

Innovation in international digital education: Is it desirable, feasible, and viable?

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Abstract

Innovation seems to be omnipresent, yet hard to grasp. At the beginning of the second day of UNED's Research and Teaching Innovation Conference, this talk aims to provide a shared understanding of "innovation" applied to international digital education projects. We will look at innovation through the lenses of desirability, feasibility, and viability asking the following questions:

desirability - Are we solving a relevant problem in digital education?

feasibility - Do we have the resources and skills to tackle the issue?

viability - Is it the right strategic move - with particular focus on international contexts?

Considering the role of international collaboration for innovation, we will elaborate on the importance of strategic networking amongst digital education practitioners while raising awareness amongst policymakers on how to establish an enabling framework for building an innovation ecosystem.

Dagmar Willems holds the position of Senior Desk Officer at the Section Digitalisation at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Her focus is to gain and disseminate knowledge on digital internationalisation to support the participation of students, teachers, and researchers in international teaching, learning, and research opportunities. Before taking this position, Dagmar worked in the area of digital innovation and innovation methodologies and leadership challenges in digital transformation. She has experience in integrating digital competences into the curriculum and making digital transformation of society and law the subject of discussion.

Katharina Engel is Team Lead for Policy and Innovation in DAAD's Section Digitalisation. She coordinates the work of the consortium of 11 European organisations to support the development of the European Commission's Digital Education Hub. In the context of the European Student Card Initiative, Katharina supports the involvement of Erasmus+ Digital Officers in the development of the digital infrastructure for Erasmus Without Paper (EWP+) carried out by the EUF (European University Foundation). Until recently, her main responsibility was coordinating the policy dialogue in the Erasmus+ Key Action 3 project "OpenU" (Online Pedagogical Resources for European Universities), which involves six Ministries of Education in the process of developing a digital infrastructure for European Universities.