



European
Digital
UniverCity

EDUC-SHARE
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NEWSLETTER

NO.2



EDUC-SHARE

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CELEBRATING OF THREE-YEARS JOURNEY

The University of Rennes recently hosted a series of events commemorating three years of dedicated work within the EDUC-SHARE project. From Wednesday, January 31, to Friday, February 2, 2024, participants engaged in insightful meetings, dynamic workshops, and celebratory gatherings, marking a significant milestone in the project's journey.

The week started with a welcoming dinner, bringing together participants involved in EDUC and EDUC-SHARE activities. Next, the "Digital Sustainable UniverCity" Workshop spanned a day and a half, immersing attendees in university discussions on digital sustainability.

On February 1, 2024, the Vice Presidents for Research convened, providing a crucial platform for strategic discussions. Later that day, the gathering of the Steering Committee and Vice Presidents for Research followed, fostering collaborative decision-making.



The evening concluded with the EDUC-SHARE event titled "EDUCation meets Research: The EDUC European University Adventure", providing insights into research opportunities within the EDUC Alliance as well as training opportunities and new forms of European mobility offered by the EDUC Alliance.

5 guest speakers from the Alliance, Estela Stankov, Thomas Contini, Marie Gueguen, Eline Le Breton and Sonia Lehman-Firsh presented their journey as researchers or future researchers within the Alliance (learn more about their speech [here](#)).

150 people participated to the event, including high-school students, students, PhD students, researchers, teachers and university staff. "I saw high school students marvelling at the idea of experiences across Europe, including virtual mobility" reports Sujal Chouhan, EDUC European Project manager.

"This very positive feedback encourages us to keep developing offers tailored to the wishes and needs of our students and colleagues, whatever their profession" highlights Sébastien Le Picard, VP and EDUC-SHARE Coordinator.



Finally, on February 2, 2024, the EDUC-SHARE team presented their achievements and engaged in dialogue with the European Commission representative during the Restitution session.



The event also included a presentation on the topic of "Opportunities for European Universities in R&I beyond Swafs," offering valuable insights into the project's future trajectory.

The successful events in Rennes underscored the collaborative spirit and dedication of the EDUC-SHARE team. As the project looks ahead, it does so with a sense of accomplishment, having fostered international collaboration, shared knowledge and laid the groundwork for continued success in education and research.

RECAP OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

Soft-Skills Online Trainings: 2nd Edition Certificates for EDUC community

The 2nd Edition of Soft-Skills online trainings occurred at the end of 2023, and it overlaps and celebrates the final steps of EDUC-SHARE project. Many people from all the Alliance academies participated in the several trainings offered by the partners. The heterogenous audience, coming from different background and occupying diverse professional positions, genuinely appreciated the opportunity to develop additional skills through an international context, discuss about one's own career management, and reflect on personal improvement from sociological and psychological point of view.

Certificates of attendance are being issued to participants and it confirms the very good results for putting into action an inter-services cooperative strategy, by involving HR in the training process while creating a fruitful connection with EDUC researchers.



The growing necessity to incorporate Soft Skills programs throughout the strategies for a sustainable future of the European Academy matches the need for sharing resources, knowledge, and infrastructure, advancing Open Science dynamics, and promoting human capital development. Meanwhile, by supporting research and innovation in the field of professional valorization, Higher Education institutions contribute to shaping a transformational agenda within the framework of European design. This approach prioritizes diversity, inclusion, and the enhancement of human capital involved in improving community policies from both social and economic perspectives.

EDUC-SHARE Soft-Skills experience was successful, and it can be attributed to the diverse and active contributions of all the members within the Alliance. [Read the entire article to grasp the full picture.](#)

OPEN ACCESS WEEK at UPN

During the Open Access Week, an [international event](#) aimed at promoting theoretical and practical strategies for advancing Open Science approaches, UPN organized a thought-provoking round table discussion centred on scientific publishing within the realms of social sciences and humanities.

The event aimed to disseminate both theoretical principles and practical strategies conducive to fostering innovation in Open Science approaches. The research meeting occurred physically at the University Paris Nanterre, and the speakers convened to shed light on the evolving landscape of scholarly publishing and the principles of Open Science methodologies. Through contributions that showcased the breadth of digital editorial platforms in France, and by comparing the French environment with the international context, attendees gained valuable insights into recent developments shaping scientific publishing.



Contributors delved into the editorial digital process, offering to the public a valuable understanding of the roles and responsibilities inherent in the profession of editing. The sessions, focused on a dynamic of knowledge transfer, proved to be particularly beneficial for aspiring researchers seeking guidance on how best to navigate the process of submitting articles or monographs for publication. Furthermore, to provide attendees with a practical illustration of the concepts discussed, a compelling case study was presented, focusing on the prestigious e-journal Gallia.

Overall, the round table discussion served as a fruitful forum for academic and research EDUC community to engage in meaningful dialogue, exchange ideas, and collectively advance the principles of open science within the academic realm, while participants could deepen the comprehension of the scholarly e-publishing landscape.

Predatory journals and what to do with them

On 24th January 2024, a webinar by Lukáš Plch of University Campus Library, Masaryk University, about the Predatory journals for members of the EDUC Alliance took place. The lecture focused on predatory journals from their origins to the current situation. Current topics around controversial publishers such as [MDPI](#) were mentioned, as well as the service provided by the campus library since 2017 to identify predatory journals. The connection of the predatory journals with the Open Science area was also introduced. The predatory publishers' specific attributes were accented, and their new practices were indicated. More information about the approach of Masaryk University and the service provided by the University Campus Library is [here](#). The record of the lecture is on [YouTube](#).

“Just transition” in urban sustainability policy design at UniCa

The "Just Transition in Urban Sustainability Policy Design" [sub-clustering event](#) took place on January 8th and 9th, 2024, at the University of Cagliari as part of the Horizon 2020 EDUC-SHARE project. Attended by representatives from partner universities and external stakeholders, the seminar aimed to explore the integration of just transition principles within urban sustainability policies.

The event featured presentations of research works, discussions on funding opportunities from the Horizon Europe programme, and brainstorming

sessions to develop concrete project proposals for submission to funding bodies. Looking forward to future opportunities of collaboration in the fields of sustainability and just transition!



2-day Environmental Sciences Workshop at the University of Rennes

On January 29th and 30th, 2024, the University of Rennes hosted a [workshop](#) on “New Developments in Environmental Sciences: Assessing Natural Resources and the Anthropogenic Impact”.

The event brought together 17 PhD students, Researchers, and Research Engineers from different universities across the EDUC Alliance, including Masaryk University, the University of Cagliari, the University of Potsdam, and the University of Rennes.

During the two-day workshop, participants engaged in a series of conferences covering various topics related to Environmental Sciences. They received hands-on training on the cutting-edge GeoHeLis platform, which offers advanced analytical facilities like “ICP-MS” for measuring elements in natural samples at low concentrations.

Additionally, they visited the esteemed ECOBIO lab where they explored the dynamics of biodiversity and continental ecosystems in the face of global changes, such as population growth, climate change, and land use, with the ultimate goal of promoting sustainable development. The workshop was a great success, and the participants had a valuable experience.



Conference “Disabilities and Abilities Framed by Context”

The [event](#) proved to be successful on various fronts, with participants from six partner universities of the EDUC, namely Masaryk University, University of Cagliari, University of Paris Nanterre, University of Pécs, University of Rennes, and University of South-Eastern Norway, coming together. This gathering served as a valuable opportunity for individuals to connect, fostering relationships and mutual understanding among colleagues from diverse institutions.

The attendees comprised academics, service professionals, postgraduate, and doctoral students, reflecting a rich tapestry of interests and expertise. The diverse composition set the stage for a comprehensive and intricate professional programme on the first day. In total, thirteen presentations were delivered, each exploring different facets and approaches to disability, aligning with the conference's theme. The inclusion of a round table discussion provided a unique insight into how service professionals from various universities support students with disabilities in their studies, sharing valuable narratives from their experiences. The second day was dedicated to planning future collaboration, revealing two primary areas of focus:

the necessity to conduct joint research and the interest in developing and coordinating university services. Participants highlighted the potential synergy between these two avenues, anticipating strengthened collaboration in the years ahead.

A presentation on the objectives, themes, and framework of the EDUC partnership by the EDUC office of the University of Pécs further solidified possible plans and aligned them with EDUC's overarching goals, one of them is the harmonization of these institutes, we hope even in the issue of social inclusion, both among students, teaching and administrative staffs, and also as offering similar services also in a way to allow disabled individuals to visit networked universities.



In conclusion, the event featured a meaningful and inspiring professional programme, laying the foundation for similar gatherings in the future. The hope is that activities related to emerging areas of common interest will soon be implemented, fostering continued collaboration among the partner universities.

"Science with and for Society: Cross-Alliances Forum 2023"

The [conference](#) provided a platform for representatives of the FOREU1 and FOREU2 alliances, European Commission Officials, and welcomed external stakeholders eager to contribute to the dialogue. The Université Libre de Bruxelles, served as the ideal backdrop for a gathering aimed at fostering collaboration and advancing the European Research and Innovation (R&I) landscape. The EDUC Alliance made a substantial impact during the conference.



Sébastien Le Picard, VP for European and international strategy at the University of Rennes and EDUC-SHARE Coordinator, participated in a panel discussion titled "Looking to the Future: The European University Alliances R&I Dimension" on the first day.

Moreover, the alliance actively participated in the poster session, presenting a visually engaging display on Research Infrastructures sharing.



The event served as a platform for connecting passionate minds shaping the future of research and innovation. By uniting representatives from diverse backgrounds, it sparked discussions poised to drive positive change and open new frontiers in the European R&I landscape.

Love Data Week and Micro-Symposium on Managing Research Data and Code

The University of Potsdam recently hosted a dynamic series of events to celebrate Love Data Week. As part of them, attendees could join a [Micro-Symposium on Managing Research Data and Code](#) in Brandenburg organized by EDUC-SHARE and the joint research data team from UB and ZIM. The day featured insightful discussions on research data, software, and open science.

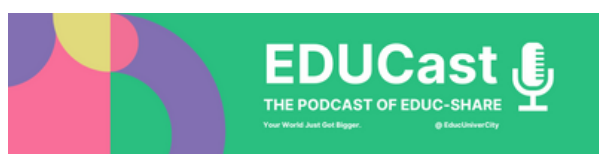
The event left participants inspired and equipped with new insights, reinforcing the university's commitment to open and collaborative research.



EDUCast - new episodes

Our latest podcast episodes are now available for listening! Dive into our podcast series to meet researchers and students from our partner universities and explore captivating topics on research and innovation and their impact on society.

Tune in to the [EDUC YouTube](#).



Exploring Infant Microbiome Development using CeSAR RI facility at UniCa

As a researcher at Masaryk University and one of the recipients of the EDUC-SHARE project, Eliška Pivrcová unveils the secrets of developing baby microbiomes. [Watch the interview!](#)



Internships for students – journalists

Journalism and communications students had an opportunity to practice their skills in genuinely scientific environment: six participants met researchers from EDUC-SHARE partner universities, learned about their studies and projects, and reported their findings and upcoming initiatives to the general public. Following the conclusion of the internship, students prepared a series of PR materials, some of which are already accessible on our [web](#).



Pic 1 - Eliška Pavlíková with UNICA team, Pic 2 - André Rocha with UNIVREN team

NEW CHAPTER IN R&I FOR EDUC ALLIANCE

EDUC University Alliance embarks on a new journey with EDUC-WIDE (*"EmpoWering EDUC for Inclusive Development of the ERA"*), a Horizon Europe project focused on excellence, inclusiveness, and impact in research and innovation.

Among twelve funded projects selected from 61 applications, [EDUC-WIDE](#) aims to enhance research excellence and knowledge transfer through extensive cooperation among higher education institutions.

With a total budget of €3.5 million, EDUC-WIDE will run until February 2027. The project marks a milestone as it welcomes Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University from Ukraine into the alliance, establishing firm connections of its R&I with the European Research Area.

The main objective of EDUC-WIDE is to foster inclusive development of the ERA, reduce disparities in research excellence and research culture within and beyond EU, and strengthen European position in global R&I cooperation.

In practical terms, EDUC-WIDE will facilitate upgrading of the R&I culture of the EDUC UniverCity Alliance to match the current priorities of ERA by:

- imprinting Open Science (OS) into the R&I culture of EDUC and into the mindset of EDUC researchers
- implementing a reform of research assessment to recognize diversity and maximise the quality and impact of research
- opening varied career tracks to researchers and reducing inter-sectoral barriers
- supporting the exchange of researchers and their ideas, creating new R&I directions contributing to Green and Digital Transition in Europe, the Cancer Mission, and the UN SDGs



The European Excellence Initiative follows the Horizon 2020 funding that enabled the Alliance's research and innovation pilot, EDUC-SHARE.

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