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Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



**onlineHE**

**NEWSLETTER**

# A PRACTICAL TOOLKIT FOR INTEGRATING ELEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULA - ONLINEHE

**1ST EDITION FEBRUARY, 2022**

# Welcome to the ONLINE HE initiative!

In this first edition of the **ONLINEHE** newsletter we want to introduce our readers to the “A practical toolkit for integrating eLearning in Higher Education Curricula [ONLINEHE]” project, an project that aims to build the capacity of HE teaching staff, academics, learning designers, and teaching staff in integrating eLearning in the design and delivery of courses.

This newsletter is the first of many editions. It features the first results obtained as well current activities of the project Partners.

The newsletter will also highlight the key activities of each of the implementing partner for ONLINEHE: Universitatea din Pitesti – Romania, Vilniaus Universitetas – Lithuania, Centre for advancement of research and development in educational technology LTD-CARDET – Cyprus, Diethnes Panepistimio Ellados – Greece, OBREAL Global Observatory and Western Balkans Institute – Serbia. The newsletter is targeted at all eLearning practitioners in Europe and further afield as well as policy makers.

Please note that all articles of this newsletter will soon be available on ONLINEHE social media and the website.

Visit our website

<https://onlinehe.eu/>

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The ONLINEHE Team

# SECTION 1

## Project description and articles

OnlineHE will support Higher Education Institutions to reach out to marginalized groups by adopt e-learning for teaching and learning. Via the development of the outputs, HE faculty will be educated, empowered, and will be given tools, proposed framework and training opportunities to build their capacity and be able to design, develop and offer online courses to university students and adults in extend (cross-sectoral priority).

This way, by supporting and promoting e-learning in HE, there will be opportunities for all for flexible learning adapted to the learning needs of learners (fully online or blended). Learners would be able to learn anywhere and anytime and attend HE courses and programmes despite any difficulties that might face or encounter.

### Feature article 1: Toolkit on how to adopt a strategy for eLearning in HE

The ONLINEHE consortium has already concluded the first intellectual output which consisted in developing a toolkit which will support users on how to adopt a strategy for teaching online in Higher Education. During this output, partners engaged in a review of the current eLearning practices used to teach online in higher education courses of various disciplines, developed tools to support educators in Higher Education, and focused on the collection of best practices identified certain approaches that proved useful as illustrated in related literature following the established recommendations.

The toolkit contains the following sections:

1. Pedagogical Mapping: All partners implemented desk research on the state-of-the-art of eLearning in HE in partner countries and in the EU.
2. ELearning readiness checklist for teaching online in Higher Education. It is a practical checklist for users to use, adapted from the SELFIE tool, to support HE reflect and be prepared on what is needed to integrate and implement eLearning courses.
3. Evidence-based practices and practical tips: All partners conducted focus groups and administered questionnaires in their own countries with a sample consisting of eLearning experts, higher education instructors and decision makers.
4. Author national reports and a cumulative report: Partners authored a national report on implementing eLearning courses in HE across various disciplines while the leading partner authored a cumulative report summarising the findings of all partners.
5. Create the e-toolkit for HE: The collection of 30 EU Best eLearning Practices including OERs learning activities and resources provided an annotated list of tools with practical recommendations for the implementation of eLearning courses in higher education.

## Feature article 2: Training course

Currently the ONLINEHE team is working on developing a training to a group of people composed of HE staff, researchers, practitioners, adult educators, learning designers, and university support staff. It aims to support a group of HE professionals to understand all basic elements needed to be able to effectively design, develop and implement innovative and interactive eLearning courses to university students and adults, acknowledging its potential in the HE sectors. Through this course, participants will get the opportunity to adapt, adopt and integrate eLearning in HE courses, before introducing them to the wider HE community. This group will serve as the trainers for subsequent scalability of the intervention in HE. Therefore, the model followed is train-the-trainer.

# SECTION 2

## ONLINEHE News and further steps

### ONLINEHE: What to expect...

Multiplier Events will take place in Romania, Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Serbia and Lithuania in order to familiarize key stakeholders with the key aims and objectives of the project and to present the outcomes of the OnlineHE project.

**E1** - RO-Romania - OnlineHE Multiplier event/Final Conference in Romania

**E2** - CY-Cyprus - OnlineHE Multiplier event in Cyprus

**E3** - EL-Greece - OnlineHE Multiplier event in Greece

**E4** - ES-Spain - OnlineHE Multiplier event in Spain

**E5** - RS-Serbia - OnlineHE Multiplier event in Serbia

**E6** - LT-Lithuania - OnlineHE Multiplier event in Lithuania

### ONLINEHE: Further steps

The next steps in the project in year 2 and three are related to the development of the Intellectual output 3: eLearning platform and MOOC and the Intellectual output: Policy and practice guidelines for integrating eLearning in Higher education.

## SECTION 3

# Messages from the implementing team

### **P1: University of Pitești (Coordinator)**

University of Pitești (UPIT) is a state university, located in Pitesti (in the Southern part of Romania, at 120 kilometres from the capital Bucharest). It aims being a dynamic and efficient HE provider in the region. Currently it is a recipient for approx. 10.000 students from Muntenia region. It has approximately 700 paid teaching and administrative staff. It consists of 6 different faculties offering Bachelor, Master and Doctor Diplomas ([www.upit.ro](http://www.upit.ro)). Its objectives are to provide high quality educational, training and research services in order to train specialists in different fields and to create an intellectual community accredited by national and international quality agencies.

### **P2: University of Nicosia**

The University of Nicosia (UNIC) is the largest university in Cyprus, with over 11,000 students, from over 70 countries across the globe, coming together in an innovative and transformative learning space. Located in Nicosia, the country's capital, and with presence in 18 other cities worldwide, we are driven by our pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning, innovation, research, technology, and a continually evolving academic environment. Our institution employees more than 500 staff faculty, teaching, research, and administrative staff.

### **P3: Vilniaus Universitetas**

Vilnius university will contribute to this project involving two research departments that are acting in the field of education and technological development for education. Institute of Educational Sciences is subdivision of the faculty of Philosophy focuses on cultural diversity, sustainable development, and policy evaluation in education, with a special emphasis on technological innovations as agents for constant improvement in the classroom. Key activities carried out at the Institute include educational theory research; development of innovative curricula, teaching, and classroom management methods; applied studies and consultations in educational policy matters.

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### **P4: Centre for advancement of research and development in educational technology**

CARDET is the leading research and elearning centres in the Mediterranean region with global expertise in higher education, capacity building, and digital skills. As the largest independent non-profit centre based in Cyprus, is the primary partner for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth. CARDET has access to all Cyprus universities and members of its team served as professors and/or instructors at several universities such as University of Cyprus, University of Nicosia, and Cyprus University of Technology.

### **P5: International Hellenic University**

The International Hellenic University (IHU) has its headquarters in Thessaloniki. It was formed, based on Law 4610/2019 (Government Gazette 70/A'/07-05-2019), by the merger of the International Hellenic University with the Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki (TEI of Thessaloniki), the Technological Educational Institute of Central Macedonia (TEI of Central Macedonia) and the Technological Educational Institute of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (TEI of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace).

### **P6: OBREAL Global**

OBREAL/GLOBAL has a long experience working in the field of higher education and managing EU projects in conjunction with and beyond its university membership. This has primarily entailed EU educational projects under the LifeLong Learning Programme - EMA4 and EMA3 programmes - and currently the Erasmus+ programme and Horizon2020 -connecting higher education actors in Europe and Latin America and contributing to the further development of the Latin American Higher Education Space. For example, OBREAL/ GLOBAL has been a partner in the EMA3 'VALUE' project and the 'Cooperation for the Collaboration on Doctoral Education project (CODOC) which was a cross-regional project involving Asia, Southern Africa and Latin America.

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### P7: Western Balkans Institute

WEBIN is one of the most prominent higher education focused nonprofit centers in the Western Balkans working closely with HEIs entities and staff in Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia on numerous initiatives linking formal and non-formal education pathways including in digital learning attested by numerous partnership projects funded under the Strategic partnership and CBHE KA2 Erasmus + actions.

Visit [www.onlinehe.eu](http://www.onlinehe.eu) for more information  
and follow us on social media!

