



**A8.3, O4: Annual report mapping the learner's perspective on
European Universities including outcomes of the annual
learners' event 2022**



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Abstract

This document describes the third and final annual learners' event of ECIU University in 2022. The event was organised as a form of a challenge, following the pedagogical principles of challenge-based learning (CBL) in ECIU University. The topic of the event – *The Future of European Higher Education* – is in the core of ECIU University developments, and the event provided an opportunity for both degree students as well as continuous learners to gather together and work in the important aspects of future higher education providing interesting inputs for the prosecution of the ECIU University activities to be considered in the next phase of the project.

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1 Introduction

This concise document describes the annual learners' event in ECIU University. The event was the third and final learners' event in a series of annual events of ECIU University in 2020-2022. The third event was part of a summer school called *CuriousU* and was organised at University of Twente in summer 2022. This document describes the purpose, structure, and contents of this final event.

2 Purpose of the event

The invitation to the event in Picture 1 illustrates the purpose and nature of event.

Dear ECIU colleagues,

We all know that it's more fun when we meet and work together as an ECIU University team! Having the huge task of taking the ECIU University to the future is a challenge in itself, but we've got you covered!

You are invited to the lush green campus of the University of Twente between the 14th-17th of August 2022 to participate in the challenge "What should the future of European higher education look like? Designing higher education that is inclusive, diverse and without boundaries to fit future learners"!

The challenge is hosted by the University of Twente as part of the CuriousU summer school and it is open to all ECIU partner staff members who work or are related to the ECIU University in any capacity. The challenge will also be offered to the Student Representatives of each university.

Will you join us this summer so we can discuss the challenge of the future of European higher education and ECIU University? Some practical information:

- When: 14-17 August 2022 (arrival: 14th of August, last day of activities: 17th of August)*
- Where: University of Twente (Enschede, Netherlands)*
- Open to: all staff (academic, support, administrative) from ECIU partners who have a connection with the ECIU University (all roles and functions) and to all Student Representatives*
- Duration & Workload: 3 days, approximately 6 hours a day*
- Methodology: CBL*
- Challenge format: hackathon (nano)*
- Modality: physical (please check with your university regarding mobility financing support for traveling and lodging expenses)*
- Schedule and registration: <https://challenges.eciu.org/challenges/2479439/what-should-the-future-of-european-higher-education-look-like>*
- Housing options: CuriousU offers various housing options, please take a look at the website for accommodation options and contact the organisers at curiousu@utwente.nl or e.tsigki@utwente.nl to request help with booking your accommodation.*

Please do not hesitate to spread this email around to your colleague and anyone who might be interested in this challenge!

For any questions or queries, you can always reach out to e.tsigki@utwente.nl. We look forward to welcoming you to the UT and CuriousU this summer so we can have fun, connect and take the next steps toward creating the university of the future!

Hope to see you in August!

Best wishes and enjoy the summer!

Rianne

Picture 1. Invitation to the event

3 Program of the event

Table 1 describes the detailed program of the event.

ECIU – UT Challenge “Future of European Higher Education”, 14 – 17 August 2022

Final programme overview



Sunday 14 August	Monday 15 August	Tuesday 16 August	Wednesday 17 August	Thursday 18 August
10.00 – Arrival at the University of Twente and check-in at the CuriousU festival tent Arrival and check-in start from 10.00 and until 22.00 <u>Participants travelling to Enschede:</u> All participants staying on campus should check-in at the CuriousU desk to receive keys/access to their accommodation as well as an access bracelet. <u>Participants already staying in Enschede or the Netherlands:</u> Participants staying in own accommodation in Enschede or not travelling from abroad may also check in on Monday the 15 th of August during breakfast to receive their access bracelet. 15.00-18.00 – Campus jogging or walking tours (optional activity)	8.15 – Breakfast & Inspirational Speaker (at the CuriousU festival tent) 9.30 – Welcome to day 1 & Introduction to the Challenge Hackathon (Ravelijn 2334) 9.55 – Mini lecture: Introduction to HE in Europe (Ravelijn 2334) Lecture and Q&A 10.25 – Mini lecture: Introduction to diversity and inclusion (Ravelijn 2334) Lecture and Q&A 10.55 – Introduction to next CBL phase (Ravelijn 2334) 11.00 – Coffee break 11.20 – Discussion, Activity & Team formation (Ravelijn 2334) 12.30 – Lunch (at the CuriousU festival tent) 13.15 – Campus tours gathering (departure at the festival tent) 13.25 – Tour starts Group 1: UT Campus & DesignLab Group 2: DesignLab & Campus	8.15 – Breakfast & Inspirational Speaker (at the CuriousU festival tent) 9.30 – Welcome to day 2 & Introduction to CBL (Ravelijn 2334) 9.50 – Team work (choose any room: Ravelijn 2334, Ravelijn 2237, Ravelijn 2502, Ravelijn 4231) 12.15 – Stakeholder Analysis (Ravelijn 2334) 12.30 – Lunch (at the CuriousU festival tent) 13.30 – Presentation rounds Teams 1-3 (Ravelijn 2237) Teams 4-6 (Ravelijn 2502) 14.15 – Introduction to next CBL phase (Ravelijn 2334) 14.20 – Team work (choose any room: Ravelijn 2334, Ravelijn 2237, Ravelijn 2502, Ravelijn 4231) 15.00 – Coffee break 15.15 – Team work & Experts consultation sessions (Ravelijn 2334)	8.15 – Breakfast & Inspirational Speaker (at the CuriousU festival tent) 9.30 – Welcome to day 3 & Continuation of Challenge Hackathon (Ravelijn 2334) 9.35 – Team work & Experts consultation sessions (Ravelijn 2334) 10.00 – Workshops Round 1 (choice of 3 workshops in Ravelijn 2237, Ravelijn 2502, Ravelijn 4231) 11.00 – Presentation rounds Teams 1-3 (Ravelijn 2237) Teams 4-6 (Ravelijn 2502) 11.45 – Introduction to next CBL phase (Ravelijn 2334) 12.30 – Lunch (at the CuriousU festival tent) 13.30 – Team work & Experts consultation sessions (Ravelijn 2334) 15.00 – Coffee break 15.20 – Team work (continuation)	8.15 – Breakfast & Inspirational Speaker (at the CuriousU festival tent) 8.15-18.00 – Departure & check-out for departing participants (at the CuriousU festival tent)
	15.30 – End of programme for the day <i>Free time to network or rest</i>	15.45 – Workshops Round 1 (choice of 3 workshops in Ravelijn 2237, Ravelijn 2502, Ravelijn 4231) 17.00 – End of programme for the day	16.00 – Final Presentations Teams 1-3 (Ravelijn 2237) Teams 4-6 (Ravelijn 2502) 17.00 – Wrap up & Closure (Ravelijn 2334) 17.30 – Head to Volleyball Court for drinks	
18.00 – Pizza & mingling with other ECIU and CuriousU summer school participants (at the CuriousU festival tent)	18.00 – Dinner (at the CuriousU festival tent)	18.00 – Dinner (at the CuriousU festival tent)	18.00 – Dinner (BBQ & Beach Volleyball Tournament)	
	19.30 – CuriousU social activity: Stand-up Comedy & Bingo (at the CuriousU festival tent)	19.30 – Game Night (at the CuriousU festival tent)	18.00-22.00 – Check-out for participants leaving on same day (at the CuriousU festival tent)	

Table 1. Program of the event

4 Work in practice

The work in the learners' event was carried out according to the principles of challenge-based learning (CBL) during the 3 days. The video 3.1 illustrates the work in practice through the main components CBL of *engage-investigate-act*.

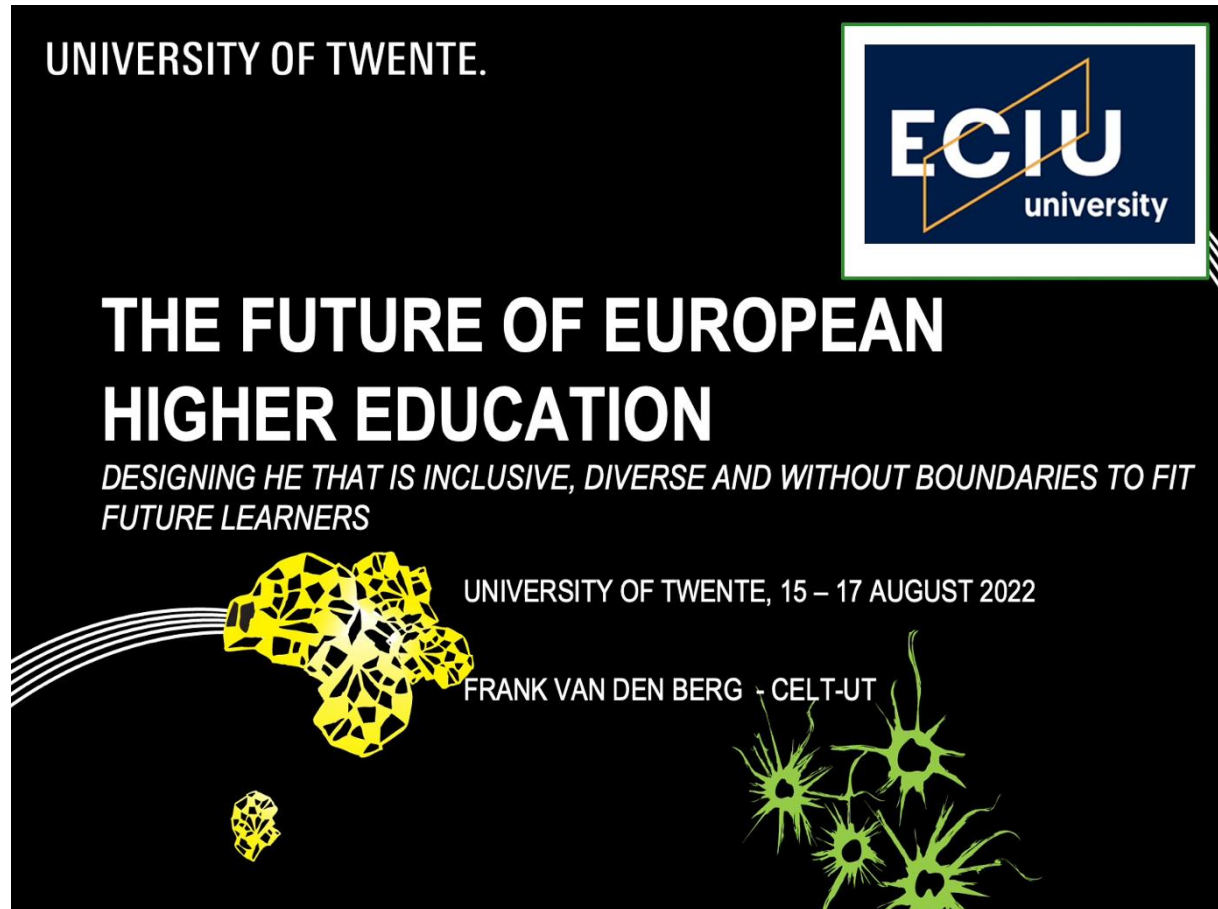
The group who participated consisted of 31 learners (students and continuous learners).

During the first day, the aim was to *engage* the learners, get them to connect to each other and to the subject and, eventually, form teams. Next to this, the learners followed informative mini lectures by experts from the University of Twente on the main pillars of the big idea, namely the future state of higher education in Europe and inclusiveness. The aim was to provide useful background information to support the *investigate* phase of the CBL process, which would follow on the second day. As a result of the work carried out in this first day, the learners formed into 5 teams and started discussing the big idea with the aim to narrow it down to the challenge they would strive to solve.

During the second day, the teams started discussing the big idea in a more focused manner as they were transitioning to the *investigate* phase of the CBL process. To support their work, the learners had the opportunity to follow a variety of workshops on topics like intercultural competence and communication, as well as stakeholder analysis. Moreover, several experts were present during this day for groups to have consultations and discuss ideas or receive information on their particular challenge topic. To create more interaction and dissemination of knowledge, peer to peer presentation moments were planned throughout the day, which helped the teams hear what their colleagues were working on and provide useful feedback to each other. As a result of the work carried out in the second day, the learners were able to formulate their challenge and start thinking towards a possible solution.

During the third and last day of the event, the teams were working on the last CBL process phase, namely *act*. In this phase the proposed solution needed to be assessed in a lean manner. In the entire duration of the day, the teams were able to follow some more workshops based on the specific needs they or their team had and to engage once again with the experts during the consultation moments. At the end of the day, each team presented their work to their peers and additional audience who joined in the closing ceremony, explaining their work process and eventually how they reached their suggested solution and having a discussion. All learners received a certificate of attendance as a token of their participation.

The event ended with a networking activity and a BBQ dinner at the CuriousU summer school location.



Video 1. Work in practice (double-click the picture to start the video).

5 Conclusions

This document has provided a brief overview of the third and final annual learners' event in ECIU University.

The event was proven to be very stimulating and successful, as indicated by the participants. It was a unique moment where students and continuous learners from ECIU University could come together, experience the CBL process first-hand and discuss about a topic that is in the very heart of ECIU University: the future of European Education.

The synergy between students and continuous learners into discussing such topics was very fruitful as many different perspectives, backgrounds, experiences, and expertise were combined to co-develop ideas and solutions to important problems we face in higher education. Next to this, the learners had the opportunity to come together physically in a social setting as well and become more active members of the ECIU University community, which was very much needed after the pandemic period.

It was particularly interesting to see that the solutions and ideas proposed by the teams were in full alignment with the vision and objectives of the ECIU University. The ideas that came up showcased the importance and need for higher education to change and become more innovative to serve the needs of not only the future learner, but today's learners as well.

Central to CBL is the direct involvement of learners and the capacity to offer them a tailor-made approach to education. Learners, in fact, had to choose by themselves the level of involvement and how specific of the big idea they want to work. So, all the different groups worked on different subthemes with a different level of specificity. For example, one of the groups worked on the value of a diploma in the future, whereas another group worked on the educational offer of the ECIU University.

Suggested ideas from the teams included notions related to a more flexible education system allowing the stacking of learning opportunities, easy access to education that is tailored to specific needs, as well as the value of certification and the idea of digital credentialling. All these ideas and input from the teams will be taken into account for the further development of ECIU University towards building a truly inclusive, accessible and future-proofing European Education.

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