



REPORT
on participation in the Study Visit «Learning and teaching: innovation, digitalisation, and international collaboration»
15-16 June 2023 p.

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Name of the event: Study Visit «Learning and teaching: innovation, digitalisation, and international collaboration» for HERE teams with SPHERE support (EACEA).

Date: 15-16 June 2023

Venue: the UCLouvain: Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium

Participants from Ukraine: Iryna ZOLOTARIOVA, HERE, Member of the NAQA, Professor, the Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National University of Economics, Irina SIKORSKAYA, HERE, Director of the International Relations Office, Mariupol State University, Svitlana SHYTIKOVA, Coordinator, National Erasmus+ Office – Ukraine.

Target Audience: The event addresses practitioners at all levels of experience and knowledge on the issue. It will be especially relevant for higher education leadership, student HERE and QA agencies who need a better understanding of the shift to innovative L&T and its impact on the institution and the higher education system. 30 participants.

Learning outcomes:

1. Understand the strategy and institutional policies development behind innovation in learning and teaching and explore potentially different approaches to this.
2. Gain insight on how technological developments are used to innovate in learning and teaching
3. Assess the role that different actors/institutional services play when it comes to innovation in teaching and learning (leadership, deans, teaching development support services, etc.).
4. Explore examples of innovation in teaching practice and understand better what this means to both teachers and students.
5. Reflect on how inter-institutional cooperation can be used to drive innovation in learning and teaching.

Description and key information

Learning and teaching (L&T) enhancement has become an institutional priority, supported by dedicated policies and structures. Innovation, digitalisation and international collaborations are often seen as key components for enhancing L&T, particularly at a time when the rapid growth of societal and technological advancements incentivises the need for new pedagogical approaches and tools, as well as for sustainable cross-system collaborations. This is topical in EHEA countries, where enhancing L&T has gained traction in the Bologna Process, but also in other EU Partner/Neighbourhood countries, where pedagogical training, digital infrastructures and internationalisation remain both policy and institutional challenges.

The event will give participants insight into institutional practice on innovation and digitalisation of L&T, specifically in a Belgian HEI with a strong international profile. In addition to looking at the specific strategy for L&T innovation enhancement at Université Catholique de Louvain, the visit will allow participants to hear from professors of different disciplines, from students and, potentially, to glimpse into the Learning Lab of the university. The visit will also explore issues regarding the interaction of international higher education institutions when it comes to innovating in L&T.

The main content of the event covered the following issues:

- Consideration of the innovation development strategy in the field of science and technology of the UCLouvain.
- Overview of the institutional practice of the innovation and digitalization implementation in the field of science and technology.
- Presentation of the work of the Science Library and the Learning Lab of the UCLouvain.
- Consideration of issues related to international interaction of higher education institutions in the context of innovations in the field of science and technology.

The participants of the event were impressed by the organization of support for University teachers by specialists of the Louvain Learning Lab | UCLouvain, which has 21 highly qualified specialists in digital learning technologies. Together with the teacher, they form and develop a “map” of innovative, digital, inclusive components for each course.

The event provided the participants with a unique opportunity to explore the institutional practice of innovation and digitization in the field of science and technology using the example of the UCLouvain. The participants received important knowledge and insights from the University leadership and professors teaching various courses. The event contributed to improving the understanding of the transition to innovative learning and teaching, technologies and their impact on higher education institutions and the higher education system.

Development prospects for Ukraine:

Obviously, it is quite difficult to compare the opportunities and the current state of Belgium and Ukraine in terms of innovations in the field of education and science. First of all, with regard to funding issues. Instead, the example of the implementation of innovations in teaching and learning and digitalization in the field of science and technology in Belgium at the institutional level demonstrates a structured and practical approach, many elements of which should be adopted in Ukraine:

1. Initiate the preparation of a strategic document on the improvement of teaching and learning in higher education of Ukraine, which would include issues of innovation in the field of science and technology as the basis of quality higher education, with clear goals, qualitative and quantitative indicators of their achievement.

2. The development by each university of Ukraine of its own strategy for the improvement of teaching and learning, which should take into account its peculiarities as a higher education institution and provide for the creation of appropriate support services for the professional development of University teachers.