

StudES Multiplier Event 1 – Report

The event took place on the 11th of January 2023 in Gdańsk, Poland, on the Gdańsk University of Technology campus in a form of an interactive workshop. 30 participants took part in the workshop. All the participants represented various departments of the Gdańsk University of Technology. Most of the participants were academic teachers who came to learn more about their own digital skills' development possibilities and ways to enrich their didactics with digital technologies. Some of them were also working for the centre for teachers' development and support.

The goal of the workshop was to disseminate the outcomes of the project and to raise awareness of the digital competence development in the profession of academic teachers, the need of transforming classic education into digitally enhanced one.

To achieve that goal, participants first took part in a moderated discussion on the development of digital skills for academic teachers. They shared their experiences and described the challenges they faced. Most of them pointed out the necessity of upskilling in digital didactics. They usually received support in their institutions only when it comes to digital infrastructure, but not regarding digital pedagogy. The topic of the COVID-19 pandemic appeared early in the discussion. It was usually a turning point for a lot of universities to look closer at the current teaching practices, as the remote environment highlighted a lot of fossilized practices and underlying problems, such as accessibility, inclusion, and well-being.

During the discussion, participants named a number of problems, challenges and competency gaps that they face when incorporating e-learning and digital technologies into teaching. Then, their ideas were divided them into four main areas: (1) Building and maintaining contact with students; (2) Supporting students' engagement and motivation; (3) Online Assessment; (4) Pedagogical and didactic skills in technology-enhanced environment. After the discussion, participants took part in an interactive workshop based on the jigsaw method. In groups, they were exploring the topics that correspond with the four problematic areas they had recognized during discussion. The materials they used were the "Mind the Gap" course, the recommendations and quality standards - all developed within the StudES project. Based on the materials, and questions to facilitate discussion and deeper thinking processes, participants learnt about ways and methods to improve their digitally enhanced didactics. Finally, groups were asked to discuss the competency set for academic teacher profession. They created personas of academic teachers and attributed them with various skills, knowledge, behaviours, attitudes, tools and methods.

In the end, groups shared the workshop's outcomes. Their ideas were very versatile and creative. Workshop facilitators asked participants for feedback on the StudES materials they used during the workshop. The feedback was very positive. Participants were asking for access to all the materials and StudES project results, and wanted to learn more about the project and the partnership.