Call for research on educational experimentation

Since education across Europe is changing quickly, reaching a high level of cooperation between universities has become an urgent necessity. In this context, the European Commission, through the KA3 Erasmus program, has flagged the need of accelerating the transformation of higher education institutions by fostering excellence, innovation and inclusion across Europe. This European Commission’s call for action has resulted in the “OpenU” project, an effort in which leading institutions and research universities will have the opportunity to contribute around nine priority actions:

1. Development of multiple degrees
2. Development of MOOCs & Micro-Masters
3. Identification, creation and management of mobility window
4. How to give a lecture in a virtual classroom?
5. Organisation of collaborative online courses
6. Integration of the OpenU hub with university digital infrastructure (APIs)
7. How to develop online cooperation (digital lab)?
8. How to support blended learning?
9. Change management for university leadership in a digital world - raising awareness on the added value of the hub

To tackle these priority actions, the OpenU university hub has organised its missions around six work packages (WPs):

WP1 Policy

WP2 Implementation WP3 Experimentation WP4 Evaluation

WP5 Dissemination

WP6 Management Cluster

The University of Rennes 1 and Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, leaders of WP3 Experimentation, are glad to invite professors, academics, educational engineers and professionals from partner universities to propose original experimentations covering any of the nine aforementioned priority actions. The possible research topics have been identified as, but not limited to, sustainability, European studies and cultural heritage, and innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g., business modelling, customer and technical development, value proposition, ethic and sustainability aspects, etc.).

Just as examples, research proposals could aim at:

* Ex1. Designing a pedagogical activity in the frame of distributed learning among partner universities
* Ex2. Offering insight about how distributed learning can be efficiently managed across a certain number of institutions
* Ex3. Proposing a blended learning method assuring a certain level of scalability
* Ex4. Giving feedback regarding any of the functionalities of the platform which is being developed by the hub (once it is finished)

It is worth noting that WP3 experimentations can be complemented with ongoing research. Thus, if academics, professionals, and educational engineers from partner institutions are already conducting investigations in the area of education, these activities can be extended in the frame of OpenU as long as ongoing research is related to the priority actions described above.

Since the purpose is “to bring walls down between HEI and stakeholders”, research can be conducted at different levels: institutional, inter-institutional (two or more universities), and all-HEIs group, all being coordinated by the University of Rennes 1 and Paris 1 Panthéon- Sorbonne. In this line, researchers have the possibility to work with academics from partner institutions:

* University of Rennes 1
* Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
* Aalto
* Korkeakoulusaatio sr
* Freie Universitaet Berlin
* Universita degli studi di Trento
* Alma mater studiorum - Universita di Bologna
* Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
* Jagiellonian University Krakow
* Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
* Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Experimentation activities will be regularly presented in peer learning meetings, and once the investigations are finished, they will be part of two international conferences in which all OpenU partners will participate.

Please consider the following timetable:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Time** |
| Call opening | 28/04/2021 |
| Deadline for final “call” | 14/06/2021 |
| Selection of final projects | 31/06/2021 |
| Start of experimentation | 01/07/2021 |
| End of 1st experimentation phase | 31/01/2022 |

Here below you will find the template for submitting experimentation projects to the Open-U, WP3 Experimentation process (first phase). Consider that each partner should perform 3 to 4 experimentations within the 2 phases.

This form concerns only the first phase. Please fill a single form for each project submitted. You can find at the end of the template the partners’ list and the priority actions’ description.

The deadline for submitting your experimentation project is **June 14,2021**.

Send the completed form to:

Alvaro Pina Stranger [alvaro.pina-stranger@univ-rennes1.fr](mailto:alvaro.pina-stranger@univ-rennes1.fr)

Marco Renzo Dell'Omodarme [marco-renzo.dell-omodarme@univ-paris1.fr](mailto:marco-renzo.dell-omodarme@univ-paris1.fr)

1. Leading partner:

2. Contributor partners (not mandatory, very strongly advised):

3. Name of the experimentation:

4. European Universities engagement:

1. Experimentation description (please describe which PA the project is designed to respond to, more than one PA can be covered):
   1. For cooperative projects, explain the added value of the network; for internal projects, explain how you contribute to the digital policy of your establishment:

5.2 Content to be produced/target/methodology:

6. The role of digital tools (please, describe how experimentations use digital tools in a large sense):

7. Evaluation methods:

7.1 Please describe in detail the justification and their impact of experimentation with respect to the 1st and 2nd degree of targets (teachers and/or students anr 1st and 2nd degree targets)

7.2 Qualitative and/or quantitative metrics foreseen for the evaluation:

7.3 Explicitly describe the policy implication of the experimentation:



8. Integration of the pedagogical framework (please explain how the experimentation fits and allows for further development of the education framework, ie. how the experiment helps to develop new ways of learning, teaching and cooperating):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 9. Use of the HUB (please describe check whether the experimentation is oriented toward the direct testing of HUB applications, the definition of need or both): | |
| 9.1 Direct testing | ☐ |
| 9.2 Definition of needs | ☐ |
| 10. First target: |  |
| 10.1 Teachers | ☐ |
| 10.2 Students | ☐ |
| 10.3 Others | * Describe *other*: |
|  |  |
| 1. Level of application:    1. Session | ☐ |
| 11.2 Module | ☐ |
| 11.3 Program | ☐ |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Schedule (please fill dates for each section of the project):    1. Detailed projects: from dd/mm/yy to dd/mm/yy | | | | |
| 12.2 Execution: | from | dd/mm/yy | to | dd/mm/yy |
| 12.3 Report/feedback: | from | dd/mm/yy | to | dd/mm/yy |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 13 Working days estimation (please indicate the number of persons for each category, the number of days per person and the total number of days per category. Remember that 3–4 experiments are expected per partner during the 2 phases. This information is only here to help you anticipate the workload need if for 3 to 4 experimentations per partner during the  2 phases): | | |
| 13.1 Researchers: | Days per person: | Total days: |
| 13.2 Technicians: | Days per person: | Total days: |
| 13.3 Administrative staff: | Days per person: | Total days: |
|  |  |  |
| 14. Deliverables description:  14.1 D1:  14.2 D2:  14.3 D3: |  |  |

# Priority actions’ description:

PA1: Development of multiple degrees.

Projects submitted in order to meet PA1 expectations will engage in the development of multiple degrees (two or more national degrees delivered, one or more HEI involving one or more partners in one or more countries), focusing on the value added by digital tools, shared platforms and joint policies of the cluster (consortium, alliance, etc.). PA1 focuses on transversal and shared pedagogical engineering and cooperation.

PA2: Development of MOOCs & Micro-Masters.

Projects submitted in order to meet PA2 expectations will engage in the development of MOOCs and Micro- Master. As for PA1 projects responding to PA2 can be undertaken but one or more partners in order to develop Micro-Masters for one or more HEI’s member of the cluster (whether the consortium of the alliance). PA2 focuses on the technic to create an efficient and appealing MOOC and on the construction of Micro-Masters, built connecting LO (Learning Opportunities) of one or more HEIs (and particularly on the use and connection of existing and/or new blended and digital contents [MOOCs] in order to construct a Micro-Master).

PA3: Identification, creation and management of mobility windows.

Projects submitted in order to meet PA3 expectations will engage in the identification, creation and management of mobility windows, and particularly on the identification of those special needs a digital shared platform (such as the BLOOM hub) should meet, offering specific applications. As for PA1 and PA2 projects submitted in order to respond to PA3 can be undertaken by several partners from different HEIs in one or more countries. Specifically, projects should consider connecting existing know-how, procedures and LO in order to test how the BLOOM hub, as a digital shared infrastructure, can help combine ERASMUS+ programs with digital and blended LO, offered by European HEIs.

PA4: How to give a lecture in a virtual classroom?

Projects submitted in order to meet PA4 expectations will engage in the production of training support for teachers. Training will focus on pedagogical and technical issues, providing tips and sharing best practices and knowledge in a digital format, easy to use. Examples of practices in different scientific domains and engaging with different pedagogical approaches is suitable. As for the other PAs, projects submitted in order to respond to PA4 can be undertaken by several partners from different HEIs in one or more countries.

PA5: Organization of collaborative online courses.

Projects submitted in order to meet PA5 expectations will engage in the production of collaborative solutions for online courses. Projects will be undertaken by one or more partners from one or more European country, and will aim to develop collaborative solutions able to engage students and teachers at different levels during the learning process. As for the other PAs, projects submitted in order to respond to PA5 can be undertaken by several partners from different HEIs in one or more countries.

PA6: Integration of the OpenU hub with university digital infrastructure (APIs).

Projects undertaken in order to meet PA6 expectations will engage technical and administrative staff in the development of protocols for integration of university digital infrastructure with the hub. Project will consider either technical and juridical questions related to the integration of digital infrastructure, clearance and secrecy, if needed. Projects submitted in order to respond to PA6 should be undertaken by several partners from different HEIs in one or more countries.

PA7: How to develop online cooperation (digital lab)?

Projects undertaken in order to meet PA7 expectations will focus on strategies, know-how and procedures to develop in order to progress cooperation in the research sphere, employing capacities supported by digital tools (hub and other technical solutions). Projects submitted in order to respond to PA7 should be undertaken by several partners from different HEIs in one or more countries.

PA8: How to support blended learning?

Projects undertaken in order to meet PA8 expectations will engage in the evaluation and analysis of need that

could be satisfied by digital solutions afforded by the hub, in order to give plain and satisfactory support to teachers, administrative and technical staff for the development of blended learning. As for the other PAs, projects submitted in order to respond to PA8 can be undertaken by several partners from different HEIs in one or more countries.

PA9: Change management for university leadership in a digital world—raising awareness on the added value of the hub.

Projects undertaken in order to meet PA9 expectations will considering developing a minute analysis of the impact of digital solutions onto the leadership of European HEIs. Projects should consider how the digital turn has already transformed leadership, directions of changes required and envision at the same time strategies to raise awareness on the hub, its value and its strategical use. Projects submitted in order to respond to PA9 should be undertaken by several partners from different HEIs in one or more countries.

# List of Open U, WP3 partners:

* University of Rennes 1
* Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
* Aalto
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* Freie Universitaet Berlin
* Universita degli studi di Trento
* Alma mater studiorum - Universita di Bologna
* Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
* Jagiellonian University Krakow
* Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
* Universidad Complutense de Madrid