



INNOVATION

EDLAB external audit

On 23 May, EDLAB welcomed an external panel of experts in the field of education innovation. Four years after EDLAB's launch, the UM Executive board instigated an external peer review-audit to determine whether the institute has achieved its objectives and to gain insights in how EDLAB can sustain its operations in the future. As preparation for this day, the EDLAB core-team wrote an extensive self-evaluation report showing the development of the institute, including a vision and strategic goals for the near future. It furthermore presents EDLAB's ideas on what we think is going well and what could be improved. The report can be viewed [here](#). Whereas the panel's final conclusions will be published later, it already became apparent that the panel was impressed by the way EDLAB initiates and coordinates UM-wide education innovation activities, and how EDLAB engages several staff - and student-communities for a vibrant educational culture at UM.

EDLAB self-evaluation report

External audit 23 May 2019



Euregional Student Platform at EDLAB

On 24 April, EDLAB organised a Euregional Student Platform (ESP)-day at the Tapijn Barracks. The main goal: connecting students from higher education institutes (HEIs) in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine to exchange educational experiences and discuss the future of higher education in the Euregion. With European, Belgian federal & regional, and Dutch provincial elections taking place in 2019, the ESP was keen to identify educational themes that connect Euregional HEIs and find mutual support for educa-



tional improvements and innovation. The role of EU-bodies, Euregional offices or provinces to realise these common challenges was of particular interest on 24 April.

For this reason we were pleased that member of the European Parliament and UM alumnus, Jeroen Lenaers gave a keynote speech with insights into current EU-affairs and the role of the European Parliament. Students furthermore enjoyed a scavenger hunt on the Tapijn premises and followed workshops on assessment and creative problem solving. It is our aim to organise the ESP-day annually, at different locations in the Euregion.

Project: Bringing information literacy education up-to-date

Today's immense information overload, in a wide variety of forms, requires students to acquire and apply a broad set of competences (e.g. critical thinking, metacognitive skills, problem-solving, and digital skills) to steer their way through this "information jungle".

Information literacy skills education is particularly important in the philosophy of problem-based learning (PBL), which strongly advocates self-directed learning. In March, the Maastricht University Library and EDLAB therefore launched a project to investigate how information literacy education should be offered in our programmes.

Part of the project focuses on student (self-)study behaviour: how do they identify their information sources? Where do they find information? How do they evaluate information? What issues do students face in dealing with information? With these insights, the project intends to design new instructional tasks and/or (e-) modules that enable Bachelor students to handle the changing information environment.



EDLAB student advisory board installed

In January, EDLAB installed and assembled its first student advisory board. By creating a student advisory board, we want to gain better insight in the student perspective on education innovation at UM. We want to hear and understand what UM students feel and think about studying and education at Maastricht University.

Participating in this board allows students to reflect on education innovations we already coordinate and address other student-related affairs while studying at UM. The student board is currently composed of nine students from various UM faculties. Each academic year, the composition will be slightly different due to departing and incoming members. In case you are interested in joining the board, let us know via julie.deronde@maastrichtuniversity.nl.



SERVICES

Continuing Professional Development (CPD): first pilots at EDLAB



Our aim at EDLAB is to help build a strong teaching community where staff can hone their teaching skills and learn from experts and each other both from and during work. To do so we are developing a new CPD programme at a central level to provide opportunities for continuous learning and development in the field of education. As part of the development phase we have been running a range of pilot activities covering topics such as Data Sciences in Education, Blended Learning, Student Resilience & Well-being and the use of Standing Tutorials. Feedback has been very positive so far and the pilot period will be fully evaluated during the summer, allowing us to build upon these activities and deliver a quality programme ready for our official launch in September 2019. More information about the CPD programme can be found here:

<https://edlab.nl/educational-services/cpd/>

EXCELLENCE

PREMIUM: pop-events and active community

With the end of the 8th successful year of PREMIUM in sight, EDLAB expects to award 133 students with their PREMIUM certificate. For the first time, next to the regular programme activities, we were able to offer students a range of unique training opportunities called 'PREMIUM Pop-Up Events'. These events were aimed at teaching students and support staff valuable additional skills, in an external setting, focussing on for instance 'active reflecting' or 'professional etiquette'.

Over the last few years, PREMIUM's holistic learning environment has posi-



tively influenced the UM honours community, engaging both current students, alumni and support staff in various ways. We see a positive trend of alumni wanting to stay involved, actively helping current students in finding an entrance to the job market, being competence coaches themselves, becoming a PREMIUM client or recommending the programme to their employers, and overall functioning as permanent ambassadors of the programme. It is EDLAB's aim to keep nurturing this community and network.

€500 grant for winning Honours+ groups



On May 16, the fourth edition of the Honours+ programme came to an end. In the Honours+ programme, EDLAB organises interdisciplinary academic challenges and skills workshops for faculty honours students. This year 110 Honours+ students from SBE, LAW, FASoS, DKE and FPN and FHML have successfully completed the programme. Following last year's setup, 21 teams have been working on challenges related to the three UM research themes: 'Quality of life', 'Learning and Innovation' and 'Europe and a Globalising World'. The research outcomes have been presented to an expert jury that awarded the winning group of each theme with a €500 grant to continue their work and implement some of the practical solutions of their findings. All of this year's challenges can be viewed here: <https://edlab.nl/excellence/honoursplus/current-honoursplus-students/honoursplus-challenges/>

Similar to the PREMIUM programme, EDLAB actively builds towards the creation of an Honours community on bachelor level where students can meet fellow honours students from other faculties. Through the introduction of informal and low-profile events such as a game or movie nights, Honours+ students were able to informally meet up beyond the boundaries of their teams and faculty honours programmes.

