2025
in 25 pages

EADTU

Europe's leading institutional association for **online, open** and **distance higher education**

Sharing expertise & Capacity building

Co-funded by the European Union

EADTU organised several capacity-building activities in 2025, including webinars and on-site, thematic exchanges.

An example is EADTU' annual **staff training event on support services in online and distance education**, hosted by UniDistance Suisse (Brig, June 2025), focusing on interoperability, HR best practices, engaging and retaining students in digital education, online assessment, and the role of AI in online, open and distance learning.

The activities provided practical, hands-on guidance and peer learning opportunities for EADTU member universities, equipping staff with concrete tools and methods that can be directly applied in their day-to-day professional practice.

Sharing expertise & Capacity building (1/2)

EMBED+ enhances blended education in European higher education institutions by refining the European Maturity Model for Blended Education (EMBED). The project delivers an updated **maturity framework that helps universities assess, design and improve blended practices** at course, programme and institutional levels.

EMBED+ also develops a hybrid open resources hub with toolkits, materials and self-assessment tools, and supports a transnational community of practice to foster exchange and capacity building. The project promotes continuous professional development and evidence-informed strategies for embedding blended education sustainably across Europe.

Follow the project on **embedplus.eu**

Sharing expertise & Capacity building (2/2)

EMC at the I-HE2025 conference | Hagen, 08 Oct. 2025

Lifelong Learning & Microcredentials

EADTU **advanced lifelong learning and microcredentials** through actions supporting modular education, in close collaboration with the European MOOC Consortium (EMC).

This included its role as Steering Committee member of EMOOCs 2025 in Paris, contributions to MCMC2025 in Zagreb and I-HE2025 in Hagen, dissemination of the Common Microcredential Framework (CMF), and providing institutional guidance via EMC partner platforms.

Together, EMC and EADTU strengthened the development, visibility, trust, transparency, and recognition of high-quality MOOCs and microcredentials across Europe. EADTU also contributed expertise as a steering group member and partner in the **Nuffic projects** STACQ (2020–2022), AR25 (2023–2025), and AR2030 (2025–2027), advancing automatic recognition of microcredentials.

Lifelong Learning & Microcredentials

IncluDE project | Brussels, 30 Oct. 2025

Diversity, Inclusion & Student Retention

IncluDE

In 2025, EADTU launched the IncluDE project, bringing together fourteen partner organisations from twelve countries.

IncluDE focuses on the development of **a European Reference Framework for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity in Higher Education**. The framework will support higher education institutions in assessing their current practices, identifying gaps and planning targeted improvements.

By providing a shared reference point, IncluDE supports educators, administrators and institutional leadership in strengthening inclusive learning environments and contributes to building a fairer and more equitable European higher education system.

Follow the progress on **include.eadtu.eu**

Diversity, Inclusion & Student Retention (1/2)

Complementing the work of IncluDE, EADTU supported diversity, inclusion and student support by strengthening ongoing knowledge sharing across its community.

A central element of this work is the EADTU Diversity & Inclusion Good Practices repository. The updated resources build on expert exchanges at the I-HE2025 Conference, where **institutional practices and research on inclusion and student retention** were shared. Selected contributions, including empirical studies on dropout in distance education, were also published in the I-HE2025 conference proceedings and further translated into good practices showcased on the repository, supporting mutual learning among EADTU members.

Visit **diversity-inclusion.eadtu.eu**

Diversity, Inclusion & Student Retention (2/2)

Personalisation, AI & Digital Transformation

Personalisation is a growing strategic priority in higher education, particularly in online and distance learning. Recognising its importance, EADTU established a **Task Force on the Personalisation of Education**, bringing together experts from thirteen member institutions to explore definitions, institutional strategies, pedagogical models and enabling technologies.

The resulting **Task Force report** synthesises this work into a shared conceptual framework, practical insights and strategic recommendations for implementing personalisation in a scalable, ethical and learner-centred way. The publication serves as a reference and roadmap for universities seeking to strengthen learner agency, equity and success through human-centred education.

Personalisation, AI & Digital Transformation (1/2)

The ADMIT project supports higher education institutions in the responsible and **pedagogically grounded integration of Large Language Models (LLMs) and generative AI** into teaching and learning.

Among its concrete outputs, ADMIT has produced a comprehensive overview of institutional policies and governance approaches to generative AI in higher education, identifying emerging practices and common challenges across Europe. The project has also delivered frameworks and guidance for educators, supporting the integration of LLMs into learner-centred course design and assessment practices.

Project outcomes available at **admit.eadtu.eu**

Personalisation, AI & Digital Transformation (2/2)

Innovating Higher Education

EADTU supported innovation in higher education by showcasing and analysing new teaching practices, institutional approaches and supporting tools.

A key reference was the **9th Envisioning Report for Empowering Universities**, highlighting innovative teaching and learning practices emerging across European institutions, including new approaches to pedagogy, assessment, learner engagement and the use of digital tools.

Innovation at institutional level was further explored through a **Webinar Week on Personalisation of Education**, which addressed how universities are developing new organisational approaches, governance models and digital tools to support personalised learning pathways at scale.

Innovating Higher Education (1/2)

EADTU also fostered innovation through open events and research exchange, connecting experimentation with evidence and policy. The **Innovating Higher Education Conference (I-HE2025) hosted by FernUniversität in Hagen** brought together educators and institutional leaders to discuss innovation in online, open and distance education. The Proceedings reflect the diversity of research contributions, institutional practices and strategic perspectives.

Technological innovation was further addressed through XR2Learn, which focuses on the **pedagogical integration of extended reality (XR) technologies in education**. XR2Learn explores how immersive technologies can support learning design, skills development and new forms of educational experience, contributing to EADTU's broader work on innovation in digital education.

Innovating Higher Education (2/2)

EADTU-EU Summit | Brussels, 14 May 2025

Policy, Advocacy & Cooperation

EADTU strengthened its policy and advocacy role by contributing to European-level dialogue on lifelong learning, microcredentials, digital education, inclusion, and the responsible use of AI. Acting as the **European focal point of the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE)**, EADTU also brought European institutional perspectives into global discussions on digital education and generative AI.

Building on earlier contributions on interoperability in the European Digital Education Hub, and continued engagement in the interoperability working group, a key moment was the **EADTU–EU Summit in Brussels, dedicated to interoperability** in European higher education. The Summit convened institutional leaders and stakeholders, exploring shared approaches for cross-institutional learning and mobility, strengthening links between institutional practice and policy priorities.

Policy, Advocacy & Cooperation (1/2)

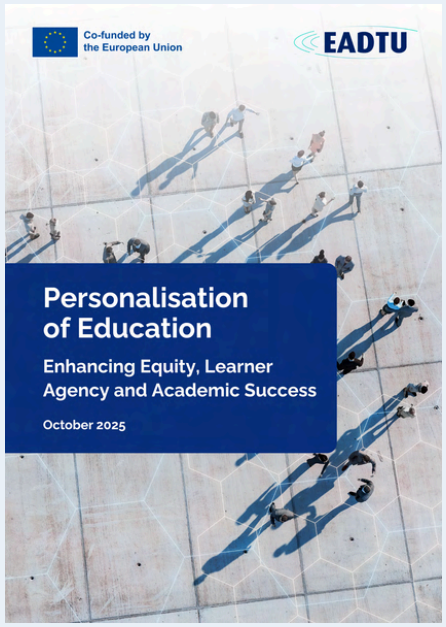
European University Alliances formed an important context for EADTU's cooperation work in 2025, where **models and frameworks developed by EADTU were actively applied.**

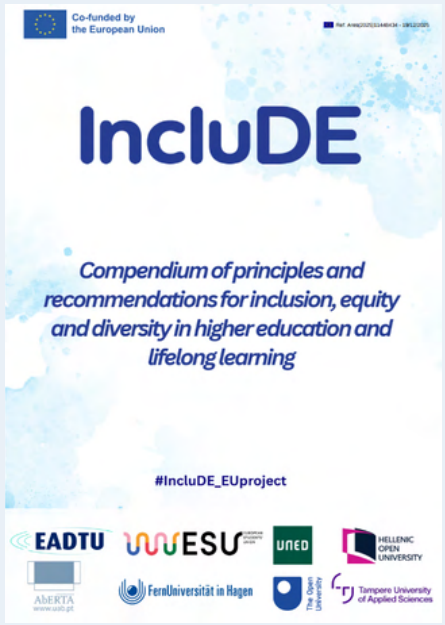
In particular, EADTU contributed expertise on lifelong learning, microcredentials, quality in digital education, capacity building, inclusion and virtual mobility as an associated partner in the **OpenEU** alliance.

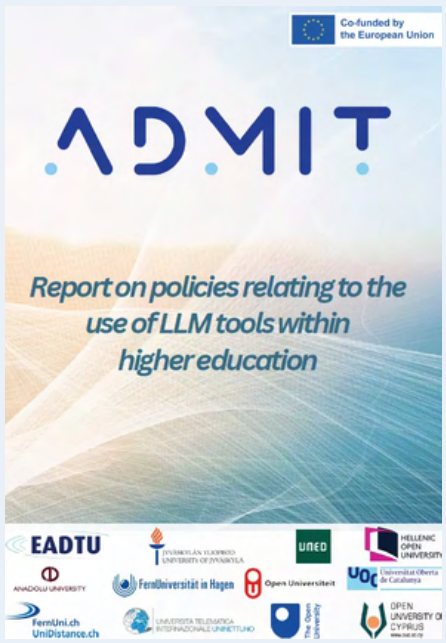
Beyond alliances, EADTU's models are increasingly taken up by other stakeholders as well. An example is the invitation by **A3ES** to contribute to a national publication on distance education, where instruments such as E-xcellence and EMBED were referenced as tools supporting quality enhancement and institutional maturity in digital and hybrid education.

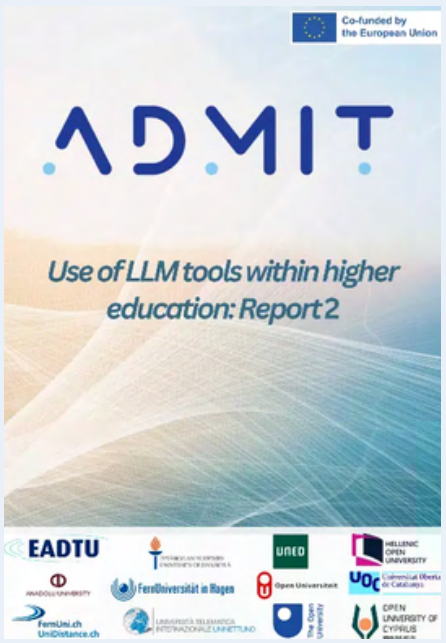
Policy, Advocacy & Cooperation (2/2)

Publications and Outcomes









Publications and Outcomes

EADTU General Assembly | Hagen, 08 Oct. 2025

Management & Members

EADTU Members

EADTU ensures continuity, transparency and strategic alignment through its statutory governance structures.

The EADTU General Assembly, Supervisory Board, Rectors' Conference and Associations Conference meets regularly to review progress, discuss policy developments and steer priorities.
Visit the EADTU website for an overview of all member universities.

Management & Members (1/2)

EADTU Office

The EADTU Office in Maastricht is the central administrative and operational hub, responsible for the day-to-day management of the network, the implementation of strategic action lines and annual activity plans, coordination of projects and events, support for European-level collaboration in online, open, and distance higher education, and engagement with European policies and policy developments.

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Management & Members (2/2)

Coming Soon

The **ETHICAI project**, funded by the Erasmus+ programme, brings together EADTU member universities, ministries, and education authorities to support the ethical integration of generative AI in higher education through large-scale pilots, practical tools, and policy-aligned frameworks. The project starts in early 2026. Register for the EADTU newsletter to stay informed.

EADTU launched a Task Force on **Joint Degrees**, bringing together members to exchange experiences and key challenges. The Task Force develops a practical reference model for joint degrees, aligned with European Degree developments. Preliminary outcomes are expected at the EADTU–EU Summit 2026 (29 April).

Photo credits for this report
Christian Pfammatter: p. 1 (left) and 2
FU-Hagen/Volker Wiciok: p. 1 (right), 15 and 21

Coming Soon