DigiUni – Open Ukrainian Initiative Project presentation

Dear Sirs and Madams!

We cordially invite you to the presentation of the Digital University – Open Ukrainian Initiative project (DigiUni), which takes place at the Ukrainian National News Agency 'Ukrinform' on October, 11th, 2023, at 12:00 (Kyiv time) in a hybrid format.

European Commission provided a specific window for Ukraine under the Erasmus+ Programme in response to the challenges faced by Ukrainian higher education due to the brutal invasion of the russian federation to Ukraine and its consequences. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine with the partnerships of Ukrainian universities was working under proposals. As a result, under the special call, the DigiUni project was selected. Its strength in comparison to other competitive proposals, was a systemic approach, wider impact, and expected multiplication for all Ukrainian universities.
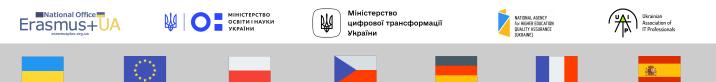
The project team led by Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv consists of a large international partnership of EU Member-States Universities & Association from France, Germany, Spain, Czech Republic, and Poland, 10 Ukrainian Universities together with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance and Ukrainian Association of IT Professionals.

Based on EU best practices, the team will create a unified digital educational ecosystem in Ukraine that will provide continuous, high-quality, inclusive, and transparent education, regardless of the location of learners & teachers, using existing digital innovations in education and a clear paradigm for involving future innovations.

The project also aims to support students who continued education in Ukraine during martial law and facilitate stronger ties between Ukrainian universities, their students, and staff who were forced to leave Ukraine. Promotion of Ukrainian studies and engagement of foreign students and Ukrainians living abroad in Ukrainian education in general are in project focus too.

The project will ensure synergies and close cooperation between Ukrainian partner universities to address the challenges faced by Ukrainian education during the martial law with the multiplication of the project outcomes widely to other universities, as well as to contribute to a systematic approach to further recovery of Ukraine's education after the victory.

Explore project details in the Annex 1 below.

The press-conference is moderated by the DigiUni Project Coordinator – Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and you will be inspired by the speakers from:

- The Office of the President of Ukraine
- Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
- Directorate General of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, European Commission
- EU Delegation to Ukraine
- Mission of Ukraine to the European Union
- Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine
- National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance
- National Erasmus Office – Ukraine

Languages of the event: Ukrainian and English (simultaneous translation)

Link to join the conference online: Join Zoom Meeting

https://knuua.zoom.us/j/87060515083?pwd=QVJzZWFvSXhNbFRFc2ZLRjNFSisrQT09

Meeting ID: 870 6051 5083 Passcode: 657239

For Accreditation/participation and other details, please contact:

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Annex 1

Project Description:

Title: Digital University – Open Ukrainian Initiative

Duration: 4 years

Funded by the European Union under Erasmus+ Programme

Project Objective: to influence the chaotic processes of digital transformation in education to create a unified digital educational ecosystem in Ukraine that will provide continuous, high-quality, inclusive, and transparent education, regardless of the location of learners, using existing digital innovations in education and a clear paradigm for involving future innovations.
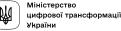
Specific project objectives:

- to develop the concept, strategy, and action plan for creating an integrated, inclusive and highperforming digital education ecosystem in Ukraine to be submitted for state adoption;
- to develop and launch the all-Ukrainian open digital education environment – DigiPlatform;
- to create the Open DigiUni-Ukraine Charter;
- to develop the rules for ensuring and improving the quality of the digital content at the higher education institutions of Ukraine, methods of the digital content quality assessment, developing methodology and guidelines for creating digital content and digital courses;
- to create DigiCentres at each Ukrainian higher education partner institution with the necessary software and equipment;
- to develop the primary DigiPlatform content;
- to develop 100+ new courses in different fields of knowledge;
- to train 600 educators as digital content facilitators and to provide 5,000+ students of the Ukrainian higher education partner institutions with courses and 1,000+ representatives of other target groups with educational modules using DigiPlatform within the pilot DigiUni project.

Target groups: displaced domestic and international UA HEIs' students, regardless of their location, in Ukraine, or abroad, as well as regular UA HEIs' students; UA HEIs' teachers and other HEIs' staff; veterans, temporarily displaced persons, persons who suffered as a result of war in Ukraine; persons with limited educational opportunities; persons interested in professional and personal development, getting micro-credentials on a flexible learning trajectory; students of general secondary and vocational educational institutions.

Main innovations: establishment of a unified digital educational ecosystem in Ukraine, document it, and include both individuals and educational institutions in it, as well as create an all-Ukrainian digital educational environment – DigiPlatform – that will combine digital content creation capacities and existing content of a group of Ukrainian higher education institutions, and in the future, most Ukrainian higher education institutions. All-Ukrainian educational digital space provides opportunities to host virtual and remote laboratories, virtual and augmented reality materials, educational games, peer review, and artificial intelligence. Unique educational digital content that includes some or all of the above components of innovative teaching

methods. Training courses created by representatives of several HEIs jointly and recognised by the majority of HEIs that have joined the Open DigiUni Charter. It is the creation and signing of the Open DigiUni Charter by partner universities as the first step towards uniting Ukrainian universities into powerful alliances and developing regional university centres and modernising the network of higher education institutions in Ukraine.

Introduction of procedures for recognition of qualifications and micro-qualifications, learning outcomes, academic results (ECTS credits), acquired through digital courses and their components, virtual mobility in the educational space of Ukraine.

Development and application of the methodology of microlearning with obtaining micro-qualifications in the formal educational process.
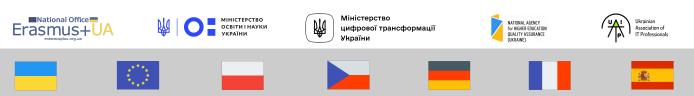
Use and recognition of academic results acquired in digital academic disciplines from EU universities placed on the DigiPlatform or with links to it without any agreements with these universities.

General rules for ensuring and improving the quality of digital content and digital educational programs in higher education institutions of Ukraine and joint quality assurance mechanisms.

Model of implementation of digital/virtual mobility between Ukrainian universities.

Main areas of activities and expected outcomes:

- The concept, strategy, and action plan for creating an inclusive digital educational ecosystem in Ukraine will be developed and submitted for state adoption;
- The proposals for modifications and additions to national legislation in the context of copyright, ensuring and improving the quality of digital educational programs and their components, recognition of qualifications acquired through digital educational programs, micro-qualifications (partial qualifications) acquired through their digital educational components, etc. will be developed and submitted for state adoption;
- The necessary software and equipment, in particular, to provide access to digital content for persons with limited educational opportunities, will be purchased, installed, and configured;
- The all-Ukrainian digital educational environment DigiPlatform will be created;
- A pilot organizational mechanism for uniting higher education institutions and other interested institutions – DigiUni – will be created;
- The open DigiUni Charter will be created, and all Ukrainian higher education partner institutions will join it;
- New rules for regulating the quality of digital content in higher education partner institutions of Ukraine will be developed;
- Techniques for assessing the quality of digital content will be developed;
- The methodology and guidelines for creating digital content and digital educational disciplines and educational programs will be developed;
- 10 DigiCentres will be created, and DigiCentres teams will be selected in each Ukrainian higher education partner institutions;
- A complete list of available digital disciplines and other digital materials of Ukrainian higher education partner institutions, with direct links to them, will be created and placed on DigiPlatform;

- Digital courses/resources of European partners will be placed on DigiPlatform, and/or direct links to them will be created;
- 80+ digital courses will be developed and placed on DigiPlatform;
- 20 digital courses with components of virtual and/or augmented reality and/or involving the use of virtual/remote laboratories will be created and placed on DigiPlatform;
- Virtual and remote laboratories will be built into DigiPlatform, and/, or it is possible to switch to them from DigiPlatform;
- 20 separate educational modules for non-university audiences will be developed and placed on DigiPlatform;
- 30 learning micromodules for the non-university audience will be developed and placed on DigiPlatform;
- A specialized course on creating digital content for DigiPlatform will be designed and placed on DigiPlatform;
- 600 educators will be trained and prepared as digital content developers;
- 30 employees of the Ukrainian higher education partner institutions will undergo specialized training and will be prepared as content administrators;
- 40 employees of the Ukrainian higher education partner institutions will be trained and prepared as specialists in checking the quality of digital content;
- Quality control of all digital materials developed as part of the project will be carried out;
- 5,000+ students of Ukrainian higher education partner institutions will complete at least one course using DigiPlatform, within the DigiUni pilot project;
- 1,000+ representatives of other target groups will acquire knowledge/skills using DigiPlatform, within the DigiUni pilot project;
- 20 examples of digital mobility will be carried out within the framework of the DigiUni pilot project between Ukrainian higher education partner institutions.

Consortium of partners:

Project Coordinator: Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine

EU Member States partners

- University of Strasbourg, France
- University of Alicante, Spain
- University of Cologne, Germany
- Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany
- Leibniz University Hannover, Germany
- Masaryk University, Check Republic
- Adam Mickiewicz Poznań University, Poland
- Association of Exchange & Consulting in International Technologies, France

Associated partners
- Technische Informationsbibliothek, DE
- European University Association, BE
- Ukrainian Association of Students, UA
- Ukrainian Scientific and Educational IT Society, UA

Ukrainian Partners

- National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy"
- Ukrainian Catholic University
- Ivan Franko National University of Lviv
- Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University
- Sumy State University
- Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National University of Economics
- National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute"
- Mariupol State University
- Kherson State University
- Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
- Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine
- National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance
- Ukrainian Association of IT Professionals