

Science Education: MODEST Courses for Doctoral Students in "Teaching and Learning"

On 26th January 2021, the virtual event was arranged and carried out by the Erasmus+ MODEST project (https://www.emodest.eu) to report status/ progress in development of courses for doctoral students for the Strand-B "Teaching and Learning". The PhD courses in development include the following: B1 "Organization of doctoral training" (cancelled and to be arranged as a webinar in spring 2021), B2 "Educational/ constructive alignment. Design & implementation courses for PhD studies, B3a "Digital literacy", B3b "Data analysis and expert systems", and B4 "Virtual environment".

The event was co-hosted by the MODEST partners - University of Helsinki in collaboration with Armenian (Yerevan State University and National Polytechnic University of Armenia), and UK (Brunel University London) Universities. In total, more than 50 participants attended the Strand B courses presentations; and more than 30 persons participated in discussions in virtual rooms for courses. Attendees included not only colleagues from the 14 MODEST Universities, but also participants from other organizations interested in doctoral education in science. The participants were from more than 19 different Universities/ Institutes/ Organizations from Armenia, Belarus, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Russia, and UK.

The targeted groups included professors, teachers, universities staff, researchers, PhD students, young researchers. Feedbacks and comments on presented MODEST courses from the virtual events participants, and especially PhD students, were very welcome. The presented courses were also evaluated by participants through web-questionnaires (with statistics summaries). Questionnaires included grading/ scoring on each course aims and content, target groups and prerequisites, learning outcomes, workload and grades, teaching and learning methods, assessment methods and criteria, as well as it was possible to include additional remarks and comments to the presented courses. The virtual event included also discussions in separate virtual rooms for each course, and these were followed by summaries presented by each room moderator. All these comments, remarks, suggestions will be used for further improvements of the MODEST courses.

Delivered presentations (slides, videos, and summaries) to be available for the Strand-B at: https://www.emodest.eu/index.php/meetings/23-phd-courses-development-for-strand-b-teaching-and-learning

Text by Katja Lauri, Alexander Mahura, University Helsinki, Finland