

Summary Report of LELLE Regional Conference

The Open University of the Netherlands, Heerlen held the LELLE (Let's Learn how to Learn) regional conference on Thursday 1st June 2017. The conference theme on "Learning to Learning: Beyond 2020" attracted more than 50 participants from both the educational and non-educational sectors: students, lecturers, working professionals, young entrepreneurs, as well as key industry players. The regional conference had a two-fold objective: first, it aims to provide the platform for the ongoing discourse on the challenges, as well as the huge potential in the changing educational landscape and the global workplace of the future, and second, it hopes to invite feedback on the findings of the LELLE project research activities on integration of core skill-sets into current higher education (HE) curricula.

Plenary and panel discussion: Bridging gaps

Each of the four panel speakers surfaced an important perspective on the topic: bridging gaps between school and workplace. The presentations as well as the follow-up discussion revolves around critical themes such as the need to move away from content learning, i.e., knowledge testing and reproduction to adaptive expertise and skill-based learning, i.e., knowledge transfer and application. Inculcating in our students the spirit of innovation and the ability to adapt and to apply would be more valuable skills for the unknown future and the unknown jobs.

The panel speakers are as follows:

Empowering our graduates for the workplace: An open education perspective

Prof. Dr. Marco Kalz, Chair of Open Education, Welten Institute, Open University of the Netherlands

How can we better equip our HEI graduates for the workplace?

Dr. Katerina Bohle Carbonell, Lecturer, Management of Learning, Maastricht University

Bridging Gaps

Mark Bertrand, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Commerce & Finance, Zuyd University for Applied Sciences; member of the 'Entrepreneurship & Innovation' lectureship, SMARThouse

Hacking Education for Disruptive Changes in the 21st Century

Nick van Breda, Changemaker & Transitioner, Nick van Breda Consultancy

Following is a summary of key pointers in the plenary session:

- Need to shift from content-learning to skill-based & knowledge application
- Foster spirit of innovation & enterprise to prepare students for unknown jobs:
- Stimulate exploration and connection with case studies, problem-based learning & project-base learning
- Foster reflective learning: create diagrams, create new content from just-learned content, conduct performance feedback and check for understanding
- Develop adaptive expertise by providing task variety: change the context & the available resources
- Engage students in collaborative problem-solving activities to foster creativity, critical thinking, communication and team-work.

Workshop sessions: Rethinking education in the 21st century

The three workshop sessions presented new lens on educating for a sustainable future. Giving greater agency to our students to take charge of their own learning journey is instrumental in equipping and empowering them for the unknown future. Preparing our students to be global citizens would imply a more entrepreneurial approach in educating our young: teaching them how to recognize opportunities, how to make connections. Adaptive expertise becomes pertinent for knowledge transfer and knowledge application. This would also inherently imply a dire need for change in the current pre-dominant education system which is still largely prescriptive.

The workshop speakers are as follows:

Workshop 1: Entrepreneurial Education

Paul Crutzen, Facilities Coordinator, Qeske Community

Workshop 2: Transforming Education

Guido van Dijk, Agile in Education, Agora Roermond (SOML), Open University of the Netherlands

Workshop 3: Adventurous and Creative Education

Peter P. Biekens, Fontys Education Designers

Following is a summary of key pointers in the plenary session:

- Need to educate our students for a sustainable future
- Give students greater agency over their own learning journey, e.g., decision-making in choosing their curriculum components to align with their interest and career goals
- Avoid being too prescriptive in the design of curriculum and activities
- Apply a more entrepreneurial approach in education: teach them how to recognise opportunities & make connections
- Place emphasis on knowledge transfer & knowledge application
- Place emphasis on reflective learning: get students keep a learning journey log
- Develop self-knowledge and self-regulation in students: help them discover their strengths and pursue their interest-fields

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LELLE Regional Conference: Welcome & registration



Opening address by Assoc. Prof Christian Stracke



Plenary session: Four presentations on "Bridging gap between school & workplace"



Presentation of the LELLE project by Dr. Esther Tan



Presentation by Dr. Katerina Bohle Carbonell on "How to teach the unknown"



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