

# TEACHING INITIATIVES / ANNEXE I

## Example of ERUA teaching initiatives

### 1. Examples of travelling seminar

Here are two examples of travelling seminars organized by different ERUA partner universities. Each seminar is created to connect students and teachers from various institutions, promoting innovative pedagogical practices and cross-cultural exchanges in alignment with ERUA's values and objectives.

#### Example n.1 -Travelling seminar organized by UP8 to UAEGEAN

##### *Study and raise awareness of digital accessibility UP8 - UAEGEAN*

From October 16 to 31, 2024, a team of 7 second-year Master's students in MIASHS (Mathematics and Computer Science Applied to the Humanities and Social Sciences), specializing in Technology and Disability, along with 3 professors from Paris 8 University, participated in a travelling seminar held in Mytilini, Greece.

The seminar focused on sharing knowledge and experiences related to technology, disability, and inclusion. Over the course of two intensive days, the Paris 8 team presented their Master's program, showcasing their work and innovations in the field of accessibility. They engaged in meaningful exchanges with local students and teachers, who were largely unfamiliar with the concepts of digital and physical accessibility. The discussions also covered the ethical challenges associated with assistive technologies such as voice assistants (e.g., Alexa) and home surveillance systems.

A highlight of the academic activities was the opportunity to explore a virtual reality project developed by a local laboratory, offering an immersive visit of the Titanic.

Beyond the academic work, the group spent several days discovering Greek culture and gastronomy. This cultural immersion also revealed the lack of accessibility in local infrastructure. One student using a wheelchair and another who is visually impaired faced several challenges navigating the city independently. These real-life observations further enriched the group's reflection on inclusive design.

During a visit to a local museum, the team discovered the work of Theophilos, a renowned Greek painter native to the island. This cultural experience sparked a passionate conversation about art and accessibility in the cultural sector.

This travelling seminar proved to be a deeply enriching experience, fostering intercultural dialogue, raising awareness about disability and inclusion, and reinforcing the importance of accessibility in education, technology, and society.

Example n.2 - Travelling seminar organized by: University of Macerata (UNIMC) and University of the Aegean (UAEGEAN)

### Digital Storytelling as a Powerful Educational Tool (October-November 2024)

The ERUA Travelling Seminar on “Digital Storytelling as a Powerful Educational Tool” was attended by 12 students, 8 from the University of the Aegean and 4 from the University of Macerata (3 students from the MA's degree program in Cultural Heritage Management and a PhD student in Humanities and Technologies), under the guidance of Professors Vana Chiou (UA) and Mara Cerquetti (UniMC).

The Travelling Seminar was organised in three sessions: an online session (11, 14 and 21 October 2024), an in-person session at the University of the Aegean (11-14 November 2024) and a final in-person session at the University of Macerata (25-28 November 2024).

#### Structure and Description of the Travelling Seminar

During the first phase, after an online meeting to get to know each other, Professors Vana Chiou and Mara Cerquetti gave two online lectures on the theoretical background of digital storytelling as a powerful tool in education, cultural heritage communication and tourism promotion.

During the second phase, students were introduced to comics, posters, videos and podcasts. They collaborated and actively participated in four training sessions using various free and open-access tools and platforms to create digital storytelling for educational purposes. The seminar, led by Professor Vana Chiou, adopted student-centred methods, such as cooperative and experiential learning.

During the third phase, UAEGEAN and UNIMC jointly organised a three-day practical training for students, who moved from “what they learnt” to “how to implement it”. Participants worked in groups made up of students from the two universities. Professors Vana Chiou and Mara Cerquetti guided, facilitated and supported the learning process and students while designing and creating digital materia

The seminars organized by UNIMC aimed to strengthen university students' digital literacy as well as their creative and cooperative skills in teaching, communicating, and promoting both tangible and intangible cultural heritage and place-specific resources. Additionally, participants developed competencies to effectively engage both tourists and local communities.

#### Skills Acquired Through the Travelling Seminar

By participating in the travelling seminar, students gained the ability to:

- Recognize the value of digital storytelling in communicating and promoting cultural heritage and tourism destinations.
- Utilize a variety of digital tools and methods to create compelling digital stories.
- Design and develop digital stories that engage citizens and tourists in the experience of a place and its cultural heritage.
- Enhance their creativity and digital literacy.
- Strengthen their communication and cooperative skills.

This experience provided students with practical knowledge and innovative tools to contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in an increasingly digital world

### [Example of an ERUA semester course](#)

Here is an example of ERUA semester courses organized by UP8. These types of courses span various disciplines and are delivered through a blend of online and onsite formats, ensuring accessibility and engagement.

#### *Quantitative research: requirements and basic statistics*

Semester Course offered by UP8

Discipline: Applied statistics for research

*Period: December 2024 – April 2025 (6 sessions)*

*Format: Online*

*Number of ERUA Students: 15*

*Language: English (default) / Italian / French*

*Student Level: Master & PhD*

Paris 8 University offers an online intensive course titled “*Quantitative Research: Requirements and Basic Statistics*”. This step-by-step program will equip students with essential skills in research design, data processing, statistical analysis (SPSS), result interpretation, and presentation.

The course includes six sessions (five teaching sessions + one for evaluation and feedback), combining interactive lectures, hands-on exercises, and self-evaluation activities. A dataset will be provided for those without their own research data.

### Learning Objectives

Students will develop the ability to:

- Recognize the value of digital storytelling in cultural heritage and tourism promotion.
- Use a variety of digital tools to create compelling digital stories.

- Design and develop interactive narratives to engage audiences in cultural experiences.
- Strengthen research, communication, and cooperative skills.

*Course Modules:*

1. Research design, key concepts, and literature review
2. Research planning, hypothesis development, and ethical considerations
3. Data preparation & descriptive statistics (SPSS)
4. Inferential statistics (regression, ANOVA, t-tests)
5. Presenting and interpreting results
6. Evaluation & feedback

[Example of an ERUA intensive course](#)

Here is an example of ERUA intensive courses organized by New Bulgarian University. These kinds of short-term, high-impact courses are created to allow students to dive deeply into specific topics, benefit from unique international perspectives, and enhance their skills.

[Impasto and Abstract Painting for Everyone](#)

Discipline: Fine art and painting

Period: June 13th to June 16th, 2024

Number of ERUA Students: 20

Application Deadline: 3rd of June 2024

Place: New Bulgarian University – Sofia, Bulgaria.

Funding: ERUA students can receive travel and accommodation funding from their home universities.

Between the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, an intensive course in painting “Impasto and Abstract Painting for Everyone” will be held at New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria.

During this intensive course students will be introduced to the world of fine art and painting. Impasto painting and abstract painting are well-known styles that are easy to achieve with the proper technique for a particular task. We will discuss the role of brush strokes, palette knife strokes, and the material aspect of art in everyday life.

Along with the practical sessions the course also offers a brief view of fine art history in search of the fundamentals connecting abstract images with emotions, shapes, and forms. On the last day we will review the paintings done by the students and the lecturer during the intensive course.

The course is organized around 3×8-hour painting sessions and a fine art history review. On the last day 6 hours will be dedicated to examinations of students' works with contemporary up-to-date comparisons between popular brands and artists and our works. The course will

also discuss how to present our work on social media and make the best for our future advertisements.

We are looking for 20 Bachelor and Master degree students with some interests in fine arts, coming from ERUA Universities.

### [Example of an ERUA summer school](#)

Here are some examples of ERUA Summer School organized by different ERUA partner universities. These summer schools provide unique opportunities for students to immerse themselves in intensive, interdisciplinary courses across various disciplines.

#### Example n.1 - New Bulgarian University

##### *Summer school of Anthropology - 2024*

Course title: Summer school of Anthropology: Exploring cultural heritage and policies through transformation in spatiality (Sliven, 25.08.-30.08.2024)

Discipline: Interdisciplinary (Anthropology, History, Sociology, Geography, Art, Fashion, Graphic design)

Format (on-site, online, hybrid): on-site

Form of examination: short fieldwork observation report

Language: English, Bulgarian, French

Course coordinator:

- Ass. Prof. Irena Bokova,
- Assistant prof. Lubomira Vulcheva-Nundloll, PhD

Course dates: August 25 – August 30, 2024

Number of ECTS: 9

Student level (Bachelor/Master/PhD): Bachelor/Master/PhD

Prerequisites (i.e. previous knowledge, studies field, fee): social sciences, humanities and art students

Number of ERUA students: 10

Application deadline: July 3, 2024

Description/ content:

The Summer School of Anthropology, now in its 21st year, offers interdisciplinary field research training. This year, it's hosted jointly by the Anthropology department, Design, and Fine Arts, with support from the Sliven Regional Historical Museum.

The program welcomes students from social sciences and arts backgrounds, providing initial training in research project development and fieldwork. Its goal is to uncover interdisciplinary connections and shared challenges.

Students engage in commented museum and gallery visits, lectures, and discussions, fostering critical thinking and individual problematization. They delve into cultural heritage themes, with a focus this year on transformation in spatiality across different historical periods: Middle Ages, Bulgarian National Revival and modern times.

The origin of the city is associated with the ancient fortress "Tuida" - an archaeological monument that testifies to the life and culture of the local population during the Middle Ages. The process of Bulgarian industrialization began with the establishment of textile factory production in Sliven in 1834. This moment is significant for both the city and the state, as it represents the step towards modernity and economic development - marking the post-Ottoman period. The city became an industrial centre and retains this function and importance to this day.

The school highlights Sliven's textile industry and its role in shaping the city's identity. They are present in individual narratives and through the practices of tradition preservation, as well as in the official narrative and tourism. The only museum of the textile industry in Bulgaria is in Sliven. Its exposition traces the development of textile crafts from 9,000 years ago to today. Students will attend demonstrations of twentieth century industrial textile machinery. Alongside textiles, participants explore other industries, examining their historical significance and contemporary relevance. Glass production will be of increased interest to the school participants looking for the connection between past, present and future. What is the place of this key industry that prospered in the past but lost its importance during the post-communist transition and in the context of globalisation? The decline of the glass factory led to a dispersion of human capital, which today can be observed in small enterprises for glass production and in local trade.

Observation centres on how Sliven's urban landscape represents and reinterprets its past, fostering reflection on the city's evolving historical narratives and memory construction. How has the city transformed in consequence of the national emancipation (1878), the political transitions (1944 and 1990), the economic crises (1990s-2000s), and in the era of globalisation? What factors turn certain places into sites of oblivion or "memory spaces"? What insights do local stories and urban/museum spaces offer? And what is the relation between individual and societal narratives?

A preparatory seminar will precede the summer school, addressing key research issues.

## Example n.2 - New Bulgarian University

### SWPS - European Summer School on the Rule of Law in Sopot, Poland

SWPS University invites you to the European Summer School on the Rule of Law, which will take place from August 29 to September 4, 2024 in Sopot, Poland. The theme for this year's event is "What is the EU? Analysis of the relevance of Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union: An exchange of experiences". This program is part of teaching initiatives of the European Reform University Alliance (ERUA) and receives funding from the European Union, the National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), and the Economic Freedom Foundation.

The summer school is designed to bring together students and young scholars from the European Union as well as its Eastern and Southern neighbours. The aim is to foster discussions and deepen understanding of the EU's foundational principles through diverse perspectives. The week-long event will cover fundamental EU values including Pluralism, Equality, Justice, Solidarity, Tolerance, and Non-discrimination. Each day will focus on one of these principles, explored through a series of lectures, panel discussions, and interactive workshops. Esteemed scholars such as Professor Adam Bodnar, Professor Klaus Bachmann, and Professor Assaf Meydani have been invited to contribute to the academic sessions.

In addition to the academic sessions, the program includes cultural activities aimed at enriching the participants' experience. These will include film screenings relevant to the themes, guided museum tours, and visits to historical sites, especially significant in the context of the anniversaries being commemorated during the program dates – namely, the legacy of the Solidarity movement and the outbreak of World War II. These commemorations are timely, reflecting on history as discussions of conflict re-emerge in Europe and beyond.

#### Application Details:

- Who Can Apply? Up to 2 students from each ERUA university are eligible to apply.
- Program Dates: August 29 to September 4, 2024
- Location: SWPS University, Sopot Campus
- How to Apply: Interested candidates should fill out the application form by the end of the day on July 14. Selections will be announced by July 26.
- Cost: participation is free of charge to students of ERUA universities
- Support: ERUA students may receive funding for travel and accommodation expenses from their home universities.

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These initiatives aim to inspire creative approaches to learning across the ERUA alliance. We encourage people to explore new methods, integrate interdisciplinary perspectives, and engage students through interactive and impactful educational experiences. We look forward to supporting your initiative and fostering collaboration across our universities.