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NERUPI Network
Evaluating & Researching University
Participation Interventions

**University
of Suffolk**

4th July Conference

The Role of Student Ambassadors in collaborative outreach work: HEIs, schools and other organisations

Venue: University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building

University Student ambassadors play a significant role in supporting the outreach activity of Higher Education (HE) systems in the UK and internationally. For outreach activity to be successful in supporting the progression of underrepresented groups there is a need for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to work effectively with schools and other organisations.

This event considers the ways in which ambassadors are working with schools and will include presentations on research evidence and practice from the UK and other international settings. Exploring the rich potential of collaboration and co-construction will be a focus of the day. Widening participation practitioners, student ambassadors, teachers, teacher trainers, trainee teachers, careers advisors and representatives from other organisations are all welcome to attend.

The event is part of an EU Erasmus+ Diploma focusing on developing partnerships and sharing practice in working with student ambassadors with universities in Romania, Turkey and France.

The event is fully funded and free to participants.



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Time	Session	Speakers
9.30	Coffee	
10	Welcome	
10-11	<p>Erasmus + DIPLOMA Project: Developing an inclusive and collaborative approach to student ambassador outreach</p> <p>The opening three conference presentations will be focused on research and practice that has underpinned the Erasmus+ DIPLOMA project. The Erasmus + project is a partnership with <i>University Bucharest, Romania; Catholic University of the West, France; Amasya University, Turkey and Proedus, Romania</i> focusing on the creation of outreach activities and approaches to training and support for student ambassador activity in four broad subject disciplines (Health, STEM, Social Sciences and Humanities and Art).</p>	
	<p><i>An evidence informed approach: arguments for an inclusive model of outreach with Level 1 students</i></p> <p>This presentation outlines key findings from two rapid evidence reviews undertaken to inform ways of working with ambassadors developed over the lifetime of the Erasmus + project. We use these findings to propose a model of ambassador outreach activity and training that focuses on collaboration, experiential learning and on ambassadors working inclusively with early secondary school students.</p>	Dr Clare Gartland Dr Violeta Negrea, <i>University of Suffolk</i>
	<p><i>The power of co-creation: experiences from the Diploma project</i></p> <p>This presentation focuses on the processes and benefits of co-construction and how this work empowers university students working as ambassadors. We conclude that co-creation and co-production can build community partnerships and promote the civic mission of HEIS as the shared responsibility of staff and students.</p>	Dr Ivana Lessner Listiakova & Student ambassadors: Mark Bush, Hannah Njenga Ep Byram & Daisy Ellis <i>University of Suffolk</i>
	<p><i>Co-creating and piloting a STEM activity for local school students</i></p> <p>The STEM activity pilot employed a combination of experiential learning and project-based approaches, facilitated by the presence and active involvement of student ambassadors. Findings suggest this integrated approach can enhance school students' engagement, foster critical thinking skills, and support the development of STEM efficacy. The importance of on-going interactions between ambassadors and school students, dedicated time for engagement and need for ambassador training are also highlighted.</p>	Dr Tuba Gokpinar, Student ambassadors: Omoboroji Rich & Sophia Muo <i>University of Suffolk</i> & Chas Thorpe <i>Colchester Academy</i>
11-11.30	Working collaboratively to target groups of underrepresented students	Chair: Clare Gartland <i>University of Suffolk</i>

	<p><i>Amplifying the voices of care experienced students in outreach</i> Co-construction and collaboration with care experienced student ambassadors, underpins outreach activity with young people in care. The lived experience of our ambassadors is at the core of all our development and delivery decisions and we've created a programme with their experience at the core of all our development and delivery decisions.</p>	Shauna-Aine O'Brien, <i>University of Kent</i>
	<p><i>A partnership approach to early literacy attainment raising with unaccompanied minors</i> The Reading Partners programme is a partnership that has enabled UEA Student employees to regularly visit a local college to provide one-to-one literacy support to forced migrant students enrolled on ESOL courses. This session will be a practical review of establishing a partnership with a further education provider and local authority.</p>	Liz Ferguson, & Adela Morais, (student ambassador) <i>University of East Anglia</i>
11.30-12	Coffee	
	Keynote talks: International perspectives	Chair: Dr Pere Ayling <i>University of Suffolk</i>
12-12.20	<p>Outreach Graduate Facilitators' Competencies: Initiatives and Outcomes This presentation focuses on the strategies and initiatives taken to develop effective graduate facilitators. Recognizing that competencies are also dependent on both context and content, we will elaborate on the facilitators' competencies for outreach programs in the context of STEM learning in Malaysia.</p>	Professor Lilia Halim, Nur Atiqah Jalaludin & Nurazidawati Mohamad Arsad, <i>Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia</i>
12.20-12.40	<p>Keynote: Crafting Conversations to Make Space for Learning When outreach ambassadors talk with youth, these conversations can make space for varied learning opportunities. This presentation will explore the different talk moves of ambassadors and how these can open opportunities for youth to deepen their thinking, increase their participation, or build affinity toward a discipline.</p>	Karen Miel, Rebecca D. Swanson, & Professor Merredith Portsmouth, <i>Tufts University, Boston</i>
12.40-1	<p>Keynote: School-University Partnership: A space for community based learning This presentation is derived from the School-University Partnership (SUP) project, which received funding from Erasmus+ and was implemented by the Middle East Institute of Higher Education (MEIHE) at the American University in Cairo (AUC). The presentation delves into two primary themes: the establishment of the partnership and an extended project involving one of the partnered schools.</p>	Professor Heba El-Dighaidy, <i>American University in Cairo</i>

1-1.15	Panel discussion Q&A	
1.15-2	Lunch	
2-3	<p>Collaborations and partnerships: working with schools, HEIs, ITT and other organisations</p> <p>This interactive session will start with brief presentations providing accounts of existing and planned partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Opportunities for collaboration through school partnership</i> - <i>HE collaborations supporting local schools</i> - <i>Building partnerships with students</i> <p>There will be opportunities for discussion and to share ideas about future directions.</p>	<p>Chairs: Dr Ivana Lessner- Listiakova & Cristian Dogaru, <i>University of Suffolk</i></p> <p>Amy Burt, <i>University of Kent</i></p> <p>Amy Matthews, <i>Coventry University</i></p> <p>Dr Jasmina Troshanska, <i>University of Tetova, Macedonia</i></p>
3-3.20	Panel Discussion: Implications for policy and practice	<p>Professor Heba El-Dighaidy, <i>American University in Cairo</i></p> <p>Annette Hayton, NERUPI Convenor, <i>University of Bath</i></p> <p>Amy Burt, <i>University of Kent</i></p> <p>Amy Matthews, <i>Coventry University</i></p> <p>Dr Jasmina Troshanska, <i>University of Tetova, Macedonia</i></p>
3.20-3.30	Closing comments	Dr Clare Gartland <i>University of Suffolk</i>