Final Conference

30 November 2022
VALEU-X Final Conference

Virtual Balkans. Virtual Collaborative Learning in Higher Education

Format
Onsite with both hybrid and fully online sessions

Date
30 November 2022 from 9:30 to 16:00

Venue
EPOKA University
Conference Hall, E-Building
Rr. Tiranë-Rinas, Km.12, 1032, Tirana, Albania

Overview
The conference represents the final event of the VALEU-X project “Virtual Albanian European Universities Exchange”. It will get together representatives from the project’s target groups focused on collaborations with Albania and other EU countries to participate in a discussion, sharing experiences, and future planning of new formats of international exchange with a focus on Virtual Collaborative Learning. Contributions from original results of empirical, conceptual, or experimental research work in the broad area of virtual collaborative learning and innovative pedagogical approaches will be presented. Synergy projects will be also presented as a platform for the development of joint actions between VALEU-X and other EU-funded projects.
PROGRAMME

09:30  Onsite registration and welcome coffee

10:00  Welcome
Conference Hall, E-Building
Link for the online participation here

Lisen Bashkurti
Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, EPOKA University

Lenka Vitkova
Head of Good Governance and Rule of Law Section, Delegation of the European Union to Albania

Ada Ramaj
National Coordinator of the Erasmus+ Office in Albania

Suzana Golemi
Rector of the University of Shkodër

Benita Strave
Fan S. Noli" University

Ketrina Cabiri Mijo
European University of Tirana

10:45  Virtual Mobility as an Instrument for Internationalisation at home in Albania
Eric Schoop
Head of the Chair of Information Management, Faculty of Business and Economics, TU Dresden

11:00  VALEU-X in a nutshell
Mattis Altmann
Head of Informatic Sector, TU Dresden

11:15  Move to the parallel sessions (change of room)

11:25  Thematic parallel sessions
Participants can choose which session they would visit based on their thematic preferences.

**Session I**

**Venue:** Room E-211, E Building  
Innovative virtual teaching and learning settings for academic staff at Albanian HEIs  
Chaired by Benita Strave, "Fan S. Noli" University

- Online Collaborative Learning in Higher Education in Albania - Some Necessary Innovations  
  Eriola Qafzezi, “Fan S. Noli” University

- Assessing Virtual Collaborative Learning (VCL) as an Innovative Teaching and Learning Approach. A Case Application in Albania  
  Griselda Alushllari, EPOKA University

- Challenges of University-Industry cooperation in Albania  
  Ketrina Mijo Cabiri, European University of Tirana

- The implementation of the pilot local virtual collaborative learning in the module of botany in the framework of the VALEU-X project  
  Arselida Mashaj, University of Shkodra

**Session II**

**Venue:** Eagle Meeting Room, E-Building  
ICT-based internalisation at home and the global network for “Virtual Mobility” for the HEIs  
Chaired by Altin Idrizi, University of Elbasan

- Project "entral" a new synergy towards the digital age  
  Donalda Lacej, University of Shkodra

- Alternative Flipped Learning Approach scaffolding student engagement and collaboration. A case study with ELT Master students in “Corpora in Applied Linguistics” Subject  
  Juliana Çyfeku, “Fan S. Noli” University

- The opportunities for applying the Virtual Collaborative Learning in Higher Education in North Macedonia  
  Marija Vasilevska, University American College Skopje
Designing and Facilitating Cross-Border Virtual Collaborative Learning Experiences: A Western Balkans Case Study
Esmir Demaj, EPOKA University

Session III
Venue: Diversity Meeting Room, E-Building
Link for the online participation here

Adopting and recognising Virtual/Blended Mobility as part of the HEIs` internalisation strategy
Chaired by Nertil Mera, EPOKA University

Student-Centered Learning Practices: A Transition from Tradition to Innovation
Mariola Muçi, EPOKA University

The challenge of "Virtual Teaching" for sustainable learning even for students with special needs (case study for blind students)
Klodiana Leka, Aleksandër Moisiu University

Students’ English Language Development through the International VCL module of the VALEU-X project
Dorela Kacauni, “Fan S. Noli” University

Gotje Rubarth, Lisa Aschenbrenner, Maroua Salhi, (online) and Mattis Altmann, TU Dresden

Collaboration between teachers in a Metaverse education
Menada Petro, Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës (online)

Lessons Learned from an International and Interdisciplinary Virtual Collaborative Learning Module with 8 Institutions from the facilitator's perspective
Mattis Altmann, Nelli Ukhova, Laura Hilse, TU Dresden (online)

Session IV (online)
Venue: Research and Projects Hub, Room A-027, A-Building
Link for the online participation here

Chaired by Valerij Dermol, ISSBS

Collaboration between teachers in a Metaverse education
Menada Petro, Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës

Internationalisation at Home through Virtual Collaborative Learning
Dorsaf Ben Malek, University of Tunis

Virtual learning, a new approach for the Albanian universities. A case of linguistics learning
Rrezarta Draçini and Mimoza Priku, Shkodra University

Investigating reflection sheets to improve Virtual Collaborative Learning in higher education
Fabian Jetter, Moritz Maurer and Sebastian Schmidt, TU Dresden

Competence equipment of modern virtual community members
Tom Helleken, Nils Hobe and Lisa-Marie Langesee, TU Dresden

Collaborative learning and teaching in Miro - design of digital education using a collaboration platform
Jasmin Schöne, Fachhochschule Dresden (FHD) - University of Applied Sciences

Can machine learning support eTutors in an online formal collaborative learning setting?
Arne Bohmer, Musch Maximilian, Schubert Hannes and Sebastian Schmidt, TU Dresden

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30 Synergy workshop
Venue: Conference Hall, E-Building
Link for the online participation here

EU projects and practices that display thematic cross topics with VALEU-X will introduce themselves, with the aim to facilitate the sharing of project outputs and research findings, and offer the participants a platform to develop new ideas and strategic plans.

Chaired by Dardane Nuka, European University of Tirana

The Mediterranean countries: Towards Internationalisation at Home (MED2IaH)
online
Nada Trunk Širca, ISSBS and EMUNI University, Slovenia
Dorsaf Ben Malek, Virtual University of Tunis
Open Educational Resources for Collaborative Online & Distance Education and eXchange (OER-CODEX)
Nelli Ukhova, TU Dresden

Promoting and Facilitating Collaborative Virtual International Learning in the Western Balkans’ Higher Education Institutions (COWEB)
Edra Sota, EPOKA University

Accelerating Western Balkans University Modernization by Incorporating Virtual Technologies (VTECH)
Dardane Nuka, European University of Tirana

Fostering resilience through Accredited Mobility for European Sustainable Higher Education innovation (FRAMES)
Cristina Stefanelli, UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union

Synergy discussion

15:30 Wrap-up and closing remarks
Esmir Demaj
Co-Chair of the Conference, EPOKA University

16:00 End of day
Members of the Consortium

Technische Universitaet Dresden (TUD), Germany (coordinator)
International School for Social and Business Studies (ISSBS), Slovenia
Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED), Italy
European University of Tirana (UET), Albania
Epoka University (EPOKA), Albania
University of Shkodra (USHK), Albania
“FAN S. NOLI” University of Korka (UNIKO), Albania
University of Elbasan (UNIEL), Albania
Alehander Moisiu University of Durres (AMU), Albania