Co-funded by the European Union

UKRI Innovate UK

Extending design thinking with emerging digital technologies
Newsletter
March 10, 2023

Introducing the project

The project "Extending Design Thinking with Emerging Digital Technologies" (ExtenDT²) has been funded by Horizon Europe and Innovate UK with € 3M+ to use technologies such as AI, augmented reality, 3D printing and virtual robotics to enhance the pedagogical value, sustainable digitization and potential for wide deployment of Design Thinking (DT). Despite its potential to develop students' 21st-century, through entrepreneurial co-creation, DT has not been yet widely applied to transform education. ExtenDT² will use design-based research to support/provide evidence for pedagogical transformation via DT enhanced by technologies.

You can find and interact with project's technologies at the project website here: https://extendt2.eu/technologies/

Exten DT²

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Introducing the team

The project is supported by academics, researchers and technology developers in eight institutions across six European countries: Sweden, Greece, UK, Belgium, Norway and Ireland.

The institutions and organisations behind the project are as follows:

Linnaeus University (LNU) – Sweden, led by Marcelo Milrad (PI)

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)– Greece, led by Chronis Kynigos

The Open University UK (OU)– UK, led by Christothea Herodotou

Ghent University– Belgium, led by Lieva Van Langenhove

Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)– Norway, led by Sofia Papavlasopoulou

Trinity College Dublin (TCD)– Ireland, led by Carina Girvan

SIMPLE– Greece, led by Filothei Chalvatza

University College London (UCL)– UK, led by Manolis Mavrikis

Project meeting in Sweden

The project's kick-off meeting took place at the University of Linneaus in Sweden, 5-7 Sept 2022. Project partners met in person and discussed the project objectives and activities of the first year of the project. Amongst the project priorities were the recruitment of secondary teachers to partner with and codesign project activities, the development of technology prototypes and the design of evaluation for capturing impact on student performance and the teaching practice. The project was officially announced here.

Call for teachers

- Would you like to co-define, shape and trial a new teaching approach – based on Design Thinking and digital technologies?
- Would you like to help your students develop skills for solving everyday problems of benefit to them and their communities?
- Are you curious about how technologies such as Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence, 3-D Printers and Virtual Robotics can enhance learning?
- Are you a secondary teacher at a school in the UK?

Email us at extendt2@gmail.com to find out more about the project and explore whether we could work together.

Co-design of pilot interventions with teachers

Photo by Max Fischer on Pexels.com

We are working with secondary teachers across six countries to co-design activity plans that make use of ExtenDT² technologies and design thinking. We have scheduled face-to-face and online workshops in which teachers have an opportunity to discuss the project approach, interact with technologies and develop ideas for projects they can implement with their students in the classroom during the first year of the project. During this phase, we plan to collect mixed-methods data and capture the impact of implementations on student's development of 21st century skills.

Sister project activities

We look forward to meeting and collaborating with other projects funded under the same cluster. We aim for two common events (one online and one physical) each project year, for knowledge and experience exchange related to emerging technologies for education, and to which members of other Horizon Europe projects, common to this cluster as well as other projects we have connections with will be invited. A first physical meet-up with two to three representatives from each of the cluster projects, including dissemination and exploitation managers from each project, is proposed during the hybrid workshop in Guimarés, Portugal 12-14 Jul 2023 https://www.mis4tel-conference.net/open-calls/call-workshops .

Upcoming meeting in Athens

The next face-to-face meeting of the project will take place in Athens, Greece between 29th and 31st of March 2023. Partners will be hosted at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) where meetings will take place. Amongst the aims of the meeting is to discuss the project's progress, experiment with technologies, hear some of the teachers' experiences when designing activities for the project and discuss the project's methodology for collecting and analysing data.