

ERASMUS+ Programme 2020 – KA2 High Education
Project n°: 2020-1-IE02-KA226-HE-000786
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Press Release

HELP – Home Electronics Laboratory Platform

The European network for HELP – Home Electronics Laboratory Platform, co-financed by the Erasmus+ Programme, has successfully concluded the first meeting (19, May 2021) to launch the project and start implementing the tasks required to have a prototype HELP system deployed and evaluated in courses in all 4 EU University partners in the semester commencing in January 2022

The COVID19 pandemic has caused a seismic change in the delivery of third-level education with the widespread adoption of remote teaching and digital technologies to support over 220 million students whose studies have been disrupted. In science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses many complimentary activities including laboratory work, traditionally performed in presence, have been curtailed or substituted with a virtual or simulation-based experience. These approaches do not have the benefits of tactile, hands-on activities where students experiment using equipment encountered in professional settings to observe, manipulate and understand complex physical processes.

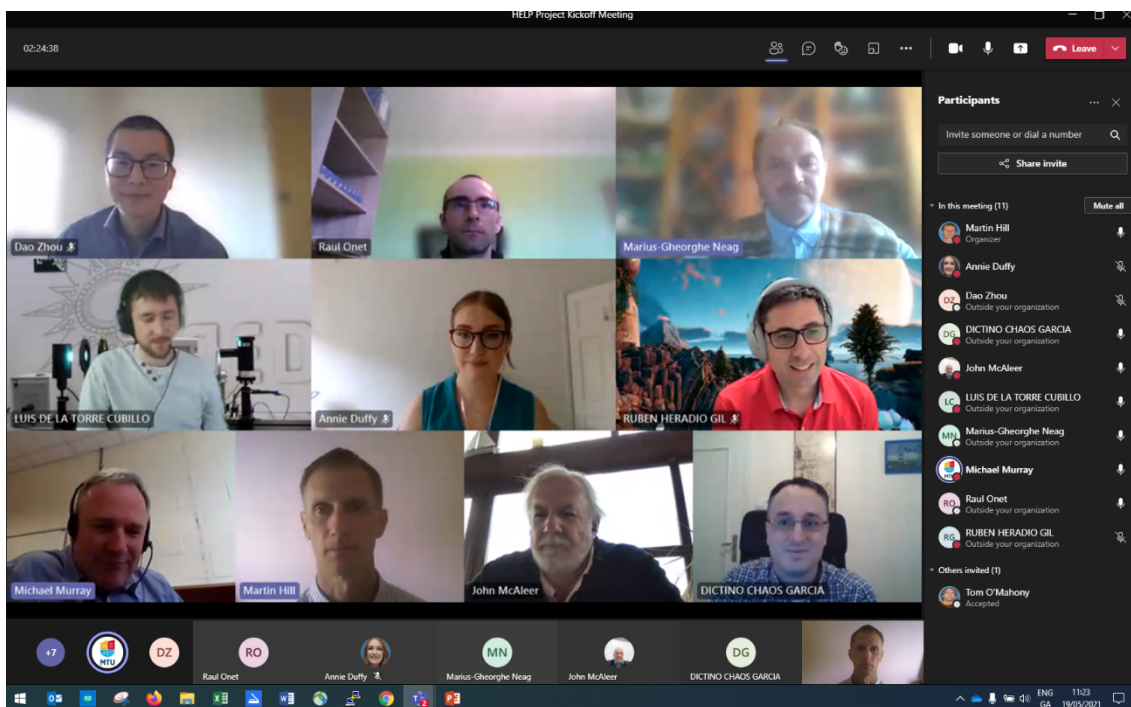
The HELP (Home Electronics Laboratory Platform) project delivers an innovative response to the challenges of COVID19 for the operation of STEM labs. In the longer term, providing authentic lab experiences in the pandemic era has created an opportunity to rethink how students can best acquire practical competences and build their understanding of STEM subject. HELP is driven by research results that show active teaching methods promote effective teaching and learning and increase students' satisfaction. HELP supports active learning with students having practical, constructive, industry-relevant learning experiences undertaking laboratory work off-campus using low-cost equipment which gives the same interface as a laboratory-based experience. Using the HELP approach, future STEM programme delivery could be revised to blend at-home, virtual and on-campus lab sessions to the mutual benefit of students, faculty and the institute management. This will also improve access to STEM programmes.

The HELP platform integrates three core elements: 1) HELP KIT for students to undertake laboratory activities at home, 2) HELP COURSES to guide students through learning activities and 3) HELP ONLINE an online support tool for staff and students to collaborate. Thus HELP offers an innovative learner-centred process to maximise the remote lab experience during and after the current pandemic.

The HELP project will run for 2 years (2021-2023) and is made up of a consortium of 4 EU universities from different Member States, specialized in training in electronic engineering

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technologies using innovative training methodologies. The participating EU universities are: Munster Technological University from Ireland as coordinator, Universitatea Tehnica Cluj-Napoca from Romania, Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia from Spain and Aalborg Universitet from Denmark



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 UNED

Who we are

- UNED is an open distance education university
 - Headquarters (Schools, Faculties...)
 - Associate Centers (face-to-face lessons)
- Think of the Open University in the UK
- Born in 1972
- Largest university in Spain in terms of students
 - Around 170.000 students in total
 - Grades, Master Courses, Ph.D. programs
- Staff formed by around 2500 people – 1400 in teaching/research roles and 1100 in administration roles
- Participation in many past and ongoing European projects
 - H2020
 - Erasmus+ KA2 and KA3



Note to Editors:

To obtain more information about the project, please contact Dr Martin Hill: martin.hill@cit.ie of MTU