

NELCA - Creating the Network of Excellent ULCA Schools

KA200-HED – Cooperation partnerships in Higher Education
2023-1-SK01-KA220-HED-000158697

Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement that we welcome you to the first issue of our newsletter dedicated to the unique NELCA project (Network for Learner-Centered Approaches). This project responds to the need to modernize educational institutions and promote innovations that place the learner at the heart of the educational process.

Learn & Lead Innovation, as the cornerstone of the entire project, is built on three key pillars that also represent the core values of NELCA:

- 1. Learner-Centered Approach:** *A personalized focus on the needs, goals, and interests of learners forms the foundation of a successful educational process.*
- 2. The 9+0-0 Principles of a Smart Person:** *A framework that inspires and guides schools, teachers, and learners toward long-term success and innovative approaches.*
- 3. Excellence in Education (KNOWLO Framework):** *Inspired by the EFQM model, this pillar transforms traditional schools into modern learning organizations with a focus on quality and strategy.*

Through the NELCA project and the support of Learn & Lead Innovation, we aim to create the ULCA network of schools that will become leaders in innovative education. Our mission goes beyond providing schools with tools, courses, and methodologies—we strive to build communities of teachers and managers who work together to improve education for all.

This newsletter will regularly bring you updates, successes, and opportunities to become part of this transformative journey. Thank you for joining us on this mission for better education!

Sincerely,

Jana Chynoradská, Development Lead, Harmony Academy, Slovakia



NELCA

Upcoming Activities

July 8 - 13

Trainings on “Building Excellent School” and “Creating Visions at School” at Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius

July 15 - 16

Management Meeting 2 at Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius

Vanda Novokšonova, a certified EFQM Trainer and Global Awards Assessor, emphasizes sustainable growth and problem elimination through the excellence approach to achieve success in schools.

Jana Chynoradská, an author and mentor, introduces innovative methods based on the 9 + 00 Learn & Lead principles to inspire school staff to proactively create visions for growth and desired outcomes.

NELCA Kick-Off Meeting Highlights



Date:

October 26–27, 2023

Location:

Trnava, Slovakia

The NELCA project officially launched, focusing on innovative educational reforms and international collaboration.

Project Goals: Development of educational courses and the establishment of the International ULCA Association to support innovative teaching and school management.

Upcoming Activities:

Monthly online meetings

(start December 8, 2023)

Training sessions in Lithuania

(July 8–13, 2024).

Management meeting in Latvia

(December 2024).

Work Packages:

Creation of an online interactive tool and ULCA teacher assessment methodology.

Development of blended learning programs for creative methodologies and digital skills.

Face-to-face training on building visions in schools and achieving excellence.

Key Decisions:

Observations of teaching to begin immediately, with structured mentor evaluations.

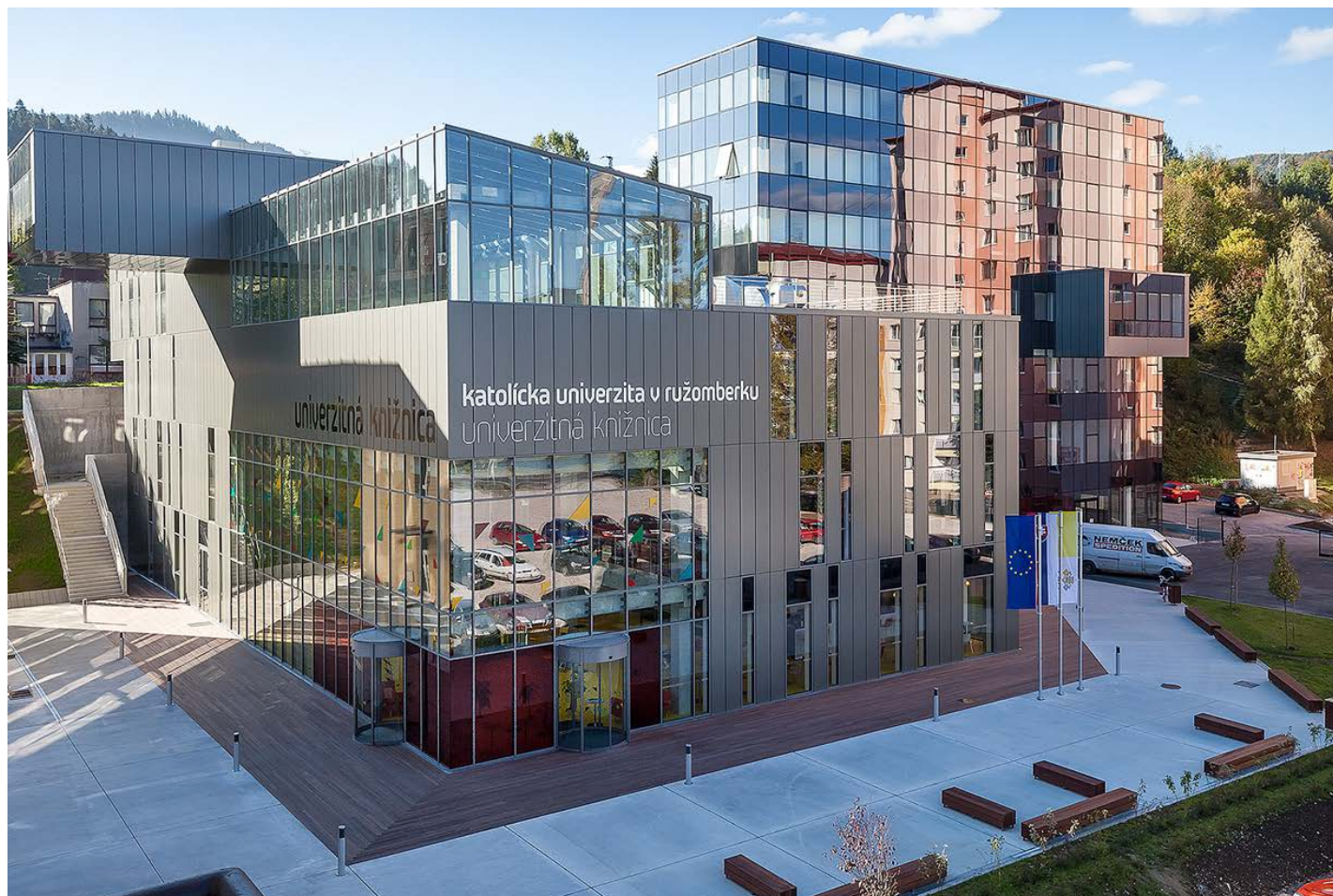
Partners to design the NELCA logo by December's online meeting.

Introduction of ULCA awards and annual conferences for association members.

The meeting concluded with participants inspired and energized to drive the project forward.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Catholic University in Ružomberok was founded in 2000 and consists of four faculties – Faculty of Education, Faculty of Arts and Letters, Faculty of Health and Faculty of Theology. The Faculty of Education is the biggest one. The University has a modern library and campus. The university education at the Faculty of Education is based on the European Credit Transfer System, which guarantees compatibility with leading educational institutions and thus allows student mobility between universities throughout the European Union. The Faculty of Education, at the Catholic University, offers all three levels of studies - Bc., Mgr. and PhD.



PARTNERS

Center for innovations and digital education Dig-Ed is non-government organization with the vision to develop learning environments where students' 21st century skills will be developed, and they will be prepared for living in this constantly changing world. The main focus of Dig-Ed activities is on empowering teachers' competences and skills in order to create innovative learning environments that will stimulate students' learning. Different activities for increasing digital competences among educators in order to provide means for innovative deployment of digital learning tools, are part of the organization's activities.

Sharing good practices and learning from each other through continuous communication and collaboration is starting point of all organization's activities. In addition to this, Dig-Ed puts emphasize on creating digital education materials in local language.



Eurofortis is a dynamic centre based in Riga, Latvia which was transformed in 2011 into Biedrība Eurofortis – not-for-profit organisation working in training field, personal and professional competence development. Biedrība Eurofortis takes active part in European educational projects realized within the framework of Erasmus+ Programme and ensures availability of educational and up-to-date learning materials, tools and methods, as well as seminars and different training within projects mostly aimed at identification, development and improvement of various competences and knowledge.



HARMONY Academy is a pioneering language school with its dedicated **Centre of Innovation – Learn & Lead**. Established in 2000, HARMONY Academy has grown to operate across Slovakia and foster learning partnerships both locally and within the European Union.

At the heart of its pedagogical philosophy lies the **Learner-Centered Approach**, which prioritizes the needs, goals, and growth of every individual student. Over the years, HARMONY has developed its own **course management system**, seamlessly integrated into the innovative developmental framework of Learn & Lead. This system ensures a structured, flexible, and effective learning experience for all students, while promoting excellence in education.

With a strong emphasis on innovation, collaboration, and inclusivity, HARMONY Academy continues to lead the way in redefining language education in Slovakia and beyond.



Mykolas Romeris University is an international university located in Lithuania. Modern, creative and entrepreneurial academic community has raised MRU to the leading university in social sciences and interdisciplinary research in Lithuania. MRU cooperates closely with over 300 universities, public and private institutions, takes part in academic, professional and inter-sectorial networks. MRU has a full membership of the following international higher education organizations: International Association of Universities, European University Association, etc. Currently MRU enrolls approximately 7.000 students and employs about 500 academic staff. The university offers more than 100 doctoral, master and bachelor study programs.



Municipality Primary School “StrashoPindjur” is a developed school in a small town Negotino, North Macedonia. There are 800 students studying in the school. “StrashoPindjur”(OOU) has students with different backgrounds and ethnics. Most of the students are Macedonians, but we also have Roma students, Albanians and Turks. That is why “StrashoPindjur” is promoting approaches that promote the students in the center of the classroom. That way the school believes that they can reach every student to help them fulfill his fill capacity.



Primary School Dobje which includes a kindergarten, is a small public institution located in the middle of Kozjansko region near Celje in Slovenia. Modern equipped with professionally qualified employees makes an important learning and cultural centre within a local community. Besides a dedication to high quality learning materials development, all the employees make great effort to maintain good relationships and build on open and respectful communication among all - students, parents, themselves and external partners.



Primary School Sládkovičova Slovakia is a public school established in 1988. It is located in the small city of Ružomberok, in the northern part of Slovakia. There are 300 students from the surrounding area. Our guiding principle, "All children are good," symbolizes our individualized approach to students and open learning environment. This academic year, our first-grade students have transitioned to a new curriculum reform that emphasizes their practical application of knowledge in real-life situations, problem-solving skills, and the development of practical skills. The school is actively involved in numerous projects focused on healthy lifestyles, environmental protection, mediation, and interpersonal skills. Our highly qualified teachers are constantly engaged in professional development, ensuring that our students benefit from innovative teaching methods and creative learning activities.



Vilnius Pranas Mašiotas Primary School is located in the capital of Lithuania, Vilnius. It is a primary school that provides a compulsory primary education according to the Education Laws of Lithuania. There are 382 pupils in our school who make up four classes in each year. The team of teachers consists of motivated, energetic, qualified professionals, who are looking for innovations and implementing them, capable of change. The teachers of the school share their experience, achievements and methodological recommendations with educational institutions in Vilnius and abroad (lectures, open activities, joint projects).

