

NEWSLETTER #4

Celebrating the “Call 4 Ideas” winners



October 2024

Dear readers,

The 4th newsletter edition is focusing on two important events which took place during the past months:

- 1. The E-le.G.A.N.T.S. Partners in person meeting which took place on September the 9th, which was hosted by the University of Arts in Tirana (Albania).*
- 2. The Announcement of the winners of the Call for ideas (Call4Elegants)*

Through those two important events we are achieving the “high point” of the E-le.G.A.N.T.S. Project. Almost two years of preparation and efforts are reflected on the wonderful student ideas which have participated in the “Call4Elegants” competition. The commission of the selection went through a pretty difficult process to choose among many great and “fresh” ideas proposed by the students, in order to choose just three of them.

We congratulate all the candidate teams and all the students who participated in the “Call4Elegants” competition!

We are sure that this experience will definitely be beneficial for their future.

E-le.G.A.N.T.s Project partners meeting (University of Arts i Tirana)

On Monday 9th September 2024, a Physical Meeting of the partners of the Erasmus+ project "E-Learning Gamified and Networked Training for Startupper" (E-LE.G.A.N.T.S) was successfully held in Tirana. The meeting was organized by the University of Arts in Tirana and took place in the Ibrahim Madhi Hall in the main building of the University.

During the meeting was discussed the progress made so far with special reference to the student counseling programs, the submission of the final business plans by the student groups, the project's promotion actions, and the dissemination of the results and the goals for the following months in relation to all the work packages of the project.



Representatives from each partner organization participated in the working meeting. Namely the partners of the projects are: the Italian University Line, the School of Advanced Social Studies from Slovenia, the Ionian University from

Greece, the University Of Arts Tirana, the University of Shkodra (Σκόντjρα) “Luigj Gurakuqi” from Albania, the University “Haxhi Zeka” and the University of Business and Technology from Kosovo, and from Montenegro the University “Mediterranean” and the University of Montenegro.

You can find the meeting agenda here:

<https://elegantsproject.eu/index.php/2024/09/09/in-person-meeting-9-9-2024-agenda/>

And a video report here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrDKlSkT-qM>

Announcement of the winners of the Call for Ideas: “Call4Elegants”

“Innovation and creativity at the heart of the competition”

The Commission for the selection of project proposals received in response to the “Call for Ideas” within the project E-le.gants - E-Learning Gamified and Networked Training for Startupperts met on Thursday 26 September.

The competition saw the participation of nine project proposals from young talents from the universities that participated in the project, all united by the common goal of developing innovative and sustainable solutions.

After a scrupulous evaluation by a jury of experts, the following winners were selected, who stood out for the originality and impact of their ideas:

- First place went to the team with the project ***TimePuzzles – Unlocking the Mysteries of Ancient Cultures through a VR Expedition Game*** (University of Business and Technology in Pristina - Kosovo): the project aims to merge an immersive virtual world with thrilling games and challenges, creating a unique and educational experience. **(Students: Adea Berisha, Rina Rushiti, Rona Rushiti and Adea Bajraktari).**
- Second place went to the ***Voices of the Fallen, Connecting Past and Present Through QR Codes project*** (University of Business and Technology in Pristina - Kosovo): the aim of the project is to combine computer science and engineering in order to come up with an interactive digital memorial for historical documentation about soldiers. **(Students: Adea Piperku, Loresa Gashi, Elona Hyseni and Drin Avdiaj).**
- Third place went to the team with the project ***AI-Powered Art Interpretation and Accessibility for the Visually Impaired*** (University of Business and Technology in Pristina - Kosovo): the project uses AI to make art accessible to the visually impaired by converting visual elements into detailed auditory descriptions. Advanced image recognition and natural language processing algorithms analyze artworks and provide rich, contextually relevant audio narratives. **(Students: Gem Krasniqi, Rijad Halili and Fjolla Muçiqi).**

The winning teams will receive cash prizes to be used for participation in *the Maker Faire Rome - the European Edition* to be held in Rome from 25 to 27 October 2024. Each winner will also have the opportunity to present their idea during the final event of the Elegants project, which will be held in early 2025.

The success of the Call for ideas represents an important milestone within the E-le.gants project which is committed to promoting self-entrepreneurship and initiatives that stimulate the creativity and talent of young innovators.

For further information and details on the awarded projects, we invite you to visit our website at <https://elegantsproject.eu>.

The “Call4Elegants” winners visiting the “Rome Make Faire”



The winning teams of the Call4Elegants have traveled in Rome from 25 till 27 of October in order to participate in the Maker Faire Rome - the European Edition as a part of their prizes. This renowned event offered them a unique experience to see the latest developments in the field of technology and digital transformation.

This success marks an important achievement for UBT, promoting the skills and creativity of young people from Kosovo in an international arena and demonstrating the commitment of the institution and its mentors, professors Bekim Marmullaku and Besnik Skenderi, to preparing future

leaders in the field of technology and innovation.

During their visit to Rome, where the award ceremony took place, the students not only had the opportunity to receive their awards, but also to visit the international fair “Rome Maker Faire – The European Edition”.



E- le.gants Project presented during the Erasmus+ Days 2024 organised by the Erasmus+ office in Kosovo

On the 10th of October 2024, Vice-Rector for Budget, Prof. Vjosa Hajdari, Vice-Rector for Budget, Finance and Infrastructure of "Haxhi Zeka" University (Kosovo), together with Dr. Bekim Marmullaku, Associated Professor of (University of Business and Technology (Kosovo), presented E- le.gants Project during a meeting organized by the Erasmus+ office in Kosovo. In the meeting were invited among others representatives of the Education, Academic sector and the Ministry of Economy.



INTERVIEW: Prof. Carlo Maria Medaglia (IUL), co-creator of the E-le.G.A.N.T.s Project online courses

How have you experienced the implementation of the E-le.G.A.N.T.S. project so far?

The implementation of the E-le.G.A.N.T.S. project has been a valuable experience, providing students from the Balkans with an online course that aimed to enhance their digital and entrepreneurial skills. The course covered a wide range of topics, including economics, new technologies, and innovative teaching methodologies. The success of the project was tested by in the students' engagement and the quality of ideas produced during the Call for Ideas.



Which were the most challenging elements for the development of the E-le.G.A.N.T.S. online courses?

One of the main challenges was creating an online course that effectively maintained student engagement. Additionally, providing sufficient support to students who needed help was crucial, as it required coordination with mentors who were available upon request to guide the students through complex topics.

How do you experience the students' motivation during their participation in the online courses?

Most students showed good motivation, particularly during the sections of the course that were closely aligned with their interests and career goals. The availability of mentors to provide assistance upon request played an important role in maintaining students' engagement and helping them stay on track.

What are your expectations for the E-le.G.A.N.T.S. project from now on?

The upcoming online workshop will be an important opportunity to reflect on what has been done, share best practices, and discuss the future direction of the project. I expect that the project will serve as a model for future educational initiatives that blend digital learning and entrepreneurial skills,

fostering continuous growth and collaboration. In this direction, we will try to extend the use of the online courses to as many stakeholders as possible.

A final comment that you would like to share?

The E-le.G.A.N.T.S. project has demonstrated that online education can be highly effective in providing students with valuable knowledge and skills, even in the absence of practical, hands-on activities. The dedication shown by students, combined with the support provided by mentors when needed, has been essential for overcoming challenges and making the project a success. I am proud of what has been achieved and look forward to seeing how the students' projects evolve and contribute to their academic and professional paths.

UPCOMING EVENTS

E-le.G.A.N.T.S. Online Workshop – January 16-17, 2025



Innovation and Creativity: using technology in the Arts and Humanities

Introducing the participants to the use of new technologies for creating and managing projects in the field of performing arts and humanities, while stimulating their entrepreneurial creativity.

E-le.G.A.N.T.S. Final Project Conference

Rome February the 3rd, 2025

On February the 3rd 2025, the Italian University Line (IUL) will host the final conference of the E-le.G.A.N.T.S. project. Among other topics, during the conference testimonials from mentors, Presentations by winning students of the Call for Ideas, contributions from project partners on how to sustain the results achieved over the long term will be presented and discussed.

For more information will be available throughout the E-le.G.A.N.T.S. project website:

<https://elegantsproject.eu/>

EDITORIAL:

E-Le..G.A.N.T.S.Project: <https://elegantsproject.eu/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/E-Le-G-A-N-T-S/61555799229025/>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/elegants-project/posts/?feedView=all>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmjDEYcoLSIDhUviFXMaIOg>

Contact: <https://elegantsproject.eu/index.php/contact/>

For questions about this newsletter, please contact the publication responsible:

Prof. Ioannis Toulis

Ionian University Department of Music Studies

jtoulis@ionio.gr