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Edelnet E-Library News

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Editorial



MAASTRICHT INNOVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION DAYS 2017

At the Headquarters European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), in Maastricht, the Open Universiteit of the Netherlands (member of EDELNET) has organized, with the help of EADTU (Distance teaching universities European association), an activity to disseminate our EDELNET results with the name of MID 2017. During two days, January 31 and February 1, sixty professionals in the field of distance education from various countries in Europe gathered in the capital of Limburg. And a representation (two professors) of the Distance University of Bangladesh was present at the conference. The web of EADTU gives the following description:

"Maastricht Innovation in Higher Education Days 2017 (MID2017), Internationalisation in a digital age.

On 31 January – 1 February 2017, the first Maastricht Innovation in Higher Education Days will take place at EIPA in Maastricht, the Netherlands. Stakeholders will discuss the challenges and opportunities of internationalisation in higher education by new modes of teaching.

The Maastricht Innovation in Higher Education Days are organised by EADTU in cooperation with the Open University of the Netherlands (OUNL), the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), the city of Maastricht and experts from EDELNet and SCORE2020."

<https://eadtu.eu/news/20-general-news/370-maastricht-innovation-in-higher-education-days-2017-mid2017>

In addition to the different activities of the members of EDELNET, various professionals in distance learning education discussed interesting topics such as the MOOCs and its development, different forms of international cooperation in distance learning (Rubén Gómez, UNED Vice Chancellor, recalled that before the existence of EDELNET its three founding members have already developed Erasmus IP programs, Intensive programs, and also an international virtual mobility experience called CampusNet) and some other issues in modern educational development.



Regarding to the members of EDELNET, Prof. Dr. Pablo De Diego, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law of the UNED, with the help of Prof. Dr. Huub Spoormans, former Dean of OU Netherlands presented to the audience an historical scope of EDELNET , its origins, phases of development and its activities to date. Prof. Spoormans insisted on the qualities of international cooperation and the need for lawyers from the three Faculties of Law (OU-FERNUNI-UNED) to know something about the legislation of different European countries. Above all, it is important to know the idiosyncrasy of each country and its formulas of action in the law field and legal activities.

Dr García Blesa, from FERN UNI, described EDELNET as a project and gave an account of the phases and facets in which the project is being developed, with the support of an Erasmus + grant. Currently, we are in the second year of development of this project that will end in September 2018 and began in September 2015. Several PhD activities have been developed (as described in this issue of the E-Library, on Doctorate Winter School in Madrid in December 2016) and summer activities such as the Summerschool in Berlin, described in the previous issue of E-Library. There have also been activities for the production of scientific outputs, such as those under the name of Cross-Cultural Communication or

those being developed within the framework of the output “Students oriented teaching” under the direction of Prof. Michiel Van Oosterzee. Held at the beginning of February (1st to 5th) in the dependency of the OU of the Netherlands at its headquarters in Heerlen, not far from the border with Germany. This Lecturer, Michiel Van Oosterzee also developed in Maastricht during the MID 2017 explanations of the different contributions that EDELNET is making.

To see the different presentation you can use this link in EADTU WEB Page:

<http://www.slideshare.net/EADTU/presentations>

Prof. Dr. Pablo de Diego

Deputy to Dean in UNED Faculty of Law.

PhD Winter School in Madrid: A report



Image of the central library of the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED), Madrid.

This report on the PhD School held in Madrid from 11 to 17 December 2016 has been prepared by Gleb Sakovski.

First of all, we want to mention, that this year Doctorates Program Winter Activity took place in the city of Madrid, capital of Spain. For the units we used the facilities of the local distance university. For that, we want to thanks a lot the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) for helping to organize this year Doctorates Winter School.

The 2016 EDELNet PhD Winter School in Madrid started with some kind words from the Supervisory Board of the EDELNet-Network, headed by Prof. Dr. Evert Stamhuis.

After that Dr. Juan Garcia Blesa and Dr. Christian Nierhauve took the floor for a session, where the candidates got some information about the structure of the PhD Winter School and legal research in general. The main aims of the PhD Winter School are to become acquainted the methodology



of legal research, to become more self-conscious about the own style's potential and to enrich your own research with input from other colleagues. For reaching this goal you have to realize, in which field of the taxonomy of legal research you are – do you compare law? Or do you design even new law codes? To understand, in which field you are, the PhD candidates worked out some rudiments of answering the question, what legal research actually is.



After a small lunch the meeting continued with a lecture about methodological discussion and public presentation skills. One tip, given by Edin Training & Translations director and guest lecturer Wanda Meulenberg Costa Macedo – if you have problems with your speech speed while presenting, then try to feel uncomfortable. Afterwards your speed will slow down and be just perfect.

Day 2 started with Intercultural competence training, conducted by Dr. Garcia Blesa. Within this lecturer the candidates discussed questions, like the meanings of “culture”. For that the attendees participated in a simulation. The sense was to see, how the candidates would react in situations, where a conflict arose.

The third day was one of the edges of this year PhD Winter School. At this day, the doctorates started to present their PhD thesis.

But first of all, Carmen Castañón Jimenez, who finished her PhD at the beginning of 2016, presented her work and gave advices about writing a legal research. Very important to her was to convince the PhD candidates not to make the most serious mistakes – first, stick to your decisions! Changing something without plan will make you lose the guiding thread. And second, while defending your thesis, don’t just repeat the content. The peer reviewers can read your thesis,

if they want to hear the content. After this presentation the doctorates started the present their own PhD thesis.

Day 4 ran parallel to the third day of the conference. Last topic was a peer tutoring, conducted by Mr. Andreas Pinheiro. He compared writing a PhD thesis to climbing a foggy mountain. Sometimes you don’t even see, where you are – are you at the beginning of your thesis or meanwhile at the end?! This issue was picked up the day after in the session about Project Management, where the candidates illustrated the separate phases of a PhD thesis.

The seminar was closed with lunch for every participant.

Student Oriented teaching: training the teachers



This report has been prepared by Michiel van Oosterzee.

During a 5 day training, from 1 till 5 February 2017, at the open Universiteit in Heerlen, Netherlands, teachers from UNED, FernUni in Hagen and OU worked together learning how to design and create student oriented teaching materials and events, specifically in the context of the distant teaching courses and intensive study programs like the summer schools in the joint curriculum of the EDELNet program.

Student oriented teaching is a teaching and learning approach which emphasizes the importance of learner's experiences, activity and individual motivation. In contrast to traditional teaching styles the concept of SOT claims to avoid top down designed "learning instructions" but centers the student's learning process and engagement. The main aim of SOT is to encourage self-oriented and active learning of students.

In this way of thinking about teaching in higher education the student's perceptions, experiences and reflections become the initial point of teaching activities. The role of students

is enhanced: They are collaborative partners in a learning arrangement.

The total training consisted of an online preparation phase and a five day training. In the online preparation, the participants read several theoretical articles, watched several explanatory video's and reviewed several examples, and reflected on these materials.

During the training, which was led by professor Theo Bastiaens from the FernUni / OU and Michiel van Oosterzee from the OU, the participants discussed teaching theories and practices, compared them with their own work, and worked together in order to redesign old courses into new EDELNet activities. During a roleplay the advantages, disadvantages and obstacles for introducing student oriented teaching were explored.

And of course: all participants enjoyed each other's good company, good food and a glass of wine and nice days in Heerlen.

About the next edition of Summerschool



The next edition of the Summerschool will be in Málaga, Spain, with the collaboration of the local center of UNED. The place to meet will be the premises of the Port of Malaga. Following the pattern of the last year, the first week (3rd to 7th of July) will be dedicated to the Master students of our institutions, with a special emphasis in the Moot Court in Private Law. The second week (10th to 14th) is for Bachelor students.

We will give more news about this Summerschool in the next issue of this publication



Imprint

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Dean's office of the Faculty of Law of UNED
Prof. Dr. Pablo de Diego Ángeles (Editor-in-chief)
Facultad de Derecho UNED
pdiego@der.uned.es
Obispo Trejo s/n 28040.Madrid. (Spain)

Members of E-Library Edelnet Newsletter team

Prof. Dr. Pedro A. Tamayo Lorenzo
Mr. Martin Von Hadel
Prof. Michiel Van Oesterzee