



EDview Symposium calls for diversity and creativity in PBL

More than 200 staff-members and students joined the EDview Symposium on 23 October. The EDview project investigated the current state of PBL education at UM, and recommends pathways for the future. The core message of the project: away from the dogmatic implementation of the 7 steps, and towards a diversity of educational approaches focused on the PBL philosophy that leaves room for creativity and innovation! During the symposium, FASoS Dean Sophie Vanhoonacker presented a response to the EDview results on behalf of the UM Executive Board and the Deans of the six UM faculties, embracing EDview's conclusions. Additionally, in her closing speech at the symposium, UM Rector Rianne Letschert reflected on the history and future of PBL at UM and expressed the university's commitment to the implementation of EDview's recommendations. She announced the installation of a steering group that will coordinate EDview's follow up, headed by Erik Driessen, Chair of the Department of Educational Development and Research at FHML. We are delighted with this support from the UM leadership to translate EDview's results into practice. We are looking back at a successful research project and symposium, and we are excited to continue working with all UM students and staff to transform the future of education at UM!

For more information on the EDview project, please check [our website](#).



EDLAB featured in OECD report on the quality of innovation in higher education in the Netherlands

The OECD has published [a review](#) of the state and quality of innovation and entrepreneurship in higher education in the Netherlands. We are pleased that EDLAB is featured as a good example of an institution-wide approach to enhance innovation in education.

The report starts with the statement that “Investing in innovative and entrepreneurial Higher Education Institutes is one of the highest return investments that we can make” – something which EDLAB supports fully! Over the last few years, the HEInnovate panel visited several higher education institutions in the Netherlands, including Maastricht University. The report specifically recognizes the work that EDLAB does to bring together existing and new ideas on higher education and initiate projects and events that improve the quality of education across the whole university.

The report furthermore emphasizes that innovation projects only take place once they have broad, faculty-wide input and approval. The key role of our faculty liaisons was particularly highlighted. Lastly, the report also commends EDLAB for its activities to increase engagement at all levels – from teachers, researchers, managers, support staff and students.



Teach-meet International Classroom

On Thursday 8 November, EDLAB held an informal teach-meet with teaching staff from across Maastricht University to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the international classroom. Diversity is one of UM's greatest strengths, but it can also pose challenges within educational contexts.

Constance Sommerey, UM Diversity Officer, opened the discussions by sharing some ideas to institutionalize diversity and inclusivity into our organization and its teaching. Donna Carroll, Educational Training Developer at EDLAB, looked at teaching in an international classroom, and emphasized the benefits of getting better acquainted with students, giving practical tips for better facilitation of the learning process in international student groups. Next, Anja Krumeich, Professor in Global Health at FHML, spoke about her experience of the benefits and challenges of international curricula within Global Health, and the challenging group dynamics in interdisciplinary, inter-university, international, intercultural on-line tutorials. Finally, Herco Fonteijn, Associate Professor at FPN, spoke about global citizenship education, looking at how curricular, extracurricular, and co-created activities can enable students to develop competences and attitude traits such as global literacy, social responsibility and engagement.

Please check our website for a [full summary](#) of the discussions.



EDLAB evaluation-cubes

“If I were an animal I would be ...” or “I would perform better in this team if ...” are just two of the 42 options you can dice with the EDLAB group-evaluation cubes. Last year, a group of PREMIUM students, in collaboration with the CUBE design museum in Kerkrade, created a playful tool to facilitate group evaluations in the classroom. The result: 7 evaluation cubes, all with their own purpose: ice-breaker, communication, performance, change, conflict, team and appreciation.



The cubes work remarkably well to e.g. break the silence during (PBL-)group evaluations or to approach sensitive team-dynamics. The cubes have been designed with the PBL classroom in mind but are very useful in different settings as well. Want to try them out yourself? Please visit the EDLAB website to [download the blueprints](#), print them out, glue them together and start using them!

PREMIUM alumni event

Just before summer, EDLAB concluded the seventh successful year of the PREMIUM programme. In total 110 excellent students were awarded their PREMIUM certificate during the festive Closing Event. EDLAB has recruited students for a new round of PREMIUM, which will start in January 2019.

On October 11th, the very first PREMIUM alumni reunion was organized, to look back upon 7 years of PREMIUM. Over 55 PREMIUM alumni attended this event, during which they participated in an interactive workshop on network optimization, and connected with fellow PREMIUM alumni. The participants' feedback on the event was very positive. They especially appreciated being able to reconnect with fellow PREMIUM participants and to expand their network within the community. EDLAB is currently looking into other events to cater to the extensive PREMIUM alumni community of over 850 alumni.



Honours+

On October 30th, EDLAB hosted a kick-off event for the 4th edition of Honours+. This year, more than 140 students, supervisors and faculty coordinators were present to festively kick off the programme together. Prof Valentina Mazzucato gave an inspiring lecture about 'Transnational migrant families from an interdisciplinary perspective', which clearly indicated the importance of tackling and formulating research questions with a multi-disciplinary approach. After the lecture, students participated in a pub-quiz and were able to get to know their fellow Honours+ students a bit better.



Training for Education Programme Committees

In 2018 EDLAB offered introductory training sessions to more than 80 new staff members of UM Education Programme Committees. Furthermore, we held new interactive training days for 60 student members covering the legal aspects of their work as well as providing practical tips regarding their other tasks. Feedback has been good and we look forward to offering more thematic trainings next year.



Inspiring Educational Leadership

The continuous development and innovation of UM education is a priority. To ensure success, we need high quality teaching staff as well as inspiring leaders to give shape to our education and to drive innovative processes forward. In early 2019 a new training programme for 'Inspiring Educational Leadership' will begin with a cohort of 12 academic programmes directors and coordinators who have the responsibility, passion and drive to renew and improve their educational curricula. Upon successful evaluation we hope to offer this training programme on an annual basis in collaboration with a working group of colleagues from across all faculties.