

Launch of EU Cooperation Partnership “DILAN”: “Digital language and communication resources for EU scientists”

KA220-HED - Cooperation partnerships in higher education

Project number 2022-1-ES01-KA220-HED-000086749

*International, interdisciplinary consortium aims to improve science communication
in society, beyond expert audiences*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

As an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership, meant to allow participating “organisations to increase the quality and relevance of their activities, to develop and reinforce their networks of partners, to increase their capacity to operate jointly at transnational level, boosting internationalisation of their activities, and through exchanging or developing new practices and methods as well as sharing and confronting ideas” (<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-a/priorities-of-the-erasmus-programme/structure>), “DILAN” capitalises on the high-level expertise of all the project partners, as well as on the complementarity existing within this international consortium.

The new EU “DILAN” project has set out to address a **key societal priority: communicating science beyond expert audiences**. Understanding that resources and training designed to enable scientists to do so are still scarce, “DILAN” will contribute to solving this problem. The project’s main objective is, thus, to improve EU scientists’ ability to communicate their science to diversified audiences. The “DILAN” consortium partners will cooperate on the design, piloting, implementation and dissemination of digital resources for professional development to assist STEM and non-STEM scientists (in particular women) to better communicate their research outcomes to society.

Consortium Partners

- CAMPUS IBERUS (coordinator of WP1)
- UNIVERSITE DE BORDEAUX, France, Aquitaine BORDEAUX - www.u-bordeaux.fr
- UNIVERSITE CLERMONT AUVERGNE, France, Auvergne Clermont-Ferrand - <https://www.uca.fr/> (coordinator of WP2)
- OSLOMET - Norway, OSLO - www.oslomet.no/en (coordinator of WP3)
- ACADEMIA DE STUDII ECONOMICE DIN BUCURESTI, Romania - www.ase.ro (coord. of WP4)
- UNIVERSITATEA OVIDIUS DIN CONSTANTA, Romania - www.univ-ovidius.ro
- FUNDACION IBERCIVIS, Spain, ZARAGOZA www.ibercivis.es (coordinator of WP5)
- KAMPAL Data Solutions <https://www.kampal.com/>

Associated Partners:

- Université de Paris, France
- Université de Grenoble, France
- University of Vlora, Albania
- University College London, UK
- Westminster University, UK

Project timeline

DILAN's start day is 31st December 2022 and end date is 31st December 2025 (36 months)

Project work plan and breakdown of activities

In year 1 we will conduct an ethnomethodological study to obtain data from EU STEM scientists (in particular women) on digital science communication practices and identify their good practices. Informed by this study, in year 2 and year 3 we will create instructional materials and develop a fully digital (online) training course, we will implement this course in the form of short courses and a MOOC and also create a virtual resource hub to help EU STEM scientists communicate more effectively to public audiences through different modes and digital media and enhance their cross-cultural sensitivity.

Regarding the project outcomes, using empirical data, we will create an inventory of good practices for communicating science online to multidisciplinary audiences. We will also create a sustainable infrastructure (a digital communication training hub) to support the resources for the two course types (testimonials of female scientists on digital communication practices, videotutorials, multiliteracy skills development tasks, guidelines for trainers). We target STEM scientists but the hub will be inclusive of non-STEM scientists.

Partner Responsibilities ("RACI matrix")

WP	Who is responsible?	Responsibilities
WP1	CAMPUS IBERUS Management and Coordination Committee (supported by Ibercivis)	All activities related to Management and coordination All deliverables related to promotional purposes
WP2	UNIVERSITE CLERMONT AUVERGNE (France) In collaboration with UNIVERSITE DE BORDEAUX (France) (supported by Kampal and all other partners)	All activities related to data compilation and data analysis of survey research All activities related to the creation of video-tutorials and deliverables (guide of good practices)
WP3	OSLOMET (Norway) In collaboration with Ibercivis & Campus Iberus (supported by all other partners)	All activities related to curation of sources, course design and materials development
WP4	ACADEMIA DE STUDII ECONOMICE DIN BUCURESTI (Romania) in collaboration with UNIVERSITATEA OVIDIUS DIN CONSTANTA (supported by Kampal and all other partners)	All activities related to piloting and implementation of sources, course design and materials development
WP5	FUNDACION IBERCIVIS, Spain, ZARAGOZA KAMPAL Data Solutions (supported by all other partners)	All activities related to project website and digital platform

Meetings, dissemination and multiplier events

	Online meeting	Physical meeting	Dissemination event	
			January kick-off event	Campus Iberus
Year 1	January 2023 Design and implementation of study on digital practices / Expected deliverables	December 2023	France 12/12/2023 16/12/2023	Université de Clermont
Year 2	February 2024 Design of instructional materials and design of technological infrastructure piloting	Jan – March 2024	Norway 01/01/2025 31/03/2025	OsloMet
Year 3	January 2025 Piloting/implementation of two courses and fine-tuning of the infrastructure	June 2025	Romania 01/06/2025 30/06/2025	Bucharest University of Economic Studies
			November 2025	Campus Iberus final event (?)

Multiplier events (as stated in the proposal)

- Hybrid multiplier event in year 2 with special interest groups. U Bordeaux France 01/05/2024 31/05/2024
- Multiplier event with trainees Norway 01/05/2024 30/06/2024
- 2 multiplier events Constanta Romania 01/06/2025 31/10/2025
- Multiplier event Fundacion Ibercivis 01/11/2025 15/12/2025

Kick-off Meeting

The agenda covers the following topics (*for more details see the attached Meeting Programme*)

- Initiation of project team,
- Presentation of main projects activities,
- An introduction to the Project Management Handbook,
- Risk management plan,
- Quality plan,
- Communication plan,
- Social media plan,
- Conflict resolution strategy.

Other topics to discuss during this meeting include an update of the communication plan, a detailed timeline for the first project phase together with the most important project deadlines, and a project glossary to ensure the same understating of project outputs.

APPENDIX

Target groups

As stated in the proposal, the main target groups are the following:

- EU STEM scientists (in particular, female scientists)
- EU students in STEM study programmes (especially graduates and PhD level students) in the European partner institutions participating in this consortium
- Doctoral schools in the European partner institutions participating in this consortium
- non-STEM scientists in the European partner institutions participating in this consortium
- Instructors in the fields of Languages for Specific Purposes and in scientific and technical communication
- University managers involved in language policy and scientific policy
- Scientific culture units/centres in the higher education institutions of the consortium, including partners and associate partners
- Policy makers, university managers and quality assurance agencies in the higher education institutions of the consortium and in the associate partner institutions (Université de Paris, Université de Grenoble, University of Vlora, University College London and Westminster University)
- FECYT, Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología
- European organisations in the fields of language teaching and learning (e.g. European Association of Languages for Specific Purposes, ...)
- European Association of Women Scientists and Technologists and national-based organisations (Asociación de Mujeres Investigadoras y Tecnólogas de Aragón, AMIT)
- web developers and developers of educational infrastructures
- private organisations that develop metrics and alternative metrics to measure the quality and impact of research outcomes and private organisations that are interested in social media analysis, artificial intelligence and collective intelligence (ecompetences and collective learning)

The project is eco-friendly (choosing greener forms of travel where possible) and being inclusive (plan ways to help those with fewer opportunities to participate). It is also inclusive of academic disciplines and academic languages in the EU.

Project results / deliverables (as stated in the proposal)

Year 1 (WP1, WP5, WP2)

- Multilingual project flyers/leaflet and infographic
- Minutes of online meeting and transnational meeting
- Minutes of Management and Coordination Committee
- A website for the virtual science communication training hub
- Interview and focus group protocols
- **Mendeley datasets on EU STEM female scientists' practices** in digital science communication (**semi-structured interviews and focus groups, publications and conference presentations reporting on them**). This will inform the design of the two training courses that we propose regarding language, communication and digital skills needs. The datasets will be gathered through semi-structured interviews and focus groups with STEM scientists.
- A **gallery of video testimonials** with examples of good practices in digital science communication. To create these testimonials we will use quantitative indicators that will enable us to identify successful female scientists communicators.
- Inventory of best learning practices in public communication of science online. It will be available in several languages (Albanian, English, French, Norwegian, Romanian and Spanish) on the project website.

Year 2 (WP1, WP3)

- Minutes of online meeting and transnational meeting
- Minutes of Management and Coordination Committee
- **Instructional materials** and resources to help scientists communicate their science to broad publics. These materials will focus on Citizen Science and thus support EU values (social responsibility and civic engagement) among EU STEM scientists.
- A **fully digital (online) training course** for scientists from different academic disciplines and countries to improve their science communication skills via digital media.
- A **MOOC-style open-enrolment online course** accessible to any scientists or members of the public in different countries interested in digital science communication.

Year 3 (WP1, WP3, WP4 and WP5)

- Minutes of online meeting and transnational meeting
- Minutes of Management and Coordination Committee
- List of requirements for platform
- A **digital science communication online resource hub** that will be the infrastructure supporting the resources of the project (interview and focus group protocols, video testimonials, inventory of good practices in digital science communication, curated online resources, links, podcasts, etc.,)
- Instructional materials and tasks for the online course and the MOOC
- Rubrics for course piloting and for course participants' assessment of learning outcomes.
- Summary report of course (online course and the MOOC) piloting.
- Guidelines for trainers.

Other deliverables (preliminary reports (and Mendeley datasets) and panel presentations in AELFE LSPPC June 2023, Zaragoza) (as stated in the proposal)

Outcomes of a recent study. We set out a survey-based study on **digital science communication**. The respondents valued highly emerging forms of science communication (institutional/personal websites, academic social networking sites, blogging). Only half used social networks (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) and mass media (magazines, press, radio, TV) to communicate science. Less than 10% stated they use blogs, institutional websites, YouTube videos, crowdfunding and citizen science portals. Although they recognise the importance of building credibility and trust in science, the majority reported lack of time and the need to develop language, communication, digital and multimodal skills to support science for and with citizens.

The survey also revealed statistically significant gender differences. The male respondents scored higher than women in knowledge of Open Science and its impact on society. The female respondents gave more importance to publications targeting multidisciplinary audiences and multimodal communication (e.g. video abstracts, blogs, videocasts, ...). They valued more highly than their male counterparts the use of several languages to communicate science locally and globally.

The female scientists reported a greater need to learn about web portals (text types, hyperlinking, interactivity), ICT tools for video/audio editing, use of visual rhetoric and knowledge of strategies to communicate clearly and effectively to engage audiences. They were more interested in citizen science than the male respondents.

DILAN's project partners



Consortio Campus Iberus (Spain)



Université de Bordeaux (France)



Université Clermont Auvergne (France)



Oslomet – Storbyuniversitetet (Norway)



Academia de Studii Economice din Bucuresti (Romania)



Universitatea Ovidius din Constanta, Romania



Fundación Ibercivis (Spain)



Kampal Data Solutions (Spain)

Associated partners

Université de Paris, Université de Grenoble, University of Vlora, Westminster University, University College London, UK