HUM@N
Digital Transformation in Humanities

In the HUM@N project, we aim to develop a set of tools and guidelines addressed to higher education educators in the field of humanities with the goal to improve their ICT skills, teaching performance and consequently the attainment of their students and motivation. Ultimately, we seek to renovate the classic ways of teaching humanities subjects which are the least likely to be affected by the digital transformation, yet are those that can benefit the most, bringing our cultural heritage to a stake of the European economy in different fields.

"Rapid technological development is transforming the way in which higher education is delivered and students participate. The diversification of the student population requires individualisation of learning, more flexible delivery and a greater focus on pedagogies that provide support for learners."

Although more academic contents and tools are becoming available openly and freely, students will continue to require local support for learning, which underlines the importance of teachers' pedagogical skills along with field-specific competence. Teaching staff will also need stronger frameworks for assessing students' learning outcomes as well as the value of different technologies and how or when to use them.

Teaching staff needs skills in both digital pedagogy and discipline specific digital competences. Authorities and institutions should prioritise flexible approaches that allow context and discipline specific responses rather than one-size-fits-all solutions. The approach was already stated in the Framework for the digitally competent educational organisation (RC 2015) which entails that "teaching and learning are 'redesigned' to incorporate digital technologies. Building on relevant research, the organisation promotes a diversity of technology-enabled learning and teaching practices that are flexible, adaptable and engaging".

Project goals

- To improve teachers' ICT skills and competences
- To provide user-friendly and adaptable tools to teacher to improve their teaching performances
- To improve students' motivation and engagement

#Humangodigit

Project activities

- Selection of practices and database of available tools
- Development of the training plan and contents based on basic programming and coding skills addressed to the target group needs
- Pilot test which includes also a mobility experience for teachers
- Evaluation of the pilot both from the teachers and students' point of view

Expected results

- A set of guidelines on how to include ICT tools in teachers' pedagogy
- A training course on basic programming and coding for teachers
- A database of tools to be use by teachers

In the context, Humanities and Social Sciences ICT has a valuable role to play. It enriches a student's education and promotes the occurrence of deep and authentic learning (Gilbert & Hoepper, 2014 pp.158).

Therefore, the project will investigate the main challenges faced by teachers in humanities field, find out the most useful and practical tools available and adaptable to different subjects and provide the right training contents and tools to help teachers develop their teaching strategy adopting ICT tools.
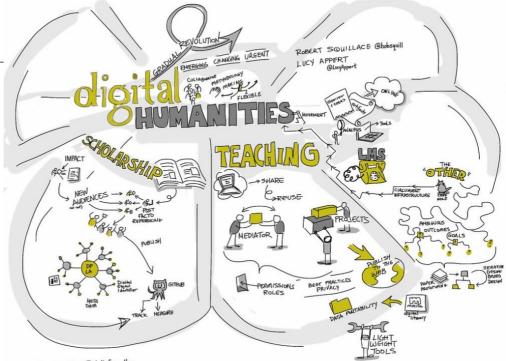
Digital transformation in Humanities: the case of Spatial Humanities

Spatial Humanities

Spatial humanities are methodologies that involves the use of geotechnologies to assist in dealing with humanities questions. This is multidisciplinary field, diffusing ides between geography and the humanities, involving qualitative and quantitative approaches. It connects special representation and the analytical power of GIS, with memory, emotion, and deep, immersive experiences.

GIS is being used as a valuable tool for learning and teaching in humanities fields like the philosophy of science, cultural and ethnic studies, and literature studies. It offers powerful visualization and can provide a very valuable context. The data and its representation also offer a mode for critical reflection. There are now many thousands of mapping initiatives using geographic information systems in the digital humanities.

Find out more **here**

www.digihuman.eu

News on the kick-off meeting

On the 27th and 28th of November 2019, the European consortium of the project met at Tallinn University, in Estonia, where they were hosted for the launch event of Hum@n project.

This meeting was the occasion to plan the upcoming digital tools and guidelines in the field of higher education in humanities, to improve the ICT competencies and skills of educators and teachers, increase the interest and engagement of their students. The members of the consortium shared and discussed several proposals to develop in order to support and promote educators and teachers with innovative good practices, to improve their lessons and teaching skills.
This fruitful reunion allowed to the European consortium of the Hum@n project to gather all the information needed and to agree on the implementation, dissemination and management of the project, to establish it effectively.

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How we are coping with the Covid-19 emergency in our organisations

Some experiences from the partners

ENIDE: In our company, home office is a regular practice under normal conditions. Since the application of the state of alarm (March 2019), it is mandatory that all employees work from home.
- All physical internal meetings have been moved online
- Business trips have been cancelled and moved online
- Projects meetings have been postponed and/or moved online.

EUROGEO is operating online through its projects and meetings, contributing actively to remote conferences and webinars, for example with the Council of Europe. The 2020 annual conference and meeting of members has been postponed to April 2021.

University of Ljubljana: like the pedagogical work (the last three months of lectures, since June 2020 the examination and student research activities) also the research activities are performed on distance, all the communication and cooperation performed online, and all the business travels cancelled.

DLEARN have fully moved all the activities online. We have successfully participated remotely at conferences, webinars, focus groups and offered training using video-conference tools.

Insights from our research activity

The development of the online tools for collecting the information we need is an important part of the inputs of the Hum@n project (questionnaire, cases studies, interviews) and has been completed in April 2020, right afterwards their application started. Project partners are facing different levels of (mainly low) response to the tools, mainly due to the general overburdening of target group (HE teachers and researches in humanities) with additional online activities, and different questionnaires related to the pandemics. In cooperation with the other partners in this project we are actively searching for the ways to motivate the target group to respond.

Until June 2020 more than 220 responses to the online questionnaire (of there, about 150 from HE teachers, and about 85 revealing their country of residence), more than 20 case studies and more than 10 interviews have been collected. As agree on the online project meeting in June 2020, we are continuing the data collection until the end of the project. The draft version of the Handbook on using ICT in the humanities is postponed to the time of Cyprus meeting in September 2020.

If you have any questions regarding our activity, feel free to contact Linda Helene Sillat: sillat@tlu.ee!

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