

# **Networked Learning Conference 2022; May 16-18th; Sundsvall, Sweden: Workshop Proposal**

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## **Structure of a workshop proposal**

### **- Title of Workshop**

BRIDGES - designing a European Digital Education Hub (EDEH) to support networked digital learning as we transition from Emergency Remote Teaching (ERT) to effective post-digital education.

### **- Intended Audience**

HE educators and staff from institutions across the EU and associated countries

### **- Introduction**

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the need for effective digital education across all education sectors, but perhaps especially within the HE context. Initially in 2020 the rush to continue to deliver teaching and learning to students who were no longer allowed on campus was characterised by a process of trying to emulate online what had previously been occurring offline. This included activities such as large and unwieldy online lectures and classes, often featuring the same powerpoint presentations as would be used in a face-to-face setting, and a general failure to adapt materials and pedagogies to take full advantage of the affordances presented by the digital context. This period has been coined Emergency Remote Teaching (ERT). During 2021 more co-ordinated and highly developed approaches have been explored by HE Institutions as it became clear that COVID-19 was not going away and that the long-term reality of HE teaching and learning lay in new approaches (e.g. blended learning) and new pedagogies (e.g. networked learning). This led to the rise of the post-digital education paradigm. However, across many institutions, regions and countries there remains a lack of support, resources and training for HE educators in post-digital education. The BRIDGES Erasmus+ project aims to work with European educators and learn from existing research in these areas to better understand these shortfalls and develop a digital platform - the European Digital Education Hub - to help address the gaps.

### **- Workshop Description**

The context of the workshop is as part of an Erasmus+ project: BRIDGES, which is funded under the Erasmus+ extraordinary call to support Digital Education. The aim of the workshop is to work with expert conference attendees to identify the user requirements for a European Digital Education Hub (EDEH) to support effective networked digital learning. The EDEH will feature bespoke MOOCs (in multiple languages), digital tools, tutorials, Open Education Resource repositories and community support discussion spaces.

The project team would like to learn from the expert conference attendees what they would most like to see in each of these categories, what would best support them (and non-experts) in delivering networked digital learning, and what EDEH usability features would be most useful. This information will directly contribute to shaping the development of the EDEH.

### **- Workshop Alignment with Conference Themes**

This workshop will directly contribute to the development of a platform (the EDEH) to help support HE educators wishing to implement networked digital learning and post-digital education. In this way, it aligns with the themes of:

- sustainability in networked learning (long-term support for educators)
- debates in networked learning (post-digital education: how to support non-expert staff now that ERT has accelerated digital education into the mainstream)
- inclusivity and accessibility in networked learning (user-driven design and multiple language support)

### **- Workshop Process/Activities**

1. The BRIDGES team will first, briefly, present the research findings of the project concerning the experience of HE educators with ERT before, during and after the COVID-19 lockdown periods and the development of a Framework for Networked Learning for the support of educators in the transition to post-digital education. This mixed methods data was collected from 25 1-to-1 semi-formal interviews (thematic analysis) and ~200 quantitative survey responses (statistical analysis). [5 minutes]
2. The BRIDGES team will, very briefly, explain the intent, aims and planned functionalities of the EDEH [5 minutes]
3. Vevox.app polling system set-up (see below- Engagement) [5 minutes]
4. Groupwork: Participant views and preferences for the EDH will be collected (see below - Engagement) [70 minutes]
5. Session summary and close [5 minutes]

### **- Participant engagement**

- Participants attending in-person will self-organise into small groups of 3-4 (only restriction being that no-one from the same institution can be in the same group), those attending virtually will work as a single group (unless numbers are prohibitive, in which case break-out rooms will be used (software permitting))
- Groups will be presented with a series of specific tasks/questions related to the individual features planned for the EDEH (MOOC content; digital tool preferences; tutorial topics; OER repositories; community support discussion spaces).
- Groups will be given up to 7 minutes to discuss before expressing their preferences and requirements. This will be done via online poll-style multiple-choice questions using Vevox (for both in-person and virtual groups).
- Poll results will be immediately displayed by the BRIDGES team and will be used to stimulate whole workshop discussions after each task, lasting up to 7 minutes. One of the three workshop conveners will be specifically tasked with monitoring the inputs coming from virtual attendees and relaying them to the in-person attendees where necessary [NOTE: these discussions will be recorded].
- Participants who are interested in continuing to help develop the EDEH (via a 'living labs' methodology) will be invited to register their details (online) and will thereby gain access to future prototype versions of the EDEH for testing and feedback once the platform has been sufficiently developed.

## **- Participant Outcomes**

Participants will have directly contributed to the design and development of the European Digital Education Hub for networked digital learning. They will have learnt about the experiences of HE educators delivering ERT and digital teaching and learning across the EU and Associated Nations before, during and after the pandemic period and will be able to compare their own experiences with those of others. They will also have been introduced to the Framework for Networked Learning in support of HE educators transitioning to post-digital education. It also offers the opportunity to become an early member of our 'living lab' community for the development of the EDEH, providing access to the prototype EDEH and the chance to influence development on an on-going basis long after the end of the workshop.