationships between institutions and emphasised that
it is essential to harness these strengths together.

The rich cultural heritage and resilience of Bosnia and Herzegovina were also at the centre of attention during the roundtable discussion. *"We encourage faculty staff and students to participate in exchange programmes and share their knowledge and expertise with colleagues abroad,"* explained Professor Nermin Sarajlić, vice-rector for Science and Research of the University of Tuzla. He described the University's internationalisation efforts, including participation in mobility programmes such as Erasmus+ and a network of more than 200 cooperation agreements worldwide.
Professor Sanja Bijakšić, vice-rector for International Relations of the University of Mostar, passionately demonstrated her University's deep commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive scientific environment. *"We are proud to be a country with many nationalities and a vibrant cultural heritage,"* noted Professor Bijakšić. She highlighted the University's recent accreditation and emphasised that its strategic focus is on internationalisation, digitisation, and innovation.
"We have more than 200 bilateral agreements with higher education institutions around the world," said Professor Dalibor Kesic, vice-rector for Human and Material Resources of University of Banja Luka. He added, *"Internationalisation is a priority in the University's strategy."* Professor Ranko Škrbić, dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Banja Luka, emphasised the importance of inter-faculty cooperation and exchange programmes. In particular, he recognised the potential of exchanges between medical faculties of different universities as a crucial step towards promoting academic partnerships and sharing knowledge.
Professor Amalia Ramović, vice-dean for International Cooperation of the University of Sarajevo, spoke passionately about the resilience of Sarajevo's art scene during the Bosnian War. She emphasised that *"art is the way we transcend our fragile and temporary bodily selves, and our existence becomes somehow transcendental. Art is therefore one of the main activities of the University of Sarajevo."* This enduring spirit resonates deeply with Sarajevo's cultural heritage, as reflected in the University's remarkable achievements, including the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2002 for *No Man's Land*.
Biljana Gutic-Bjelica, ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Hungary, emphasised that *"this is an excellent start and opportunity to promote each other's institutions and to retain young people and students in the region."*
Professor Tarrósy also reinforced this sentiment, stressing the need for sustained dialogue and cooperation. *"Communication at the levels of science, education, and innovation helps us solve problems collaboratively,"* he noted. Professor József Betlehem, vice-rector for Vice Rector for General Affairs, Connections, and Strategic Affairs of the University of Pécs, emphasised: *"International cooperation is a key element for all universities, not only in this region but also at the international level."*
As part of the event, artists from the University of Sarajevo performed pieces by Bosnian and Hungarian composers in a musical programme blending Eastern and Western traditions. The performance, led by Belma Alić (cello) and Belma Šarančić (accordion), symbolised the rich culture of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its historical role as a meeting place of civilisations. Through music, the universities expressed how cultural diversity can both divide and unite us, encouraging the audience to reflect on the role of the arts in fostering mutual understanding.
Through initiatives such as the International Seasons series, we celebrate diversity and foster dialogue between different cultures.

CROATIAN DAY
08/05/2024
The Croatian Day, organised at the University of Pécs, was more than a celebration of culture; it served as a forum for deepening cooperation and strengthening ties between academic insti-

tutions. On 8 May, 2024 as part of the International Seasons series of intercultural events, leaders from the University of Pécs, the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, and the University North held a roundtable discussion.
The Croatian Day focused on strengthening ties between the participating universities. Representatives from Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek and University North engaged in discussions with their counterparts from the University of Pécs. A key aim of the event was to explore opportunities for collaboration across various fields, including education, research, and student exchange programmes. Such initiatives are essential for enriching academic experiences and fostering mutual growth and development.
Professor István Tarrósy, director of the International Centre of the University of Pécs, emphasised the importance of fostering strong cross-border relations between universities. “Events like Croatian Day provide a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration,” he said. “By joining forces, we can explore new opportunities.”
State Secretary Gábor Mayer highlighted the government’s continued commitment to regional development and academic cooperation:
“Collaboration between universities is vital for driving innovation and economic growth.
The Ministry is dedicated to supporting partnerships that advance regional development objectives.”
Professor Sonja Vila, vice-rector for Science, Technology, Projects, and International Cooperation at the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, highlighted the importance of collaboration, stating: “We should cooperate even more. Today, I will simply present some facts about our university and our city, as the city plays a crucial role in attracting prospective students, and it needs to offer something that makes their stay as students appealing.”
Vila’s presentation shed light on Osijek’s rich history and cultural heritage, emphasising its role as the centre of Eastern Croatia. She highlighted the city’s strong economic performance, particularly in agriculture and the IT industry, while also drawing attention to its natural beauty and leisure facilities. The professor expressed her commitment to learning from partner institutions and expanding English-language study programmes.
Professor Marin Milković, rector of the University North, expressed optimism about the prospects for strengthened cooperation, given the geographical proximity and shared history of the institutions. “We are close not only geographically but also historically, linked by 500 years of shared history. Although previous collaborations have been limited, I believe today marks the beginning of a stronger partnership,” he said.
He highlighted the importance of the University of Pécs in the region and emphasised the potential for fruitful cooperation, especially in scientific and research activities. “We have had good cooperation with other universities in Hungary, but
I believe the University of Pécs will be our strongest partner, given its prestige and resources. Universities are cornerstones for promoting cooperation between countries and rebuilding past relations,” he concluded.
In summary, the Croatian Day at the University of Pécs was a great success, bringing together students, professors, and faculty members from various universities to celebrate friendship, sportsmanship, and cultural diversity. By the end of the event, participants departed with a renewed sense of companionship and a shared commitment to continue fostering cooperation between the universities in the years ahead.

4TH FERENC FARKAS INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AT THE FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

07-08/06/2024

For the fourth time, the Department of Leadership and Organizational Sciences of the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Pécs organised the Ferenc Farkas International

Scientific Conference on 7–8 June, 2024. The biennial event was this year titled as Inspiring Changes and Visions of the Future.
The event was organised with this approach in mind, therefore in addition to university lecturers and researchers, practising professionals also participated in the event, whose main topic was the correlation between the university and the economy. In corporate roundtable discussions and business-focused sessions, participants discussed how the relationship between regional companies and universities should be organised in order for economic actors and the University of Pécs to achieve results along a common strategy.

The Issue of Livability at the Center of International Architectural Discourse in Pécs
03/07/2024
Rapid urbanization does not inherently result in a human-centered urban environment. This is why there is a continuous need for professionals in architecture to reinterpret and redefine the concept of livable space. Architects around the world emphasize the need for constant updating of the built environment, aiming to create spaces that meet the needs of people today characterized by accessibility, inclusivity, safety, community involvement, ergonomics, and sustainability.
These values and the innovative architectural and technological solutions that support them will be at the heart of the 'Places and Technologies' international conference, jointly organized by the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Belgrade and the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Pécs (UP MIK) on July 8–9, 2024. One of the conference's key themes will be livability.
Now in its 9th edition, this scientific meeting held this year in Pécs and aims to discuss methodologies and urban, architectural, or structural design concepts that may enhance the livability of the built environment.
Livability is becoming increasingly important for people worldwide, as the global population continues to grow and urbanization reaches a planetary scale. The livability of a place is directly influenced by the needs, desires, expectations, and both the physical and social necessities of its residents. Designers must take all of this into account in their processes. New design methodologies and strategies are also emerging to improve the chances and inclusion of groups with diverse social needs. Studying the interactions between people and the built environment contributes to efforts aimed at creating livable urban environments.
With the appropriate technologies and multidisciplinary approaches, it is possible to ensure that cities implement strategies that foster livable conditions for both current and future residents.
These themes will be explored at the conference, which primarily focused on architecture but also brings together perspectives from engineering, technical sciences, the arts, humanities, and social sciences. A key objective of the event is to provide a platform for high-level, contemporary research findings and new approaches in these areas.
"Abstracts were submitted from all over the world, and the composition of participants will be very diverse,"says Dr. Gabriella Medvegy, dean of UP MIK and host of the conference.
"In addition to the scientific community of the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Belgrade and the lecturers, researchers, and doctoral students of our own Institute of Architecture, we will welcome partners from Serbia, Croatia, Slovakia, and Italy as well. We are expecting exciting and thought-provoking presentations, and have invited prominent researchers and experts to deliver the plenary lectures -those who represent influential perspectives."
"We expect dynamic exchanges of ideas and experiences during the roundtable discussions and in the nine thematic sessions. Even the side events are designed to encourage professional and academic networking," adds Dr. Medvegy.

Both practicing architects and architectural scholars are increasingly concerned with what the near future holds, especially as discussions about human health and its many dimensions become more prominent, and attention turns to how the built environment affects well-being. In large urban structures, measurable phenomena such as urban heat islands can be observed, while in the best cases, wind corridors that ensure fresh air circulation also exist. Just as important is the focus on sustainable architecture, environmental protection within the construction industry, and reducing ecological footprints, beginning from the urban scale.
Architecture is becoming ever more complex and nuanced. This is not only due to the responsibilities architects bear toward the environment and its inhabitants, including those living in differing or socially vulnerable contexts, but also because professionals must be familiar with emerging technologies and the opportunities offered by digitalization, and must be able to put these tools to effective use.

The Pécs Summer School has officially started
04/07/2024
As the summer sunlight filters through the historic streets of Pécs, the city once again becomes a hub of international knowledge and culture summer in 2024. The University of Pécs is organizing six different summer schools under the umbrella of Pécs Summer School, attracting students from all over the world. The programs will take place throughout July in five sessions, running in two- and four-week cycles, covering a broad spectrum of academic and cultural topics.
We attended the opening ceremony on July 4, 2024 in the Dr. József Halasy-Nagy Aula.
“Our long-term goal is to build a strong connection between as many students as possible and the University of Pécs, whether through short-term programs or full degree programs. So far, this strategy is working well, and the number of students enrolling in these programs is steadily increasing.

In our experience, students who participate in the summer school often return later for an exchange semester, or even enroll in a full degree program. We also consider it important to enrich and strengthen our bilateral partnerships. That’s why we offer our international partners the opportunity to send their students to Pécs for two or four weeks of study. We have successfully applied this model with both Chinese and American students.
This is how we can become more visible and internationally recognized, while offering meaningful and beneficial content for both sides,” said Dr. István Tarrósy, Director of the International Directorate.
These summer schools explore a wide range of fascinating topics. The offerings span from European studies and leadership skills development to programs focused on international human rights. Nearly 200 students from four continents are participating in the programs.
The courses include students from international partner universities as well as from the University of Pécs. In addition to UP instructors, Dutch and Croatian lecturers are also teaching. For the first time this year, students will receive a microcredential upon completing the program.
In addition to the various summer school programs, the American Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is offering three summer courses at the University of Pécs for its own students.
“Facility exchange programs” are becoming increasingly popular at American universities. This means that one or more instructors take their university group to a foreign partner institution during the summer, where teaching continues uninterrupted. We have reached an agreement with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and three of their instructors will accompany a group of 25 students to Pécs, delivering three different courses over four weeks at the University of Pécs.

In addition, we organize numerous cultural and professional practice programs for the students," explained Dr. Gyöngyi Pozsgai, Head of the Study Abroad and Summer School Office. Furthermore, Dr. István Tarrósy reported that after years of negotiations with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, they were able to establish this program. The collaboration initially began following a meeting at a higher education expo, and the relationship has been maintained ever since. He is pleased to see that the idea, which was shaped through many years of visits, acquaintances, and discussions, and the long and painstaking work, has finally come to fruition. Thanks to the growing number of summer programs, the University of Pécs has become a market leader among domestic higher education institutions and has grown into a significant Summer School Hub in the region.
The summer school not only provides a venue for academic and cultural exchange but also offers new opportunities for global knowledge sharing and intercultural experiences.

The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Pécs is launching short-cycle programs in the Philippines
10/07/2024
The collaboration between the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Pécs (UP MIK) and the University of San Carlos on Cebu Island in the Philippines, with a focus on architecture education, is soon entering its tenth year. During this time, several joint projects have been carried out. Around thirty Filipino students have studied in Pécs, and several lecturers from Pécs have taught courses in Cebu, with some even spending an entire semester there. In the future, the two institutions aim to strengthen their partnership by introducing short but intensive UP courses at the foreign university.
"We had many discussions about how, following a recent natural disaster, the local population turned to traditional building materials to quickly construct habitable homes. At that time, the architecture school in Cebu was also running a successful project in the Oceania region that focused on the concept of shelter in their own cultural context. We were also interested in the significance of bamboo as a local construction material, just as we in Pécs aim to base our architecture on local technologies."
The University of San Carlos, considered the oldest school in the Philippines, had 25,000 students at the time of the partnership's formation, and its architecture program had a history of seventy years. After the collaboration was officially declared, the joint work between the two institutions quickly began. Students from Cebu have joined the Breuer Marcell Doctoral School at UP MIK. Each semester, the Pécs institution hosted three architecture students on scholarships. Later, Erasmus Mundus funding was secured to support the collaboration, allowing physical mobility between the two institutions. Every year, a lecturer from Cebu came to Pécs, and faculty from Pécs were also given opportunities to teach in the Philippines.
Recently, an event was held at the University of San Carlos to reflect on the past nine years of cooperation. It included local professors and former students who had studied in Pécs. These now-practicing architects shared their successes. Some run architectural offices, while others spoke about how their perception of space was transformed by the experiences they had in Pécs. In Asia, those who have studied in Europe still hold significant prestige, so the semesters spent in Pécs proved to be a valuable investment for them.
At this meeting the continuation of the partnership was also discussed. Starting from the next academic year which will be the tenth year in the collaboration the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Pécs (UP MIK) plans to launch short cycle highly intensive courses at the University of San Carlos in Cebu.
"The first course will likely focus on building structures as our colleagues there are eager to enrich their curriculum with our input. We will begin with tensile and membrane structures

such as fabric covered frameworks which are widely used in their climate. From a methodological perspective it would also be valuable for us to learn how they apply local building materials. Moreover it would be exciting to exchange experiences on alternative nature based energy solutions and ventilation techniques," explains Dr. Gabriella Medvegy.

International Neuroscience Conference
25-26/01/2024
A prominent scientific event, the International Neuroscience Conference, began on January 25, 2024, in the Endre Grastyán Theoretical Building of the PTE Medical School. At the two-day, English-language, interdisciplinary symposium, several renowned speakers will present the latest international and domestic research results to more than 400 interested parties. At the prestigious event, the participants were able to gain insight into the issues of neuroscience and philosophy through the plenary lectures of Dr. László Lénárd, Rector Emeritus of PTE, neurobiologist, Dr. György Buzsáki, famous brain researcher, honorary doctor of PTE, Dr. Christoph Koch, senior researcher, Dr. Joseph LeDoux, professor at New York University, and János Boros.

World Association of Confucius Institutes
12/2023
The staff of the Confucius Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine of the PTE ETK participated in the World Conference on the Chinese Language in Beijing. Some of the Confucius Centers also deal with traditional Chinese medicine - among the five centers operating in Hungary, the PTE's is one of them. The event in Beijing was of particular importance in that the World Association of Confucius Institutes of Traditional Chinese Medicine was established.

Project title
H2SCALE – Paving the way for setting up scalable, green hydrogen-based economic models for local communities in the Danube Region
Project ID
DRP0401142
Project start date
01.09.2024
Project end date
31.08.2025
Lead Partner
University of Pécs (HU)
Partner Organisations
Energy and Climate Agency of Podravje (SI), Czech University of Life Sciences (CZ), University of Applied Sciences Landshut (DE)
General description
The EU's climate strategies emphasize the development of hydrogen industries to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, with goals like using 20 million tons of renewable hydrogen by 2030. The H2SCALE project aligns with these strategies, focusing on creating local hydrogen ecosystems in the Danube Region, including Hungary, Slovenia, Czech Republic, and Germany. These countries face high energy costs and rely on fossil fuels, making hydrogen crucial for boosting their economies and addressing energy poverty. The project involves assessing local hydrogen production and consumption capacities, integrating hydrogen into energy and transport systems, and preparing investments. Challenges include limited municipal knowledge and top-down investment approaches. The consortium also submitted a proposal (I3Hydrogen)

to facilitate regional cooperation prviously and now they plan to elaborate it further in this project by addressing feedback, involve more stakeholders, raise hydrogen acceptance, and secure additional funding.

Project title
SHIELD4GRAPE – Introduction of breeding and integrated plant protection strategies in vineyards to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides (SHIELD4GRAPE)
Project ID
2020-2.1.1-ED-2023-00258
Project start date
02.01.2024
Project end date
31.01.2027
Coordinator
CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (IT)
Partner Organisations
AGRENAOS (GR), ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS (GR), VIGNAIOLI PIEMONTESI SOCIETA COOPERATIVA AGRICOLA (IT), UNIVERSIDAD DE LA RIOJA (ES), AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIO (ES), INSTITUTO MURCIANO DE INVESTIGACION Y DESARROLLO (ES), FCIENCIAS.ID - ASSOCIACAO PARA A INVESTIGACAO E DES (PT), FACULDADE DE CIENCIAS DA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA (PT), CONSIGLIO PER LA RICERCA IN AGRICOLTURA E L'ANALISI (IT), ESC DIJON BOURGOGNE (FR), HELLENIFERA(GR), AVIPE-ASSOCIACAO DE VITICULTORES DO CONCELHO DE (PT), CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (CY), GIP Pôle Bourgogne Vigne et Vin (FR), INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE INVESTIGAÇAO AGRARIA E VETE (PT), METEC INNOVATION CONSULTING SRL (IT), PECSI TUDOMANYEGYETEM - UNIVERSITY OF PECS (HU)
General description
The SHIELD4GRAPE (S4G) Horizon Europe project applies sustainable agroecological approaches aimed at enhancing the resilience of the viticulture system against pests and diseases in the context of climate change. The S4G consortium brings together leading experts in the sector; it is multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, collaborative, and well represents the EU's various biogeographical regions. S4G exploits grapevine biodiversity and identifies new resistance traits; it also carries out breeding activities, including new breeding techniques and mutagenesis, and introduces safer and more sustainable strategies against pathogens. Demonstration sites will be established across all key EU viticulture regions to improve the efficiency of integrated plant protection procedures combined with newly resistant genotypes.
S4G aims to support farmers and researchers, provide advisory services, and assist value chain stakeholders by creating an interconnected community that facilitates knowledge and best practice exchange at various levels, as well as socio-economic resilience. The impacts of S4G will enhance the wine heritage of EU regions by reducing chemical treatments by at least 50%, adopting less environmentally harmful strategies, and prioritizing beneficial organisms. S4G contributes to the protection of land (especially areas with a high concentration of vineyards), human health, agricultural producers, residents of vineyard regions, and consumers.
The University of Pécs Viticulture and Enology Research Institute participates as an associated consortium member in the project, enabled by a grant of HUF 123,713,100 awarded by the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund's Innovation Fund section, as decided by the minister responsible for science policy coordination.

Project title
SpongeCity – Improving urban climate change adaptation capacities by testing and promoting the ‘sponge city’ methodology on transnational level
Project ID
DRP0200159
Project start date
01.01.2024
Project end date
30.06.2026
Lead Partner
University of Pécs, HU
Partner Organisations
University of Pécs
Koprivnica water supply LLC
Paris-Lodron University Salzburg
BSC, Business support centre L.t.d., Kranj
Municipality of Prague 9
University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava
University of Mostar
City Hall of Chisinau Municipality
RARIS - Regional Development Agency of Eastern Serbia
ASPECT - Management and Intercultural Relations
Capital City Podgorica
Satu Mare County Intercommunity Development Association
E-institute
General description
Danube Region is affected by natural disasters resulting from climate change, increasing the intensity and frequency of heat waves, droughts, fire incidents, and heavy rainfalls with flash floods on local level. Since 75% of the region’s population lives in cities, these anomalies put the citizens at particular risk. Local community leaders must be prepared for these weather anomalies. Urban water management have so far mainly followed traditional approaches, including large-scale gray infrastructure investments, lacking innovation and the exploitation of ecosystem services. Their social acceptance is usually hindered as citizens are not involved in design and testing. Settlements have different micro-climatic, infrastructural, financial, legal and social backgrounds in DR, but they all need support in forecasting local climate risks and identifying effective interventions. Transnational cooperation is needed for this knowledge exchange and for mainstreaming the conclusions to macroregional level. The cross-sectoral partnership aims to spread the Sponge City concept in DR to answer these challenges. A sponge city is an urban area which has been designed to cope with excess rainfall using a variety of techniques. It mitigates/prevents urban floods by providing the area with the ability to naturally absorb the water. It reduces the extent of impermeable surfaces and increases the amount of absorbent land: green surfaces, green walls, bioswales, inner-city lakes, rain gardens, permeable pavements. Supplementing this approach with channelling and storage systems also helps to counter water shortages. The project analyses the hydroclimatic characteristics and water management practices of 12 pilot settlements, sets up a toolbox to support the planning of sponge city measures, tests and promotes the tools by participative elaboration of local action plans, feasibility studies and demonstration investments. Partners mainstream the results to national and EU level.

THE ROLE OF RAIN GARDENS IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

21/05/2024

In recent years, extreme weather conditions, including intense rainfall and prolonged drought, have increasingly shed light on the need for effective water management. In urban areas, flash flooding and rapid runoffs pose a serious problem, which calls for innovative solutions. One such solution was discussed in the lecture titled Runoff or Retention? The Role of Rain Gardens in Urban Runoffs, held on 21 May, 2024 by Dr Szabolcs Czigány, associate professor of the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences of the Faculty of Sciences of the UP, as part of the Green Library programme series in the Knowledge Centre.

In the lecture, Dr Czigány emphasised how climate change and urbanisation are leading to a growing proportion of impermeable surfaces, which significantly increases surface runoff. Traditional engineering solutions often fail to manage the sudden influx of rainwater, resulting in floods and damage to urban infrastructure.

The key to the solution lies in smart urban water management, one of the most effective elements of which is the use of rain gardens.

Rain gardens are such green spaces that collect rainwater, store it and slowly return it to the soil, reducing runoffs and increasing the amount of groundwater. Such solutions are ecologically sustainable and environmentally friendly, contributing to improving the urban microclimate and increasing biodiversity.

Dr Czigány presented one of the latest international projects of the Faculty of Sciences of the UP, titled “Sponge City.” Rain gardens will be placed in four different cities in four different countries. The project also poses interesting challenges for the researchers in Pécs, as the characteristics of the city and the nature of the area have a fundamental influence on the design and construction of the rain gardens.

The 10x3 m area offers environmentally friendly solutions to help cities adapt to the challenges of climate change. The burial of five plastic containers below ground level allows for efficient rainwater harvesting and storage, while their filling with different soil mixes allows for proper filtration and absorption of water. The tanks have been placed on the University of Pécs campus at Ifjúság Street and are currently being filled.

According to Dr Szabolcs Czigány,

“Rain gardens not only help to retain water but also improve the ecological condition of the urban environment.”

By installing such gardens, rainwater is not discharged directly into the sewer system, but infiltrates into the soil, reducing runoff.

The creation and testing of rain gardens in Pécs could be an important step in the city’s sustainability efforts. The experience and results could provide inspiration for other cities to implement similar projects, making the concept of rain gardens a key element for the future of cities.

Project title

RTIT – Knowhow Communities for Accelerating RTI Transfer in the Danube Region

Project ID

DRP0200218

Project start date

01.01.2024

Project end date

30.06.2026

Coordinator

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center Tehnopolis (ME)

Partner Organisations

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center Tehnopolis (ME), Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia (SI), National Institute of Chemistry (SI) , Kompetenzzentrum Holz GmbH (AT) , Foundation for Innovation and Technology Development (INTERA Technology Park) (BA), University of Zenica (BA) , University of Montenegro (ME), Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (UA), Bayern Innovativ - Society for Innovation and Knowledge Transfer (DE), Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (BG), Applied Research and Communications Fund BG), Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Pécs-Baranya (HU), University of Pecs (HU)

General description

Project goal is to strengthen the innovation potential of SMEs in the Danube Region in the field of material and materials technologies, to improve collaboration of SMEs with research, technology and innovation (RTI) in order to better transfer research and technology results in material sciences and technologies and lower the risks for SMEs in commercializing TRI, and to improve the framework conditions and infrastructure for RTI transfer in a key technology area of strategic importance to the Danube region. Within the project, action plan for the acceleration of RTI transfer, field-testing tools and approaches to accelerate TRI transfer Solutions to accelerate RTI transfer will be developed and network of Knowhow Community hubs will be created.

Project title

GreenPee – An innovative Physical Education model for sustainable personal and environmental health

Project ID

22320236

Project start date

01.01.2024

Project end date

30.06.2025

Coordinator

University of Pécs (HU)

Partner Organisations

Catholic University in Ruzomberok (SK), Charles University (CZ), University of Physical Education in Krakow (PL)

General description

GreenPE will create, establish, and validate the effects of an innovative physical education (PE) curriculum towards environmental andhealth sustainability. Experts will deliver low-energy-cost outdoor physical activity to the general university student population to targetmental and physical fitness, and health behavior, of which quantitative and qualitative pilot data will be collected.

Green Physical Education for Sustainable Health

Improving the mental and physical fitness of university students through outdoor physical activity is the aim of the project that the Institute of Sport and Physical Education of the Faculty of Science of the University of Pécs participates in alongside a Polish, a Czech, and a Slovakian university.

The GreenPE, meaning green physical education project, aims to implement an innovative model of physical education in higher education, focusing on environmental and health sustainability.

From each partner, 15 university students will receive an outdoor exercise plan, as well as nutritional and mental health counseling over the 20 weeks. Physical education teachers, fitness instructors and sports major student demonstrators, during the autumn semester of the 2024-25

academic year, will provide students with two outdoor P.E. sessions per week and one classroom lecture on the theory of fitness and outdoor physical activity.
At the beginning and end of the programme, participants' mental and physical health will be assessed.

Project title
DRWO4.0 – Danube Region Wood Industry Transformation Model towards Industry 4.0
Project ID
DRP0200218
Project start date
01.01.2024
Project end date
31.12.2025
Coordinator
Competence Centre Ltd. for research and development (HR)
Partner Organisations
Salzburg University of Applied Sciences (AT); KO-FA Association (RP); Wood Industry Cluster (SI); Cultural Innovation Competence Center Association (HU); Bulgarian Furniture Cluster (BG); Cluster of Czech Furniture Manufacturers (CZ); University of Belgrade - Faculty of Forestry (RS); Development Agency of City of Prijedor "PREDA" (BA); Cahul Business Centre (MD); Culmena Ltd, HR; Agency for sustainable development of the Carpathian region (UA); Faculty of Design (SI); University of Pecs (HU)
General description
Development of the forest management industry of the Danube region through the application of Industry 4.0. The partners plan to achieve this through the transformation of industry 4.0, which creates an applicable and reproducible model for forest management, which is based on needs assessment and evaluation, the creation of experimental actions and capacity building.

Project title
EU PAL-COPD – A palliatív ellátás integrálására irányuló ICLEAR-EU beavatkozás értékelése az előrehaladott COPD-ben szenvedők és családtagjaikat ápoló személyek kezelésében.
Project ID
2020-2.1.1-ED-2023-00260
Project start date
01.01.2024
Project end date
31.12.2028
Coordinator
Vrije Universiteit Brussel (BE)
Partner Organisations
Stichting Radboud universitair medisch centrum (NL), Universiteit Gent (Be), Kobenhavns Universitet (DK), Universidade Católica Portuguesa (PT), Long Alliantie Nederland (NL), European Association for Palliative Care (BE)
Associated partners: Accelopment Schweiz AG (CH), European Respiratory Society (UK), Lancaster University (UK), King's College London (UK), European Lung Foundation (UK), University of Pecs (HU)
General description
The EU PAL-COPD is the first large-scale international trial, which goal is to systematically integrate palliative care in the treatment routine of people with advanced Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in different healthcare systems in Europe. The ambition of EU

PAL-COPD is to improve end-of-life care and well-being of life for millions of COPD patients and their families.
The EU PAL-COPD project, which is coordinated by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, launched on 1 January 2024, and will be implemented by 13 organisations from seven European countries. On behalf of Hungary the Medical School of University of Pécs, Institution of Primary Health Care, Department of Hospice-Palliative Care is participating in the programme.
Palliative care provides specialised support for people with life-threatening diseases and aims to improve the physical, mental, social, and existential well-being of patients and their families. Traditionally, it has been used in the care of cancer patients in Europe, but its benefits are increasingly being recognised for non-cancer diseases as well. The early use of palliative care for non-cancer diseases, including COPD, is limited in EU countries, despite the fact that COPD is the third leading cause of death worldwide.
Through the implementation of a highly innovative non-pharmacological service model called ICLEAR-EU in different healthcare systems in Europe, the goal is to improve not only medical care and physical well-being, but also prioritise a patient-centred and family-centred approach with advance care planning and shared decision-making.
The project will implement a clinical trial of the ICLEAR-EU intervention model between 2025 and 2027 in 18 hospitals in seven European countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Hungary, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland). Doctors and researchers from University of Pécs are involved developing protocols and coordinating clinical trials in their home countries. Clinical trials will take place at three sites in Hungary: National Korányi Institute of Pulmonology and Palliative Care Expertise, University of Pécs, Dept. of Pulmonology and Palliative Care Expertise, and Komló Hospital, Dept. of Pulmonology and Palliative Care Expertise.
Funded by the Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary from the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund.

Project title
EURASIA – East Asia at a Crossroads
Project start date
01.09.2023
Project end date
31.01.2024
Coordinator
University of Pécs (HU)
General description
The objective of this project is to provide and test samples of Schreiber's bats from multiple countries in Southern-Eastern Europe. We plan to continue and maintain a Lloviu virus surveillance programme in relation to these animals, which will provide samples for Lloviu virus RNA sequence diversity studies and also for in vivo ADAR/APOBEC gene activity studies. The animal-derived data will inform the in vitro study design.

Project title
WELLBEING - Promoting the wellbeing concept at medical and public sector of the Visegrad Region
Project ID
22310140
Project start date
01.06.2023
Project end date

30.11.2024

Lead Partner

University of Pécs, HU

Partner Organisations

Charles University, CZ

Comenius University Bratislava, SK - https://www.jfmed.uniba.sk/en/

Medical University of Gdansk, PL - www.gumed.edu.pl

General description

The most important determinants of competitiveness in the life of every organisation are people. Their well-being is a principal aim of the EU and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The importance of investing in health & social protection has also been recognised by the World Bank Group, the International Labour Organization, the IMF and the WHO. Well-being policy highlight the importance of ensuring access for social services, occupational health and safety, decent working conditions, equal opportunities, gender equality and social inclusion as measures to enable people to reach their full potential. Well-being plays a particularly important role at medical schools, where students and employees are even more exposed to stress. Medical education can directly contribute to the development of psychological distress in students, and this can lead to catastrophic consequences such as impaired academic performance and competency, burnout, medical errors and attrition from medical school. In addition, several studies have demonstrated that the personal example set by health professionals, has a significant impact on the attitudes and health behaviour of those they come into contact with. The project will therefore focus on ensuring the well-being of medical students (future doctors) and workers by developing a transnational mentoring programme and sharing experiences with the medical and public sectors. In the long term, the project will go beyond its target groups and will also contribute to improving the health awareness of the general population.

The well-being programme gives everyone the opportunity to maintain physical and mental health. As the results of a Faculty are largely influenced by the staff and students of the organisation, we want to give more opportunities to the citizens of the Visegrad region to shape this community together, giving space to community needs and ideas. The concept of well-being provides a vision for human resources development. The main goal is to ensure that people working and studying in medical schools, health care institutions and social services administration feel proud and happy to work and learn, feel physically and mentally well as part of a community, and positively influence other people in their attitudes towards health. This good practice will be passed on to many other organisations and businesses of the VR.

Project partners:

Charles University

Comenius University Bratislava

Medical University of Gdansk

Project goals:

- supporting the well-being of the students, staff and citizens;
- facilitating the quality improvement of the environment of these communities;
- encouraging citizens to be proactive, work in synergy, innovate and experience creative joy.

Activities:

1, Sharing experiences of past programs at the kick-off event

2, Need assessment (physical infrastructure, community, environment)

3, Joint development of a transnational mentoring program

4, Joint online training, to appoint and train the mentors on the basis of the mentoring program

5, Disseminating results for wide range of stakeholders at closing event and via social media

Project title
ACCESSIBLE – The development of the innovative educational method of ACCESSIBLE tourism in Central Europe
Project ID
2022-2-HU01- KA220-HED-000099410
Project start date
01.05.2023
Project end date
01.05.2025
Coordinator
University of Pécs (HU)
Partner Organisations
University of Zagreb (HR), Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan (PL), Universitatea Sapientia din Municipiul Cluj-Napoca (RO)
General description
The project aims at creating an innovative, novel teaching material for filling the existing knowledge gap of students learning tourism and giving them a holistic approach how to serve people with disabalities in an effective way.

The project results are thematically organised in 3 workpackes (WP2, WP3 and WP4):

1. The main result of WP2 is the collection of the best-practices from each participating partner country. Furthermore, systematic literature analysis, situation assessment and analysis will be prepared and questionnaire will be done in order to create foundation of futher project work.
2. WP3 is about creating a learning material developed that will be a new element in the training of student specialising in tourism and catering, and which will be introduced in all 4 participating countries. A learning material will be implemented for a full semester, which will allow accessible tourism to be lectured as a course on its own. Also, learning material modules will be written, which can be integrated into the curricula of several tourism subjects (e.g., theory of tourism, tourism product development, health tourism etc.).
3. In WP4 the following activities will be achieved: for the effective lecturing of the course, an innovative teaching methodology will be prepared, at the languages of each participating partners. During the teaching of the subjects, all efforts will be made for the application of the innovative teaching methodology, for which a methodology aid will also be made.
The respective elements of the course, and also the modules, will be tested with the inclusion of the international partners in the framework of a pilot training. The corrections and further developments will be made, if relevant, using the findings and experiences of the pilot testing.
Electronic versions of the learning materials (E-platform) will also be developed, so as to make the research achievements available to as broad a circle as possible, and to allow diverse ways of learning about accessible tourism, even in the form of remote teaching.

Project title
TransGeo – Transforming abandoned wells for geothermal energy production
Project ID
CE0100071
Project start date
01.05.2023
Project end date
30.04.2026
Lead Partner

Helmholtz-Centre Potsdam German Research Centre for Geosciences

Partner Organisations

Landesamt für Bergbau, Geologie und Rohstoffe Brandenburg
ONEO GmbH
GeoSphere Austria
Greenwell Energy GmbH
CROST Területfejlesztési Nonprofit Kft
Pécsi Tudományegyetem
Bányavagyon-hasznosító Nonprofit Közhasznú Kft.
Međimurska energetska agencija d.o.o
Sveučilište u Zagrebu Rudarsko-geološko-naftni fakultet
Lokalna energetska agencija za Pomurje

General description

Large amounts of oil and gas were produced in Central Europe from thousands of deep wells, but after decades of production many of the hydrocarbon wells are abandoned or must soon be abandoned. The declining hydrocarbon industry leaves behind an enormous infrastructure and thousands of highly skilled workers, especially in rural areas facing multiple economic and social challenges. Instead of abandoning unused wells, they can be used for geothermal energy production and heat storage to support local communities and industries in the energy transition. However, this potential is largely underutilised due to economic uncertainties and non-technical barriers.

The overall objective of TRANSGEO is to enable a structural change from a fossil-fuel producing hydrocarbon industry towards sustainable green energy provision from geothermal energy sources within Central Europe with focus on rural areas.
Our approach of applying established geothermal technologies and workflows to the conditions of existing hydrocarbon infrastructure and matching it with local energy demand and heating networks is highly innovative.

The main outputs include a transnational well repurpose potential assessment, site-specific feasibility studies, validated well repurpose methodologies, a web-based tool for assessment of well repurpose potential, and a transnational strategy and action plan. The uptake of these outputs will be ensured by a Cooperation Agreement for long-term support of well repurposing in Central Europe.

Transnational cooperation is indispensable because of the following reasons: (i) technological, legislative, economic and social challenges related to structural change and heat transition are very similar in the considered regions; (ii) competences and expertise of project partners operating in science, industry, regional development and regulation in different countries are essential for the development of joint novel solutions for well repurposing.

Project title

Olive Trees Health and Yield Prediction through EO data and Machine Learning

Project ID

EO Africa R&D

Project start date

27.02.2023

Project end date

27.02.2024

Coordinator

University of Twente (NL)

Partner Organisations

Hassan First University (MA), University of Pécs (HU)

General description
The olive tree (Olea Europaea) is native across the Mediterranean region. It is among the oldest fruit trees cultivated in north African countries. In Morocco alone, it occupies 65% of the national arboricultural area with a production exceeding 1.4 Tons between 2016 and 2019, creating more than 50 million workdays. However, this cultivation faces hardship ahead, mainly because of climate change and water deficiency, hence the urgent need to take rapid action to enable high-yield, high-quality, sustainable, and resilient production. This study aims to assess the olive trees' health and predict their yield using EO data of different sensors including Sentinel (1 and 2), Landsat, Mohamed VI satellite imagery and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. The EO data will be combined with climatic data and Machine Learning models. The main objective is to develop an open-source EO workflow that will be applied to other regions of Africa and be helpful in monitoring tree health and early forecasting of olive production. The developed workflow could be used by different types of end-users such as governmental institutions, researcher institutions as well as farmers for deriving the information at national, regional or local scale respectively.

Project title
IronSleep – Neuroimaging és viselkedési biomarkerek a korai stádiumban lévő Parkinson-kór progressziójának és a mögöttes mechanizmusok a vizsgálatában (IronSleep)
Project ID
2019-2.1.7-ERA-NET-2022-00046
Project start date
01.02.2023
Project end date
31.01.2026
Coordinator
University of Pécs
General description
Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second most common neurodegenerative disease with a steadily increasing incidence. PD is caused by abnormal protein and iron deposition, which starts years or decades before the first motor symptoms of the disease appear. Available drug treatments are only symptomatic, i.e. they cannot slow or stop the destruction of nerve cells. Although promising neuroprotective drugs are being developed, their disease-modifying effects are not proven. Indeed, the development of neuroprotective therapies for PD is largely hampered by the fact that by the time the first motor symptoms appear, nerve cell death is already extensive. Reliable identification of PD that has not yet produced clinical symptoms (preclinical and prodromal) is therefore a priority area of research for the development of neuroprotective therapies and for delaying or preventing the development of PD. The present international research aims to develop a procedure based on MRI imaging and electrophysiological methods and clinical features to reliably identify early and preclinical stages and to gain a better understanding of the pathophysiology of the disease.

Project title
CUPID - Cancer- Understanding Prevention in Intellectual Disabilities
Project ID
CA21123
Project start date
01.01.2023
Project end date
31.12.2026

Coordinator
Waterford Institute of Technology (IE)
General description
Cancer prevention is poorly understood among people with intellectual disabilities. CUPID is setting up a research agenda and knowledge base to improve this in the European Union and beyond.

Project title
3D-BioDegBone
Project ID
2022-1.2.7-EUROSTARS-2022-00003
Project start date
01.01.2023
Project end date
31.12.2025
Coordinator
BTECH Ltd. (TR)
Partner Organisations
Premet Kft. (HU), University of Pécs (HU)
General description
The aim of the collaboration is to develop and produce a new polymer-based bioactive additive manufacturing material for implantable cranio-maxillofacial (skull, face, and jaw) implants, mainly for children in need of such surgeries.

Project title
EDUC II. - European Digital UniverCity - Building a bridging alliance
Project ID
101089535 - EDUC II.
Project start date
01.01.2023
Project end date
31.12.2026
Coordinator
University of Potsdam (DE)
Partner Organisations
University of Rennes (FR), University of Masaryk (CZ), University of Paris Nanterre (FR), University of Cagliari (IT), University of South-Eastern Norway (NO), University of Jaume (ES)
General description
The European Digital UniverCity (EDUC) brings together 8 research intensive public universities: Potsdam, Paris Nanterre, Jaume I, Pécs, South-Eastern Norway, Cagliari, Masaryk University and Rennes 1. EDUC aspires to use digitalization as a vantage point to foster learning, research, innovation and societal responsibility and thus to strengthen present and future citizens in their capacities to tackle 21st century challenges. The alliance builds on the expertise of its members to extend challenge-based, transdisciplinary and innovative pedagogies, to internationalise curricula and to pilot new formats (micro-credentials, European degree) supporting a flexible student journey. The alliance supports seamless mobility of students, scholars and staff through multilingualism as well as blended, physical and virtual learning/training formats organized on the joint virtual EDUC inter-campus. It entertains a rich network of innovation and knowledge transfer for entrepreneurship, traineeships and cross-sectoral research with local

and international ecosystems. The consolidation of the EDUC governance model of co-creation and the legal statute will reinforce the alliance's inclusive and open approach promoting the European way of life and European values on a global scale. The main beneficiaries of the activities are the almost 200.000 students, 13.500 scholars and 17.500 staff. EDUC expects to raise the employability of its students, increase regional knowledge-transfer, establish a vibrant research community, create new HR tools, develop the competencies of its staff and act as a role model. It will produce 47 deliverables covering shared governance, management and dissemination, joint infrastructures, joint learning opportunities, research induced education, staff development and outreach activities.

Project title
EuPRAXIA Doctoral Network
Project ID
101073480
Project start date
01.01.2023
Project end date
31.12.2026
Coordinator
Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (IT)
Partner Organisations
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (IT), Instituto Superior Técnico (PT), Instrumentation Technologies, elektronska instrumentacija in produkti za procesiranje signalov, d.o.o (SI), (UP),Fyzikalni Ustav Av Cr V.V.I (CZ), Lunds universitet (SE), CIVIDEC Instrumentation GmbH (AT), Pécsi Tudományegyetem (HU)
General description
EuPRAXIA is the first European project that develops a dedicated particle accelerator research infrastructure based on novel plasma acceleration concepts and laser technology. It focuses on the development of electron accelerators and underlying technologies, their user communities, and the exploitation of existing accelerator infrastructures in Europe. It was accepted onto the ESFRI roadmap for strategically important research infrastructures in June 2021 as a European priority. To fully exploit the potential of this breakthrough facility, advances are urgently required in plasma and laser R&D, studies into facility design and optimization, along a coordinated push for novel applications. EuPRAXIA-DN is a new MSCA Doctoral Network for a cohort of 10 Fellows between universities, research centers and industry that will carry out an interdisciplinary and cross-sector plasma accelerator research and training program for this new research infrastructure. The network focuses on scientific and technical innovations and on boosting the career prospects of its Fellows.

Project title
EIT Healthcare
Project ID
2021-1.2.1-EIT-KIC-2021-00005
Project start date
01.01.2023
Project end date
30.06.2024
Coordinator
Semmelweis Egyetem (HU)
Partner Organisations

Debreceni Egyetem (HU), E-GROUP ICT SOFTWARE Informatikai Zártkörűen Működő Részvénytársaság (HU), EIT Health Innostars Korlátolt Felelősségű Társaság (HU), GE Healthcare Magyarország Korlátolt Felelősségű Társaság (HU), Health Venture Lab Nonprofit Korlátolt Felelősségű Társaság (HU), Pécsi Tudományegyetem (HU)

General description

The aim of the project is for domestic KIC partners at different levels to build on the individual strengths of each partner and work together to maximise the potential of the EIT Health KIC by 2030, strengthening the domestic economy, competitiveness and the health ecosystem.

Project title

EuPRAXIA Preparatory Phase Project

Project ID

101079773

Project start date

01.11.2022

Project end date

31.10.2026

Coordinator

Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (IT)

Partner Organisations

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (IT), Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste (IT), Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile (IT), Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" (IT), Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata" (IT), Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (FR), Centre national de la recherche scientifique (FR), Thales Las France SAS (FR), Deutsche Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY (DE), Ferdinand-Braun-Institut, Leibniz-Institut für Höchstfrequenztechnik (DE), Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH (DE), Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf HZDR (DE), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (DE), Wigner Fizikai Kutatóközpont (HU), Szegedi Tudományegyetem (HU), Associação do Instituto Superior Técnico para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento (PT), Fyzikalni Ustav Av Cr V.V.I (CZ), Organisation européenne pour la recherche nucléaire (CH), Institute of Accelerating Systems and Applications (GR), Consorcio para el diseño, construcción, equipamiento y explotación del Centro de Láseres Pulsados Ultracortos Ultraintensos (ES), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (IL), Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e. V. (DE), Consorcio para la Construcción, Equipamiento y Explotación del Laboratorio de Luz Sincrotrón (ES), Pécsi Tudományegyetem (HU)

General description

EuPRAXIA is a distributed, compact and innovative accelerator facility based on plasma technology. It has been selected for the 2021 Update of the ESFRI Roadmap. In its first phase, its consortium of 51 institutes and industry partners will construct an electron-beamdriven plasma accelerator in the metropolitan area of Rome, thus bringing innovation, potential for spin-off companies, state-of-the art scientific applications and a vibrant international user community to the middle of Italy. In its second phase, EuPRAXIA will build one laser-driven plasma accelerator at a site to be chosen between several options in Europe. EuPRAXIA will serve users in ultra-fast science, e.g. on high-resolution medical imaging, deeply penetrating positron annihilation spectroscopy for materials and with Europe’s most southern free-electron laser (FEL). It will offer fascinating capabilities for research on biomolecules, viruses and microscopic processes. EuPRAXIA will thus be a transformative step in the development of ultra-compact accelerators and applications. The Preparatory Phase project EuPRAXIA-PP will prepare its full implementation.

Project title
PRAGMATICK (CA21170) - Prevention, anticipation and mitigation of tick-borne disease risk applying the DAMA protocol
Project ID
2020-2.1.1-ED-2024-300
Project start date
18.10.2022
Project end date
17.10.2026
General description
Emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) represent a national security threat for every country, exacerbated by climate change, human population expansion, urbanization, and globalization. Based on theoretical expectations previously EIDs were thought to be rare and impossible to anticipate because they require novel genetic mutations to infect novel hosts. A new conceptual framework has been developing for nearly 40 years and has recently been articulated in a manner that leads directly to a protocol for taking proactive or anticipatory steps in coping with EIDs, especially those numerous high probability/low impact pathogens. The framework is called the Stockholm paradigm, which shows that a major trigger of emerging disease, now and in the past, has been climate change. The PRAGMATICK COST action aims to disseminate knowledge and promote the application of the Stockholm paradigm in order to anticipate and mitigate disease risk associated with the presence and spread of ticks and tick-borne pathogens (TBPs) under anthropogenic pressure and changing climate. This research network will apply the comprehensive and highly focused DAMA (Document, Assess, Monitor, Act) protocol that allows to "anticipate to mitigate" emerging diseases. The main focus is on urban tick and TBP hotspots and the spread and establishment of ticks and TBPs. PRAGMATICK will find new ticks and tick-borne pathogens before they find us. By applying citizen science and supporting capacity building in the domain of tick and tick-borne disease prevention, the Action will eventually lead to new and improved insights in the potential threats related to this important group of vectors across Europe.

Project title
V4 Booster – Joint Degree and Academic Networking in the Post-Pandemic Central Europe
Project ID
V4 Booster (22220040)
Project start date
14.10.2022
Project end date
31.08.2025
Coordinator
Jagiellonian University (PL)
Partner Organisations
Matej Bel University (SK), Masaryk University (CZ), University of Pécs (HU)
General description
The aim of the project is to boost mobility and networking through the joint training program of the Visegrad countries. This initiative joint training program, created jointly by the Visegrád countries, provides mobility scholarships for 12 students.
All applicants for the scholarship support should have either completed a bachelor's degree program or—if their current study program is not divided into distinct bachelor's and master's

levels—should have completed at least 3 years (6 semesters) of higher education when starting the scholarship.

Project title
VSLLN4YOU – Visegrad Sustainable Living Labs Network 4 Youth of Universities
Project ID
VSLLN4YOU (22220120)
Project start date
01.10.2022
Project end date
31.03.2024
Coordinator
Kancellária / Pályázat- és Projektmenedzsment Igazgatóság
Lead Partner
Wyższa Szkoła Informatyki i Zarządzania w Rzeszowie (University of Information Technology and Management)
Partner Organisations
Pécsi Tudományegyetem
Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze), Czech Republic
Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
General description
The VSLLN4YOU project aims to create the Living Labs (LLs) network, which will enable the co-creation and testing of innovative and sustainable solutions, relevant to the Visegrad Universities and Region, in cooperation with partners from the private, public and civil society sectors. SLLs will engage students with real-world experience, by working on sustainable projects and green solutions, and prepare them to be the change agents in their personal and professional lives. Through SLLs, workshops, training materials and conference, the project offers knowledge transfer for sustainable change.

Project title
ONELAB - Orchestrating next-generation mobile modular laboratories for pandemic monitoring preparedness
Project ID
101073924
Project manager, contact details
Project start date
01.10.2022
Project end date
30.09.2025
Coordinator
Academisch Medisch Centrum bij de Universiteit van Amsterdam (NL)
Partner Organisations
Ianus Ianus Consulting Ltd (CY), Telesto Technologies Oliroforikis Kai Epikoinonion (EL), Saitama Medical University Educational Corporation (JP), Charokopeio Panepistimio (EL), Universitaet Innsbruck (AT), Jurrisk (BE), University of Cyprus (CY), Solgenium OG (AT), Universiteit Gent (BE), Panou Electronic Telecommunication Defence Equipment & Security Services Rendering Provate Enterprise Commercial Handicraft SA (EL), Istitutio Di Sociologia Internazionale De Gorizia ISIG (IT), Johanniter Oesterreich Ausbildung Und Forschung Gemeinnutze Gmbh (AT), Bayerisches Rotes Kreuz (DE), Stad Hasselt (BE), Magyar Vöröskerszt

(HU), Perifereia Dytiki Ellada (EL), GAS Gesellschaft für Analytischensorsysteme mbh (DE), University of Pécs (HU)

General description

ONELAB will develop modular „Rapid Response Mobile Laboratories (RRML) for rapid, flexible, scalable, multi-scenario deployments into the widest range of possible settings. These next-generation facilities will support nextgeneration measurement-technologies/methodologies and, through satellite communications, form wide-area GIS enabled laboratory information systems.

Project title

DATA-EDIH – Hungarian DATA-EDIH

Project ID

101083971

Project start date

01.10.2022

Project end date

30.09.2025

Coordinator

Neumann János Nonprofit Kft.

Partner Organisations

Budapesti Műszaki és Gazdaságtudományi Egyetem, Debreceni Egyetem, ELTE-Soft Kutatásfejlesztő Nonprofit Kft., HTENET Innovációs Nonprofit Kft., Központi Statisztikai Hivatal, Semmelweis Egyetem, Nemzeti Adatvagyon Ügynökség Kft.

General description

The Hungarian DATA EDIH actively facilitates the digital transformation of SMEs, small midcaps and public sector organisations in Hungary, with a general focus on data related services and industrial focus on the health industry. The consortium represents high academic and practical technical/business development competence, wide domestic and international network and mature EU grant and PM experience. The most challenging DESI dimensions for Hungary remain the Integration of digital technology and digital public services, where attitude, mindset and competence obstacles occur besides financial ones. DATA EDIH will provide trainings, technical and financial services on both catching up and advanced levels. The activity of DATA EDIH will be built on existing elements of the domestic innovation ecosystem.

Project title

PAL-CYCLES - PALliative Care Yields Cancer welLbEing Support

Project ID

101057243 (HORIZON-HLTH-2021-DISEASE-04-01)

Project start date

01.09.2022

Project end date

31.08.2027

Coordinator

Stichting Radboud universitair medisch centrum (NL)

Partner Organisations

Universitätsklinikum Bonn (DE), Uniwersytet Zielonogórski (PL), Fundatia Hospice „Casa Sperantei" (RO), European Association for Palliative Care (BE), Universidade Católica Portuguesa (PT), Universidad de Navarra (ES), European Cancer Patient Coalition (BE, University of Pécs (HU)

General description
The key objective of the project is to develop, implement and evaluate a novel transitional palliative cancer care programme for patients with cancer, with an intervention that aims for a smooth transition from the hospital to community-based care in the final months of life.
Many patients with advanced cancer in the final phase of life leave the hospital without continuity of information, and certainty about further treatment and care provision. Often, communication between healthcare providers in different settings is suboptimal and this leads to poor continuity and coordination of care, negatively impacting the quality of life of the patient and increasing preventable hospital admissions in the final phase of life.
The Solution is the PAL-CYCLES programme: a transitional palliative care programme for patients with advanced cancer, adaptable to local cultures and healthcare systems.
The project intends to develop, adapt, implement, and evaluate the PAL-CYCLES programme in seven European countries using a stepped wedge randomized controlled trial design. Patient, relatives, and health care provider experiences, as well as ethical and equity issues will be addressed with qualitative methods.

Project title
PRIME - Promoting and Improving Existing Methods of Youth Participation
Project ID
2022-1-HU01-KA220-YOU-000089532
Project start date
01.09.2022
Project end date
31.12.2024
Coordinator
National Youth Council of Hungary (HU)
Partner Organisations
Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania (RO), Selye János University (SK), Association of Hungarian High School Students in Romania (RO), Selye János University Student Union (SK), Office of the Commissioner for Educational Rights, Local Government of the City of County Rights of Székesfehérvár HU), Covasna County Council (RO), University of Pécs (HU)
General description
The general objective of the project is the value-based development of youth participation within school frameworks and municipalities in the Carpathian Basin in response to the most justified problems of professionals working with young people: addressing and involving young people.

Project title
PRO-ME-ToM - Promoting the Development of Teachers and Students Metacognitive and Theory of Mind Skills
Project ID
2022-1-CY01-KA220-SCH-000088168
Project start date
01.09.2022
Project end date
31.08.2024
Coordinator
University of Cyprus (CY)
Partner Organisations

Uclan Cyprus Limited (CY), Aristotelio Panepistimio Thessalonikis (GR), Panepistimio Ioanninon (GR), Universidade de Coimbra (PT), Universitatea Sapientia din Municipiul (RO), University of Pecs (HU)

General description

The need for the development of more active learners who will apply in practice the idea of 'learning how to learn' and 'learn through life', has led to the development of this research project, through the development of metacognitive skills in students. The term of 'Metacognition' is credited to the developmental psychologist John H. Flavell, the “father of the field,” and it has become one of the major foci of psychological research.‘Metacognition’ essentially means cognition about cognition; that is, it refers to second order cognitions: thoughts about thoughts, knowledge about knowledge or reflections about actions as well as our ability to consciously monitor and regulate one’s knowledge processes, cognitive and affective states, motives and intentions. During the last 40 years metacognition has become one of the major fields of cognitive developmental research. ‘Theory of Mind’ (ToM) development, the second major part of this project, is the area of cognitive development research that investigates the nature and development of our understanding of the mental world. The term ‘theory of mind’ introduced by David Premack (1978) refers to our ability to explain, predict and interpret behavior in terms of mental states. Actually, ToM is the first kind of our metacognitive knowledge about how our mind and the mind of others work (i.e. to attribute mental states to ourselves and to others), an ability found to play a vital role in one's interactions with others.Since its beginnings, this area has grown to be one of the liveliest in developmental psychology. Today, there is an extensive evidence that learners’ metacognition can directly affect their learning (e.g., Boekaerts, Pintrich & Zeidner, 2000; Winne, 1995). Also, the ability to effectively manage one’s lown earning seems to lead to success in and beyond school and self-evaluation was found to be related to school performance in adolescence (Demetriou & Kazi, 2001).Teaching students thinking strategies and metacognitive skills can lead them to pursue their own learning throughout their education and their life. Funding this project will facilitate students' and teachers' active practice on metacognition: Students can become more mature thinkers who provide conflict trials for themselves, question their own assumptions, provide counterexamples to their own rules etc. and become capable of providing the supportive other role for themselves. In this way, progressively, students learn not only how to get a particular task done independently, but also how to set about learning new problems, and finally become independent learners who gain control over their own learning and learn how to learn. In the previous age, teaching for thinking was a priority for the educational system; nowadays, however, metacognition is what characterizes the ‘educated’ person and is a prerequisite for effective teaching and learning, for the development of active, creative and independent learners through life.

Project title

GOLIAT - 5G expOsure, causaL effects, and rIsk perception through citizen engAgemenT

Project ID

101057262

Project start date

01.06.2022

Project end date

31.05.2027

Coordinator

Fundacion Privada Instituto De Salud Global (ES)

Partner Organisations

Universiteit Gent (BR), Institut Mines-Telecom (FR), Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche (IT), Instytut Medycyny Pracy Imienia Prof. Dra Med. Jerzego Nofera Wlodzi (PL), Universita Degli Studi Di Torino (IT), Academisch Medisch Centrum Bil De Universiteit Van Amsterdam (NL), Centre National De La Recherche Scientifique CNRS (FR), Institut National Del Environement Et Des Risques Ineris (FR), Universita Degli Studi Di Roma La Sapienza (IT), Alma Mater Studiorum, Universita Di Bologna (IT), Nemzeti Népegészségügyi Központ (HU),Universitat Wien (AT), Science For Change (ES), Norges MILJO-OG Biovitenskaplige Universitet (NO), Massachusetts General Hospital (US), HARVARD Global Researc And Support Services INC.(United States, Institut Mines-Telecom (FR), University of Pécs (HU)

General description

The overarching aim of GOLIAT is to characterize and monitor RF-EMF exposure, in particular 5G, provide novel insights into potential causal neuropsychological and biological effects, and understand risk perception and communication through citizen engagement using an integrative and transdisciplinary pan-European approach. GOLIAT will ensure that the objectives are measurable, verifiable, achievable, and highly relevant for policy through: focusing on the most vulnerable (i.e. young people) and most exposed (i.e. workers) populations; implementing novel and robust methodologies including next-generation exposure assessment, causal inference, experimental work, health impact assessment, mental models, and ethical values assessment; placing a strong emphasis on translation of knowledge and citizen engagement; and developing a FAIR data infrastructure for use during and beyond the project.

Project title

V4 -Supporting mental health in organisations: developing future business leaders

Project ID

22210016

Project start date

01.06.2022

Project end date

31.05.2024

Coordinator

University of Warsaw (PL)

Partner Organisations

Prague University (CZ), Comenius University Bratislava (SK), University of Pécs (HU)

General description

To develop innovative and cost-efficient solutions for mental health care in the post-covid times, we need to get the businesses involved. We address this issue by developing a series of workshops, focusing on mental health in organizations. To scale our initiative, we offer a ‘trainthe- trainer’ program, preparing future trainers to conduct workshops in other business schools in V4 countries, and we onboard stakeholders (academics, managers, entrepreneurs). As a result, we equip future leaders with the necessary skills and attitudes to respond to mental health.

Project title

IDEaL - Digital Language Learning for the Healthcare Sector

Project ID

2021-2-AT01-KA220-VET-000049281

Project start date

01.05.2022

Project end date

30.04.2024

Coordinator
DATEY Eyrich GmbH (DE)
Partner Organisations
uugot.it GmbH (AT), Topcoach s.r.o. (SK), University of Pecs (HU)
General description
Background
A survey conducted with the main Educational Health Organization in Austria showed that roughly 50% of initial applicants for classes leading to a qualification in the healthcare sector do not succeed in their training due to a lack of adequate language skills (German). An additional problem is that 2nd and 3rd generation immigrants - as well as other non-native speakers - have neither the appropriate level of language nor the vocabulary to pursue their (further) education in the healthcare sector and obtain the necessary qualifications for entering the workforce. In Germany, the situation is comparable; 56% of unqualified healthcare workers have a migration background and 27,3% of these come from Eastern-European countries (Federal Statistical Office, Institute for Adult Education, Federal Employment Agency). Health tourism, with people seeking affordable healthcare e.g. in Eastern European Countries, and German-speaking students wishing to study or train in non-German-speaking countries are further considerations that underline the urgent need for improved, vocation-specific language skills for the healthcare sector.
Objectives
This project develops top-notch instruments and methodologies in coordination with the partner institutions to forward the innovation-led transformation process of the learning culture of VET institutions. As an output of the project VET trainers will be equipped with a digital learning platform which not only comprises up to date training methodologies but is interlinked/connected to a language learning tool that has been awarded multiple times and complies with the zeitgeist. The platform can be used in blended learning settings and all developed tools will be accessible anytime and anywhere due to their complete digital finish. The IDEAL project will bridge the gap between recognized language skill deficits (in German) and current VET training/teaching/counselling methods in the healthcare sector. It will do this by developing an innovative online language learning approach, consisting of learning videos (using interactive subtitles) and an interactive glossary, which will be a part of a digital learning platform, and secondly, a teacher's handbook with practical and methodological guidelines for the best usage of the videos, glossary and other materials collected. Additionally, it aims to offer digital learning tools to students and trainees in neighbouring countries (Hungary, Slovakia, Germany) so that they can improve their German language skills and enter the healthcare sector. Accordingly, the project aims to contribute to 1) raising the practical skill level of VET trainers/teachers/counsellors, and 2) improve German language skills and labour market integration of trainees in the healthcare sector. Furthermore, it seeks to promote the use of innovative digital learning tools for language proficiency and skills training, and transfer knowledge in this area among countries. Finally, the project aims to contribute to better employability for people from partner countries wishing to train/work in the healthcare sector in German-speaking countries.

Project title
TWAC - THz Wave Accelerating Cavity for ultrafast science
Project ID
101046504
Project start date
01.04.2022
Project end date
31.03.2026

Coordinator
Centre national de la recherche scientifique (FR)
Partner Organisations
ITEOX (FR), Deutsche Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY (DE), University of Pécs (HU)
General description
Particle accelerators are devices of primary importance in a large range of applications such as fundamental particle physics, nuclear physics, light sources, imaging, neutron sources, transmutation of nuclear waste. They are also used every day for cargo inspection, medical diagnostics and radiotherapy worldwide. Electron is the easiest particle to produce and manipulate, resulting in an unequaled energy over cost ratio. However, there is an urgent and growing need to reduce the footprint of accelerators in order to lower their cost and environmental impact. We propose developing a new structure sustaining the accelerating wave pushing up the particle energy, which will enable democratizing the access to femtosecond-scale electron bunch for ultrafast phenomena studies. This light and compact accelerator based on its size and weight will for example enable it to be mounted on a robotic arm, to move around a patient for medical applications or material inspection for industrial applications.

The University of Pécs Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology's professional programs have received considerable interest in China
17/07/2024
The recent events organized by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (UP MIK) of the University of Pécs at the Beihai University of Art and Design (BUAD) in China drew significant interest from both the press and the professional community. The "Design Salon" program focused on the institutional practices and teaching of contemporary architecture and industrial design in higher education. The international workshops, based on UP's architectural and product design methodology, and lectures on the future of the built environment and architecture research according to European standards, formed the core of the initiative.
BUAD hosted an exhibition showcasing works produced during the two-week course series, accompanied by various creative programs, which received considerable media attention.
The collaboration between BUAD and UP MIK dates back nine years and has now been reinforced through a renewed partnership agreement.
Since 2016, the two institutions have cooperated in the fields of architecture and architectural art. During this time, UP MIK has organized multiple joint programs with the Chinese university, which specializes in applied arts and design. One flagship initiative is the "Pécs Class Program" – a two-year training plan providing high-quality preparatory education for BUAD students, including extensive English language instruction and hands-on creative and visual communication workshops. Successful students are better prepared to enter the English-language architecture programs at UP. The "MIK Scholarship of Excellence" also recognizes top-performing students with merit-based scholarships.
While the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily paused collaboration, the two institutions have recently resumed joint activities.
On BUAD's South China campus, UP MIK presented a series of creative industry events under the theme: "Design Salon – From Education to Research." The program aimed to deepen cooperation in education, research, and cross-professional projects.
Representatives of UP MIK presented results from recent years, including architectural projects, curricular innovations, and research group outcomes. BUAD's president, Zheng Nianyi, emphasized that by combining international cooperation, practice-oriented education, science and technology integration, and interdisciplinary approaches, students can be trained in a way that redefines creativity and inspiration. This prepares them to meet the challenges of a new era and become a driving force of innovation in the society of the future.

Good practices for Students with Disabilities

04/2024

The first Youth Integration Lab program of the EDUC alliance was held in Paris in April, 2024, hosted by Paris Nanterre University. The event aimed to improve the lives of students with disabilities. One of the precursors to the event was a conference held in Pécs.

Bendegúz Pisch, a visually impaired student from the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Pécs, represented the university at the event. For international travel, it is recommended that visually impaired participants be accompanied by at least two companions. This made it possible for Bendegúz Pisch to be accompanied by Csaba Magdali, head of the Support Service, and Márk Macanko, co-chair of the Collegium for Social Inclusion.

The event focused mainly on solving problems faced by people with disabilities and looking into the institutions and systems that serve them. It also paid special attention to the university and academic environment where some unique issues come up that are less common elsewhere. There were two programs running at the same time. One was for experts such as PhD students, university teachers, disability coordinators and others who already knew a lot about the topic. The other was for students who care about these issues and tried to find solutions through interactive workshops.

EDUC provides an opportunity for students with disabilities to participate in partial study programs within Erasmus.

What was discussed during the three-day event?

On the first day, experts presented various situations and case studies related to the main topic of the conference. They talked about invisible disabilities such as dyslexia, the creation of accessible spaces, and care systems for people with mental illnesses.

On the second day, they participated in workshops. Márk and Csaba attended different workshops separately. Csaba's workshop was based on a role-playing game where he had to solve various accessibility problems from different perspectives. Through these role-playing exercises, they were able to model the difficulties that may arise when trying to make a project accessible and see how the different stakeholders try to promote their various interests. The event concluded with a joint summary afternoon. First, the students presented their findings, and then the experts responded to the solutions presented in the presentations.

The program included a lot of information and conclusions that can greatly help in organizing a project related to the topic.

Some aspects came up that affect not only people with disabilities. For example, when making education and teaching materials accessible, how research results can be shared with people in simpler forms. At the event, they also met an organization that works with university students with disabilities.

A new AI-based drug recognition system can help hospitals

13/08/2024

The Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Pécs has developed an artificial intelligence (AI)-based drug recognition system that can greatly improve the safety and efficiency of hospital medicine administration.

The project, led by Dr. Ashraf Amir Reza, assistant lecturer at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the UP, which won the UP Research Innovation Award for "Artificial Intelligence-based Drug Recognition Model and Mobile Application for Safe Dispensing of Medicines", aims to support hospital staff in their work by minimizing potential errors in distributing medicines. The system is currently capable of recognizing 30 oral medications, but the developers aim to increase this number to 80 so that it can be used in smaller hospitals as well.

The AI-based application has already been proven in a clinical setting and has attracted international interest, including, among others, a nomination for an award from the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists. The project has won a HUF 10 million grant from the Dr. Ferenc Jakab Proof of Concept (PoC) programme, which will be used to develop the hardware prototype and to further train the algorithm.
The researchers will also develop a 3D-printed prototype with an integrated camera system to enable more accurate drug identification. The next step in the project is to engage industrial and professional partners, and the developers hope that the system will soon be widely available and provide a valuable tool for hospital staff in their daily work.

The "Escape Truck" returns to Hungary
19-20/09/2024
Organized by the Research Group Against Human Trafficking that operates at the Faculty of Law of the University of Pécs, in cooperation with the Dutch Reshape Foundation, the escape truck, which is an interactive crime prevention method, will once again return to Hungary. The escape truck contains an escape room set up in three sections, arranged like a brothel where people forced into prostitution are working.
The essence of the crime prevention program is raising awareness. The escape room uses interactivity to capture the attention of young people, and through a short "game" it makes participants understand the dangers they are exposed to as a particularly vulnerable target group in the world of human trafficking.
Inside the escape room, the audience can listen to the story of a victim, who shares what background they came from and how they became a victim. The story helps participants understand the factors that increase the chance of becoming a victim and offers insight into the crime methods of the human traffickers.
In addition, participants can escape the room by searching for clues, thus they are required to actively immerse themselves in the story illustrated with visual and sound effects.
The escape truck will be in Hungary between September 9–20, 2024.
During this time, it will visit six cities:
September 9–10 in Győr, at the parking lot of ETO Park, September 11–12 in Budapest, at the parking lot of the University of Public Service on Üllői Street, September 13 in Kaposvár, at the parking lot of Kaposvár Arena, September 16–17 in Dombóvár, at 11 Petőfi Street, September 18 in Komló, at the parking lot on Eszperantó Square, September 19–20 the unique car can be visited in Pécs, behind the Szalay László Dormitory on Bacsó Béla Street.
The program is free and open to everyone. The organizers primarily arrange programs for the most at-risk 14–18 age group, and they organize training for members of the Hungarian police at the locations.

One Earth, one film, one chance
28/09/2024
At the end of September, the Global Filmmaking Marathon will start again, where creativity and environmental consciousness go hand in hand. This year's Shoot4Earth - Shoot for Earth! competition is also raising awareness of how each bite counts: food waste is a huge problem worldwide and now your film idea can help this fight.
What makes the competition special is that you only have 24 hours to make a not more than one-minute-long movie using your mobile phone, that highlights the importance of conscious food consumption and sustainability. Registration is completely free and anyone who wants to take part in a creative challenge can apply. It doesn't matter if you are a beginner or a professional filmmaker, the only important technical restriction is that the film must be recorded with a mobile phone camera.

Why should you participate?
The competition aims to promote a sustainable mindset and raise awareness of the problem of global food waste, which results in 1.3 billion tonnes of food being thrown away each year. Shoot4Earth is the first international filmmaking marathon where movies made by artificial intelligence can also compete. So, you can show your creativity not only with traditional film techniques but also with AI-based tools.
Details of the competition:
Date: 28 September 2024 (Saturday)
Start: 0:00 h
Deadline for entries: 24:00
Registration: you can register on the official race website until the start of the competition.
Entry fee: There is no entry fee.
Age and technical restrictions: No age restrictions, anyone can participate, but shooting is only allowed with mobile phones!
Length of the movie: the maximum length of the film is 1 minute.
Technique: The film can be made as a live action short film, music video or animation. A mobile phone with a camera can be used for shooting.
Compulsory element: At the beginning of the competition, at the starting moment, the organisers will present different elements for each time zone, of which 1 element must be included in the competing movie.
The competition has three categories:
1. Videos made by traditional film crews - with mobile phone footage.
2. Hybrid videos - using both traditional filming techniques and artificial intelligence.
3. AI videos - movies made using only artificial intelligence.
Artistic Director and Programme Director:
Artistic Director: Prof. Karl Bardosh (New York University)
Programme Director: Gábor Kindl, founder of the World Competition

How can real scientific performance be measured? - **The Scientometrics system**
12/09/2024
How can you determine which researcher will be active and successful in the near future? In addition to the distribution of financial resources, this is just as important for future researchers as it is for higher education institutions. However, the so-called scientometric indicators used so far do not give a complete picture. Dr. Balázs Győrffy and his research team have developed software based on a new methodology that enables real-time and objective measurement.
They have created software to measure scientific performance more optimally than the methods used so far.
Scientific performance is measured today on several platforms, such as Google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science, OpenAlex, ResearchGate, etc. They all show how many articles a person has, what their H-index is, how many total citations they have, etc. They may add a little extra, for example, Google with the i10 index. There are nuanced differences between them, but what they all have in common is that they all operate with aggregated indicators. Then, for example, in Google Scholar, the user clicks on any university, which ranks the researchers based on the indicators and creates a ranking. This is grossly unfair in several respects!
A young researcher, say 30–35 years old, cannot be expected to perform the same as a 60–65 year old. The other significant problem is that these systems do not take into account differences in scientific fields. In terms of the number of publications, for example, mathematics and physics are completely different. After the marked difference between age and scientific fields, the third problem is that there are those who are very active but then retire. The giants of the past distort the current perception. The fourth problem is with authorship. There are fields of science

– such as mathematics or economics – where it does not matter who is the first author, and it is not typical for more than three authors to co-author an article. However, in medicine, biology, physics or chemistry, it does matter who is the first and last author. Typically, a middle author has not contributed to the publication to the same extent, while the first author has done most of the work, and the last author is usually the brainchild who supervised the implementation of the research. Many measurement methods cannot differentiate between authors in this regard. Thus, someone who is often typically the middle author will be treated as a very active researcher by the systems used so far. This is not a problem as long as a PhD does not select the person as a supervisor on this basis, because with a less active researcher, there is a chance that he will waste his time, because in the end he will not have his own articles.
To eliminate these injustices, we created the Scientometrics system, with two versions, one specifically for Hungary and one with a database expanded to the global level.
How many people are already using it?
Currently, there are a total of 40 thousand people registered in MTMT in Hungary, and about 1500 people submit applications annually. Our software is used by approximately 5–600 people per week in Hungary, which means that 5% of researchers check their own or their colleagues' data and results on a weekly basis.

“Prime Sites"
11/09/2024
In a ceremonial setting, with the participation of the European and Hungarian leadership of IQVIA, the directorate of the University of Pécs, and colleagues involved in clinical trials, the institution's “Prime Site” qualification was announced on September 11, 2024 at the Medical School of the University of Pécs. With this certification, the Clinical Centre of the University of Pécs has become part of a very narrow professional elite.
In response to the continuous changes and challenges of clinical trials, IQVIA (formerly known as Quintiles) has selected a narrow circle of elite trial sites, so-called “Prime Sites", which play a key role in the successful implementation of trials. Currently, there are 19 such sites operating in 13 countries across Europe, with the newly signed agreement, the University of Pécs becomes the third institution from Hungary to join the “Prime Sites.”
The aim of the collaboration is to facilitate access to clinical trials for the patients and main investigators of the University of Pécs, as well as to improve their quality and efficiency.
At the same time, it enables patients to gain faster access to innovative therapies and also contributes to clinical trials starting more swiftly.
In his opening speech, Dr. József Bódis, President of the Board of Trustees of the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation, emphasized that there is a great need for scientific workshops, because without them, “it is impossible for anyone to conduct clinical trials.” He also highlighted that the University of Pécs and its Clinical Centre have been functioning as excellent scientific workshops for decades. “I thank our partner for contributing to this activity with their work and quality, allowing us to appear in a new dimension in this” - emphasized the president of the board.
“One of the university's most important tasks is R+D activity, which not only brings significant scientific results but also generates income for the institution” - said Dr. Kálmán Tóth, President of the Clinical Centre Coordination Body of the University of Pécs, who believes that with better allocation of financial resources, more professionals could be drawn back into the field of human clinical research.
Dr. László Veres, Managing Director of IQVIA RDS Hungary, said that they have been engaged in outsourced clinical trials worldwide for over 30 years, the “Prime Site” program, which is basically an “exclusive club,” was launched 15 years ago with the goal of establishing

long-term strategic cooperation with hospitals and institutions characterized by clinical and technological excellence.
Following the official announcement of the “Prime Site” certification, professional presentations and discussions took place in two separate sessions.

EDUC-WIDE Research Infrastructure Meeting
18-19/09/2024
The University of Pécs hosted the EDUC-WIDE Research Infrastructure Meeting on 18-19 September, 2024 at the János Szentágothai Research Centre.
On the second day, the event focusod on the RI Programme Promotion Event, during which a detailed overview of the participating institutions' core facilities were presented. During the event, besides the presentations from the University of Pécs, Masaryk University and PNU Ukraine, case studies and networking opportunities also awaited the audience. Online participation was also possible through the Microsoft Teams platform.

New dimensions in health sciences
19-20/09/2024
A two-day scientific conference and symposium was organized by the Institute of Emergency Care, Health Education and Nursing Science at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs on 19–20 September 2024 titled “New dimensions in health sciences, with special regard to the development of healthcare” at the Granary Visitor Information Centre. The project was implemented with the co-funding by the governments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, and the International Visegrád Fund through the Visegrád Foundations.
The event consolidated three high-quality professional conferences: the 2024 XVI International Nursing Science Symposium, hosted in Pécs for the first time this year, the XVIII Pécs Emergency Days, and the II International Central European Simulation Workshop-Conference. The aim of the program series is to provide an intellectual workshop for healthcare professionals and those interested in science, and to offer a forum for the nursing and other healthcare professional communities from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland to share knowledge and experience through plenary and sectional sessions. The main financial supporter of the professional event is the International Visegrád Fund, alongside the Ministry of Interior’s State Secretariat for Health and numerous other sponsors.
In his opening speech, Dr József Betlehem, Vice-Rector for General, Strategic and Relations Affairs at the University of Pécs, drew the participants’ attention to the fact that the conference venue is located directly next to the Hungarian university founded first in 1367. “It is a great honour that this year the University of Pécs could host this event” - said Dr Betlehem, adding that he hopes the time spent here will prove useful to every colleague.
From the Ministry of Interior, Judit Bidló, Deputy State Secretary responsible for professional direction of healthcare, greeted the audience and highlighted that it was a special pleasure to be able to do this during Hungary’s current Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
Attila Péterffy, Mayor of Pécs city with county rights, expressed that it is an honour not only for the University of Pécs but for the entire city to host this international conference. He explained that the university’s relationship with Pécs is very special, as the institution plays a leading role in the region not only in education but in research-development and innovation, the continuous improvement of the city.
“Our close cooperation with the university aims to make Pécs appealing to sustainable and forward-looking investments and developments” - underlined the mayor. He also spoke about Pécs’s Climate-neutral and smart city mission, encouraging participants to use their time here not only for professional development and networking but also to get to know the city’s historical and cultural heritage.

Higher education without borders

23/09/2024

At the EDUC forum, organized regularly at the University of Pécs, experts discussed the development directions of European higher education, focusing particularly on increasing student mobility, modernising programmes, and the closer cooperation between universities.

The leaders of EDUC and the University of Pécs are working on creating common principles and regulations that will standardise student data management and university services across Europe. One of the main objectives of the EDUC alliance is to develop international courses and training programmes that offer flexible learning opportunities for students that are accepted by the labour-market.

EDUC is developing a new shared European cloud service and data management system, which simplifies digital collaboration between universities and ensures secure handling of data.

A key topic of the forum was the EDUC Staff Secondments Program, which offers 25 new positions for administrative employees, giving them the opportunity to spend 2-6 months at another EDUC university, thus developing their professional relationships and expanding their international experience.

The EDUC Alliance's Gap Year programme was also emphasized, which allows BA/BSc and MA/MSc students to spend 5 or 9 months at another EDUC university, where they can explore new fields of science and improve their language and intercultural skills.

The EDUC research project support programme provides alliance members with the opportunity to use advanced infrastructure and conduct research together. The forum discussed how such projects can promote international scientific cooperation.

EDUC also allows alliance members to use advanced infrastructures and conduct collaborative studies, thereby supporting international scientific cooperation. The EDUC Staff Mobility Program enables professors to teach at other universities for short periods of time, facilitating the exchange of teaching methods and building professional relationships between institutions.

The forum also introduced the new educational directions of the EDUC alliance, focusing especially on micro-credentials and short-cycle courses, which offer flexible teaching opportunities for professors to design programmes that meet the needs of the labour-market.

Dienes Week in Canada

25/09/2024

Organized by the General Consulate of Hungary Montreal and the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs (UP), a series of events was held for the first time in the province of Québec, Canada, commemorating the intellectual and cultural legacy of Zoltán Dienes, the world-famous Hungarian mathematician.

The aim of the Canadian Dienes Week was to use Dienes' mathematical games, that were reimagined by researchers at the UP, to support community building and create joyful mathematics learning experiences for Hungarian communities in Canada.

Throughout the week, playful workshops were organized at, among others, the Montreal Hungarian School, the local Hungarian seniors' residence, and the Scientists' Club established by the Consulate General. The Hungarian delegation visited the University of Sherbrooke, where they discussed the upcoming unveiling of a commemorative plaque dedicated to Zoltán Dienes, as well as the organization of a shared scientific conference. During the programs hosted by the university, employees of the University of Pécs presented in detail the steps taken and the achievements made in recent years to preserve scientific and intellectual legacy of Zoltán Dienes.

Participants of the program on behalf of the Consulate General of Hungary in Montreal included Consul General Helga Pritz, Consul Tímea Kovács-Szabó, and Hungarian Community Diplomat and Consul Villő Fülöp. Representing the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs, Sándor Klein, Julianna Kiss, Iván Zádori, and Zsolt Nemeskéri could participate in the one-week-long event series. The University of Pécs was also represented in the discussions by Ákos Jarjabka, associate professor, Director of the Institute and Head of the World Hungarians Network Platform Office of the UP. The program was patronized by Katalin Szili, Curator of the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation, and Gábor Szécsi, Dean of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs.
The implementation of the event series was supported by the Consulate General of Hungary in Montreal, the UP Traveling Ambassadors Program, and the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation. The Dienes games were published by Piatnik Budapest Ltd.

Five Hungarian companies signed a research-development cooperation agreement with the UP

Spring/2024

The University of Pécs (UP) launched the Pécs Cooperative Research and Development Programme as a pilot in spring 2024. The programme supported the shared research and development projects of the company and the university that are based on the real market needs of economic actors and in which the economic actor and the UP participates together.
As the knowledge base of the region, the University is an inspiration and a driving force for more, deeper and more dynamic dialogue and cooperation, which is about shared needs, expectations, mutually beneficial business, practical use of the knowledge accumulated at the University and, above all, about the "how". Turning ideas and research into useful outcomes requires: funding, collaboration skills, intellectual property protection, licensing, know-how development, commercialization, creation of spin-off and startup companies, practice-oriented education and so on. However, it is also clear that one of the keys to economic revitalization is opening up university knowledge to market/industry players, which cooperation can also act as a magnet for investors looking for both research and development infrastructure and knowledge potential, as well as for innovative suppliers.
The mission of the University of Pécs in the 21st century is to support the economic growth of the area and the region with its capacities and network of contacts, based on its excellence in education and research, and to actively participate in the transformation of creative energies into an environment that encourages innovation. The fulfillment of this mission is supported by the recently concluded cooperation agreements, which are particularly significant because one of the most important goals of the UP is to strengthen its economic/entrepreneurial role and activities, for which the companies offer utilization partnerships, mentoring, industrial networking, production, financing opportunities, international market positioning.
Through the programme, the UP has signed collaborative agreements with five companies, in the framework of which the shared research and development projects were launched, the establishment of which could provide a basis for future participation in national and even in EU programmes, where at least TRL4-level technology and company-university relations are expected by the proposers. The University of Pécs is looking forward to a vibrant, value-based, functioning, result-oriented collaboration, which will enhance its entrepreneurial capacity whilst bringing a significant boost to the life of the regional economy.
The shared projects span a broad spectrum of disciplines, with research centered on specific topics such as the development of an optical-based prototype instrument for the detection of aflatoxin contamination in grain feed, technological validation of titanium endoprostheses using metal-based additive technologies, creation of an smart textile that offers the possibility of a

modern and comprehensive development of non-invasive physiological parameter measurements for patients, development of a microfluidic chip for non-invasive method of identifying viable embryos.

Hungarian Researchers Create a Unique Workstation in Europe
31/10/2024, UnivPécs

A consortium of the University of Pécs (PTE) and the HUN-REN Szeged Biological Research Centre (SZBK) has completed the project titled "Development of a multifunctional femtobiological workstation and investigation of light-induced biological processes using few-cycle spectroscopic methods" (ID: 2018-1.2.1-NKP-2018-00009), funded with nearly 300 million HUF.

Life on Earth relies on fundamental biological processes, such as photosynthesis and photoreception, occurring at the nanoscale and involving complex photophysical and photochemical reaction chains. Some of these ultrafast reactions last only a few femtoseconds (10^{-15} seconds). Understanding these processes mechanistically is challenging both from a quantum physics and biological perspective, but it is crucial for developing new bio-inspired solar cell technologies. The ELI ALPS laser facility in Szeged aims to provide laser sources and instruments surpassing current technology to study the fastest physical processes on femtosecond and attosecond timescales.

The project focused on utilizing new laser sources to develop measurement workstations tailored for photobiological applications. A team of researchers from HUN-REN SZBK, ELI ALPS, and international partners from Singapore's Nanyang Technological University developed a multidimensional optical spectroscopy user workstation. This ELI workstation—the only one of its kind in Europe—can measure ultrafast light-induced dynamics in complex biological materials with the highest spectral and temporal resolution, in a fraction of the time needed by conventional laboratory instruments.

Parallelly, PTE researchers designed experimental workstations and new experiments. The team conducted multidisciplinary studies on the biophysics of photosynthesis in plants, algae, and cyanobacteria, revealing new detailed insights into structure-function relationships governing efficient light energy utilization. Their findings challenge long-standing dogmas and encourage rethinking widely known phenomena like chlorophyll fluorescence.

The infrastructure and collaborative research network built during the project will remain active beyond its official end.

Collaboration for Chronic Kidney, Heart, and Metabolic Patients - Strategic Partnership Signed Between Boehringer Ingelheim and the University of Pécs

15/11/2024, UnivPécs

On 15th November, 2024 the University of Pécs (PTE) and Boehringer Ingelheim, a leading biopharmaceutical company, signed a cooperation agreement to conduct joint research focusing on chronic kidney, heart, and metabolic diseases. The contract was signed by Yael Dassa Levinsky (CEO of Boehringer Ingelheim), Dr. Attila Miseta (Rector of PTE), and Dr. András Fittler (Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy) in the University Senate Council Chamber.

About Boehringer Ingelheim

Boehringer Ingelheim is a market leader developing breakthrough therapies that aim to transform lives for current and future generations. Their research priorities include cardiovascular, renal, metabolic diseases (CRM), oncology, respiratory diseases, immunology, mental health, and retinal health—areas with significant unmet medical needs.

Goals of the Cooperation

Mutual support in innovation and education activities

Joint participation in clinical trial programs, especially targeting chronic kidney, heart, and metabolic conditions
Development of more effective treatments and therapies
Dr. Attila Miseta highlighted the growing challenge of chronic illnesses in aging societies:
“Many live with chronic diseases requiring continuous care, such as chronic kidney, heart, and liver diseases.”
He emphasized the importance of adapting to rapid technological advances, including digitalization and artificial intelligence, in both medical research and education of students and staff.
Scope of the Collaboration
Cooperation in education and training
Advancement of diagnostic methods
Support for practical training of university students in pharmaceutical manufacturing and safe drug use
Joint research and development of data-driven healthcare and AI solutions
Collaboration in clinical trials

Company Profile and Significance
Yael Dassa Levinsky introduced Boehringer Ingelheim’s global presence: Operating in over 130 countries with 146 subsidiaries
Employing over 53,500 people worldwide
Privately owned since its founding in 1885 by the Boehringer, Liebrecht, and von Baumbach families
The Hungarian branch has been active for 34 years. PTE is the first university in Hungary to establish a formal partnership with the company.
Levinsky stated:
“Through this cooperation, we aim to assemble a research team and expert group from the university’s brightest minds to better serve patients and meet unmet needs through our research.”

The University of Pécs and the Metropolitan State University of Denver Sign Cooperation Agreement
19/11/2024
The Metropolitan State University of Denver and the University of Pécs (PTE) have signed a cooperation agreement aimed at launching joint academic programs and educational projects, promoting student and faculty mobility, and supporting internationalization.
The two institutions look back on a ten-year strategic partnership. Over the past years, numerous student and faculty exchanges have taken place between the universities. On PTE's side, the Faculty of Engineering and IT and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences have been most involved. The Department of Political Science and International Studies at the latter has engaged in research, conferences, and educational projects with the American university. The Faculty of Engineering and IT has also collaborated in various fields, including contributing to the establishment of an architectural minor program in Denver.

Cooperation Agreement: PTE – Metropolitan State University of Denver
Dr. Attila Miseta, Rector of PTE, emphasized that the partnership plays a significant role in further expanding the university’s international network. At the same time, he pointed out that filling the agreement with meaningful content requires a serious professional commitment and represents a challenge for both parties.
The agreement allows the institutions to initiate joint educational collaboration projects, which will be mutually developed over time. Furthermore, both universities will continue to support direct contact among their faculty members, departments, institutes, and research centers.

The two parties also agreed to provide opportunities within mutually relevant fields for faculty and researcher exchanges, to conduct and publish research and studies in each other's scientific journals. The agreement also provides a framework for organizing joint courses, seminars, study trips, and conferences.
Dr. István Tarrósy, Director of the PTE International Office, stressed that numerous quality collaborations are vital to the university's internationalization efforts. He added that PTE has a broad and increasingly expanding quality cooperation with Metropolitan State University of Denver, which is strategically important for both institutions.
Dr. Gabriella Medvegy, Dean of the PTE Faculty of Engineering and IT, discussed the specific areas covered during the past ten years of collaboration, the topics of joint publications, and future themes with great potential. She highlighted plans to develop a joint online course, where Hungarian and Denver students would study together in a virtual classroom—an initiative currently without precedent in Hungary, thus considered pioneering.
Representing the Metropolitan State University of Denver at the event was Vice President Dr. Laura Niesen De Abruña. She also highlighted the establishment of the architectural minor program in Denver, noting that no such program had previously existed at the American institution. She mentioned that MSU Denver maintains several similar collaborations with other excellent universities around the world, all of which help students think beyond their national borders and get to know different countries, languages, and cultures. She emphasized that exchange programs and international study opportunities offer significant benefits to all students and professionals in higher education.

The Balkan Association for Vector-Borne Diseases (BAVBD)
28/11/2024
How can the Balkan region cope with the growing threat of vector-borne diseases? The answer lies in international cooperation and the coordination of scientific research. This is the objective of the annual meeting of the Balkan Association for Vector-Borne Diseases (BAVBD), which this year is hosted by the National Laboratory of Virology of the University of Pécs. Researchers and international experts from the region will share their experiences and seek solutions to public health challenges during the event held between 28–29 November.
Due to climate change and globalisation, the Balkan region is increasingly exposed to the spread of diseases transmitted by mosquitoes and ticks. Pathogens such as the West Nile virus or Lyme disease may pose serious threats to public health.
The aim of the conference is to address research, practical experience, and opportunities for international cooperation in response to global health challenges, thereby contributing to the development of sustainable solutions.
This year's event is hosted by the János Szentágothai Research Centre (SzRC) of the University of Pécs, where participants will not only learn about scientific innovations associated with the venue, but also have the opportunity for international dialogue.
Dr Gábor L. Kovács, scientific director of the SzRC, introduced the work and international recognition of the research centre of Pécs on the opening day of the conference. He presented the main research areas of the Centre, highlighting its pioneering work in the field of biological safety. "More than 200 researchers work at our centre every day. Over the past few years, we have published more than 2.000 scientific articles," the director emphasised.
"The János Szentágothai Research Centre plays a significant role in innovation and research not only in Hungary, but also internationally," the professor stressed.
In his presentation, he touched upon the scientific and cultural significance of Pécs and introduced research programmes associated with the University, among which projects related to biological safety and epidemic risk management occupy a prominent place.

The conference was opened by Dr Gábor Kemenesi, director of the National Laboratory of Virology (VNL). Presenting the VNL, the virologist highlighted that the laboratory aims to prevent and manage epidemics, as well as to promote scientific knowledge. The laboratory operates four research groups, covering a wide range of topics from disease ecology to vaccine development. These groups are committed to creating effective systems that enable early detection and intervention.
“From the beginning – that is, since 2007 –, we have been working on zoonoses. Why? Because most human infectious diseases originate from nature,” the researcher said in his opening lecture.
He also drew attention to the importance of collaboration with global research networks, for example in mosquito control and virus monitoring. Finally, the director emphasised the educational and knowledge-sharing role of the laboratory, reaffirming the leading role of the institution in Hungary in research related to infectious diseases and biosafety.
Dr Lisa M. Astuto Gribble, representing Sandia National Laboratories, also participated in the event, presenting how they contribute to the reduction of biological risks in laboratories worldwide. She noted that their global biosafety teaching material has already reached more than 19.000 professionals, and she stressed the importance of training, risk assessment, and sustainability.
“Urbanisation, globalisation, and intensive livestock farming create conditions that favour the emergence and spread of zoonoses,” said the laboratory representative.
She also highlighted that managing biological risks in laboratories is of critical importance, especially considering the potential for accidental or deliberate exposure to infection.

“Open Science: Trends, Challenges, and Solutions”
06/12/2024, UnivPécs
The University of Pécs hosted the workshop entitled “Open Science: Trends, Challenges, and Solutions”, organised on 4 December 2024 within the framework of the EDUC-WIDE project. The aim of the event was to assist educators and research professionals in navigating the rapidly evolving world of open science. The morning sessions were held in English and the afternoon sessions in Hungarian language, ensuring that the event was accessible to a broader audience, as well as the EDUC Alliance.
Identifying the Challenges
The event was opened by Dr Katalin Füzér, project leader of EDUC-WIDE. The presentations highlighted the challenges posed by artificial intelligence and the reform of research assessment, as well as the benefits of open science. One of the key topics of the programme was the introduction of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) initiative, which advocates for a more holistic and qualitative evaluation of academic performance, rather than relying on traditional metrics.
Specific Solutions and Supports
The first pillar is provided by the Read and Publish agreements concluded under the umbrella of the national consortium (EISZ). These agreements enable universities to cover article processing charges (APCs) on behalf of authors, thus promoting open access publishing and reducing both the administrative and financial burden on researchers.
The second pillar is ensured by a contract between the university and the foundation maintaining the university, establishing an Open Access Fund. This Fund also exempts authors from paying APCs, provided they meet the application conditions required to access the fund. This complex support system significantly contributes to making the research conducted at the University of Pécs and its results more widely accessible. Further information and details are available on the website of the Library and Knowledge Centre of the University of Pécs.
Empowering Researchers through EDUC-WIDE

The EDUC Alliance plays a key role in promoting cooperation between European universities. By sharing resources and the best practices, the Alliance supports researchers in adapting to changes in the academic environment. As part of the workshop, the Masaryk University Press was presented as well, which publishes over 50 scientific journals and 400 academic books annually. This network serves as an example of how institutions can collaborate to strengthen research capacity, ensure quality, and increase the impact of academic work. EDUC-WIDE was praised as a bridge of knowledge sharing and as a key factor in sustainability and innovation.
Guidance for the Future
At the conclusion of the workshop, participants jointly outlined a future cooperation plan aimed at preparing researchers to harness the opportunities in the worlds of open science and artificial intelligence.

Forward-looking relationship building in China
06/12/2024, UnivPécs
The leadership of the University of Pécs (UP) recently visited several universities in China in order to nurture its active relationships with Chinese university partners.
The first stop was the North China University of Science and Technology in the city of Tangshan (Hebei Province), with which contact was first established 20 years ago in the field of medical and health sciences. The visit was given particular significance by the fact that it was 10 years ago that Hanban, the designated organisation of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, issued the document founding the Confucius Institute for Traditional Chinese Medicine of the UP. During the negotiations, the parties agreed to broaden cooperation beyond Hungarian and Chinese language education to include the humanities as well as law, and they also explored the possibility of involving the field of information technology.
As part of the event, Prof. Dr Attila Miseta, rector of the University of Pécs, delivered a welcome speech at the 14th Chinese–Hungarian Medical Forum in Tangshan.
Following this, the delegation was received by the leadership of the Centre for Language Education and Cooperation in Beijing. Representatives of the Chinese Foundation for Language Education, the University of Pécs, and the North China University of Science and Technology signed a cooperation agreement.
The delegation held talks on various forms of cooperation, including summer schools, student exchange programmes, joint scientific symposia, teaching staff visits, and collaborative research with the renowned China University of Mining and Technology in Xuzhou, the East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai, and the Nanjing Audit University. All of these institutions are contractual partners of the UP, and agreements were reached regarding the implementation of further concrete projects.
The programme in Shanghai also included a visit to a new partner, the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, which ranked 45th on the 2024 QS ranking list. The delegation of the UP visited the institute jointly operated with the University of Michigan and agreed to continue the cooperation initiated last year, focusing primarily on a winter school programme.
With each Chinese partner, specific projects, such as joint professional conferences, teaching and research staff exchanges, and short-term student programmes, have been included in the 2025 cooperation plans.

Project title
LITMAG - East European Literary Magazines 1945 – 2004: Testing the Boundaries and paving the way to democratization
Project ID
101051192 (CERV-2021-CITIZENS-REM)
Project start date

01.04.2022
Project end date
31.03.2024
Coordinator
Beletrina, zavod za založniško dejavnost (SI)
Partner Organisations
Muzej Novejše Zgodovine Slovenije (SI), Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg (AT), Akademia Techniczno-Humanistyczna w Bielsku-Białej (PL), The Directorates of Vilnius Memorial Museums - Venclovas' House-Museum (LT), Università degli Studi di Trieste (IT), Znanstveno-raziskovalno središče Koper (SI), University of Pecs (HU)
General description
The project "East European Literary Magazines 1945 – 2004: Testing the Boundaries and paving the way to democratization" (LITMAG) goal is to address the lack in documentation, analysis and public awareness of the role of European literary magazines, specifically the East European literary magazines, as voices of opposition to authoritarian and totalitarian regimes in the period post World War II, and – later – as vehicles for democratic transition and consolidation in the period of accession to the European Union and EU membership. The project consortium, which brings together 8 project partners from 6 EU Member States (Slovenia, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Lithuania and Italy) will accomplish the project goal by collecting original material (print) and oral testimonies (photo, video) and moulding the material into an interactive travel exhibition, through a global three-part lecture series on the project topic and a project book publication targeting the academic and professional community.

Project title
PACIFY-D - Promoting the Active CItizenship oF Youth through Diplomacy
Project ID
2021-2-HU01-KA220-YOU-000048953
Project start date
01.04.2022
Project end date
31.03.2024
Coordinator
University of Pécs (HU)
Partner Organisations
Kentro Merimnas Oikogeneias Kai Paidiou (EL), KMOP-Policy Center Asbil (BE), GEA – Societa Cooperativa Sicoale (IT), Fundacio Interarts per a la Cooperacio Cultural International (ES),
Association des Agences de la Democratie Locale (FR)
General description
The PACIFY-D project will be working towards providing innovative training opportunities to young people and establishing Country Info Points as local learning centres for youth education, developing guidance on the organisation and support of the operation of such environments. The purpose is primarily to strengthen democratic attitudes through civic engagement and civic participation.

Project title
CLIMATEMED - Developing new curriculum outlines and learning materials on climate change's health impacts for medical schools
Project ID
2021-2-HU01-KA220-HED-000050972

Project start date
01.03.2022
Project end date
28.02.2025
Coordinator
University of Pecs (HU)
Partner Organisations
University College Cork (IE); Nemzeti Népegészségügyi Központ (HU); Centar za zdravlje, vezbanje i sportske nauke (CS); Universitatea de Medicina, Farmacie, Stiinte si Tehnologie George Emil Palade din Targu Mures (RO)
General description
Background:
Several studies suggest the next decade will be critical for immediate action to avoid "long-lasting and irreversible" risks to humans and ecosystems. According to WHO predictions, due to climate change's multifactorial health impacts, 250,000 additional deaths are estimated per year between 2030 – 2050. Moreover, the increased incidence of the recent infectious and chronic diseases and new ones' emergence is also expected. Consequently, climate change presents unprecedented health risks and requires urgent attention to address them. In addition, reducing climate change-related health risks contributes to achieving Goal 3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, namely to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.
There is a general agreement that improving climate awareness and the knowledge related to climate change's health impacts are essential among medical students. In 2015, in the Health Educators Climate Commitment declaration, representatives of 118 universities from 15 countries expressed their commitment to ensuring the conditions that help future health professionals acquire the knowledge needed to control the health risks of climate change. In 2018, the Standing Committee of European Doctors, an organisation of European national health organisations, made a professional case to EU decision-makers to add “knowledge on the impacts of climate change” in the training of health professionals. Currently, in the curricula of most medical schools, the health-related impacts of climate change represent a peripheral part: according to a 2019 survey, only 15% of the 2,817 medical schools globally have a course that teaches climate change and health topics. In contrast, there is a growing demand from medical students that medical schools integrate climate change and health issues into curricula. Considering climate-change medicine is expected to emerge as a specialised medical activity shortly, it is necessary to begin preparing current medical students as soon as possible.
Climate change and all its impacts, including health impacts, are felt around the world. Consequently, it is a pressing challenge for all medical schools to tackle teaching on the health impacts of climate change. Clinicians accept that climate change increases health risks by placing extraordinary stresses on human health. People remain vulnerable to massive natural disasters that weaken individuals' and communities' resilience and adaptive capacity. Consequently, it is expected that the number of patients in national health systems will increase significantly due to the adverse effects of climate change.
The CLIMATEMED project, with its learning material development and training design activities, can strengthen the medical universities' capacities to ensure up-to-date knowledge of how climate change can endanger human health and how physicians can deal with these novel health challenges.
Objectives:
The purpose of the CLIMATEMED project is to: (1) create a new curriculum on climate change's health impacts for medical schools, with particular attention to the preventative measures of these impacts; (2) promote climate change and health as a horizontal priority in the curriculum of medical schools across Europe, ensuring academic staff are aware and trained in

the concept, and thus securing its place at the forefront of medical school teaching; (3) support practising medical doctors to increase their knowledge of the health effects of climate change, with particular attention to the possible preventative measures against these impacts.
By achieving all these objectives, we want to emphasise the relevance of climate change-related health challenges and promote the introduction of education on the health effects of climate change in as many medical schools in the European Union as possible. The English, Hungarian and Romanian language versions will contribute to achieving this goal. Due to the language similarities, the Serbian version will contribute to supporting this aim in the Balkan region of Europe.
In addition, the CLIMATEMED project also aims to contribute to the attitude formation of current and future doctors. Doctors and other health professionals have a crucial role in shaping the public's attitudes to various health risks. We, therefore, aim to help professionals understand the importance of ever-changing environmental risk factors and communicate this to the public. All these tasks require medical students, as future doctors, to acquire adequate knowledge of the health impacts of climate change as part of their undergraduate training. To this end, medical school curricula should be developed to include climate change and its impact on health. It is also essential for practising doctors to be equipped with knowledge about climate change and health to improve the knowledge they have already acquired. The CLIMATEMED project intends to contribute to achieving these objectives.
Current academic staff also play a significant role in ensuring climate change-related health problems are integrated into medical schools' curricula. Therefore, we also want to achieve an attitude change among professors and lecturers. To this end, we are developing a training programme that will help put climate change and health into the focus of academic staff's attention and thus into the medical curricula as a horizontal priority.
All in all, our overall aim is to help fill the gap between the predicted demand for healthcare due to climate change and the current knowledge taught at medical school. In addition, developing our outputs will directly assist the universities participating in the CLIMATEMED project (UP, UCC, UMFST) to address this challenge and provide the material for all universities in the European Union and beyond to continue to deliver this much needed education in their medical curricula upon completion of CLIMATEMED.

Project title
LEARN&EXCHANGE - Upskilling the Information Professionals of the Future: Novel Digital Transformation MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)
Project ID
2021-1-TR01-KA220-HED-000027639
Project start date
28.02.2022
Project end date
27.10.2024
Coordinator
Ankara University (TR)
Partner Organisations
Sofia University (BG), Tallinn University (EE), Universita Degli Studi Di Firenze (IT), Information Literacy Association (FR), University of Pécs (HU)
General description
The main objective of the LEARN & EXCHANCE project is to plan, develop, deliver, validate and start using in the educational practice a novel set of MOOCs in the domain of digital transformation with a focus on the needs of information skills. This main objective is supported by the following complementary objectives:

- to synthesize the guiding principles for designing MOOCs which support action learning;
- to develop an innovative and scalable online learning platform;
- to create and share standardized international online courses to provide exchange opportunities in virtual learning environments; the courses will be developed in seven languages - English, Turkish, French, Italian, Bulgarian, Estonian, and Hungarian;
- to implement a mechanism for verifying learning outcomes and generate secure certificates issued after identity verification;
- to provide learners with pathways to improving their digital skills and capabilities;
- to connect with networks which would help to scale up the use of the new MOOCs;

Project title
ELUCID - Elucidating the immune response of Schreiber's bats to Lloviu virus infection in vitro and in vivo
Project ID
4500004237
Project start date
01.02.2022
Project end date
31.01.2024
Coordinator
Trustees of Boston University (US)
Partner Organisations
University of Pécs (HU)
General description
The objective of this project is to provide and test samples of Schreiber's bats from multiple countries in Southern-Eastern Europe. We plan to continue and maintain a Lloviu virus surveillance programme in relation to these animals, which will provide samples for Lloviu virus RNA sequence diversity studies and also for in vivo ADAR/APOBEC gene activity studies. The animal-derived data will inform the in vitro study design.

Project title
ISIDORe - Integrated Services for Infectious Disease Outbreak Research
Project ID
101046113 (HORIZON-INFRA-2021-EMERGENCY-02)
Project start date
01.02.2022
Project end date
31.01.2025
Coordinator
European Research Infrastructure on Highly Pathogenic Agents (BE)
Partner Organisations
University of Pecs (HU) +154 partners
General description
ISIDORe is funded by the European Union under Horizon Europe (Grant #101046133). With 154 partners from 32 countries worldwide, the ISIDORe consortium proposes to assemble the largest and most diverse research and service providing instrument to study infectious diseases in Europe, from structural biology to clinical trials.
ISIDORe's two overarching goals are:
1. contributing to fighting the rise of the SARS-CoV-2 variants through a global, integrated and challenge-driven approach by providing fast access to cutting-edge resources and services

to scientific user communities for supporting the evidence-based development or adaptation of countermeasures in times of emergency,
2. contributing to Europe's readiness to any epidemic-prone pathogen through a global, integrated and preparedness-driven approach by providing access to cutting-edge resources and services to scientific user communities for supporting their research projects in the field of infectious diseases in "peaceful times" as well as during epidemics.
These goals will be achieved through specific objectives:
● Assembling a One Health-driven, comprehensive, integrated, customised, flexible and high-quality portfolio of services that supports user projects related to both the challenge-driven and preparedness-driven approaches
● Providing access to the full range of our services in a user-friendly and efficient manner
● Enabling by means of scientific services the development or adaptation of prevention and intervention
● Enabling further research by dissemination of the results of user projects through the use of global standards, relevant data platforms and registries, according to FAIR principles and the GDPR.
● Expanding and constantly improving our portfolio of services
● Aligning the activities of our project with overarching strategies for pandemic management and preparedness to better support research on epidemic-prone pathogens and face epidemics
The expected outcomes of the project include:
1. Comprehensive catalogue of RI services relevant to tackle infectious diseases epidemics is available, including services supporting pertinent social sciences research;
2. Fast assembly and provision of innovative, customised and efficient RI services to support research linked to detecting, assessing and combatting newly emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants;
3. Challenge-driven integration of RI to better support research addressing infectious diseases and face epidemics, including for use by epidemics risk assessment and risk management bodies (such as the ECDC, the WHO, the OIE and national epidemics management bodies);
4. Rapid response to epidemics outbreaks through RI services underpinning and supporting research aiming to understand causes and development of the epidemic;
5. Development of novel/adapted epidemics intervention tools and measures enabled by relevant RI services;
6. Availability of research data emerging from access provision activities for re-use on common data platforms and registries, according to FAIR principles and compliant with legal provisions under the GDPR.

Project title
ELPIS - E-Learning on Palliative care for International Students
Project ID
2021-1-IT02-KA220-HED-000023205
Project start date
01.12.2021
Project end date
30.11.2024
Coordinator
Universita Degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza (IT)
Partner Organisations
Fondazione Ant Italia Onlus (IT), Universidad de Navarra (ES), McMaster University (CA), Rheinisch-Westfaelische Technische Hochschule Aachen (DE), Hospice Casa Sperantei (RO), University of Pécs (HU)

General description

The main goal of the ELPIS project is to enhance the quality of PC in the EU through a better and more uniform education at the undergraduate level. This goal is relevant not only because of the importance of PC, as stated by the European Parliament but also because of the increasing cross-border mobility of medical graduates across the Union, seeking both post-graduate education and occupation. To achieve this goal, the ELPIS project has five intertwined objectives:

1. to promote the design of internally coherent and comparable online undergraduate medical education programs on PC, through the development of a theoretical educational framework
2. to promote effective implementation of online programs on PC, through the development of practice guidelines that are flexible enough to be - suitable for the local organizational context of higher education and PC - fit for the local cultural approach to palliative care and other end-of- life issues, including the students' point of view
3. to broadcast sharable educational resources, in different European languages
4. to validate the theoretical framework and guidelines through testing and comparing the effectiveness of some local implementations of an online program on PC
5. to design and implement faculty development programs to sustain the design of curricula in PC and the use of the educational resources.

The ELPIS project has four Work Packages:

WP 1: DEFINITION OF THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND DRAFTING OF THE COURSE ON PC

WP2: EDUCATIONAL DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCAL COURSES

WP3: PILOT & TESTING OF THE LOCAL COURSES

WP4: QUALITY ASSURANCE OF DATA, STATISTICS AND ELECTRONIC REPOSITORY OF CONTENTS

The results of the ELPIS project will be:

-a theoretical framework to describe elements and methods for an effective design of online PC courses.

-practice guidelines for the implementation and assessment of PC courses at the undergraduate level.

-a core of multilingual educational resources in an open access repository

-new knowledge and perspectives about the feasibility and comparative effectiveness of different forms of online learning vs in face-to-face learning.

Project title

CONSCIOUS II. - Curriculum Development of Human Clinical Trials for the Next Generation of PhD Students and Early Career Researchers in the Medical, Science, Pharmacy and Health Professions

Project ID

2021-1-CZ01-KA220-HED-000023177

Project start date

01.11.2021

Project end date

31.10.2024

Coordinator

Université de Paris (FR)

Partner Organisations

University College Cork - National University of Ireland (IE), Universidade Nova de Lisboa (PT), University of Szeged (HU), University of Pecs (HU)

General description

To create a curriculum that builds on the professional content of the CONSCIOUS curricula and provides a deeper professional knowledge for PhD students in medical education.

Project title
COHRICE - Challenges of human reproductive medicine in a changing Europe: an innovative professional curriculum for graduate medical education
Project ID
2021-1-HU01-KA220-HED-000027613
Project start date
01.11.2021
Project end date
31.10.2024
Coordinator
University of Pecs
Partner Organisations
Medizinische Universität Wien (AT), Universitatea de Medicina, Farmacie, Stinte si Tehnologie, George Emil Palade din Tirgu Mures (RO)
General description
Background:
Since the population in European countries is either constant or slightly declining, reproduction is in the forefront of social and health policies with the aim to maintain or turn over reproductive rates. Recognising the complexity of this challenge, European countries try to address the problem in different ways ranging from socio-political steps to health-related measures. Concurrently, trends related to (post-)modern lifestyles and recent challenges (obesity, COVID-19) as well as to less "traditional" patient groups (e.g. 40+ pregnancies, pregnancies after egg donation, pregnant patients with autoimmune diseases, etc.) and challenges related to infertility or multiculturalism are increasingly prevalent. As a result, contemporary reproductive medicine needs to deal with complex situations, which often requires an interdisciplinary approach and the active engagement of allied healthcare professionals, such as psychologists and social workers. Also, the circulation of medical staff has become a norm, resulting in the fact that medical staff often works in realities that are culturally and socially completely different compared to the place of their studies or countries of origin.
Still, the graduate and resident medical teaching programme fails to put obstetrics and reproductive medicine in the context of social and cultural challenges, as the teaching material focuses on physiological and pathophysiological processes. This leads to the fact that obstetrics and gynecology specialists often face challenges they are not prepared for. To effectively address such situations, both graduate and resident medical doctor training programmes should become more specialised, broadened and inclusive and help students and medical teaching staff develop respective skills to overcome national peculiarities, and to expand the knowledge beside the standardised EU guidelines on medical training in obstetrics and gynecology.
Therefore, three higher education institutions from Central Europe, the University of Pécs as a lead
partner from Hungary, together with the Medical University of Vienna, Austria and the George Emil Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology of Târgu Mureș, Romania as well as the Hungarian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology as an associated partner joined forced with the aim to address these complex issues in their project titled "Challenges of human reproductive medicine in a changing Europe: an innovative professional curriculum for graduate medical education" (COHRICE) by developing a set of innovative e-learning materials for the next generation of medical students and medical teaching staff.

In this sense, COHRICE will educate the state-of-the-art medical knowledge on key aspects of obstetrics and gynecology in the context of changing societies in Europe and provide an innovative tool into the medical specialisation programs for resident medical doctors working in the field of human reproduction, while also providing expanded learning opportunity for graduate medical students in obstetrics and gynecology. To achieve this goal, the following project results will be developed:

1. Graduate level learning material about the challenges of human reproductive medicine in a changing Europe
2. Advanced level learning material for resident doctors in the topic of relevant challenges of reproductive medicine in a changing Europe for Obstetrics and Gynecology residents
3. Teachers' Guide for facilitating the application of the graduate and advanced e-learning courses
4. E-learning platform for the graduate and advanced level e-learning courses

Objectives:

The framework of the training requirements in Obstetrics and Gynecology (hereinafter: Ob/Gyn) for resident medical doctors is provided by the so-called PACT document (Project for Achieving Consensus in Training) developed by the European Board of College Obstetrics and Gynecology (EBCOG) with the aim to promote the standardisation of teaching and learning for OB/GYN residents in Europe. The PACT proposes a standardised core and elective curriculum for residents to harmonise OB/GYN education in Europe, with the aim to increase the standard of teaching and to support mobility. We intend to promote PACT suggestions and implement a course for resident medical doctors with an additional focus on socio-cultural trends influencing reproductive issues in our changing Europe. This part of the project would fill the gap in the education of OB/GYN residents concerning medical knowledge.

COHRICE aims to make a relevant input to the curriculum of medical students to put their knowledge in context and awaken their interest not only for physical processes but to open their eyes to how changes in societies impact health and health care strategies. This kind of knowledge makes students more innovative, curious and motivated. The project team of COHRICE believes that medical students can only become innovative, problem-oriented thinkers, if their education is interdisciplinary and is embedded in the context of culture and society. This aspect challenges the limits of the conventional approaches to medical education that is unfortunately still very much present at many universities.

Through our project results, we wish to contribute to generating an attitude-change towards sensitive issues of human reproduction. We wish to put reproductive problems in a social and cultural context and sensitise the next generation of doctors to engage them in a holistic approach towards reproductive problems. We aim to make aware medical professionals of new perspectives in therapies and diagnostic methods in human reproduction. With our three dimensional approach of education (through disseminating our products among medical students and residents/ teaching staff/ and allied professionals), we wish to improve the preparedness of medical professionals and through that decrease the public resistance toward artificial human reproduction, and motivate meaningful lifestyle changes by addressing public health issues.

In doing so, graduate students and resident medical doctors will receive a structured, practical, and up-to-date knowledge on specific, relevant, however less discussed elements of the challenging field of human reproduction. The problem-oriented e-learning materials will contribute to developing their medical skills and the quality of their training, which will allow them to become better trained Ob/Gyn specialists. Also, the medical teaching staff and senior supervisors of the residents will benefit from the COHRICE outputs, as they will receive a free, easily accessible and applicable online training tool discussing complex issues in a diverse and interactive way that they can use and integrate in their teaching practice and courses. The project also aims to raise awareness among allied professionals about certain trends in societies which

an effect on reproductive health, as these healthcare professionals are in the frontline of medical service and thus have a significant influence on making high-impact changes.

Implementation:

The project results to be developed are the following:

PR 1 Graduate level learning material about the challenges of human reproductive medicine in a changing Europe coordinated by the University of Pécs

PR 2 Advanced level learning material for resident doctors about relevant challenges of reproductive medicine in a changing Europe for Obstetrics and Gynecology residents coordinated by the George Emil Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology of Târgu Mureș

PR 3 Teachers' Guide for facilitating the application of the graduate and advanced e-learning courses coordinated by the Medical University of Vienna

PR 4 E-learning platform for the graduate and advanced level e-learning courses coordinated by the University of Pécs

The aim of the curriculum development is to optimise the structure of the e-learning curriculum and its full compliance with academic requirements. Curricula will be developed at two levels, one for graduate students who have already taken the standard curriculum for obstetrics and gynecology (PR 1), and the other to complement the training for resident medical doctors in obstetrics and gynecology (PR 2). Both will consist of interactive e-learning materials and complementary syllabuses.

In the early phase of the project, we will assess the knowledge gaps and needs of medical students and resident doctors by an international survey, which will directly feed into PR 1 and PR 2. Parallel to this activity, a background research will be conducted. These steps will enable us to engage in a transnational discussion about Ob/Gyn training in Central Europe and to produce a targeted first draft of the e-learning materials consisting of 14 modules dedicated to separate topics in Ob/Gyn.

A detailed description of the syllabuses related to graduate and advanced training, the different and modularized topics with single lectures, the learning outcomes will be created. These project results aim at developing detailed syllabuses for establishing the structure of the e-learning materials and embedding them into the programs of human reproductive medicine in graduate and advanced education. Syllabuses will be prepared only in English, while the study materials and documents (e-learning materials) will be prepared all languages of the partnership. The graduate e-learning material will be provided as an optional for-credit course. The courses will be offered by the participating universities in all their teaching languages, thus it will be available not only for domestic students but also for international ones.

The courses will be piloted at each partner university to gather feedback from graduate students as well as Ob/Gyn residents. The developed material will go under a quality control process from the participating universities, the project's Advisory Board as well as the associated partner, the Hungarian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology. This step will result in quality-controlled teaching materials at graduate and advanced levels as well as syllabuses, which are standardised for the three participating countries. Courses will be custom-tailored for the training rules of the given university. All activities will be conducted in a collaborative way among partners.

A Teachers' Guide (PR 3) will be developed to facilitate the application of the e-learning courses. The methodological teaching materials will be developed including distance learning guidance for educators. Following the structure of PR 1 and PR 2, 14 topics will be created and translated in four languages.

To make project results available, a Moodle-based e-learning platform will be developed (PR 4). The platform will be installed and all produced materials will be added.

To reach the widest audience possible, dissemination activities will be continuous throughout the project. All the participants will organize a multiplier event in their home location with a special focus on their own led PRs.

Results:

In COHRICE, we will create a complex, novel training material consisting of e-learning courses, syllabuses and a teachers' guide in four languages that will be available on a Moodle-based platform.

The e-learning materials and curricula are expected to meet the needs of resident medical doctors practicing in the field of obstetrics and gynecology providing them with unique and socially useful knowledge via an innovative online, work-based, multi-disciplinary learning model. COHRICE will also provide useful insights for graduate medical students and prepare them for the challenges of modern perinatal medicine. The project will contribute to finding solutions to real-world problems (treating high-risk pregnant women, taking care of patients of certain ethnic groups, dealing with post-modern challenges, e.g. diabetes, infertility, etc.) by increasing the efficiency of medical care and the quality of reproductive health-care services.

The presented project will provide open education and innovative practices in a digital area by making the e-learning material available for the next generation resident medical doctors and graduate students. This will contribute to improve the quality of education, in particular support for the use of digital technologies and online education in order to develop pedagogical and evaluation methods.

The project will also support higher education institutions and research institutes to contribute to innovation through developing, implementing and testing the effectiveness of e-learning materials in the field of obstetrics and gynecology; and to ensure the reinforcement of education and research, including through partnerships, inter- and transdisciplinary approaches, and strengthening the role of higher education institutions and research institutes in the local, regional and international environment.

Project title

JOIN-RISe - Joint development of innovative blended learning in STEM curricula based on SDGs for a resilient, inclusive and sustainable education

Project ID

2021-1-ES01-KA220-HED-000032139

Project start date

01.11.2021

Project end date

30.10.2024

Coordinator

Universidad de Burgos (ES)

Partner Organisations

Bjaland Technologies SL (ES), Technische Universiteit Delft (NL), The Provost, Fellows Foundation, Scholars & the other member of Board of the College of The Holly & Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth Near Dublin (IE), University of Pécs (HU)

General description

The main objective of JOIN-RISe is to make higher education STEM students develop into citizens that are critical thinkers and are fully committed to the SDGs. In order to achieve this, it is crucial for there to be changes to current curricula and for the SDGs to be included in the teaching of STEM degrees. Evidently, lecturers are key players in meeting the project's main objective.

The SGDs will be implemented by means of courses, optional subjects, adapting current subject contents by using tools, resources and blended learning methods specifically designed for university degrees.
JOIN-RISe will provide a database of Service-Learning projects and Bachelor's and Master's final dissertations related to SDGS in STEM which will help students to put their knowledge and social commitment into practice. JOIN-RISe also aims to improve the quality and integration of critical citizenship education at University level. This project will also encourage lifelong learning through a short course (30 hours) aimed at adult learners.
The JOIN-RISe project has three Work Packages:
WP1: Toolkit Integrating the SDGs in the University curriculum
WP2: SDGs Virtual Learning Platform
WP3: Certification system of Sustainability Commitment
At the end of the project, all these resources will be available for all European HE institutions that are willing to tackle this common challenge. The implementation of this project will improve the quality of STEM higher education by including the common values of the SDGs enriching the knowledge that students need for their future. The resources will be accessed from a VLP to make them more digital, inclusive and innovative.

Project title
E4A - Erasmus for All
Project ID
2021-1-PT01-KA220-HED-000023302
Project start date
01.11.2021
Project end date
30.10.2024
Coordinator
Universidade do Porto (PT)
Partner Organisations
Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"(IT), The Provost, Fellows, Foundation Scholars, and other members of Board, of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth near Dublin (IE), Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (FR), European Students' Union (BE), European University Foundation-Campus Europae (LU), Conférence des présidents d'université (FR), University of Pecs (HU)
General description
Background:
Erasmus is the most successful mobility programme in the world. By the beginning of 2020, it was estimated that around 10 million students had already participated in this exchange programme since it was launched in 1987. However, according to statistics this represents only 1.7% of the European Union's population, which means that the programme is still far from reaching its full potential. Most of EU surveys and reports carried out in the framework of European projects revealed that the reasons behind low participation are related to lower economic capacity of the majority of students and their families to support their stay abroad which results in unequitable access to quality higher education studies and to future employment opportunities. Mobility is politically desirable and HEIs all over Europe are currently faced with extremely demanding targets concerning the increase of students undertaking an international mobility experience. Universities have therefore a clear need to find the most effective strategies to be able to comply with such targets, and this implies not only financial resources but also the necessary conditions to allow for the widest possible participation of all students po-

tentially undertaking a mobility experience abroad. The overall budget available for KA1 Mobility of individuals is normally satisfactory for universities and in general allows them to provide an effective answer to the existing demand of the academic community. The main issue, however, remains the fact that a significant number of students does not have the necessary financial support to complement the grant awarded by the Programme and to allow for the full coverage of basic expenses in the country of destination.

Implementation:

The implementation of E4A will encompass the organisation of a series of activities, events and publications with policy relevance to reach the decision makers in Brussels and produce real transformation in the programme's design, particularly concerning the funding of individual mobility at Higher Education level. Firstly, the team will conduct a mapping of other scholarship funding models to benchmark for the more advantageous examples of grant schemes. This activity will be complemented by a desk research to extract best practises of other studies in the same field and include the results of the feedback gathered during the E4A Student Social Labs – a series of local events in the partner HEIs to engage Erasmus students in voicing their needs during mobility for a reality-based and co-designed solution. These activities will culminate in the organisation of the first multiplier event: Is the new Erasmus for all? » proposals towards a more inclusive Erasmus scholarship where it will be presented the Mapping and Research Report and opening the floor for the discussions around what will be the proposal of a new scholarship calculation methodology. This second round of activities will be led by a transdisciplinary scientific working group in charge of considering multiple variables to design a more inclusive grant scheme and publish a document that gathers the methodologies used in developing this proposal.

Thirdly, the organisation of a small-scale impact study will set a pilot-experiment with a sample of real Erasmus participants with similar financial conditions (economically disadvantaged), randomly selected and divided in two groups:

the first will test the current Erasmus scholarship scheme and the second will test the impact and feasibility of the more inclusive scholarship calculation formula(s) developed previously. This activity will include financial support from sponsors associated to the project to assure the necessary top-ups in a more inclusive scholarship proposal. Lastly, the E4A partners will prepare a Policy Paper with recommendations based on the conclusions of all the previous activities. The partner institutions will address policy makers in a final high-level conference in Brussels: The future of Erasmus is for all! » Making participation more inclusive through a better grant mechanism to call on the need to prioritise economic inclusion as a way to increase participation in the Erasmus programme through a more equitable scholarship.

Results:

The partnership expects to publish the following documents until the end of the project lifecycle: - Mapping and Research Report - Guidelines for a more inclusive grant calculation formula - E4A Impact Study - Erasmus4All: Recommendations towards a more social and economically inclusive Erasmus scholarship | Policy Paper With the preparation of these publications it is expected to raise awareness and support from the main target group, the HE students, by having them engaging actively in the projects' activities, voice their challenges and pressure political leaders to change. The aim is to achieve a more equitable and a fairer grant system that may provide a clear answer to the real needs of participants, and contribute to promote inclusion in HE. It is also expected the reinforcement of the reliability of the Erasmus programme label. By analysing and identifying the potential weaknesses and strengths of the current system, the E4A project is providing the programme an active quality monitoring system. The type of activities designed for this project will also allow the HE students to participate in the co-creation of the programme and feel their needs are heard, addressed and actually produce a real change. This reinforcement of the programme's visibility in terms of quality will also contribute to increase

the circulation of students and improve and facilitate equal access to the European Higher Education Area, which is one of the strategic priorities of the European Commission having as background the Bologna Process. A last outcome is the promotion of a continuous political debate, throughout the project implementation and after its completion, on inclusion. One of the project's results being the Policy Paper including recommendations resulting from the overall project's conclusions plays an important role to push inclusion higher in the policy agenda and produce substantial impact in the mid-term review of the Erasmus+ programme. The powerful project values, mission and goals anticipate a guarantee for sustainability in this framework, both partners as well as other European institutions beyond the partnership involved in student mobility are committed to and share the vision of a future truly democratic Erasmus programme.

Project title
PHYSAGENET (CA21170) - Network on evidence-based physical activity in old age (PhysAgeNet)
Project ID
2020-2.1.1-ED-2024-300
Project start date
25.10.2021
Project end date
24.10.2025
General description
A sedentary lifestyle in old age is associated with increased risk of chronic and disabling diseases, premature mortality, and substantial economic burden for society. Increase in physical activity (PA), on the other hand, may compensate negative effects of ageing and reduce inactivity costs. However, not all exercise regimens are universally effective, and inter-individual differences in responses to PA exist. Therefore, there is an urgent need for creating "tailored" exercise programmes that will fit the specific needs of the various and diverse ageing populations.
A critical step towards this goal is embracing an evidence-based medicine (EBM) approach where conceptual challenges and pitfalls in basic research and clinical research on ageing and physical activity could be identified and addressed. Unmet needs and gaps in research and practice that currently hinder successful implementation of EBM for training of older adults are:
1. Lack of consolidated research information needed for designing optimal, feasible and effective exercise programs for various target groups
2. Exclusion of disabled, low income and isolated older adults both research trials and exercise interventions
3. Lack of real-world conditions studies over long periods
4. Limited use of technological innovations for assessing, applying and enhancing exercise programs in old populations.

Project title
RETHEALTHSI - Gap junctions serve to distribute health-signals among neurons of the diseased retina
Project ID
2019-2.1.7-ERA-NET-2021-00018
Project start date
01.05.2021
Project end date
30.04.2024

Coordinator
University of Pecs
General description
In retinal neurodegenerative diseases, death of primarily affected cells is often followed by the bystander effect, a mechanism leading to the death of nearby cells, in numbers surpassing insulted cells by several magnitudes1,2,3. The nature of the bystander effect is not known but gap junctions (GJ) that serve intercellular signalling, have been reported to promote the diffusion of death-signals from dying cells to neighbours4,5. This hypothesis puts GJs in the crosshair of recent research and a GJ blockade has been proposed to rescue neurons in progressive diseases, such as diabetic retinopathy, ischemia and glaucoma6,7,8. However, GJs also serve signaling between neurons9 and their chronic blockade would result in a loss of visual function, strongly limiting the possibility to exploit GJ block as therapeutic opportunity to treat chronic retinal disorders. This proposal relies on the hypothesis that GJs can be utilized as tools to promote cell survival by allowing the intercellular passage of rescue molecules counteracting death-signals. In this scheme, the delivery of (what we call) "health-signals" will be followed by their cell-to-cell spreading through GJs. We employ GJ coupled cell cultures and retinal cells to test the feasibility of transjunctional diffusion of intracellular second messengers (IP3, cAMP, cGMP, Ca++), epigenetic factors (miRNA) and pharmacologically active substances (Dexamethasone). We will assess whether these molecules, among other factors, have a size, charge and 3D structure allowing them to travel across GJs. Then, we will progress into intracellular injections of these substances in animal models of retinal degenerative diseases, at the same time testing delivery methods for possible future clinical applications to treat analogous human diseases. We focus on Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP), a family of genetic, so far incurable, disorders leading to blindness. RP causes the primary degeneration of rods and a secondary death of cones, ascribed to bystander effect. Our aim is to characterize GJ crossing molecules that repair retinal cells and rescue vision in RP patients. High sensitivity OCT imaging of the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) and the outer retina in enrolled RP patients will be carried out throughout the study to detect early alterations in the RPE/outer retina complex, where GJs are abundant. The future goal of the proposal is to exploit the potentials of GJ alterations as tools for personalized RP prognosis and as conduits of molecules for retinal repair.

Project title
EDUC-SHARE - European Digital UniverCity- Research and Innovation with and for society
Project ID
EDUC-SHARE
Project start date
01.02.2021
Project end date
29.02.2024
Coordinator
Universite De Rennes (FR)
Partner Organisations
Masaryk University (CZ), University of Cagliari (IT), University of Potsdam (DE), University of Paris Nanterre (FR)
General description
The EDUC-SHARE project aims to deepen ongoing transformation and institutional changes of both the EDUC university.

Project title
EBSN - Professional Development Series for Basic Skills Teachers
Project ID
621532-EPP.1-2020-HU-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN
Project start date
15.01.2021
Project end date
14.01.2024
Coordinator
Progress Consult Kft. (HU)
Partner Organisations
South East Technological University (IE); National Adult Literacy Agency (IE), Folkeuniversitetet (NO); Directorate for research, lifelong learning and employability (DRLLE), University of Pecs (HU)
General description
Objective
Strengthen existing transnational networks of adult education providers by means of mutual learning, peer counselling, and capacity building. Our work entails supporting the formation of coherent and sustainable policies in basic skills.
The aim of the PDS Project is to strengthens EBSN, and especially its members – who are adult education providers – in a number of ways. Firstly, the project poses an innovative target, one that is often overlooked i.e. training basic skills teachers. The elaboration of the project can be considered a mutual learning process in this field which presents our partners with an excellent opportunity to innovate training practices, engage in flexible recognition and accreditation and disseminate experiences in the whole network.
Hence the project is expected to generate new learning and relevant output for teacher trainers, training institutions, and teachers and adult educators too. As for the chosen specific objective i.e. "Specific innovative pedagogical approaches in adult education (e.g. blended learning, personalised learning approaches, educational technologies…)" the current proposal contributes to this by designing, testing and implementing a new type of training one that is based on OERs in the format of massive open online courses as a form of accredited professional development for teachers wishing to engage in basic skills provision for adults.
Target Groups
Our PDS Project support teachers, adult educators, basic skills trainers, and tutors to develop their training skills and methods to help peoples upskilling pathway to ensuring or entering a position at the labour market.
This is directly in line with the recommendation on Upskilling Pathways namely „support the initial training and continuous professional development of staff engaged in the delivery of upskilling pathways, in particular teaching professionals".
Main Activities
The project proposes an innovative training opportunity for training professionals. Thus the focus is on training teachers to become fully able to address the challenges they have in adult learning focusing on basic skills development and upskilling pathway.
The training format of the EBSN Professional Development Series (OER based MOOCs) makes it possible for trainers to easier access and attend the MOOCs even from remote areas and deal with challenges that affect their target group.

Project title
AENEID - Academy for European Neurosurgical Excellence through Innovation and Diversity

Project ID
621621-EPP-1-2020-1-IT-EPPKA2-KA
Project start date
01.01.2021
Project end date
31.10.2024
Coordinator
Fondazione Irccs Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta (IT)
Partner Organisations
Universitetet i Oslo (NO), Universiteit Leiden (NL), European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (BE), Les Hopitaux Universitaires de Geneve (CH), CAE Healthcare Gmbh (DE), Aegis Srl (IT), The University of Birmingham (UK), Medizinische Universitaet Inssbruck (DE), Humboldt Universiteat zu Berlin (DE), Universiteit Maastricht (NL), Universiteatsmedizin Greifswald (DE), Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust (UK), Univerzitet u Beogradu (RS), Centre Hospitalier Regional de Marseille (FR), Assistance Publique-Hopitaux Marseille (FR), BBZ Srl (IT), University of Pecs (HU)
General description
AENEID is a new educational paradigm that will revolutionize the field of Neurosurgery. It is a pilot project that will improve the way of selecting, training and assessing European Neurosurgery residents, creating a new generation of excellent physicians who can operate as talented and compassionate neurosurgeons, utilizing the most innovative technologies to serve patients better.
AENEID will build a European network among neurosurgery residents and staff from European Centres of Excellence (under EANS guidance), leading simulation companies and university experts in psychology, ethics, clinical empathy, and communication.

Project title
DRYvER - Securing biodiversity, functional integrity and ecosystem services in DRYing rivER networks
Project ID
869226 (H2020-LC-CLA-2019-2)
Project start date
01.09.2020
Project end date
28.02.2025
Coordinator
Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement (FR)
Partner Organisations
Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (DE), Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Univeristät Frankfurt am Main (DE), Universität Innsbruck (AT), Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (NL), Universidad de Cantabria (ES), Fundació Institut Català de Recerca de l'Aigua (ES), Universitat de Barcelona (ES), Suomen Ympäristökeskus (FI), Masarykova univerzita (CZ), Faculty of Science University of Zagreb (HR), Université Grenoble Alpes (FR), University of Leeds (UK), Erdyn Consultants (FR), Zavod za ihtiološke in ekološke raziskave REVIVO (SI), Z5 Plus Design Korlátolt Felelősségű Társaság (HU), Fresh Thoughts Consulting GmbH (AT), Universidade Federal do Ceará (BR), Universidad Mayor, Real y Pontificia de San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca (BO), Universidad San Francisco de Quito (EC), Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CN), Agència Catalana de I'Aigua (ES), Dél-Dunántúli Vízügyi Igazgatóság (HU), Pécsi Tudományegyetem (HU)
General description

River networks are among Earth's most threatened hot-spots of biodiversity and provide key ecosystem services (eg. supply drinking water and food, climate regulation) essential to sustaining human well-being. Climate change and increased human water use are causing more rivers and streams to dry, with devastating impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Currently, over half the global river network consist of drying channels and these are expanding dramatically. However, drying river networks (DRNs) have received little attention from scientists and policy makers, and the public is unaware of their importance. Consequently, there is no effective integrated biodiversity conservation or ecoystem management strategy of DRNs facing climate change.
A multidisciplinary team of 25 experts from 11 countries in Europe, South America, China and the USA will build on EU efforts to investigate how climate change, through changes in flow regimes and water use, has cascading impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services of DRNs. DRYvER (DRYing riVER networks) will gather and upscale empirical and modelling data from nine focal DRNs (case studies) in the EU and CELAC to develop a meta-system framework applicable to Europe and worldwide. It will also generate crucial knowledge based strategies, tools and guidelines for cost-effictive adaptive management of DRNs. Working closely with stakeholders and end-users, DRYvER will co-develop strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change effects in DRNs, integrating hydrological, ecological (including nature-based solutions), socio-economic and policy perspectives. The end results of DRYvER will contribute to reaching the objectives of the Paris Agreement and place Europe at the forefront of research on climate changes.

Project title
POLISS - Policies for Smart Specialisation
Project ID
860887 - H2020-MSCA-ITN-2019
Project start date
01.12.2019
Project end date
30.11.2024
Coordinator
Universiteit Utrecht (NL)
Partner Organisations
Università commerciale Luigi Bocconi (IT), Universitetet i Stavanger (NO), Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (ES), London School of Economics and Political Science (UK), Universität Wien (AT), École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (CH), Pécsi Tudományegyetem (HU)
General description
Smart specialisation is an essential principle of European regional policies, aimed at increasing efficiency in research and innovation investments. This region-based approach aims to boost growth and jobs by enabling each region to identify and develop its own competitive advantages. Over 120 smart specialisation strategies have been developed. The EU-funded POLISS project will address the gaps between the conceptualisation, design and implementation of smart specialisation strategies. Bringing together 8 leading European academic institutions and 14 partners from local governments, development agencies, international organisations, research institutes and private companies, the project will take a multidisciplinary approach. It will provide new systematic evidence and methodological tools to scholars, policymakers and local practitioners for designing smart specialisation actions.

Project title
SPRING - Strategic Planning for water Resources and Implementation of Novel biotechnical treatment solutions and Good practices
Project ID
821423 (SC5-12-2018)
Project start date
01.08.2019
Project end date
31.07.2024
Coordinator
Universitetet I Tromsoe (NO)
Partner Organisations
Northern Research Institute, Narvik AS (NO), Suomen Vesifoorumi ry (FI), INESC TEC – Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores, Technologia e Ciencia (PT), ENVIROINVEST Kornyezetvedelmi es Biotechnologiai Zartkoruen Mukodo Reszvenytarasasag (HU), Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IN), Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IN), Indian Institute of Technology BHU (IN), Sagi Rama Krishnam Raju Engineering College (IN), Elixiir Ecobiotek (IN), Dr. D Y Patil Educational Enterprises Charitable Trust (IN), Bhimavaram Municipal Council (IN), Palavi Trust (IN), Pécsi Tudományegyetem (HU)
General description
The overall aim of the SPRING project is to present an integrated water resource management for reliable water supply for all needs that involve; developing innovative simple to operate bio oxidation systems for treatment of polluted water bodies (stagnant and flowing), cost effective real time monitoring tools and finally by implementing good practices in water planning for treatment, supply and usage. SPRING aims at improving and developing technologies for the elimination of pollutants from water using a bioremediation approach.

Project title: Virtual Biomedical and STEM/STEAM Education
Project ID: VIBE
Project start date: 01.11.2021
Project submission date: 31.10.2024
Coordinator: University of Pecs, Hungary
Partner Organisations
UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO, Portugal
POLITECHNIKA SLASKA, Poland
DEX INNOVATION CENTRE, Czech Republic
General description, Background:
In the XXI. century, the rapid development of IT based solutions are reshaping our world in our social life, work environment and education. The digital transformation has been especially apparent over the last decade and restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic have significantly accelerated this process. Well-established digital competences to a satisfactory level are very important to broad range of social groups of different ages. In the field of higher education, e-learning methods can provide an effective, standardized and relatively easy-to-share solution for teachers to share knowledge and provide tools for co-creation and collaboration. Digital education tools are also important for engaging younger generations in higher education, and can serve as a means of communication with citizens and the wider community. Medical and STEM education is essential for the continuous progress of our society through greater innovation, research and science activity, and the development of regional, national and international healthcare systems.

The lack of medical professionals and healthcare providers is a national and international phenomenon. STEM skills combined with medical training results in the concept and professional field of "biomedical engineering" that generates solutions for multidisciplinary medical issues. Biomedical engineering represents one of the most rapidly growing branches of industry in the developed world and aims to provide revolutionary and innovative healthcare professionals that operate beyond the bounds of classical treatment. These specialists use their expertise to develop novel technical solutions, for example, using robotics in medicine.
The demand for IT specialists, engineers and natural scientists is only partly covered by graduates from universities. International trends and the experience of our Consortium show that there is a huge demand for skilled and highly motivated professionals in these sectors. VR (virtual reality) technology has been found to be a highly effective, reliable and interactive method for a wide range of education. VR technology offers a unique and modular training environment for both commonplace and specialised situations. It allows participants to gain practical skills in a safe, replicable setting, supporting functional competence to an advanced level. However, there are several challenges regarding this immersive and innovative e-learning tool, VR based platforms are not readily accessible, potential users do not have the proper knowledge and information about the technology, and in most cases, the stakeholders do not have the necessary digital competencies to successfully implement VR technology in everyday teaching.
Preliminary needs analyses show that PhD courses, joint degree programs and part-time education programs have not yet been developed in VR spaces before, despite the large number of students involved in this sector. Distance education methods can be used not only in teaching theory, but can also be useful in developing practical skills in a noninvasive environment. It is also important that in practice-orientated education of medical and STEM science, an innovative, reliable, and accessible tool is needed to enhance interdisciplinary project work, which is especially important in the field of biomedical engineering. Based on previous collaboration of the Consortium Partners, the needs are clearly defined in terms of digital transformation, they are committed towards reshaping online and distance education using innovative technologies and good practice guideline of the proposed V.I.B.E. project, involving the target groups and wider public.

Project title: LEAN in Medical Education: Reaching for Quality Management Tools to Teach Human Anatomy Effectively in a Multicultural and Multilingual Learning Space
Project ID: 2021-1-HU01-KA220-HED-000027542
Project start date: 01.11.2021
Project submission date: 31.10.2024
Coordinator: University of Pecs
Lead Partner
University of Pecs, Hungary
Partner Organisations
KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET (Sweden)
THE CHANCELLOR MASTERS AND SCHOLARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE (United Kingdom)
SVEUCILISTE U ZAGREBU (Croatia)
MASARYKOVA UNIVERZITA (Czech Republic)
General description, Background:
From 2024 the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) will introduce an obligatory accreditation process for global medical education institutions providing a medical curriculum in English language. At present, Central European Medical Schools in this category are not yet eligible for accreditation by WFME. In particular, Human Anatomy course organizers from these medical schools are in need to develop their abilities to manage their excellent teaching

work more effectively in multicultural and multilingual contexts of today, and to align it to global educational sustainability agendas (Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality of Higher Education – SDG4, Objective 1.1 of WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030). A genuine and adequate needs analysis was prepared for this project and surveyed among all Central European anatomists in Hungary, Czech Republic and Croatia. The survey showed that over 70% of anatomists in this part of Europe know little about international quality standards of medical education, have never heard of the concept of student centered pedagogy or of assessment methods to measure the professional development of attitudes of their medical students or of themselves, and admit to know little about mental health management principles at the workplace despite many of them are doctors themselves. The reason for such a poor level of knowledge of academics about these topics relevant to their actual teaching context is that quality assurance at the systemic level is underdeveloped in Central European medical education in general. What are those components of teaching traditions in anatomy which can not be eliminated without significant loss in quality or in prestige? Project participants exploring this question are leading anatomists from Central European medical schools (University of Pécs Hungary, Masaryk University Czech Republic, University of Zagreb Croatia) whose research will be augmented by world leading European anatomists (University of Cambridge UK) and educational developers from world leading medical schools (Karolinska Institutet Sweden). As the profile, experience and activities of the participating organisations are highly relevant for the field of the application, the results of this project may significantly help anatomists not only in Central Europe but also globally to deliver a sustainable, high quality, student centered anatomy teaching which is a highly timely expectation of the doctors of the future. Importantly, the project is suitable for creating synergies between different fields of educational experties: between centuries old teaching traditions of anatomists and student centered pedagogies of contemporary professional educational developers. The proposal is innovative, as it will create an online teachers training module accessible for any anatomists worldwide who are willing to adapt their teaching traditions to contemporary global developmental goals and standards (i.e. SDG4). The aims of the proposal are realistic as they are complementary to other initiatives of the participating organisations (CLILMED, EDUC). The proposal brings added value at EU level through results that would not be attained by activities carried out in a single country, as relevant legal frameworks, teaching traditions, perceptions and interpretations of global standards and concepts will be analysed in different cultural contexts of each participating countries.

Project title: Challenges of human reproductive medicine in a changing Europe: an innovative professional curriculum for graduate medical education
Project ID: 2021-1-HU01-KA220-HED-000027613
Project start date: 01.11.2021
Project submission date: 31.10.2024
Coordinator: University of Pecs
Lead Partner: University of Pecs, Hungary
Partner Organisations:
Medizinische Universität Wien, Austria Universitatea de Medicina, Farmacie, Stinte si Tehnologie George Emil Palade din Tirgu Mures, Romania
General description, Background:
Since the population in European countries is either constant or slightly declining, reproduction is in the forefront of social and health policies with the aim to maintain or turn over reproductive rates. Recognising the complexity of this challenge, European countries try to address the problem in different ways ranging from socio-political steps to health-related measures. Concurrently, trends related to (post-)modern lifestyles and recent challenges (obesity, COVID-19) as

well as to less “traditional” patient groups (e.g. 40+ pregnancies, pregnancies after egg donation, pregnant patients with autoimmune diseases, etc.) and challenges related to infertility or multiculturalism are increasingly prevalent. As a result, contemporary reproductive medicine needs to deal with complex situations, which often requires an interdisciplinary approach and the active engagement of allied healthcare professionals, such as psychologists and social workers. Also, the circulation of medical staff has become a norm, resulting in the fact that medical staff often works in realities that are culturally and socially completely different compared to the place of their studies or countries of origin.

Still, the graduate and resident medical teaching programme fails to put obstetrics and reproductive medicine in the context of social and cultural challenges, as the teaching material focuses on physiological and pathophysiological processes. This leads to the fact that obstetrics and gynecology specialists often face challenges they are not prepared for. To effectively address such situations, both graduate and resident medical doctor training programmes should become more specialised, broadened and inclusive and help students and medical teaching staff develop respective skills to overcome national peculiarities, and to expand the knowledge beside the standardised EU guidelines on medical training in obstetrics and gynecology.

Therefore, three higher education institutions from Central Europe, the University of Pécs as a lead partner from Hungary, together with the Medical University of Vienna, Austria and the George Emil Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology of Târgu Mureș, Romania as well as the Hungarian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology as an associated partner joined forced with the aim to address these complex issues in their project titled “Challenges of human reproductive medicine in a changing Europe: an innovative professional curriculum for graduate medical education” (COHRICE) by developing a set of innovative e-learning materials for the next generation of medical students and medical teaching staff.

Project title: Securing biodiversity, functional integrity and ecosystem services in DRYing rivER networks

Project ID: 869226 (H2020-LC-CLA-2019-2)
Project start date: 01.09.2020
Project submission date: 31.08.2024
Coordinator: Faculty of Sciences
Lead Partner: Institut national de recherche pour l’agriculture, l’alimentation et l’environnement (FR)

General description:

River networks are among Earth’s most threatened hot-spots of biodiversity and provide key ecosystem services (eg. supply drinking water and food, climate regulation) essential to sustaining human well-being. Climate change and increased human water use are causing more rivers and streams to dry, with devastating impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Currently, over half the global river network consist of drying channels and these are expanding dramatically. However, drying river networks (DRNs) have received little attention from scientists and policy makers, and the public is unaware of their importance. Consequently, there is no effective integrated biodiversity conservation or ecosystem management strategy of DRNs facing climate change.

A multidisciplinary team of 25 experts from 11 countries in Europe, South America, China and the USA will build on EU efforts to investigate how climate change, through changes in flow regimes and water use, has cascading impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services of DRNs. DRYvER (DRYing riVER networks) will gather and upscale empirical and modelling data from nine focal DRNs (case studies) in the EU and CELAC to develop a meta-system framework applicable to Europe and worldwide. It will also generate crucial knowledge based strategies, tools and guidelines for cost-effictive adaptive management of

DRNs. Working closely with stakeholders and end-users, DRYvER will co-develop strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change effects in DRNs, integrating hydrological, ecological (including nature-based solutions), socio-economic and policy perspectives. The end results of DRYvER will contribute to reaching the objectives of the Paris Agreement and place Europe at the forefront of research on climate changes.