

Digital Reality in Foreign Language Education for Medical Professionals DR FLEMP

The project dossier

Introduction

Virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), or a combination of both – mixed reality (MR) have dominated tech headlines in recent years with their ability to immerse users in a virtual, yet safe, world. Gaming is one of the more well-known VR, AR or MR uses but their potential does not stop here. In teaching, VR, AR and MR can improve education by providing students with memorable and immersive experiences that would otherwise not be possible.

Project aim

To support digital transformation in foreign language education in the EU, whilst focusing on filling the existing gaps and raising efficacy of foreign language education by nursing and caretaking students, as well as already qualified professionals, through immersive learning environments that can address the challenges of digitization in educational systems.

Project consortium

The DR FLEMP project is initiated by International Academy of Management and Technology, INTAMT (<https://www.facebook.com/INTAMI>), Germany and co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme. It involves a partnership consortium of six higher education institutions with vivid experience, specialized in nursing education and training, digital learning applications development and multimedia didactics: SPRACHiNVEST GmbH (<https://www.facebook.com/SPRACHiNVEST/>), Germany; TECHNOLOGIKO PANEPISTIMIO KYPROU (<https://www.cut.ac.cy/?languageld=1>), Cyprus; Utenos kolegija (<https://www.utenos-kolegija.lt/en/>), Lithuania; UMEA UNIVERSITET (<https://www.umu.se/en/>), Sweden.

Project results

The expected overall result would be improving the speed and efficiency of language education for healthcare professions, thus securing external replenishment of the labour market in fields of nursing and caretaking, i.e., overall quality of healthcare in Europe. To achieve this the project consortium partners will develop methodology and recommendations on selection of the educational contents to be transferred into a mixed reality format; methodology and a set of tools for a productive cross-discipline collaboration between teaching staff in nursing and care and language education specialists involved in design, programming and testing of MR applications; will develop a testing and demonstration toolkit; will develop mixed technology language education modules, based on 3D graphics or computer-generated imagery (CGI), augmented reality with integrated speech recognition functions for practical application of training scenarios into medical language teaching curriculum and teaching and learning practice; will conduct and empirical study on the impact on learning success of training scenarios in professional language skills improvement for nursing and caretaking; will develop a training course on design, development, adjustment of MR training modules and their integration into language teaching and learning.

Role of Utena UAS

Utena UAS will contribute to successful implementation of the DR FLEMP project with its expertise in teaching English for Specific Purposes (Nursing, other medical professionals): subject syllabus development, teaching/learning content identification and development, testing; teaching international students; developing training content for medical professionals.

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The staff of the Faculty of Medicine involved in the project has extensive experience in the field – the development of the study programmes, study content for medical professionals, digital resources, conducting distance education and training, participation in the national and international projects, conducting applied science activity and research.

Resulting from DR FLEMP project partnership Utena UAS will gain skills and tools to better understand, use and develop immersive reality-based learning instruments; the trained staff will be able to use the developed guidelines and tools to manage and implement MR-based training modules for learning the professional language, especially of the field of nursing, and to create an operative infrastructure to sustain MR-based training in health and care education.

In addition, digital competencies of the teachers will be improved. Utena UAS will contribute to and will be able to make use of the shared bank of ideas, sharing the project results in various networks, expanding scientific capacity.

Project duration

The DR FLEMP project starts 01-01-2022 and finishes 01-03-2024.

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