



LINQ 2015: "The Need for Change in Education: Openness as Default?"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LINQ Concludes International Open Research & Education Extravaganza

"Learning Innovations and Quality" Conference 2015 in Brussels Welcomes Eminent Researchers, Key Players in Global Learning Quality Development

Over one hundred participants from four continents gathered in Brussels to share and advance the most exciting trends in innovations and quality development for learning, education and training. Representatives from internationally-renowned education initiatives joined LINQ participants in Brussels from 11-13 May 2015. The location and attendance allowed for a rewarding shared experience with lively discussions and an intimate atmosphere.

Keynotes by Dr. Alexander Khoroshilov, Officer-in-Charge of UNESCO IITE, Dr. Grainne Conole from the University of Bath Spa, Mr. Bodo Richter from the European Commission's European Institute of Innovation and Technology, and Dr. Yves Punie from the EC Institute for Prospective Technological Studies gave the event a strong backbone upon which to base further exploration into the innovative fields of open learning.

These culminated in the International Community for Open Research and Education (ICORE - www.icore-online.org) open plenary discussion on 13 May, during which a consensus was reached supporting a culture of sharing and the need for change in education through openness. Furthermore, participants painted open education as a desired concept embracing open educational practices and resources that requires a change of paradigms and a strong vision, strategy and patience. Feedback collected during the special conference events corroborated these conclusions.

Open Discovery Space (ODS - www.opendiscoveryspace.eu) hosted a high-level preconference event regarding innovative school education on 11 May, a theme regarding which the project has collected huge international experience and reputation by involving more than 3,000 schools and 10,000 teachers. The event's great level of attendance ensured that the project was able to distribute their hard-won knowledge to education professionals from around the world. ODS has empowered stakeholders through a centralised access point for dispersed educational repositories. Furthermore, its multilingual portal engages creators in the production of new learning resources. ODS has facilitated many seminars, summer schools, training academies and events showcasing best practices like also during the LINQ preconference event. This combination has demonstrated the potential of integrating technology in school education to promote innovation and track quality on an immense scale.

On 12 May, the pioneering Inspiring Science Education project (ISE - www.inspiring-science-education.net) hosted a special conference event centred on their experience in technology-enhanced science education. Educators and other stakeholders from STEM fields and more joined them to profit from their capabilities and practical examples. ISE has established a multifaceted portal of tools and digital resources for integrating technology into STEM teaching. Their proven approach has enhanced and inspired teachers and students all over Europe to drive themselves to make their own scientific discoveries. ISE shared their success



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stories and helped interested educators inspire their own pupils and young scientists.

The complete LINQ 2015 proceedings, including accepted papers and project descriptions, can be found on the official conference webpage (www.learning-innovations.eu).

For the latest follow-up information on the conference as well as future LINQ events, please visit and like the LINQ Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LINQConference and follow LINQ on Twitter @LINQ_Conference.



**About the 4th European Conference on
Learning Innovations and Quality:**

***"The Need for Change in Education:
Openness as Default?"***



The main goal of LINQ 2015 was to bring together a variety of experts and professionals active in the field of innovations and quality in lifelong learning (LLL). LINQ supported an innovative exchange of the latest developments in learning, education and training innovations and quality on both a European and international level. Potential points of access to this field included new learning methods and design, open learning and education, technology-enhanced learning (TEL), quality standards and certification, human resources development, competences and skills, digital resources, learning materials, and online collaboration and communities.

LINQ 2015 attracted hundreds of submissions from throughout Europe, as well as Asia, America, and Africa. LINQ 2015 thus showed a continuation in the high level of interest which made LINQ 2014 such a successful conference with more than 100 participants from four continents.

More information about LINQ online:

www.learning-innovations.eu

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