

EPIC Educational Pioneers and Innovators Conference

30 May - 1 June 2022

Rotterdam, Netherlands

The digital transformation in Higher Education

The Dutch Acceleration program was showcased during the EPIC conference in Rotterdam from 31 May to 1 June 2022. It signified the knowledge sharing on the acceleration of innovative practices in higher education in the Netherlands as well as worldwide. The conference presented the most current trends in technology-enhanced innovation in higher education. The key elements presented during the various sessions were insightful and applicable as a basic blueprint for strategy development, planning and implementation of technology enhancement within the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at the North-West University.

The thematic discussions of the conference confirm the current digital transformation strategy and plans of FEMS and can further guide future directions and avenues to drive sustainable change in HE. In addition, the EPIC conference themes provide a road map to *inter alia* enhance digital skills, create more flexible education for students, develop and provide open educational resources and use learning analytics effectively for technology-enhanced education.

Getting to grips with digitalisation as catalyst for the desired transition in Higher Education document ([click here](#))

Conference page with keynotes and presentations slides ([click here](#))



Key elements



01 Open Educational Resources (OER)

Education will benefit more when teachers and students can easily tap into the increasingly rich range of digital open educational resources. (Dutch [Vision document](#))

02 Remote digital assessment

The opportunities offered by remote assessment are widely recognized with location- and time-independent digital assessments high on the agenda world-wide ([Work group collaboration](#))

03 Making education flexible

Micro-credentialing, standardization, flexible capacity planning, learning outcomes, online learning (remote learning), hybrid forms of face-to-face and online learning, micro-masters programs, organised collaborations and the concept of lifelong learning takes centre stage in the future of education.

EPIC flyer on flexible education ([click here](#))

Impact of flexible student paths on quality assurance ([click here](#))

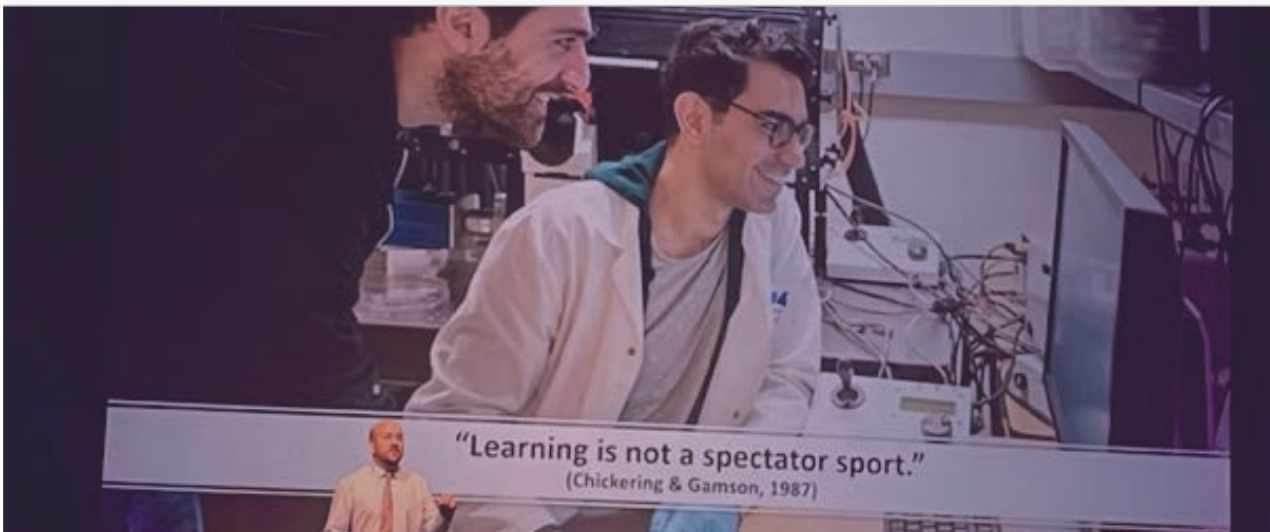
04 Digital competency development of lecturers

Lecturer professional development has to be embedded in all layers of the organisation to ensure the optimal use of the possibilities that IT offer for education. It requires new knowledge and skills development of lecturers who determine the quality of education.

A framework for digital competencies development of lecturers ([click here](#))

Toolkit for building blocks for effective lecturer professional development ([click here](#))

Key elements



05 Strengthening digital human capital

A focus of digital transformation training for students to become in-demand and industry specific professionals will continue to grow and has to strategically be addressed. Dutch Digital competence indicator ([click here](#))

Tool for Hybrid learning environment with industry involvement ([click here](#))

06 Secure and reliable use of education data

Education data types, data quality, reliability of analyses, data privacy and ethics and security is an institutional necessity. Institutions need to determine how to use student data for improved teaching and learning.

Download the magazines and read how it has been already been implemented. Magazine 1, 2 and 3 ([click here](#))

07 Evidence informed educational innovation with IT

Knowledge informs educational design practice in an appropriate and timely manner and will play a significant role in future for the innovation of teaching and learning.

Good practices template ([click here](#))

Instrument template ([click here](#))

Key elements applied to FEMS and TELIT-SA

The key elements identified from the Dutch acceleration program is hereafter linked to the current faculty plan with suggestions of additional initiatives and projects that can be implemented within FEMS and TELIT-SA to augment and accelerate innovative technology-enhanced teaching, learning and assessment.

PLANS



Primary areas for increased acceleration

Elements from the Dutch acceleration are linked to current and possible new initiatives, plans and projects within FEMS and TELIT-SA, proposing future developments ensuring technology enhanced teaching, learning and assessment.

Micro-credentials

FEMS Inc.
Development of a degree structure for flexible student curriculum choice and study path.

Use the Dutch acceleration pilot as a blueprint to launch a similar pilot with interested universities - start with one module.

Micro-credential pilot study outline and details ([click here](#))

Sport Management Certificate using micro-credentials and SLPs - focused on enhanced digital skills.

Open Educational Resources

Identification of more modules for OER content inclusion. Collaborate with new UNESCO chair for knowledge sharing and skills enhancement of lecturers to accelerate OERs in FEMS.

FEMS Inc. - New curricula development using OER.

Develop OER Vision document similar to Dutch example (establish a task team).

Open Educational Resources field lab ([click here](#))

Digital assessment

Cirrus - Enhance the pedagogical and digital assessment knowledge and skills of lecturers - achieve impact and successes with specific modules.

"Closing the assessment loop" research project to inform assessment practices and increase outputs.

Create an online, self-paced learning platform with screen recording videos, activities and instruction for Cirrus training as business opportunity.



4 Growth areas

DIGITAL COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT OF LECTURERS

Development of a measurement instrument of digital skills development areas with a new diagnostic tool (similar to Academic Professional Development Assessment tool)
Use current projects to enhance digital skills.

STRENGTHENING DIGITAL HUMAN CAPITAL (Student's digital skills according the industry needs)

FEMS Inc.
Explore micro-credentials with new curriculum development linked to real-world scenarios.

GAME DEVELOPMENT

Develop a game for entrant students and staff for enhanced digital literacy and soft skills development
FEMS Inc.
Serious game development (Dutch game development [example click here](#))

EVIDENCE INFORMED EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

TELIT-SA new eye-tracking project - three-year cycle research initiative plan to enhance research outputs and focus to inform LMS and online learning education in FEMS.



Dutch acceleration elements linked to current FEMS and TELIT-SA initiatives with possible initiatives and plans are summarized within a Word document to serve as working document for continuous up-date and strategic expansion.



REPORT AND PLAN COMPILED BY



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Website

EPIC acceleration plan web page ([click here](#))



ALL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Link to all presentations ([click here](#))

