

## DIDATEC – LIFELONG LEARNING AND TRAINING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHERS IN THE TECHNICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING FIELDS

### Goal of the project

DidaTec, a word that associates the “didactic” process with “technology”, started as an initiative of the main technical universities in Romania for the effective implementation of modern educational instruments and blended-learning technologies in the teaching-learning activity.

The project's goal is to create the framework for the adaptation of the current higher education environment in the field of engineering to a world and a way of living that follows the digital revolution.

### Short description of the project

The general objective of the project is the improvement of education and training processes in the technical higher education (engineering sciences) through a complete and unitary program (national approach) of lifelong learning and training for higher education teachers. The project's aim is the acquiring of competencies in interactive techniques of teaching & learning and IT&C, as a key factor for a relevant education in accordance with the specific needs of the economy.

The vision in mind is that of a true, active and engaging experience for the university student, based on her/his gadget-filled life in which science and engineering blend in, having the teacher as a companion.

The project will influence directly over 1,000 beneficiaries performing in technical universities in Romania during the implementation period, and an indirect estimate of over 20,000 students in the following 3 years.



### Project implemented by

Politehnica University of Timisoara  
Technical University of Cluj-Napoca  
“Transilvania” University of Brasov

### Implementation period

01.09.2010 – 31.12.2013

### Main activities

Implementing a pilot program, consisting of 6 courses on modern educational instruments and the use of IT&C for over 800 existing higher education teachers;

Implementing a mentorship program for over 200 young specialists/ professionals starting a career in the field of engineering education; Offering assistance and technical guidance for restructuring over 900 courses taught in universities throughout Romania in the field of engineering education;

Elaboration of a “Standard of quality for the program of lifelong learning and training for higher education teachers & trainers” and of a “Personal development plan” & “Career plan” – guidelines for the higher education teachers;

Teachers’ training and assistance for successfully use the modern teaching & learning techniques, based on IT&C support.

### Results

- Elaboration of the Standard of quality for the program of blended-learning and training for higher education teachers
- Elaboration of a guide for Personal development plan and Career plan for the juniors in academic career
- Development of the DidaTec training course – the only Romanian training program in blended-learning, modern educational technologies and use of ICT in education, dedicated to higher education in engineering fields
- Running of the DidaTec program for over 784 teachers in 12 Romanian universities (126 from UPT)
- Development of the Mentoring program – designed for
- Training of 10 mentors in UPT, followed by running the mentoring program for 38 juniors
- Development of 166 new courses, based on blended-learning technologies, integrated on the UPT Virtual Campus

## Applicability and transferability of the results

The project developed a training program, accredited at national level, that provides training in the use of ICT and modern technologies in higher education. This program is an ARACIS prerequisite for academic staff that want to teach in distance learning programs, helping them to improve their teaching quality in the digital age. Initially developed for teaching engineering and technical sciences, the methodology, as well as the DidaTec training program, can be easily transferred to other fields of academic teaching. The mentoring program can be directly applied for any junior academic staff.



## Fields of interest

Blended-learning, online learning, instructional design, modern educational technologies, engineering teaching, academic career planning, mentoring system, virtual campus.



## Research centre

Center for eLearning

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## Research team

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