

## IO6. Dissemination of project activities and networking

# Report on the EFESE events

- E1: Multiplier event in Leuven
- E2: Multiplier event in Ljubljana
- E3: Multiplier event in Groningen
- E4: Multiplier event in Athens
- C1: Intensive programme for learners in Ljubljana
- C1: Intensive programme for learners in Spetses
- C2: Intensive programme for teaching staff in Leuven
- C3: Intensive programme for teaching staff in Groningen

### E1: Multiplier event in Leuven.-

**“The blended approach in exchanging social security education”, Leuven, 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2016.**

The KU Leuven organised the first EFESE multiplier event. Emphasis was given to the content of social security education at the European level as well as to the technological possibilities and the pedagogical principles for the design of blended learning (intellectual outputs IO2 and IO3). In other words, the multiplier event attended two aspects of the exchange of social security education: a) the why, i.e., the importance of social security in Europe, the importance of spreading social security education, and the importance of innovating the university, and b) the how, i.e., blended learning and the EFESE initiatives.

In total 119 persons from the fields of social security, education, and educational technology registered to this multiplier event. Majority of the participants were linked to one of the partner institutions. The rest, 17 local persons and 18 foreigners, were taken up on the EFESE project budget.

Participants of the seminar were invited to attend the EFESE poster session in the afternoon. The poster session on blended learning initiatives was organised as the start of the EFESE training event “Transforming social security education: from regular to blended courses”.

The seminar hosted high level speakers from the academia and the European Commission, such as Prof. Paul Schoukens (KU Leuven and Tilburg University), who presented the EFESE project and its main developments. The first reactions came from Mr. Stefaan Hermans, Head of the Cabinet of Commissioner Thyssen – Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. Further on, Prof. Danny Pieters, Vice-Rector of the Humanities and Social Sciences Group (KU Leuven), reflected upon the university of the future; Prof. Wim Van Oorshot (KU Leuven) spoke about social security in Europe and the social legitimacy of the welfare state; Mr. Denis Crowley, Head of Unit for Innovation in Education at DG Education and Culture, presented ideas on how to internationalize social security education in Europe via blended learning; and, finally, Prof. Jan Elen (KU Leuven), introduced the audience into the blended learning approach.

The detailed programme can be found at <http://efese.eu/the-international-seminar-the-blended-approach-in-exchanging-social-security-education-reached-a-large-audience/>. The presentations can be found at <http://efese.eu/the-international-seminar-the-blended-approach-in-exchanging-social-security-education-reached-a-large-audience/>.

A nice selection of pictures from the event is available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/140798450@N03/sets/72157666106719821>

## E2: Multiplier event in Ljubljana

**“The challenges and opportunities for the accreditation of common European study programmes”, Ljubljana, 6th of June 2016.**

The multiplier event held at the Faculty of Law at the University of Ljubljana was attended by 79 individuals (including speakers) from home and abroad coming from the field of higher education (academia and administration), ministries and other public offices and, since the hosting institution was the Faculty of Law, also from a variety of legal professions.

The short introductory speech to the multiplier event, from prof. dr. Paul Schoukens (KU Leuven), consisted of a general presentation of the EFES project, its approach (e.g., blended learning), possibilities of implementation (e.g. means of block exchange), and aims in the field of social security education. A short introduction was also given by prof. dr. Goran Turk, Vice-Rector of the University of Ljubljana. He contributed with the broader topic of “Exchanging knowledge and teaching in higher education” where he addressed several questions related to current affairs and future possibilities of educational developments in the field of higher education. The core of the multiplier event could be described through two contributions following the general introduction, the first presented by Sabina Zajc from ENIC-NARIC centre, who substituted Dr. Alenka Braček Lalić, IQA Accreditation Director at CEEMAN. The first contribution, gathered under the title “Joint study programmes and their accreditation procedure”, comprehensively addressed the criteria for the accreditation of joint study programmes and different elements of the application procedure such as the mandatory annexes to the application (contract, diploma format etc.), the enrolment procedure, the ECTS structure of the programme etc. Questions of training study programmes and independent programmes were also briefly discussed. In the second “core” contribution the feasibility study (at that time still as work in progress), the main output of the project partner, was presented by prof. dr. Grega Strban and as. Iztok Štefanec, both from the University of Ljubljana. Speakers presented the legal and administrative framework – both opportunities and obstacles – for the accreditation and implementation of a blended master in European social security both from the point of view of the four partners involved in the project and from a general point of view useful for other institutions building a blended master from scratch.

The international seminar concluded with a round table in which actors from different universities and other institutions shared their personal experience regarding joint study programmes: how to find a suitable partner, what commitments should be recognized at the initial stages, how to form a consortium, what rights and obligations should be stipulated in the partnership agreement etc. The floor was – as in the case of previous contributions – open for questions that lead to a lively debate.

After the event, a social lunch was organized in order to bring together different actors in the field of higher education and other professions having an interest in how the higher education system functions. The aim of disseminating information and knowledge to – primary – fellow academics and administration was clearly surpassed since the large number of attendees at the seminar included interested individuals from a variety of different professions and not only the primary targeted group.

The detailed programme can be found at <http://efese.eu/the-new-efese-international-seminar-was-concluded-with-great-success/>. The presentations are available at <http://efese.eu/the-new-efese-international-seminar-was-concluded-with-great-success/>.

Furthermore, a video was created to give an overview of the multiplier event and training in Ljubljana and to inform the public, in general, about EFES and its activities: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ue71FaP4qD0>

## E3: Multiplier event in Groningen

**“The importance of social security (education) in Europe: challenges, innovation and best practices”, Groningen, 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2016.**

On October 10th 2016, before the start of the EFESE training week, the University of Groningen organised a multiplier event by means of an international seminar on “The importance of social security (education) in Europe: challenges, innovation and best practices”. Prof. George Katrougalos (Minister of Labour, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity of Greece) and Prof. Ulrich Becker (Director of Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy) elaborated on the role of social security in a changing Europe, while Prof. Ronald Beltzer, chairman of the Dutch Levenbach Institute for labour and social security law presented ways in which IT innovation plays a key role in transforming traditional education in the field of social security in the various universities and professional learning institutions in the Netherlands. The seminar was closed by the chancellor of the University of Groningen, Prof. Elmer Sterken who shared the official Groningen vision of educational innovation with the audience. This is a vision which is based upon the educational concept of “flipping the classroom” and which involves an optimal use of new IT solutions.

In order to maximize the outreach of the multiplier event, it was organised together with the Levenbach Institute in the context of its annual members meeting. The theme of the members meeting, which took place after the closing of the multiplier event, was about flipping the classroom in labour law and social security education. Through participation of the Levenbach institute, the departments of labour and social security law of all Dutch universities were represented at the multiplier event. The seminar was furthermore attended by participants from various European universities which are involved in the EFESE project as (satellite) partners. Also staff members of the Faculty of Law at the University of Groningen joined the seminar, and a number of international students coming from various universities in and outside Europe also registered. In all, the seminar was attended by 71 persons. The composition of the groups of participants allowed for a dissemination of the intellectual outputs (IT and pedagogical format, virtual exchange of blended courses) to a wider audience. Furthermore, there was ample opportunity to exchange views and experiences with the attendants of the seminar by means of question and answer sessions.

Dissemination of the seminar was realised by means of open invitations on [www.rug.nl](http://www.rug.nl), the website of the University of Groningen. Furthermore a press announcement was made for the interest of the media. This has resulted, amongst others, in an article in the Nederlands Dagblad, published on 11 October 2016, focussing on the key note address of the Greek minister of social affairs. This key note speech was furthermore uploaded on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atNM3N2kDWY&t=158s>

The detailed programme can be found at <http://efese.eu/the-international-seminar-on-the-importance-of-social-security-education-in-europe-challenges-innovation-and-best-practices-in-groningen-was-concluded-successfully/>

## E4: Multiplier event in Athens

### “New Forms of Education, Work and Social Security”, Athens, 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2017

The final international seminar of the EFESE project was held in Athens, Greece on April 24th, 2017. The subject of the event was “New Forms of Education, Work and Social Security” and the aim was to analyze the interaction between labour markets and social security systems as this was experienced during the implementation of the project. The event aimed to address a two-fold question: on the one hand, how does the social security system need to reinvent itself to respond to new forms of labour and accommodate new evolutions? And secondly, what kind of challenges and opportunities does this entail for social security education and how the EFESE project can contribute to addressing these challenges?

Paul Schoukens, Professor of Social Security Law at KU Leuven and Secretary General of the European Institute of Social Security (EISS), compared the developments taking place in Europe in relation to new forms of work and reforms of social security systems. Kostas Papadimitriou, Professor of Labor Law at the University of Athens, referred to new forms of work, informal work and challenges for the Greek labour market. Grega Strban, Professor of Social Security Law, University of Ljubljana, examined the individualisation of social security as a reformist trend that could allow for flexibility in relation to labor market changes. Chris Gibbon, Visiting lecturer at the KU Leuven, focused on the impact of digitisation on social security and analyzed whether it is a process improvement or a

paradigm shift. Dr. Maria Lucero, researcher at the KU Leuven University, focused on virtual exchange in higher education and analyzed how the EFESE project can support new forms of work and education in a constantly change environment. Finally, Christos Morfakidis, Assistant Professor of the Department of Social Administration and Political Science of the Democritus University in Greece, focused on ways in which social security systems need to “reinvent” themselves in order to meet the current challenges.

The participants of the event were professionals working in the field of social security, lawyers whose field of interest is social security law, experts from policy makers authorities and students as well as researchers focusing on social security.

The detailed programme is available at <http://efese.eu/international-seminar-new-forms-of-education-work-and-social-security-april-24-2017-athens-greece/>. The presentations and the videos from the event are available at <http://efese.eu/international-seminar-new-forms-of-education-work-and-social-security-april-24-2017-athens-greece/>.

## C1: Intensive programme for learners in Ljubljana

### “Young Researchers School (YRS)”, Ljubljana, June 2016

The YRS in Ljubljana was attended by 27 young researchers and a handful of well-established and internationally recognized experts coming from more than ten different countries ranging all the way from Latin America across Europe to East Asia, all linked to renowned European institutions (like the Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy, the University of Groningen, KU Leuven, Tilburg University, E.I.S.S., and others).

The event’s design consisted of four separate elements that strived to prepare the researchers as best as possible for potential struggles and obstacles to be encountered in the research work leading up to a doctoral thesis. The first and maybe even most important element was the preparatory work at home before meeting in Ljubljana. Obligatory preparation demanded from the students to read and watch selected research and methodology related materials on an online platform (the internet being one of the EFESE’s main tools of disseminating knowledge) and using that knowledge to prepare a formally unified thesis proposal or description that was then submitted for peer review and tutors’ review.

The second element of the design were the content-rich daily lectures that mostly took place in the beginning of the week and ranged from topics in legal comparison: “Introduction into comparison of social security and social protection” (prof. dr. Gijsbert Vonk and prof. dr. Ulrich Becker), economy and sociology: “Social security and social protection: an economic approach” and “Social security and social protection: an sociological approach” (separate lessons by prof. dr. Ruud Muffels and prof. dr. Tilen Štajnpihler Božič), to the so called “data approach” to social security (dr. Koen Vleminckx), and concluded with an thought provoking lecture on research ethics and integrity given by prof. dr. Janez Kranjc titled “The role of young researchers in academic life and society – research ethics and integrity”. According to the responses from the participants, the lectures proved to be great added value and most certainly served as an inspiring introduction to the third and key element or track of the event, that is the afternoon’s paper presentations and discussions which where the main reason for the student’s preparatory work and served as an environment of open minded debate, evaluation and provision of valuable critique and advice.

The afternoon sessions consisted of comprehensive presentations built around the submitted proposals, the first reply from the peer reviewer grounding his oral review in an already submitted written version (the reviewers were paired up with respect to the similarity of their topics), the general observation and specific questions and comments posed by experts chairing the sessions and their colleagues. Every presentation was concluded with a debate with the audience. Then the tables turned and the reviewer was to be reviewed. Needless to say, the sessions were assessed as the highlight of the event in producing valuable information on the proposals given to the presenter both by the in advance prepared reviewers and experts as well as other students, who first encountered the specific proposal and needed to come up with quick first responses. According to all of the participants, the sessions proved to be a very rewarding experience and a valuable input for their work to come.

The event ended with two long and most challenging group sessions in which the researchers were asked to prepare a mock project proposal regarding a current EU issue related to social security and submitting it for funding to a mock jury consisting of three experts (dr. Maria Mousmouti, prof. dr. Danny Pieters and dr. Klaus Kapuy) evaluating the proposal on various points.

The event can most definitely “boast” with an intense schedule, a lot of content and high work intensity, but all of that would not mean that much if no time was dedicated to relief, socializing and the finer things in life. Hard work was rewarded with a trip and dinner at Lake Bled, one of Slovenia’s biggest natural treasures, a refreshing sightseeing tour of Ljubljana, the country’s capital, and, an exquisite farewell dinner. All of the participants left Ljubljana in high spirits, commending both on the formal educational and informal social side of the event. Such a response, especially coming from all of the researchers or learners, should only encourage the organizers and other EFESE partners to do it again!

The detailed programme can be found at <http://efese.eu/the-efese-young-researchers-school-received-a-good-response/>. The presentations are available at <http://efese.eu/the-efese-young-researchers-school-received-a-good-response/>

Furthermore, a video was created to give an overview of the multiplier event and training and to inform the public, in general, about EFESE and its activities: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ue71FaP4qD0>

Feedback from the participants is available at <http://efese.eu/the-efese-young-researchers-school-received-a-good-response/>

## C1: Intensive programme for learners in Spetses

### “Young Researchers School (YRS)”, Spetses-Greece, June 2017

Twenty four promising young researchers from eight different European universities and research institutions attended the second EFESE Young Researchers School during the first week of June (5th to 9th). The successful event took place in Spetses, a charming island near Athens.

The YRS focused on research methodology in comparative social security and combined different teaching and learning methods: a) blended learning (online and face-to-face instruction), b) lectures by renowned professors and researchers, c) presentations by the young researchers themselves on their research projects and feedback from peers and tutors, and d) collective group work focused on designing and presenting an innovative research proposal. Among the highlights of the week was the boat ride around the island and the farewell dinner.

The topics of the lectures concerned issues of social security and social security research. More specifically, Prof. Vonk (University of Groningen) talked about the comparison of social security and social protection, Dr. Daniel Pérez del Prado (Universidad Carlos III of Madrid), talked about the interdisciplinary research of law and economics and how they are both applied in social security, Manos Spyridakis (University of Peloponnese) and Dr. Maria Lucero (KU Leuven), described the way empirical methods can be used in legal research. Prof. Grega Strban (University of Ljubljana) talked about the caveats of notions related to social security, Aline Klingenberg (University of Groningen) and Dr. Maria Mousmouti (CECL Athens and University of London) shared their knowledge on responsible research and the important role of ethics in research while Prof. Ruud Muffels (University of Tilburg) referred to an economic approach to social security research.

The detailed programme can be found at <http://efese.eu/the-second-efese-young-researchers-school-was-concluded-with-great-success/>. The presentations of the event can be found at <http://efese.eu/the-second-efese-young-researchers-school-was-concluded-with-great-success/>. The feedback from the participants is available at <http://efese.eu/the-second-efese-young-researchers-school-was-concluded-with-great-success/>.

## C2: Intensive programme for teaching staff in Leuven

### “Transforming social security education: from regular to blended courses”, Leuven, February 2016

The first EFESE training event took place at the installations of the KU Leuven and was organized in two parts:

Part I consisted on a poster session. The aim was to give participants the opportunity to learn from practical examples of blended learning in diverse fields (within and apart from Social Security). Twelve national and international speakers shared their experiences and inspire others to do the same. The posters are available online at <http://efese.eu/efeselibrary/>.

Part II consisted on workshops and teamwork aiming at transforming social security education, from the regular to the blended approach. In the mornings, trainees were assigned to workshops in one of three tracks: the pedagogical format (track 1), screencast – video production (track 2), and the content of social security education (track 3). In the afternoons, trainees were assigned to a team (of three persons) with the mission of developing a blended course.

The training materials were available before, during, and after the training via the Toledo platform in “the EFESE Trainees’ Corner”. Later on, an open-access online manual<sup>1</sup> was created to share the training materials and all the presentations with the public in general.

Selection of the trainees- All project partners were invited to list possible trainees within their organisation. A first selection of trainees was made on the basis of the ideas already developed on the curriculum building and the outcomes of the survey on the availability of social security education conducted by CECL. Once the first group of possible trainees was approached, a wider invitation was send out enabling also the satellite partners and third parties to join the training. There was a total of 54 participants representing 14 institutions of higher education and/or research from 10 EU member states and one non-EU country.

Evaluation of the training- The first indicator of the success of the training was the permanent enthusiasm and commitment of the trainees despite the long days and intensive work. This was confirmed by the positive feedback from the trainees (to be found at <http://efese.eu/the-training-program-transforming-social-security-education-from-regular-to-blended-courses-was-completed-successfully/>).

The detailed programme can be found at <http://efese.eu/the-training-program-transforming-social-security-education-from-regular-to-blended-courses-was-completed-successfully/>

A nice selection of pictures from the event is available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/140798450@N03/sets/72157666106719821>

Furthermore, a video was created to give an overview of this training and to promote the next one in Groningen (October 2016):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k23cD8-leUs>

## C2: Intensive programme for teaching staff in Groningen

### “EFESE Training week #2”, Groningen & Schiermonnikoog, October 2016

The second EFESE training week, which was hosted by the University of Groningen, was organised in the Netherlands, in the cities of Groningen and Schiermonnikoog. The event was attended by 55 participants, trainers and trainees. The training week consisted of two parts, which were thematically designed to address the needs of the project. The first part of the week (Mo-We) had the ambition to help advance the progress on the development of blended courses according to the established pedagogical and IT format. The second part of the

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://efese.coursesites.com>. Username and password: efeseguest

week (Th-Fr) aimed to contribute towards curriculum building by exposing the interim products of the project to a larger group of project participant and externals, and by gathering critical feedback. These broadly formulated ambitions of the training week were translated into 4 more narrowly defined objectives, all of which were well attained.

In the first place, the event aimed to facilitate the further development of the courses, the work on which had been initiated during the first training week in Leuven. This was achieved by providing extensive pedagogical and AV support. Participants were put together in a large room, where they could sit in groups and prepare their course material. There were at all times at least 3 trainers providing on-site pedagogical support. The available recording facilities were 4: 1 professional studio with a cameraman and 3 booths for individual recordings (where authors could record their courses using Screencast-O-Matic). The schedule for recording was an ambitious one, however, everything went according to plan, and the results are impressive: in less than 3 days of time, all present teams managed to record at least one video. The introduction videos of 5 existing courses were recorded, as well as 11 further lesson videos.

In the second place, the training week had the objective to attract new participants to the exchange initiative, which could potentially enrich the collection of courses available for exchange, and for integration into the common curriculum. The objective was achieved by promoting the event under researchers at the University of Groningen. As a result, 4 new teams joined and 4 additional courses were drafted. All new coming teams managed to setup the course guide according to the established pedagogical format, and to record an introduction video.

In the third place, the event aimed to submit the planned curriculum, which was developed by the partners in the months before, to an external visitation. This goal was realised by organising a visitation by an independent committee consisting of two members. The visitation committee examined the planned curriculum, as reflected in the proposal for a joint master, and the proposal itself. The received feedback was taken into account when drafting the final version of the common curriculum and the proposal.

In the fourth place, the training week provided the possibility to present an extended update on the progress of the project and on some urging matters to the wider circle of participants in the initiative, in order to receive feedback. This was organised in the context of a plenary session which lasted for one full day and consisted of four rounds. In the first round, the managing partners reflected on the progress of the EFESE project. Afterwards, the outcome of the external visitation of the common curriculum was presented. In the third round, participants were introduced to the approach which the project is adopting with regard to the copyright issues and the choice for a course exchange platform. The fourth round consisted of a presentation of the feasibility study on the common master. In the final feedback round, the project partners had the opportunity to collect valuable information from the participants on the discussed matters.

The detailed programme can be found at <http://efese.eu/second-training-event-groningen-the-netherlands-10-14-october-2016/> and feedback from the trainees is available at <http://efese.eu/the-second-efese-training-program-in-goningen-received-positive-feedback/>