

# NEWSLETTER

# ZWW INTERNATIONAL



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Dear Readers,

We are excited to share the latest updates in our **second edition** of ZWW International Newsletter! This issue will bring you insights into our ongoing and upcoming international activities and projects. We cordially invite you to subscribe to stay up to date with all upcoming events and important news.

The Center for Lifelong Learning (ZWW) is a central facility and responsible for lifelong learning at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU). The center manages more than 360 seminars and conferences on a wide range of different topics every year. For almost 20 years the ZWW has been working beyond national borders in a number of international projects on different topics. You can read about our past projects [HERE](#).



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## A BRIEF UPDATE ON OUR CURRENT INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS:

We are currently coordinating 6 Erasmus+ projects in the field of Higher Education and Adult Education. These projects aim to improve accessibility, development, and digitisation of international adult education. In the projects we are accompanied by partners from various European countries. All projects are EU-funded.



### **AI in Language Teaching**

*Artificial Intelligence in Adult Education and Self-Learning: Providing personalized and adaptive learning experiences with emphasis on language learning*



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This project's main goal is to raise awareness and motivation for teaching and learning opportunities with AI-technologies. The project will familiarize teachers and self-learners with the advantages of AI-supported learning and encourage them to create more engaging and interactive learning experiences by using AI technologies such as speech recognition, machine translation, and natural language processing.

Over the past few months, we have been working intensively on the topic of 'artificial intelligence in adult education' with a particular focus on language learning to understand the usage behaviour, knowledge and needs of teachers and self-learners.

In addition to an extensive literature review, we focussed on developing a quantitative research design in the form of an online survey. Conducting online surveys enables us to precisely capture the needs and requirements of our target

01.10.2023 - 31.03.2026

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### **FOOD Includes**

*Reaching, recruiting, and engaging excluded learners by harnessing the power of food*

The Erasmus+ project aims to create innovative and flexible learning opportunities in the field of “food-based pedagogy” in order to promote social inclusion and improve qualification opportunities for marginalised adults in adult education.



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group. By asking specific questions, we determine the extent to which teachers and self-learners already use AI, their attitude towards AI and their needs and expectations of AI-supported solutions.

At our partner meeting in San Sebastián, Spain, we had the opportunity to have a very special experience as part of our Food Includes project. Our partner organisation Cebanc organised an intercultural food festival where people from different countries prepared and shared their traditional dishes.

Cooking and eating together was used as a valuable method to break down educational barriers and promote intercultural understanding. Such interactive and cultural exchange formats emphasise the importance of food as a bridge between cultures and as a tool to promote education and integration.



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### **Stories4all**

*Developing methods and tools for teachers to integrate digital storytelling in teaching activities to address the need for inclusive educational interventions*

During the Science and Technology Day organized by TUC on 2/11/2024, an interactive installation was set up demonstrating eShadow in combination with traditional shadow theatre. More than 4000 visitors had the opportunity to see and play with eShadow.

The objectives of the project are to develop methods, tools, and skills for creating digital stories inspired by diverse cultural backgrounds to promote cultural and language awareness to address the need for inclusive educational interventions that promote empathy and creativity by adopting a community building approach in the developing the appropriate skills of its target group and facilitating them to design and implement engaging learning activities exploiting the cultural capital of EU countries.



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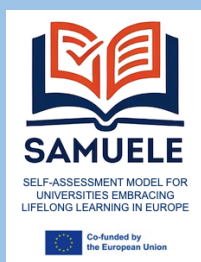
## EXPLORING OUR NEW INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS:

### ***AI in Higher Education***

AI-Powered Teaching Guidance for Educators:

*Revolutionizing teaching practices by equipping educators with AI-driven tools and methodologies while fostering ethical, transparent, and effective AI usage in education.*

We are excited to announce the official launch of the AI in Higher Education project, which began on December 31st, 2024 and will last for 30 months. This innovative initiative aims to empower educators with cutting-edge tools and methodologies, enhance collaboration between universities and AI experts, and promote ethical AI usage in education. A key focus is preparing future educators—pedagogy students—with the skills to harness AI effectively in their teaching careers.



***Samuele***

The SAMUELE project enables the European University Continuing Education Network (eucen) to promote lifelong learning in higher education and empower individuals through inclusive, flexible, and equitable educational opportunities. Planned activities include comparing national approaches, developing a self-assessment tool for universities, and creating a strategy to advance lifelong learning across Europe. It started in January 2025 and will last for 3 years.



***Mobility4LLL***

*Expanding Language Learning Opportunities*

JGU supports mobility programs that foster language exchange between Germany, France, and Spain. Our latest initiative, launched in September 2024, offers older learners (primarily 50+, but open to other interested individuals) the opportunity to engage in enriching language tandems and cultural excursions.

### **Upcoming Activities:**

- ◆ French-German Online Tandem – March 2025
- ◆ Spanish-German Online Tandem – Spring/Summer 2025

- ◆ Group Mobility in Dijon – Second week of October 2025
- ◆ Group Mobility in Valencia – Late November or early December 2025

Participants will connect with native speakers from our partner universities in Dijon and Valencia, improving their language skills while experiencing authentic cultural exchange.

### Further international activities:

Annually Summer School taking place in August	Intercultural Trainings
<p>Over three weeks in August (04.08.2025 – 22.08.2025), students from around the world can participate in daily German-language courses for all proficiency levels. These courses are complemented by a variety of afternoon activities, including excursions and cultural studies.</p> <p>If you are interested in our International German Language School check our webpage for more Information.</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p>	<p>The Center for Lifelong Learning (ZWW) offers intercultural trainings to institutions, teams or classes, both in the university context and in other professional fields. These courses provide valuable insights into different cultures and help participants develop a more conscious approach to managing cultural differences. Our target groups so far have included: international students, health care workers, entrepreneurs, educators and more.</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p>
FORTHEM University Lifelong Learning Network	Inter-Alliance University Lifelong Learning (ULLL) Network
<p>The FORTHEM University Lifelong Learning (FULL) network, established within the FORTHEM Alliance, provides lifelong learning opportunities such as tandem courses for employees, organizations and interested people of all ages.</p> <p>FORTHEM partner universities from France, Poland, Spain, Italy, Latvia, Finland, Romania and Norway are engaged.</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p>	<p>As part of the FORTHEM initiative, the University Lifelong Learning (ULLL) Network unites European University Alliances, providing a dynamic platform for discussions on lifelong learning at a European level. This network fosters cross-border collaboration and innovation to enhance educational opportunities for diverse learners.</p> <p>Currently, the group is working on establishing a <b>new topical group under the FOREU4ALL initiative</b>, focused on strengthening University Lifelong Learning (ULLL) through inter-alliance cooperation. The goal is to create accessible, high-quality educational opportunities for non-traditional learners, including working professionals and older adults.</p>

### Forecast Next Newsletters

In the upcoming newsletters, we will introduce more events and projects that will further strengthen our international exchange and the promotion of lifelong learning:



**UNESCO-Project:** We are glad to give you an insight into our newly launched UNESCO research project which is conducted as part of a second agreement with the Shanghai Open University (SOU). The project focuses on intergenerational learning at universities worldwide.

**Summer School / Winter School 2025:** In our next newsletter we will inform about possible scholarships for the annual summer school.



Team ZWW International, Mark Reinhard, Iris Thimm-Netenjakob (Head of ZWW International), Milena Ivanova, Lea-Joelina Fleck, Yasmin Stegemann

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