

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the **fourth edition** of ZWW International Newsletter! In this issue, we will be sharing important updates on our ongoing and upcoming international projects and activities. We cordially invite you to subscribe to stay up to date with all upcoming events and important news.

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

DISCOVER OUR SUMMER & WINTER SCHOOLS: Learn, Connect, Grow



The **Summer School** at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, which brings together students from different countries, will take place from **10 - 28 August 2026**. Each year, the programme attracts a large number of interested participants and applicants. Over a period of three weeks, participants can immerse themselves in German language and culture through daily language courses (levels A1–C1) as well as a variety of activities including excursions to nearby cities and cultural sessions on German history, German literature, German politics and intercultural communication.

'I appreciated the course's approach on exploring the locality and presenting Germany to a foreign audience in a unique way. I also have to say how the university staff organising the course is so humanised and sensitive to reply fast, solve all the issues, and make this experience "hassle-free", or anything that they can.'
(Participant's comment)



In addition, applications are now open for our **Winter School**. As a complementary format to the Summer School, the Winter School offers a **two-week online programme** for learning German in an interactive and flexible setting and is thus a perfect opportunity for those who cannot join our Summer School but still wish to experience the spirit of international exchange and learning. If you would like to improve your German language skills while exploring Germany from multiple perspectives, we invite you to visit our website for further information.

[READ MORE](#)



We are currently coordinating a large number of **Erasmus+ projects** in the field of Higher Education and Adult Education. Three of these projects have been recently launched, three are entering their final phase, and the remaining projects are ongoing. All projects are EU-funded and aim at improving accessibility, development, and digitisation of international adult education.

BELONG@HEI

Building Inclusive Communities in Higher Education

The Erasmus+ project aims to **strengthen the sense of belonging among women and disadvantaged students at higher education institutes (HEIs)**. Our approach is to promote a culture of belonging and inclusion within higher education by developing and implementing an evidence-based framework for belonging, open educational resources, and safe pilot projects, as well as influencing higher education policy. The project started in January 2026 and will run for 24 months (01/2026 – 12/2027). The first partner meeting already took place at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz on 28-29 January 2026. Read more [here](#) 



MESHE

Micro Credentials Exchange System for Higher Education in Europe

MESHE aims to **foster a strong culture of lifelong learning by enhancing the understanding and value of micro credentials across Europe**. As micro credentials become more widely available, MESHE seeks to raise awareness among learners of their benefits and opportunities. It will test a unified European system that enables higher education institutions to exchange micro credentials seamlessly, strengthening collaboration, quality assurance, and cross-border recognition. Coordinated by EUCEN (European Universities Continuing Education Network), the project brings together more than ten partners and external experts. Running from January 2026 to December 2028, MESHE will deliver an advocacy pack for learners, a guide to building trustworthy collaboration on micro credential exchange, and policy. Read more [here](#) 



VISUALITY

Empowering educators to harness the power of visuals for inclusive and accessible education

The Erasmus+ project pursues the objective to **equip educators with structured visual pedagogy and improve accessibility and engagement for disadvantaged learners in higher education and adult education**. The desired outcomes include equipping more than 90 educators with visual teaching skills, supporting more than 120 learners, and promoting institutional adoption across all of Europe, as well as ensuring the long-term adoption of visual pedagogy throughout the whole EU education system by reaching at least 250 higher and adult education teachers upon completion of the project. The project started in October 2025 and will run for a duration of 30 months (10/2025 – 03/2028). Read more [here](#) 



SHORT UPDATE ON OUR ONGOING PROJECTS

AI in Higher Education

AI-Powered Teaching Guidance for Educators



The AI in Higher Education project, which began in December 2024 and will last for 30 months, aims to **empower educators with cutting-edge tools and methodologies, enhance collaboration between universities and AI experts, and promote ethical AI usage in education.** Interested educators and educators in training who would like to stay up to date with the project developments and receive guidance on AI Tool applications for Education may follow us on social media. Read more [here](#) 

The project partners are now in the process of finalising the video tutorials and the strategies and guides for AI Tool integration that have been created following the last partner meetings. In the coming months, the team will work on developing and publishing educational videos, a podcast series and online webinars.

FOREU4ALL / ALLIES

Enhancing Inclusive Lifelong Learning in Europe



Under the umbrella of the FOREU4ALL, the ALLIES topical group (Alliances for Lifelong Learning, Improvement, Empowerment, and Skills) aims to **strengthen collaboration among European university alliances to promote inclusive lifelong learning for all.** By sharing best practices and supporting non-traditional and underrepresented learners, it seeks to improve access, quality, and recognition of ULLL across Europe. The project is scheduled from May 2025 to October 2028. Read more [here](#) 

A key outcome is the organisation of a joint workshop at the University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten (3–4 December 2026) entitled ‘The Union of Skills, EUAs & Micro-Credentials: Opportunities, Solutions and Collaboration’. The workshop aims to facilitate the exchange of case studies, prototypes and challenges between the participating alliances.

FORTHEM Alliance

Fostering Outreach within European Regions, Transnational Higher Education and Mobility



JGU is a partner in the FORTHEM Alliance, actively contributing to University Lifelong Learning (ULLL). Together with nine European partner universities, the ZWW **promotes exchange, collaboration, and mobility across the alliance.** The network is supported by the European Commission under the “European Universities” initiative. A key milestone in 2025 was a meeting at the University of Jyväskylä.

The FULL network (FORTHEM University Lifelong Learning) work package identified 8 thematic areas around which interdisciplinary researchers and expert groups will collaborate, including: Wellbeing Across the Lifespan and Professional Development for Guidance Counsellors. In these areas, partners will co-create new micro-credential offerings, develop continuing education programs, and apply for Horizon Europe projects, strengthening the alliance’s role in advancing flexible and innovative lifelong learning.



Mobility for Lifelong Learners

Expanding Language Learning Opportunities



For many years, the JGU has managed and supported Erasmus+ student and staff mobility within the EU. Through the short project „Mobility for Lifelong Learners“, the ZWW has **extended the possibility for our senior learners „Studieren 50+“.**

From September 2024, the actual group trips abroad were preceded by a series of online meetings and two preparatory visits to the adult learning facilities at the universities of Dijon and Valencia. During the meetings, possibilities, topics and programmes were discussed, and initial agendas were drawn up, which were later discussed with the participants and updated.

In October 2025, our first group of senior learners participated in our inaugural Erasmus+ mobility, travelling to Université de Bourgogne Europe in Dijon.

Following this, in February 2026, our second group of “Studieren 50+” took part in their first Erasmus+ mobility at La Nau Gran, University of Valencia.

Both groups travel combined language exchange, cultural learning and intercultural activities, including visits to cultural sites, participation in lectures, tandem sessions, joint dinners and linguistic and intercultural exchange with native participants.

The short project ended in February 2026. Parallel to this “pilot project”, the ZWW applied for an Erasmus+ accreditation and yearly funding that will open up further opportunities for international mobility besides the regular student and staff mobility at the JGU. We will keep you informed about these opportunities, as well as the online language course coming up. Read more [here](#)



SAMUELE

Self-Assessment Model for Universities embracing Lifelong Learning in Europe



The primary objective of this project is to **develop a comprehensive and transnational Self-Assessment Model Framework tailored to the specific context of University Lifelong Learning (ULLL) in European universities.** This project started in January 2025 and will last till the end of 2027. Read more [here](#)

Since the project’s launch, significant progress has been made: A Europe-wide survey conducted in 18 countries involving 100+ higher education institutions provides a solid data foundation (see results [here](#)). In addition, case studies have been collected, illustrating various approaches to implementing LLL in the higher education context. Furthermore, the first draft of the self-assessment tool has been developed and will be tested at ca. 20 universities by the end of 2026.

AI IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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

This Erasmus+ project is approaching its conclusion. Over the past months, the project has explored the **potential of artificial intelligence to support adult education and self-directed learning, with a particular focus on language learning**, accessibility, and innovative educational practices. To mark the completion of the project, we cordially invite all interested parties to attend our **Final Conference on 22 May 2026**. The conference will be held in a hybrid format, allowing participation both online and on-site at the Johannes Gutenberg University (JGU) campus. During the final conference, the project consortium will present the project's objectives, activities, and key results. Participants will have the opportunity to explore and test selected project outputs and to engage in discussions with project partners and other attendees. Read more [here](#) 



FOOD INCLUDES

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

The Erasmus+ project aims **to develop innovative and flexible learning opportunities in the field of "FOOD" in order to promote social inclusion and create better qualification opportunities in adult education**. An important milestone for our Erasmus+ project has been reached: The implementation of the developed courses in the final work package has begun. In the coming months, the project partners will develop the courses and subsequently pilot them at various universities across Europe to test the content in practice and receive direct feedback from the learners. The results of the pilot will be directly used to optimise the course content, ensuring that the initiatives are tailored as effectively as possible to the needs of the participants. Read more [here](#) 



STORIES4ALL

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

Our Erasmus+ Stories4all project, which focuses on **the development, testing, and promotion of innovative pedagogy to integrate digital storytelling in school education**, is now entering its final phase (10/2023 – 09/2026). In this stage, our work is strongly focused on the development of teacher training courses and the piloting phase. Teachers will be introduced to digital storytelling across different subjects, exploring creative ways to engage students and strengthen learning through narrative and digital tools. Through the piloting activities, we are working closely with educators to test, refine, and improve the courses based on real classroom experiences. We look forward to supporting teachers and students on this journey and to sharing the results and insights from the final phase of the project. Read more [here](#) 



OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

UNESCO Research Project

The project **“Ehrenamt ist Mainz”** brought together students and older adults to promote intergenerational learning and reduce age-related stereotypes. A key feature of the programme was its strong “theory-practice” approach. Students combined academic learning with hands-on community engagement, while older participants were able to join free of charge. **The initiative emphasised reflective practice and interdisciplinary collaboration, addressing broader demographic challenges in Germany’s aging society.** Combining theory and practice, it fostered social cohesion through academic engagement and community-based activities.

The case highlights the need for stronger support, curricular integration, and staff development to sustain such initiatives, demonstrating the role of universities in advancing inclusive lifelong learning. Read more [here](#) 

Hörr, B., Kapche Fotso, A. (2025). Intergenerational Service-Learning Project „Ehrenamt ist Mainz“: A case study of intergenerational learning at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz. In: UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning. Advancing Intergenerational Learning: Identifying Challenges and Opportunities for Older Adults: Integrated Case Study Report. UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, 2025, S. 40–45.

Intercultural Training and Diversity Training

The Centre for Knowledge Transfer and Lifelong Learning (ZWW) offers Intercultural Training and Diversity Training 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, social workers and more. Read more [here](#) 

SAVE THE DATES

Date	Events	Venue
22 May 2026	Erasmus + Project AI in Language Teaching: Final Conference	Mainz, Germany
31 August - 1 September 2026	Erasmus + Project Stories4all: Final Conference	Mainz, Germany



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You are automatically receiving this free newsletter because you have already taken part in past events or research projects as part of our Erasmus+ projects. If you want to unsubscribe, please send an e-mail to projects@zww.uni-mainz.de.

Published by: Center for Knowledge Transfer and Lifelong Learning, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz | 55099 Mainz | Mail: projects@zww.uni-mainz.de | <https://www.u1ll.uni-mainz.de>

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