New Erasmus+ for young people

The Erasmus Programme - European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students - is a European Union student exchange programme established in 1987. Erasmus+ is the new programme combining all the EU’s current schemes for education, training, youth and sport, which was started in January 2014.

The Erasmus Programme was incorporated into the Socrates programme established by the European Commission in 1994. The Socrates programme was replaced with the Socrates II in 2000, which in turn was replaced by the Lifelong Learning Programme 2007–2013.

The new Erasmus+ programme combines all the EU’s current schemes for education, training, youth and sport, including the Lifelong Learning Programme, for example, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius, Grundtvig, Youth in Action and five international co-operation programmes - Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and the programme for co-operation with industrialised countries.
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

At the Vocational Metal Congress 2016, you will be able to: Present your projects and experiences in one of the largest international conferences on education. Interact with international educators and technologists for future cooperation. - Meet 400 participants from more than 30 countries. Learn about education innovations and strategies in 40 thematic sessions.

On behalf of EcoMedia-Europe we wish all participants exciting days at the conference in Wolfsberg and we thank you for the great support and participation at the conference at the companies, referents, delegates and all joint organizers like Austrian ministry for Education and Art, Carinthia, Montan-university Leoben and the Regional Management Lavanttal.

Wolfsberg for five days european capital of vocational training

Vocational training is decisive location factor. An additional multiplier is networking, and in this area, EcoMedia Europe and the Wolfsberg Fachberufsschule are doing a tremendously important job. Especially the example of the Vocational Education Metal Congress in Wolfsberg shows how valuable international cooperation and exchange of experience are.

To this congress, we welcome numerous international experts in Wolfsberg, including speakers from the European Commission and from China, to name just two examples. It is an honor for the great work of the Fachberufsschule Wolfsberg and the Ecomedia Europe, which are always able to raise awareness of the topic of vocational education and training to a broad public and thus to underline the value of a teaching profession.

There is also a clear commitment to this from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Austria and the Land of Carinthia, which are co-organizers.

It is an honor for the municipality of Wolfsberg to be the host and supporter of this congress, but it is the most important convention for decision-makers and vocational educators in Europe. As mayor, I would like to wish all participants a stimulating exchange of experience and a pleasant stay in our beautiful city Wolfsberg.

EcoMedia-Europe / Vocational school Wolfsberg

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No industry 4.0 without Education 4.0
VEMC – Vocational Education Metal Congress 2016.
Next standards in education for vocational school - focus on metal education 4.0, industry 4.0, mechanical engineering, sheet metal worker, water cutting, welding, milling, 3D printing, CNC, CAD/CAM, QM, steering technology and Leadership in schools.

Top speakers at Vocational Education Metal Congress 2016:
Peter Kaiser (AT) - Governor of Carinthia; Mag.a Ursula Panuschka (AT) - Deputy Head, National Agency for Lifelong Learning OEAD; Bernhard Plasounig (AT) - responsible for apprentices’ education, economic chamber Carinthia; Univ.-Prof. DI Dr. Peter Moser (AT) - Vice Rektor Montan University Leoben; Alexander Hölbl (AT) - Head of department vocational education and engineering, Ministry of economy Austria; Christian Dorninger (AT) - Representative of Austria Ministry of Education, Austria; Bernhard Schwab (DE) - „worldwide expert on the Education Department“, Schaeffler AG; Zhang Zhenzhong (CN) - Training Center Senior Manager, INA FAG Wälzlager China; Daniela Ulicna (BE) Consulting Director, ICF International Brussels; Helena Žnidarič and Davorin Majkus (SLO) - Vocational Education and Training, CPI Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training; Roman Senderek (DE) - Institute for Industrial Management, University RWTH Aachen; Herbert Bickelmann (DE) Senior Manager of Europe, Middle East & Africa, Autodesk Education Engagement based in Munich; Klaus Zimmermann (DE) - FESTO Didactic Deutschland; Claudia Fernandes und Luis Rocha (PRT) - Technological Centre of the Metal Working Industry, CATIM etc.
Wolfsberg – the city in paradise
A warm welcome in Wolfsberg, a town located between the mountains of the Koralpe and Sausal in the central Lavant Valley. The holiday region of Wolfsberg/Lavanttal is also referred to as the „Paradise of Carinthia“ due to its mild climate and numerous orchards. You will be hard pushed to find as many days of sunshine, as many hiking routes and as great a choice of leisure activities anywhere else. With a population of about 25,000 Wolfsberg is the capital of political district of the same name with its own local authority, constabulary, registry office, hospital and forty sub-districts. There are a wide range of schools, cultural and sports facilities and numerous visitor attractions.

Wolfsberg through the ages
Wolfsberg, the third-largest city in the Austrian Province of Carinthia, combines dynamic economic development with precious cultural heritage. It is also astonishing that the city has only been part of Austria for no more than 200 years. It was first mentioned in a document back in the 12th century and has been a major trading centre and transportation hub since the Middle Ages.

Mike Westlake - competence leader at Metal Congress 2016
Mike Westlake started his professional life as an engineering apprentice in the nuclear industry. Part of this was a unit on CAD. From this point on Mike was hooked on technology in engineering. He went on to represent the UK for Design Engineering at WorldSkills in Japan and was two-time national gold medallist for Design Engineering.
After five years as a Mechanical Design Engineer he went on to lead a number of international project teams in the Oil & Gas, Energy and Pharmaceutical industries. Mike Westlake now works for Autodesk and looks after their education programmes for UK, Ireland and Central Eastern Europe. At Autodesk Mike Westlake creates programs to develop the Access, Use and Advocacy of Autodesk technology. This allows the students of today to imagine, design & create a better world. Mike Westlake is passionate about democratising the design-and-make process, allowing anyone to go from thought to fabrication. This why he is so excited to be working with EcoMedia.
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Mike Westlake
UK & CEE Manager/Autodesk Education Experiences
EcoMedia Conference in Iasi

The 11th International conference on the ecoMEDIA network takes place November 29 - December 2, 2016, in Iasi, Romania at Hotel International.

The conference aims at covering a broad spectrum of the roles of ICT, advocating the needs, strategies, policies and good practices of ICT applications, limitations and challenges of integration into educational elements through the presentations of researches in implementation and management of education in all educational activities.

The various types of participation and networking possibilities provided at the conference are expected to raise inspiring discussions to provide innovative proceeding actions. To exchange experiences/empirical works about education between teachers, educational professors, students of teaching, media educators, educational authorities and other interested persons, so as to promote international exchange about early education the ecoMEDIA meeting’s main purpose is to establish strong institutional development contacts, partnerships and European projects.

Conference topics include, but are not limited to

- Good practice and transnational cooperation;
- Virtual communities;
- Educational policies;
- Assessment methods;
- Programming and robotics in the classroom;
- Teachers, students, computers and mobile devices;
- Serious games and social media;
- eCompetencies for teachers and students;
- eLearning, blended learning and online tutoring;
- Innovative didactic and pedagogic approaches;
- Alternative learning environments;
- Innovative teaching and learning experiences;
- Learning about educational systems from different countries;
- Information transfer between teachers from different countries;
- Creativity through technology;
- Exchange of good practice.

ecoMEDIA 2016 boasts a great program with gala dinner, night at the Opera, wine tasting, sightseeing, visits to educational institutions in Iasi. We are kindly inviting all people interested to participate to ecoMEDIA 2016, by registering using the special webpage from the conference page: http://ecomediaromania.com/.

We would be pleased to welcome you in the ecoMEDIA 2016 conference in Iasi.
Iași / Romania 2016 – 29th November - 2nd December

Iași - the host of the oldest Romanian university

Iași is the cultural and educational capital of the north-eastern Region of Romania. It will also be the venue of the 11th International conference on the ecoMEDIA network from November 29th to December 2nd 2016.

Iași is the economic, cultural and academic center of the Romanian region of Moldavia.

Iași is a city and municipality in north-eastern Romania. The city was the capital of Moldavia from the 16th century until 1861 and of the Romanian Kingdom between 1916-1918 during World War I. The second largest Romanian city is the economic, cultural and academic center of the Romanian region of Moldavia. The city has the oldest Romanian university and accommodates an annual count of over 60,000 students in 5 public and 3 private universities.

It is home to more than 50 churches and hosts 5 cultural centers: British, French, German, Latin American & Caribbean and Hellenic. Cultural life gravitates around the National Theater (the oldest in Romania), the Opera House, the Iași State Philharmonic, the Târășău Athenaeum, a famous Botanical Garden (the oldest and largest in Romania), the Central University Library (the oldest in Romania), an array of museums and memorial houses, an independent theater and several student organizations. Iași is an outstanding educational center, and preserves some beautiful pieces of architecture, such as the Trei Ierarhi Church and the neo-Gothic Palace of Culture (the site of four museums – of History, of Technology, of Ethnography and of Art). Many buildings in the old city center were demolished during the Communist regime, with a few Soviet-style blocks of flats built instead.
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi: Prestige, Innovation, Excellence

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi is the oldest higher education institution in Romania. Since 1860, the university has been carrying on a tradition of excellence and innovation in the fields of education and research. With over 23,000 students and 750 academic staff, the university enjoys high prestige at national and international level and cooperates with 280 universities world-wide. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University is a member of some of the most important university networks and associations: the Coimbra Group, European University Association, Utrecht Network, International Association of Universities, University Agency of Francophony and the Network of Francophone Universities (RUFAC). These partnerships offer the opportunity to experience changes, to have student and teacher mobilities and joint academic, research and strategy programmes.

Digital Learning - Hype or Cultural Shift

Digital learning refers to the process of learning with the aid of information and communication technologies and digital content.

Dipl.-Ing. Dr. techn. Erwin Bratengeyer

It gives learners control over time, place and pace. It allows teachers to reduce redundancy and routine grading freeing more of valuable face-to-face time. New opportunities and challenges are created for all stakeholders in the learning ecosystem. How do we respond? Ignore it as a passing fad or embrace it as the holy grail? Who will benefit ultimately from the digital revolution we are just taking part in?

Education is now being realized as a lifelong enterprise, while schooling encompasses only a limited time span. Access to information anytime, anywhere by everybody has gained momentum across all social classes and over all the learning sector all over the world. Indeed, one of the most exciting features of digital technology is its capacity to permeate society unrestricted by borders, by the walls of a school or the formal roles of teachers and students. If schools cannot adapt and incorporate the power of digital learning, educational services will be offered driven by those who manage to create new learning opportunities. While children have leaped into the 21st century the school infrastructure sometimes is stuck in the 19th century and teachers got caught somewhere in between.

Eventually, technology no longer seems to be kept in the periphery of schools and high schools. Many teachers have already made invaluable contributions to develop digital learning and reap the fruit of their labour. As an example, the recently published study1 on analyzing the Austrian high-school e-Learning landscape revealed that remarkable progress has been achieved in the high school sector. While progress has been made, much still remains to be done. And this is why ecoMEDIA-europe is organizing events which allow for improving our digital literacy skills and for supporting each other by sharing our experiences and visions.

Starting October 16th running until October 20th 2017 the Conference on Innovative Strategies in ICT - Developing Europe’s Young Workforce will take place in Lanarkshire/Scotland.

New College Lanarkshire (NCL), organising the 2017 conference, is the fifth largest Further Education College in Scotland with over 1,100 staff and 25,000 learners. The organisation is structured to reflect the needs of employers in key sectors and is ensuring that confident learners progress to become highly skilled graduates sought by industry. NCL has six academic faculties which work within seven campuses across the Lanarkshire region to deliver a wide ranging and exciting curriculum at further and short cycle higher education level.

The education standards body for Scotland core reviews report total confidence in NCL learning, teaching and management, with no caveats and multiple examples of cutting-edge practice. The College mission is to: “Ensure learners are well prepared for the future by providing innovative, high quality, relevant learning for careers, life and success. Supporting the people, business, economy and sustainable development of Scotland”

NCL works closely with the Scottish Government to maximise use of public money and deliver optimum social, economic and community impact; boosting economic regeneration throughout Lanarkshire and beyond. Work-based learning is central to learning and teaching strategies which are aligned with Scottish Government priorities. This includes ambitious targets for growth in the number of apprenticeships, work-based learning programmes and initiatives for disadvantaged young people.

Summer Academy 2017 in Greece

Summer Academy 2017 will be held in Kalamata, Peloponnese, in the south of Greece from July 9 to July 16 2017 by the Education Office of Peloponnese via its Elementary Education Division of Kalamata. It is going to be a mini-conference, under the umbrella of the Ecomedia European ICT Network, focusing on 3 ICT modules:

- Creation of “digital lesson plans” with LAMS software: www.lamsfoundation.org
- Programming for Android phones or tablets with App Inventor 2, used in combination with recipes for traditional foods during the seminar.
- Introduction to Educational Robotics with Lego Mindstorms.

For accommodation details contact Angeliki Anagnostopoulou, anagn-ag@otenet.gr, or Sofia Kontaxaki, skontax@sch.gr.

Our cooperation partner at the Metal Congress 2016 / Unser Kooperationspartner beim Metall Kongress 2016 ist autodesk.