

## Newsletter

02/2020

### Starting date

01.11.2019

### Duration:

28 months

### Partners

Lodz University of  
Technology (Poland) -  
project coordinator



University of Thessaly  
(Greece)



University of Aveiro  
(Portugal)



University of Library  
Studies and Information  
Technologies (Bulgaria)



Tallinn University  
(Estonia)

# High5 project

## Transdisciplinary Methodology for Integrated Design in Higher Education

**AIM:** Creation of a new methodology of solving engineering/business problems - Integrated Design approach. It is based on already existing methods and approaches:

- Design Thinking
- Problem Based Learning
- Sustainable development,
- Circular economy,
- Innovation thinking,
- Entrepreneurial skills.



### Key Actions:

- Formation of Integrated Design on the bases of common knowledge and experience
- Elaboration of Materials for both teachers and students
- Creation of on-line course for teachers
- Conduction of student's team projects during International summer schools
- Evaluation of projects
- Preparation of Integrated Design course program
- Collecting good practices in handbook form
- Boosting creativity of various target groups
- Organizing Project's Final Conference to share with the world: Integrated Design

## Contact Us

### Project website

[high5project.eu](https://high5project.eu)

### Email

[high5project@gmail.com](mailto:high5project@gmail.com)

## Project realization in COVID times

In March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemics brought the High5 project new challenges to face. A few planned actions had to be postponed and therefore, the whole project time realization needed to be extended. One of the most crucial element of High5 are international summer schools. Taking into consideration current situation the planned school in Aveiro (Portugal) in July 2020 was postponed for 2021. In that way project consortium is ready to organize two international summer schools in one year – first one in July in Portugal, second one in September in Greece. High5 people hope to be able to prepare both events in coming summer!

Not only the summer school was affected by difficult times, but also Teachers' Training in Design Thinking and entrepreneurial skills that should be held in Sofia, Bulgaria in May 2020. After long discussions the training was put off and probably it will be organized in on-line version at the beginning of 2021. Instead of the training in Bulgaria the project partners came up with the idea of doing intensive on-line weeks! Such intensive on-line weeks provided us a great opportunity to stay in touch with each other and create the most valuable materials you can even imagine 😊. During the intensive on-line weeks materials for summer schools was tested, evaluated and broadly discussed. What is more, the monthly meetings (Steering Committee Meetings) took place online, as previously planned. So, the partners adapted to work in the new reality of coronavirus and organized all meetings on-line. These new times created some challenges and inspired some new ideas and crucial tasks to be incorporated in the materials and outcomes of the High5 project. However, we all miss the social aspects of Erasmus+ projects, travels around Europe, project meetings and face-to-face education...



*Teams from all partner universities in of the online meeting during Covid times*

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## Intensive on-line weeks – our way to prepare valuable materials for summer school

In May 2020, from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, first intensive on-line week was organized by Lodz University of Technology. It took place in order to prepare materials, activities and events for coming summer school to students. The project partners met every day to create day-by-day schedule for first summer school in the project, as well as the assessment of the assignments were proposed. The number of ECTS to be given to the participants was also discussed and the necessary autocratic procedure to be followed at the University of Aveiro.



*Teams from all partner universities at the Intensive on-line weeks in October 2020*

In October 2020, from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, second intensive on-line week was organized. It was time to test the materials prepared by each national team and to gather feedback what we need to improve, extend or change. Each day of the week belonged to one team. Schedule for that week was as follows:

Day 1: Get to know Sofia and its problems. Session about Innovative Thinking given by ULSIT team.

Day 2: Brainstorming session. How to come up with ideas, evaluate them and choose. Session given by DT4U (TUL) team.

Day 3: Circular Economy and Social Innovation. Session given by Aveiro (UAVR) team.

Day 4: Sustainable Development and SD goals. Session given by TU team.

Day 5: Gamification - how to engage students more. Session given by UTH team.

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## Changes in the project consortium

COVID times and a new reality influenced also on the consortium of High5. In June 2020 Euroacademy from Tallinn (Estonia) started to proceed the exit procedures. Euroacademy was forced to finish collaboration within the frame of the High5 project due to internal problems caused by COVID-19. Euroacademy met some difficulties with new students (*freshers*) and what even more importantly the university struggled to get proper accreditation. We all hope the situation in Euroacademy changes for the better! **High5 keeps the fingers crossed!**

Fortunately, there is also a good news! We have a new partner – Tallinn University, Institute of Ecology. The new partner entered the project in September 2020 and till that time it manage to get familiarized with its tasks and all goals of the project! TU is our new expert in Sustainable Development. It is responsible of providing valuable high-quality materials in that area, in this module of Integrated Design. Welcome on board!

## New partner in the project

A few words about Tallinn University.



TALLINN UNIVERSITY

**Tallinn University** is the largest university of humanities in Tallinn and the third largest public university in Estonia. Tallinn University's predecessor was founded in 1919 and the present form was established in 2005 when a number of academic institutes were consolidated into a single institution. The university has around 7000 students (with 13% of them international), around 500 academics, 6 schools, 2 colleges and 9 academic unit centres. **Institute of Ecology**, established in 1992, is a research institute under the School of Natural Science and Health. In addition to being the leading R&D institution in studying water - related ecosystems IoE actively contributes to higher education, environmental education and sustainability.

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**Centre for Educational Technology**, established in 1998, is a department within TU's School of Digital Technologies, being the leading R&D institution in the field of digital innovation and education in the Baltic countries. For interdisciplinary cooperation between different schools and institutes Research Group for Sustainability, Environmental Education and Communication Skills (SEEMIK) is formed. CET and IoE have been actively participating and also leading numerous international projects in FP6, FP7, H2020, Erasmus+, Interreg, BONUS, EU LIFE and others. This has provided TU with extensive experience on sustainability education and on the design of educational applications (specifically of serious games) and implementing it in all levels of education.

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