ESCALATE

Erasmus+

PROJECT NEWSLETTER

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COORDINATED HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION RESPONSES TO DIGITALISATION

2019-1-RO01-KA203-063214

Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO BICOCCA

OTTO VON GUERICKE UNIVERSITÄT MAGDEBURG

PROSPEKTIKER

Project summary

The ESCALATE project is funded by the European Union through Key Action 2 – Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices – of the Erasmus+ programme submitted by UNIVERSITATEA DE VEST DIN TIMIŞOARA to the Romanian National Agency.

The ESCALATE runs for 24-months from **01.11.2019** to **31.10.2021.**

Project partners (consortium)

✓ UNIVERSITATEA DE VEST DIN TIMIŞOARA – Applicant Organization (Lead Partner) - Romania

✓ UNIVERSITY OF EXETER -UK

✓ UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING - UK

✓ UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA - Italy

✓ OTTO-VON-GUERICKE-UNIVERSITY MAGDEBURG - Germany

✓ PROSPEKTIKER INSTITUTO EUROPEO DE PROSPECTIVA Y ESTRATEGIA SA - Spain

Project aim and objectives

Aim

To assist universities in implementing activities designed to increase the levels of digital competences for employability and upskilling, related to a growing range of employment opportunities generated by the digital economy, and aligned with the needs of and opportunities offered by the labour market and changes to professional profiles.

General objectives

First, to help universities understand the scale and depth of the challenges they face from digitalization by developing and making freely available new methods and techniques in digital skills acquiring, foresighting and forecasting. The project will help enable them to formulate effective policy and education system governance. We will produce the state-of-the-art review before developing and testing the new materials across 6 key themes.

Second, we will trial the potential for a new innovative practice (a Digital Skills Escalator) across a selected region in each partner country to test its potential as a mechanism for both identifying where there is unmet demand and subsequent need for new digital skills provision, and as a means of building a more holistic offer to learners from education providers.

Specific objectives

- ✓ To understand "university disruption" at regional and local levels and the threats posed to universities and labour markets from digitalization;
- ✓ To identify who are the educational institutions and organizations involved and what innovations can be employed to help understand and tackle digitalization impacts;
- ✓ To elicit more effective local and regional higher education institutional responses to digitalization across Europe.

Target groups

Our direct target groups are higher education institutions, education providers, teachers, learners interested in existing and new digital skills provision.

Indirect target groups consist primarily of those citizens with low levels of digital skills, who are at risk from digitalization or facing a keen need to acquire digital knowledge and use of digital technologies, and also labour market forecasters such as labour market observatories.

The project is looking to achieve considerable impacts on the community of universities and other education providers, labour market observatories and analysts across Europe (many of whom are members of the European Regional Labour Market Monitoring Group) to help them advise and support the decision-making process concerning regional responses to digitalization.

Activities and intellectual outputs

The project **Coordinated higher institution responses to digitalization (ESCALATE)** has been developed by 5 universities and an independent company, which specializes in foresight and prospective - strategic studies for the public and private sector.

The project delivers **4 Intellectual Outputs** which consist of:

- IO1 - Higher education institutions/Universities Responses to Digitalization – European Compendium
- IO2 - New Foresighting, Forecasting and Digital Analysis Materials
- IO3 - Digital Skills Escalator Development
- IO4 - Higher education institutions/Universities Responses to Digitalization - Training Course

Project methodology

The project consists of **6 Work Packages (WPs)**, leading to the production of 4 Intellectual Outputs (IO).

- ✓ **Work Package 1 – *Project Management*** – is led by West University of Timisoara/Universitatea de Vest din Timisoara.

- ✓ **Work Package 2 – *State-of-the-Art Review*** – is led by University of Milano-Bicocca (IO1).

- ✓ **Work Package 3 – *New Materials Development*** – led by Prospektiker involves an agile methodology within 6 related but different themes each with an expert lead partner (IO2).

- ✓ **Work package 4 – *Digital Skills Escalator*** – led by University of Exeter tests a digital Escalator model, informed by IO1, with a policy focus. It will develop a region-wide mechanism for policymakers to understand and respond to digitalization. Stakeholders will be encouraged to think creatively about how to respond to digitalization (IO3).

- ✓ **Work Package 5 – *Training Course*** – led by OVGU Magdeburg is the development of the ESCALATE Training Course embracing developments within WP 3 and 4 (Outputs 1 and 2). It will take as its over-riding delivery methodology that of learner-centred learning where the needs of attendees will be central to the teaching methods employed (IO4).

- ✓ **Work Package 6 – *Dissemination*** – led by University of Stirling. It will consist a range of events and activities aimed at promoting the project throughout its lifecycle and sharing its outputs with a wide group of stakeholders.