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Newsletter

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South East European University
International Business College Mitrovica
University of Prishtina
Aleksandër Moisiu University in Durës



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<https://magnet-project.eu/>

Democritus University of Thrace

Sub-project 3: Centers for Supporting Teaching and Learning. It concerns the training of academic staff for the upgrading of teaching, the implementation of pedagogical methods and student-centered learning as well as participation in studies for the upgrading and modernization of curricula.

It will be implemented through two Work Packages focused on:

WP1) Training of the academic staff:

A) Training for members of teaching staff on teaching and student-centered learning issues, on new trends and international good practices as well as on educational methods and teaching techniques within the field of University Pedagogy.

B) Launching seminars on curriculum design, and the assessment of learning outcomes.

WP 2) Evaluation of the achievement of learning outcomes:

A) Cooperation with Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) of each HEI and ETHAAE for creating a common for all HEIs methodology to record and assess the achievement of the learning outcomes of the HEI's study programs.

B) The horizontal piloting and implementation of teaching standards and its evaluation.



**Co-funded by
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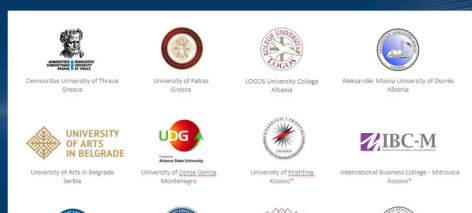
**Human Resources
and Social Cohesion
Programme**

18/10/2024. Contribution of DUTH's CTL to one Learning Cycle in Athens for Academics organized by the Harokopeio University at 18/10/2024 (27 participants). The Head of DUTH's CTL, Prof Katerina Kedraka presented the MAGNET project and BALKANETUP in her lecture titled: "Our students deserve the best teachers. CTLs are here!". In the event four Vice Rectors, along with faculty members and teaching staff from the Harokopeio University took part.

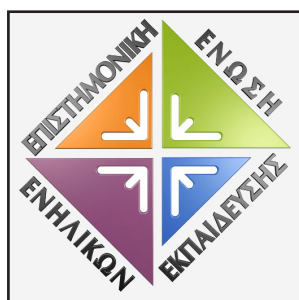
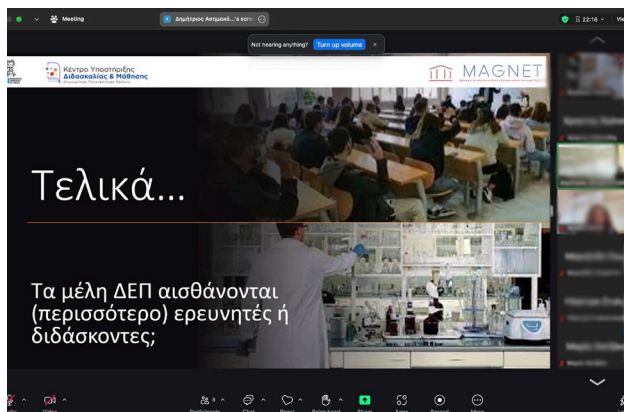


**MAGNET
BALKANETUP –
Βαλκανικό Δίκτυο
Πανεπιστημιακής
Παιδαγωγικής**

**Μια κοινότητα στα Βαλκάνια και στην
Ευρώπη ανταλλαγής τεχνογνωσίας,
εμπειρογνωμοσύνης, καλών πρακτικών,
συνεργασίας και κοινών δράσεων.**



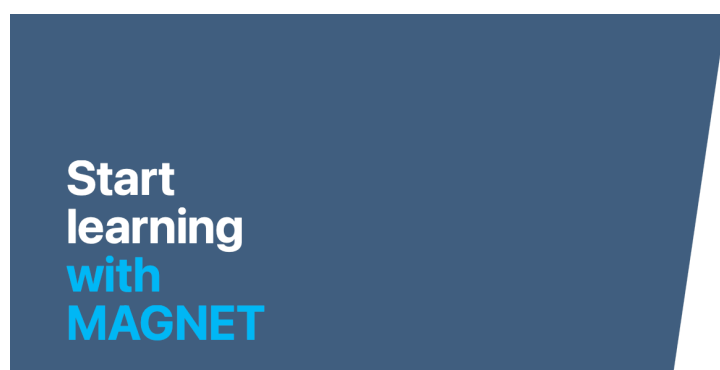
17/12/2024. Seminar on Student-Centered Learning at the Department of Molecular Biology & Genetics of DUTH in Alexandroupolis for Academics was organized in a hybrid format, by CTL at 17/12/2024 (21 participants). The Head of DUTH's CTL, Prof Katerina Kedraka presented University Pedagogy as a field, the MAGNET project and the BALKANETUP, student-centered learning, outcomes and how they can be designed and included to the evaluation of the Study program of the Department. Members of the Departmental Quality Assurance Unit submitted the invitation and participated in the seminar, along with faculty members and teaching staff from the Department.



Duth's partners participated, with oral presentations on MAGNET and MOOCs created for MAGNET, at the 9th Online Conference titled: "Quality in Education: Challenges, reflections, practices" organized by the Hellenic Adult Education Association, 23-24 November 2024. More than 240 scholars, educators, researchers participated in the Conference and presentations on Magnet attracted their interest.

MOOCs supports the quality of university teaching: The case of the European project MAG-NET (Erasmus+ CBHE)

Lydia Mitits & Christos Kaltsidis



Country/Region

Greece

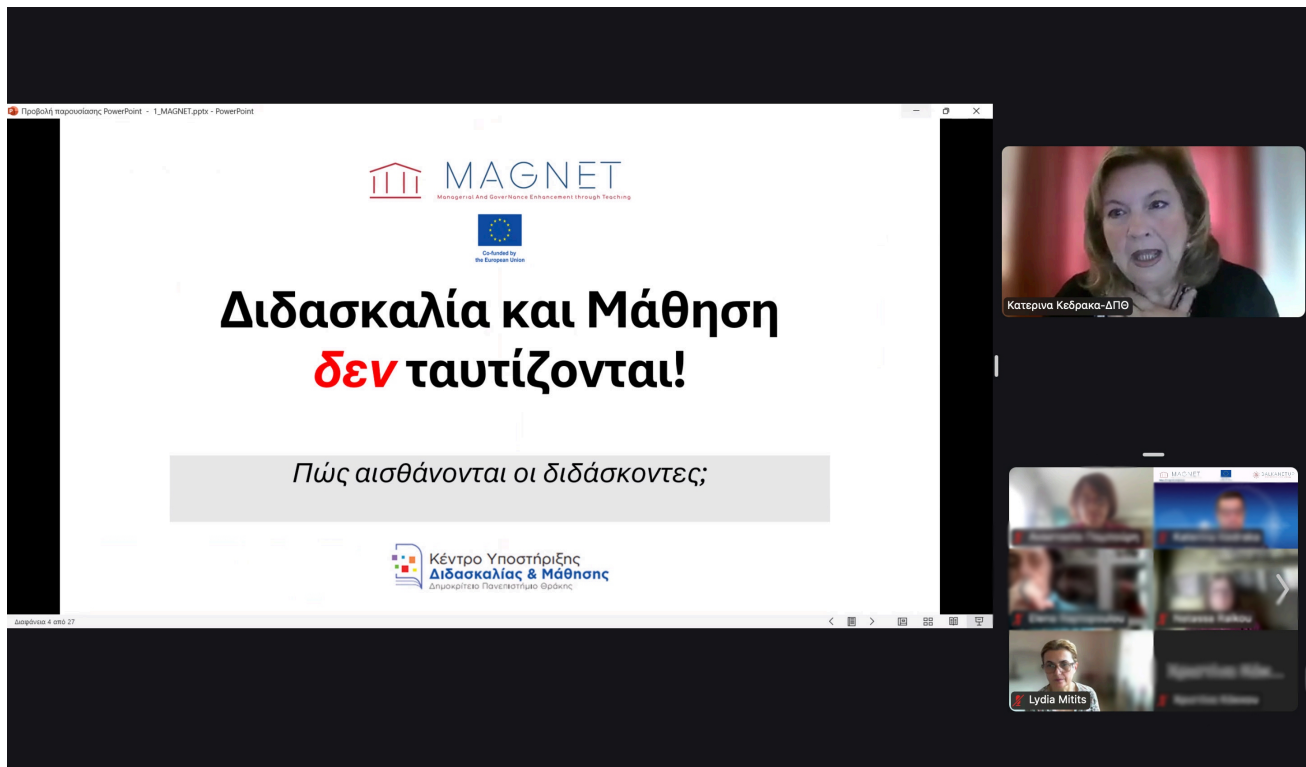
By creating an account, you agree to the [Terms of Service and Honor Code](#) and you acknowledge that MAGNET and each Member processes your personal data in accordance with the [Privacy Policy](#).

Create an account for free

The present proposal presents the utilization of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in the training of academic teaching staff within the framework of the MAGNET program (Erasmus+ CBHE). MAG-NET promotes the improvement of university teaching through Centers for Teaching and Learning by providing training to academic staff, offering innovative, experiential teaching methods. The courses are provided through the OpenEdx platform, without geographic or time constraints.

MAGNET Project: Attracting the quality of university teaching and learning

Katerina Kedraka & Elena Raptopoulou



Higher education institutions have turned their attention to improving the quality of their services. Quality is ensured, on the one hand, by embedding innovation in their research through modern technological developments and, on the other hand, by offering a high-quality education in a quality learning environment that recognizes and supports adequate university teaching. University Pedagogy is recognized as a multidimensional process that promotes effective teaching practices and strategies. Providing training and support for academics within university settings encourages active student learning and shifts HEIs' strategic focus toward quality assurance. The European MAGNET project supports academics to respond to the challenge of upgrading the quality of university teaching.

Introducing the MAGNET Project: An Open Invitation to Join BALKANETUP



During the recent Blended Intensive Program (BIP Erasmus+), held in Maribor, Slovenia from October 14 to 18, 2024, Professor Lydia Mitits presented the MAGNET project to an enthusiastic audience from universities in Slovenia, Bulgaria, Czechia, Lithuania, and Spain. She extended an open invitation to these institutions to join BALKANETUP, receiving strong interest from all participants. Plans for continued collaboration and communication are already in motion. As part of the BIP educational program, Professor Mitits also led a workshop titled Level Up Your Writing: Using AI to Boost Critical Literacy in Academia, where she shared insights on enhancing academic writing through AI tools.



“Intercultural Education for Social Justice”

An open lecture titled “Intercultural Education for Social Justice” was held on September 26, 2024, as part of the MAGNET project, emphasizing the critical role of education in fostering justice and equality in schools.

The session featured Associate Professor D. Z. from Aristotle University in Greece, an esteemed figure in intercultural education with extensive teaching and research experience in diversity and inclusion. Professor Z. has lectured at various institutions and played a key role in projects aimed at integrating intercultural education into mainstream teaching practices.

This lecture was closely aligned with the MAGNET project's mission to promote intercultural understanding and social justice through educational initiatives. It served as an important platform for discussing effective strategies and tackling the challenges of building more equitable and inclusive learning environments.





University of Arts in Belgrade

THE CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARTS IN BELGRADE STARTED ITS ACTIVITIES

In the last months, the University of Arts in Belgrade (UAB) was particularly focused on the activities within the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), which finally has received its visual identity in the form of a logo and promotional roll-up.

After careful planning of the CTL programme, two events were organized in June 2024. The first one was a one-day seminar entitled Protection of Creative Work, consisting of a series of lectures on copyright protection in the fields of film, music, creative industries, and artificial intelligence. The lecturers were lawyers and experts in creative work protection who discussed the topic with teachers and representatives of cultural institutions.

The second event under CTL was an online lecture titled Developing Pedagogical Competences in Artistic Fields of University Education - Experiences from Music Pedagogy, held by professors from the Faculty of Music, Dr. A. M. and Dr. D. T. The lecture was attended by university teachers from Serbia and the region who are involved in art pedagogy.

Following preparatory meetings with the UAB team, Prof. Dr. Ivana Drobni participated in the Second General Meeting of the MAGNET project, held from May 31 to June 1, 2024, at the Public International Business College Mitrovica (IBC-M). Prof. I. D. presented the UAB's project results and exchanged experiences and ideas with partners regarding the next steps of the project.



The new academic year at UAB has started with new activities from CTL. On November 13th, CTL organized the online workshop What is Your Teaching Style?, led by Prof. Dr. Nada O'Brien from the Faculty of Music in Belgrade. The workshop was highly successful, with more than 30 teachers from various universities in Serbia and the region. They were very interested in the topic and engaged in dynamic discussions about teaching style issues.

Another lecture-workshop for academic stuff was held on December 6th at the Ceremony hall of UAB. The lecture A Reminder for Mentors (On Academic Writing), led by Prof. Dr. S. R. from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, was intended for mentors and doctoral candidates with the aim to provide them with practical guidelines and tools for successful mentorship of doctoral dissertations. The lecture-workshop was highly interactive with many interested colleagues who addressed and discussed important issues on the topic.

CTL activities were promoted through social networks, the UAB website, and within the academic community.



UNIVERSITY OF PRISTHINA

NEWSLETTER

Within the framework of the MAGNET project and in partnership with the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), the training "Statistics through SPSS and GIS" is being developed. The main goal of the training is to improve the quality of higher education, by providing opportunities for professional development of the academic staff of the University of Prishtina.

The training is planned to be held on December 6-9, 13-14, 20-21, 2024, at the Faculty of Education in Pristina. The training was currently held on December 6, in which 40 teachers from the University of Pristina participated.

This training aims to provide theoretical and practical information regarding the use of two statistical programs in scientific research, such as:

- SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), which is a powerful and reliable computer program for statistical analysis and data management, widely used in academic research, business and health.
- GIS (Geographic Information System), which uses tools and methods that include geospatial information and information technology for the collection, processing, analysis and presentation of spatial data in the form of maps and other documents.

The second day of the training "Statistics with SPSS and GIS". The training discussed descriptive and correlational statistical analyses. About 40 university teachers participated.



University of Donja Gorica

COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS: UNIVERSITY OF DONJA GORICA (UDG) OPENS THE DOORS TO THE FUTURE THROUGH AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT TEACHING

“

AWAKENING OF STUDENT'S VISION

„There's no second chance for a first impression“

Prof. dr Veselin Vukotic – Rector

The **University of Donja Gorica (UDG)** has successfully started the new academic year with an innovative project called “Awakening of students Vision,” idea creator Rector, prof. dr Veselin Vukotic, designed for new enrolled generation to enable them to develop their potential regardless of their field of study. This unique project, held from September 9 to 14th 2024, brought together over 100 collaborators, colleagues, professors, and instructors from across the region, including numerous successful professionals from academic and practical backgrounds, who shared their knowledge and experiences with students. This innovative model in one part has been done through support of Center for Teaching and Learning UDG.

The project is designed to allow new enrolled students to think in the context of global trends, modern technologies, and development visions, independent of their study programs. Lectures and workshops covered a wide range of topics, including artificial intelligence, quantum theory, sustainability, and entrepreneurship, as well as social sciences, philosophy, and ethics. Special emphasis was placed on developing critical thinking, creativity, and readiness to face changes—key qualities for success in contemporary society.

In addition to lectures, various leisure activities were organized for freshmen, such as chess, basketball, table tennis, and working with modern technologies, including simulators and e-sports, which attracted significant interest. Creative workshops provided students with the opportunity to discover and develop talents outside their fields of study. These activities facilitated networking among students, encouraging collaboration and interaction, as well as discovering their abilities and interests in unfamiliar disciplines.

Given the large number of international students, activities in English were also organized for both domestic and foreign students. Special attention was given to supporting international students in their integration process through academic and social activities.

Newly enrolled students had the opportunity to directly engage with instructors to explore the challenges and opportunities presented by today's world. This approach to education further emphasizes UDG's commitment to student development, creating a platform where every student can find their path to success, not only through



theoretical knowledge but also through practical skills and networking with leading experts in various fields.

“Awakening of students Vision” represents a step forward in education, where students are provided with the opportunity to think outside the box and take the initiative in shaping their future. Through this project, the University of Donja Gorica continues to set standards in education and provide young people with the opportunity to unleash their full potential.

This approach and understanding of studies **have highly positioned UDG in transforming young people from Montenegro, and increasingly from the region and abroad; as well as expanding and participating in the most prestigious international university networks.**

“Ideas and Character” Project at UDG – winter semester 2024/25 was done in collaboration with UDG CTLs

The project was founded in 2007 as a idea of our Rector, prof. dr Veselin Vukotic. The principle of the organization of this project is to form random groups of students, and students have no right to create and decide on group members. The groups consist of 6 members (students of different profiles and interests), from the same level of studies, who, during the whole semester (the duration of one project cycle) work on a particular topic on their own. The topics are related to different spheres of education, and cover the areas of science, poetry, literature, art, business... The total number of cycles is six (6) – one per each semester during Bachelor studies. The aim of this project, which presents the core of studies at UDG, and distinguishes us from other universities, is for the students to develop the following:

1. Creativity – the ability of creating something new and eliminating fear of difference. Finding relations between seemingly unrelated facts in order to find a creative solution to the problem.
2. Initiative and innovation – the courage to make decicions and innovative approach towards problem-solving and looking at the problem from different perspectives.
3. Team work and team spirit – the development of being able to work in a team, simulation of real-life situation: cooperation with people students do not know, development of higher level of tolerance and communication with people of different profiles.
4. Performing in public –the competition within the project is held in front of the audience of at least 150 people. Through 6 cycles (semesters), students practice the ability of public speaking and discussion in front of a big audience.
5. Communicative abilities and managing the conflicts – the ability of communication with others and different people, that is, conflict-solving within the teams.
6. Leadership – struggle for one’s own ideas and defence of personal attitudes. By developing leadership abilities, students develop the ability of organizing the teamwork.
7. Friendliness, tolerance and understanding of others
8. Students’ general education

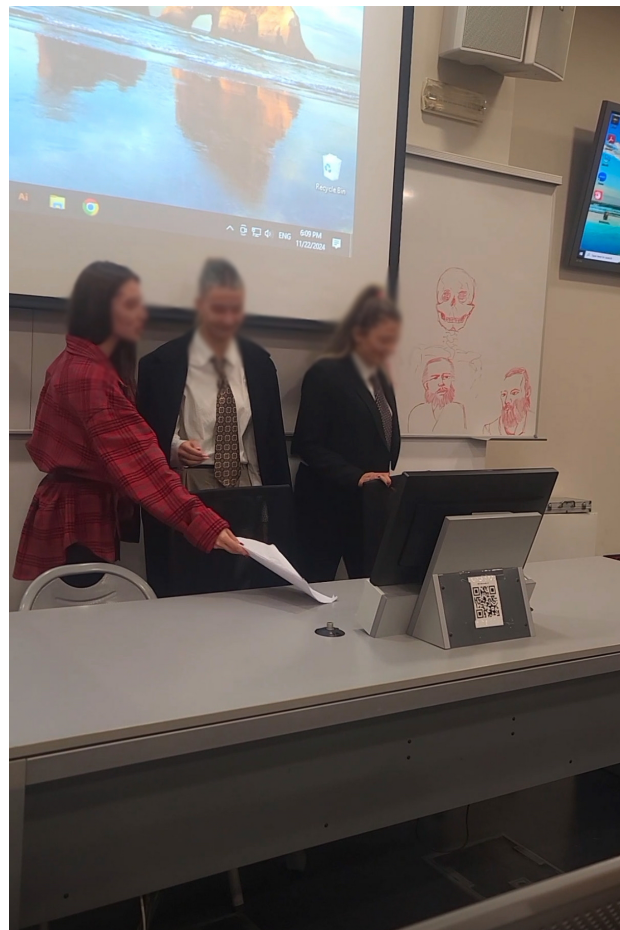
This semester theme was “Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky: Martyr and Thinker”

What is the goal of this theme for “Ideas and Character”?

To awaken students passion for life through the life of Dostoevsky himself, as well as through the lives of his main characters. The aim is for students to turn towards life, to not view life as a straight path leading you calmly to the destination we all face—death—but to instill and develop in yourself the mental paradigm: Life is a struggle! Life is a struggle! Life is a struggle! Life is like a shipwreck survivor; we try to grab onto every straw!... To seize every opportunity!... Leave behind the fast-food paradigm of understanding life: that everything can be achieved quickly

and easily, that everything belongs to us, and that someone else should provide it all for us... You and your generation are suffering from the illness of: pampering!... Can reading Dostoevsky “shake” you out of this comfort?... “But that was back then! We live in a modern age now!”... Yes, much has changed! Especially technologically! But people have not changed! And Dostoevsky writes precisely about people, about humanity, about character, personality, and value systems... The same people, like the characters in Dostoevsky’s books, dressed differently and holding mobile phones, walk around you, socialize with you. Around you are disguised Dostoevskian characters, both the evil ones and the good ones. How can they be recognized? How can we learn to read people?

Having seen its importance and influence on UDG students, “Ideas and Character” Project has been introduced as a mandatory part of teaching activities within courses in study programmes at UDG.





South East European University

MAGNET Project Newsletter

Artificial Intelligence in the Focus of SEEU Staff Training

As part of South East European University's (SEEU) ongoing staff development and training initiatives, the traditional annual training took place from September 3rd to 5th, centered on this year's pivotal theme: "Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Higher Education: Opportunities, Challenges, and SEEU's Response." This event gathered SEEU staff to discuss AI integration in higher education, focusing on its future implications for teaching, learning, and institutional growth.

Highlights from the Event

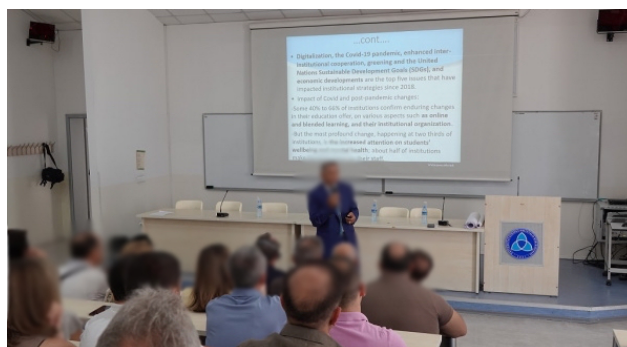
Leading AI experts presented various topics, offering insights into how AI technologies can enhance educational quality and support academic advancement. SEEU's Rector, Acad. Prof. Dr. A. B., emphasized the university's steady growth, stating, "South East European University has recorded consistent progress, as evidenced by all key parameters." He highlighted SEEU's major achievements and ongoing challenges on institutional, national, and international fronts, reaffirming the university's commitment to innovation and excellence.

MAGNET Project's Contribution

In alignment with the MAGNET Project, Vjosa Vela presented to SEEU staff, sharing our project's goals and the Center for Teaching and Learning (CLT) we developed to promote interactive and practical teaching and learning methods. The session included practical training on Project-Based Learning (PBL), tailored to foster real-world problem-solving skills in students and support educators with effective teaching methodologies. We look forward to continued collaboration with SEEU and other Western Balkans partners to elevate quality education through these innovative tools and approaches.

For more details, you can read the full article here: [SEEU News and Events]

(<https://www.seeu.edu.mk/en/information/news-events?id=2777>)





Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës

NEWSLETTER

In the framework of the MAGNET project, the Center for Teaching and Learning, attached to the Center for Research, Development, and Excellence, has carried out several activities. In the first two weeks of July, the working group worked intensively to prepare the technical report of the activities carried out by UAMD as part of the project. The report reflected all the completed activities, such as: the creation of the CTL, the training sessions held with the academic and administrative staff, the preparation of MOOC by two lecturers, the organization of meetings with faculty staff to familiarize them with BALKANETUP, the organization of the 7th International Conference "Innovations and Perspectives of Contemporary Education," participation in various meetings, etc. The report was submitted within the specified deadline.

Additionally, in July, the questionnaire for the mid-terms external evaluation report was completed.

From September to December, meetings were held with the academic and administrative staff of the UAMD faculties to introduce them to BALKANETUP, the access methods, the sharing of information and various topics, with the goal of expanding cooperation among staff from partner universities.

The working group participated in the online meeting held on November 29, 2024.

On December 17, the training for academic staff on the topic "Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technology: The Road to Innovation" was held. This training aimed to increase the knowledge and awareness of staff regarding the use of AI in the teaching process.



Also, on December 17, a successful workshop was held on "Methods and Strategies for Supporting Children with Special Needs" from Prof. Assoc. Dr. Ornedë Gega, lecturer of CTL. This training provided knowledge to young professionals about the characteristics of disorders, diagnostic methods, and interventions for children with special needs. Students were introduced to collaboration tools and modern strategies that develop their full potential through individual or group work. The workshop was conducted within the framework of the MAGNET project, where the lecturer applied the MOOC course (Massive Open Online Course) in the training, a new method that promotes active and interactive learning. All these activities have been reflected on the Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës website.





University of Patras

SEMINAR OF CTL of THE UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS FOR THE PROMOTION OF CHILD RIGHTS DIMENSION INTO UNIVERSITY CURRICULA

The Center for Teaching and Learning of the University of Patras, in the framework of its strategic cooperation with the UNICEF Greece Country Office, organized a two-day seminar for the training of teaching staff on children's rights issues (October 9 and 10, 2024). This seminar was organized in cooperation with the Regional Directorate of Education of Western Greece at the premises of the CTIL of the University of Patras. More than 15 people participated in the seminar.

Before the beginning of the seminar, a welcome speech was given by the diplomatic representative of UNICEF in Greece Dr. G. K. and the coordinator of CTL Professor Thanassis Karalis. After the two-day seminar, the ways in which the child rights dimension can be integrated into university curricula were discussed. The seminar was given by four professors of the University of Patras and three staff members of the UNICEF Hellenic Office. In the introductory speech of the CTL Coordinator Professor Thanassis Karalis, and in two other sections of the seminar, the participation of CTL in the BALKANETUP network was highlighted and the objectives and outputs of the MAGNET project in the framework of ERASMUS+ were analyzed.



University of Sarajevo

The University of Sarajevo organized in the Senate Hall on 19 September 2024 an event dedicated to the presentation of key Erasmus+ projects aimed at improving the professional development of academic staff. The event brought together professors, researchers and administrative staff of the university to present the goals and results of projects that contribute to improving the quality of teaching and accreditation of study programs.

The program began with the welcome address by Prof. Dr. Dušanka Bošković, UNSA Vice-Rector for Quality. The event was focused on the Erasmus+ CBHE project MAGNET – “Managerial and Governance Enhancement through Teaching” presented by Prof. Dr. Dušanka Bošković. She emphasized the importance of the Office for Professional Development (Center for Teaching and Learning - CTL) in improving the study experience and raising the quality of education at the university. In the presentation of Prof. Dr. Dženana Husremović, UNSA Vice-Rector for Teaching and Student Affairs, emphasized the importance of the Office for Professional Development as a contribution to the strategic goal of improving the overall study experience, while Prof. Dr. Dušanka Bošković stressed the importance of these activities in the process of accreditation of study programs.

Long-term contributions to UNSA academic staff development through training programmes as Digi.Edu and TRAIN were presented by Prof. Dr. A. K. and Prof. Dr. S. B.

During the event, two Erasmus+ projects aimed at modernizing the teaching process and academic staff competencies were presented: HomoDigitalis - “Bridging the Digital Humanities and Educational Media Divide in the West Balkans”, which supports the development of digital learning facilities and the introduction of digital techniques in teaching and research in humanities, which was presented by Prof. Dr. S. R. and the project “Digital Education Readiness in the Field of Higher Education” (DERHE), which was presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. A. M. This event represents another step of the University of Sarajevo towards strengthening the capacity for professional development of academic staff, with the help of international partnerships and projects financed through the Erasmus+ program.



Press releases on MAGNET and BALKNETUP in Greece

Πρωτοβουλία για τη διδασκαλία στα Δυτικά Βαλκάνια συντονίζει το ΔΠΘ



Το έργο MAGNET: Μια πρωτοβουλία που συντονίζει το Δημοκρίτειο Πανεπιστήμιο Θράκης για τον εκσυγχρονισμό της διδασκαλίας στα Ανώτατα Εκπαιδευτικά Ιδρύματα των Δυτικών Βαλκανίων

Το Ευρωπαϊκό πρόγραμμα MAGNET - Managerial and Governance Enhancement through Teaching in West Balkans (Ενίσχυση Διευθυντικής και Διακυβέρνησης μέσω της διδασκαλίας στα Δυτικά Βαλκάνια) αποτελεί μια καινοτόμο

σύμπραξη πανεπιστημίων με στόχο την μετάβαση σε μια φοιτητοκεντρική, ενεργή και διαδραστική διδασκαλία και μάθηση στα Ανώτατα Εκπαιδευτικά Ιδρύματα (ΑΕΙ).

Το πρόγραμμα στοχεύει στην ενίσχυση της ποιότητας της πανεπιστημιακής διδασκαλίας, μέσα από δύο κεντρικές δράσεις: α) την ίδρυση ή/και αναβάθμιση Κέντρων Υποστήριξης Διδασκαλίας & Μάθησης (Centers of Teaching and Learning CTLs), κάτι που αποτελεί βασικό πυλώνα για την υλοποίηση του Ευρωπαϊκού Χώρου Τριτοβάθμιας Εκπαίδευσης, β) την ίδρυση και λειτουργία του Βαλκανικού Δικτύου Πανεπιστημιακής Παιδαγωγικής (BALKANET UP), με στόχο τη δημιουργία συνεργειών, ερευνητικών συμπράξεων και κοινών προγραμμάτων για τη βελτίωση των πολιτικών και πρακτικών ανάπτυξης της Πανεπιστημιακής Παιδαγωγικής στην περιοχή των Βαλκανίων.

Περισσότερα:

<https://xronos.gr/epikairotita/protoboylia-gia-ti-didaskalia-sta-dytika-balkania-syntonizei-dpth>

<https://www.gnomionline.gr/protovoulia-gia-ti-didaskalia-sta-dytika-valkania-syntonizei-to-dpth/>

Ιδρύθηκε Βαλκανικό Δίκτυο Πανεπιστημιακής Παιδαγωγικής

Διακρατική συνεργασία σε εκπαιδευτικά ζητήματα

Στο πλαίσιο του Ευρωπαϊκού Προγράμματος Erasmus+, που πραγματοποιήθηκε στην Αλεξανδρούπολη την Πέμπτη 16 και την Παρασκευή 17 Φεβρουαρίου, στην πρώτη δια ζώσης συνάντηση εργασίας του τριετούς Έργου MANagerial and Gover Nance Enhancement through Teaching (MAGNET) Erasmus

ιδρύθηκε το Βαλκανικό Δίκτυο Πανεπιστημιακής Παιδαγωγικής (BALKANETUP).

Το Δίκτυο αυτό αποτελεί βασικό πυλώνα του προγράμματος MAGNET, που συγχρηματοδοτείται από την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση και αποσκοπεί στη δημιουργία κουλτούρας συνεργειών και τον συντονισμό των δράσεων υποστήριξης του διδακτικού έργου των πανεπιστημιακών δασκάλων στα ιδρύματα Τριτοβάθμιας Εκπαίδευσης στα Δυτικά Βαλκάνια.

Περισσότερα:

<https://xronos.gr/epikairotita/idrythike-balkaniko-diktyo-panepistimiakis-paidagogikis>

