

EDUC Online Staff Training Programme in *21st Century Skills*

Soft Skills Training Session

First Edition - Winter 2022-2023



Your world
just got
bigger.



During the last Winter term, from November 2022 to January 2023, the EDUC Alliance launched the first edition of its *Staff training programme* conceived with the aim to point out the relevance of Soft Skills throughout professional environments.

Developed within the EDUC-SHARE project, the *21st Century Skills training* offered a series of **online sessions** to all their faculty and administrative staff.

Across all the Alliance members, the virtual training was entirely animated in English by professors and researchers who wished to share their expertise in various fields of human science.

The point of departure for designing and constructing an educational offer that would concretely meet the interests of such a heterogeneous public was a survey campaign, conducted by Nanterre University.

All the EDUC project teams strongly cooperated with Soft Skills specialists and human resources representatives bringing out a plurilingual survey, available in the six languages of the EDUC Alliance. It was distributed via EDUC social media, but also by regular newsletters and email contacts.

The survey was framed with the purpose of querying the relationship between Soft Skills, international contexts and lifelong learning. The survey results were anonymised and participation was fully voluntary.

After gathering the results from the survey, EDUC-SHARE partners took steps to collect the inventories of potential courses and workshops underlining the prominence of personal experiences and working aptitudes within a shared learning context.

Focusing on the need of performing different roles and acquiring new knowledge.s, the training sessions matched the scope of joining people from different countries and cultures.

Afterwards, supported by the Alliance partners, Nanterre University as the WP6 leader of EDUC-SHARE project, succeeded in finalizing the Soft Skills programme, which was accessible to all the members of EDUC.

Proposing to choose among seven different sessions, around two hundred people, including administrative staff, teachers, researchers and doctoral students, applied to take part in the training.

“Embracing cultural diversity” or “Design thinking through storytelling”, for example, constituted two of the choices composing the rich and attractive offer. Through the wide range of humanities, the contents and frameworks of the sessions featured some core topics characterizing EDUC Alliance actions.

Indeed, all the training groups brainstormed about the development of intercultural approaches, the cooperation at a multi-level scale of university and the link between cognitive and environmental theories. Moreover, they discussed the importance of connecting historical heritage and individual memory, as well as the asset for implementing transversal skills within everyone’s “active life” by opening access to scientific *corps*.

Few working sessions welcomed a large number of people (close to fifty participants) though the majority of the courses have been animated by a smaller group of almost fifteen academic components. At the end of each session, the instructor asked to fill up the evaluation form by which people could confirm their involvement and give their feedback on how well the program took place. Afterward, each university had to send an attendance certificate to all the Alliance participants.

The response had been strongly positive while reporting common perspectives on the necessity of creating trans-cultural interactions, enhancing professional spaces and practices, drawing on the mixed relational world of daily life.

The results then, pretty encouraging, would be a spur to improve the training preparation of Soft Skills 2nd session which will probably occur during the 2023 fall semester.

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