



European Digital Learning Network Annual Conference
Brussels 19th October, 2017
Liaison Agency Flanders-Europe
Avenue de Cortenbergh, 71
Schuman Quarter - 1000 Brussel

What's next in education? Opportunities and developments in the fast growing digital era

Moderator: Peter Woodward

- 8:30 – 9:15 Registration
- 9:15 – 9:30 Welcome speech and introduction to the agenda by:
Gianluca Coppola – *President of European Digital Learning Network*
Peter Woodward – *Conference facilitator*
- 9:30 – 9:50 “What do you think about the future of digital Education and Training in EU?”
Key results of the research carried out by the European Digital Learning Network
Gianluca Coppola – *President of European Digital Learning Network*
- 9:50 – 10:05 **The initiative of Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition**
Lucilla Sioli, European Commission - *Head of Unit Digital Economy and Skills (F.4) - DG Communications Networks, Content, Technology*
By 2020, the Coalition hopes to train 1 million young unemployed people for vacant digital jobs; support the upskilling and retraining of the workforce; modernize education and training; reorient and make use of available funding to support digital skills and carry out awareness-raising about the importance of digital skills for employability, competitiveness and participation in society.
- 10:05 – 10:20 **Presentation of the research results from a Higher Education perspective**
Gregory Makrides – *President of EAEC European Association of Erasmus Coordinators*
- 10:20 – 10:35 **Presentation of the results of the research from School perspective**
Ela Jakubek - **Secretary General of OBESSU Organizing Bureau of European School Student Unions**





10:35 – 10:50 Q&A for discussion

10:50 – 11:20 Coffee break & networking

11:20 – 11:35 **Future policies in vocational training to match the digital skill gap and increase employability**

Joao Santos, European Commission - Deputy Head of Unit Vocational training, Apprenticeships and Adult learning - DG Employment (E.3), Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Rapid innovation in ICT and its adoption throughout the economy is having a massive impact on the jobs available and skills needed in the economy. It is changing the structure of employment. It is leading also to increased numbers of skilled ICT professionals in all sectors. Ultimately in terms of work, digital skills are needed for implementing innovations and modern business practices, without which there can be no growth or increased employment effect from ICT.

11:35 – 11:50 **Presentation of the research results from the lifelong learning focusing on vet and adults perspective**

Brikena Xhomaqi – Director of LLP Platform

11:50 – 12:00 Q&A for discussion

WORKSHOP: WHAT'S NEXT IN EDUCATION – YOUR POINT OF VIEW

12:00 – 12:30 Attendees will be divided in small groups to evaluate and collect feedbacks about the proposed recommendations

12:30 – 13:00 Report of the feedbacks to the plenary

13:00 – 14:30 Buffet Lunch





AFTERNOON SESSION

Practical workshops to share best practices, experiences and tools to empower education through ICT

Tools such as Augmented and Virtual realities among others, are becoming more and more popular as complementary methods for education and trainings, as well as digital competencies. All of these are key drivers to live and succeed in the present time. In this sessions we want to present success stories and lessons learnt from different sectors.

- 15:00 – 15:30 **Digital Storytelling: using the potential of maps and open data on the Cloud**
Prof. Karl Donert - *President, EUROGEO, Director of the European Centre of Excellence "Digital Earth".*
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Best practices for use of Augmented Reality tools in vocational and on-the-job training**
Dr. Ifigeneia Metaxa –*Atlantis Engineering, Greece*
- 16:00 – 16:30 **Learn in the (virtual) nature with the help of virtual, augmented reality and 3D printing**
Prof. Tomaz Amon – *Bioanim, Slovenia*
- 16:30 – 17:00 **The Digital Competence Framework for Consumers – Overview and challenges**
Prof. Spyros Blatsios – *Platon School, Greece*



Speakers

João Santos



João Santos is Deputy Head of Unit in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion at the European Commission in Brussels. The Unit is responsible for Vocational Training, apprenticeships and Adult education, as well as for the policy orientation of the Erasmus+ programme in these fields. From 2009 to 2013 he was posted at the EU Delegation to China and Mongolia as a diplomatic Counsellor dealing with bilateral trade and investment issues. He had previously worked at the Directorate general for Employment and Social Affairs. As the

coordinator of a geographical desk, he was involved in the negotiations on the EU structural policies supported by the European Social Fund. His responsibilities included the Employment chapter of the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, and the Strategy on Social Protection and Social Inclusion. In the same DG he worked on international relations covering the employment and social affairs dimension of the EU bilateral cooperation with China, the USA, and Canada, as well as on multilateral cooperation within the United Nations framework, on issues related to the Social Dimension of Globalization and the Decent Work Agenda.

Lucilla Sioli



Lucilla Sioli is the Head of the "Digital economy and skills" unit within Directorate-General CONNECT. Her unit monitors trends and performance in the digital economy, is responsible for country monitoring in digital in the context of the European Semester, for the publication of the Digital Economy and Society Index and of the Digital Scoreboard. The unit also manages the oversight of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition which addresses the impact of ICT on labour markets. She holds a PhD in economics from the

University of Southampton and one from the Catholic University of Milan and has been a civil servant with the European Commission since 1997.

Gregory Makrides



Dr Gregory Makrides holds a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from the IIT in Chicago, USA. He taught mathematics from 1986 until 2006. He worked as a teacher trainer at the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute (1995-2000), as the Dean of Enrolment Management at the University of Nicosia (2000-2006) and since 2006 is the Director of Research and International Relations at the University of Cyprus and in parallel President of the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators and of the European Association of Career Guidance.



Brikena Xhomaqi



Brikena Xhomaqi is the Director of the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL) since July 2016. She graduated in Innovative Project Management at the Polytechnic University of Nice Sophia Antipolis and holds a professional Master Degree in Corporate Strategy and International Development and bachelor in Political Sciences. Originally from Albania, she has studied and lived in Italy, France and currently Belgium for the last ten years. She is the former Head of Office of the European Students' Union (ESU) and Director of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN). Passionate about education, institutional cooperation, civil society and mobility.

Ela Jakubek



Originally from Poland, Ela Jakubek was working as an international freelance trainer in the youth sector for the last four years, and previously she was a Project Officer and Volunteering Programme Manager for a development cooperation NGO in Kraków, Poland. Over the last three years she has been managing a network of cultural organisations in Poland. As a Secretary General, she is the link between the Board and the Secretariat. She coordinates the work of the Secretariat and supports the Board, as well as the Working Groups and other OBESSU structures. Her tasks also include strategic and financial management of the organisation and overall coordination of daily OBESSU functioning.

Gianluca Coppola



Gianluca is the founder and the president of the European Digital Learning Network. He is an entrepreneur, partner and general manager at Eurocrea Merchant, expert in education and training policies, funds and actions at European level. As Chartered Accountant and chartered auditor he has gained a wide experience in innovation and entrepreneurship as well as in the Knowledge triangle integration experience, in particular promoting research-academia-business cooperation in support of the modernization of the education processes. He is external evaluator for the European Commission and national Agencies. He is Member of the Board at EBN, based in Brussels it is an international network of more than 150 quality- certified EU|BICs (business and innovation centres) and 100 other organisations that support the development and growth of innovative entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs. Within EBN he is Chair of the European's Education&Entrepreneurship Strategic Interest Group.





Peter Woodward



Peter Woodward is an independent facilitator with 20 years of practical experience. He addresses all agendas but has a special interest in sustainable development, including climate change, green innovation, resource efficiency, water security, social enterprise, sustainable construction, production and consumption issues etc. His clients range from the European Commission and national governments through to agencies, corporations and third sector organisations. Peter advises on quality process design and then facilitates conferences, workshops, stakeholder dialogues at all scales and levels of complexity.

Ifigenia Metaxa



Dr. Ifigenia Metaxa, Dipl. Chemical Engineer, MSc in Quality Assurance, PhD in Chemical Engineering has more than 10 years of experience in quality assurance, project management, R&D, eLearning, corporate training and safety consulting. Dr. Metaxa has been actively involved in research and commercial projects in various domains, including H2020, Eurostars, Leonardo, Erasmus+, Greece-China collaboration. Experienced in Vocational Education, she has taught at Greek technical universities.

Spyros Blatsios



Experienced Project Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the computer software industry. Skilled in Science Education, Moodle, Computer Science, Audio Engineering, and Lecturing. Strong program and project management professional with a Master's degree focused in Information Technology from Hellenic Open University.

Since 2002, he has served as a project manager on ICT projects for Platon Schools and since 2014 he serves as a project manager for a spin-off company named π-Technologies. He has repeatedly been recognized for developing innovative solutions for globally deployed software and systems. He is responsible for managing teams of programmers, and set-up projects from initial requirement gathering to design, coding, testing, documentation and implementation.

Tomaz Amon



Tomaz Amon has a Ph.D. in electrophysiology and he has been designing and producing educational software for 20 years now. He spent all his career as a researcher/professor at the University of Ljubljana at the faculties of biology and electrotechnics combining his bio-medical expertise with computer expertise. His specialty is the production of educational material in 3D virtual reality. In the last time he is especially proud of virtual reality apps for iPad and Android devices with animations in virtual reality about the structure and function of the living organisms.





Karl Donert



Karl Donert is an expert in European educational perspectives, focused on the use of ICT, social media, e-learning, Web 2.0 and geographic (geo-)media. He provides consultancy services on project development, grants, project management and reporting. Direct experience with many different types of organisations in an international context. An outstanding teacher and researcher with an interest in innovative practises. A European Commission expert in areas concerning ICT, geography and citizenship education.

