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DiLanEdu-WB
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NEWSLETTER



LOGOS University College proudly launched the DiLanEdu-WB project (Digital Transformation in Language Study and Education in the Western Balkans), a three-year Erasmus+ Capacity Building initiative focused on reshaping language education through digital innovation. As the coordinating institution, LOGOS leads a consortium of universities and educational institutions from six Western Balkan countries, alongside strategic EU partners.

**Kick-Off Event
January 23–24,
2025
LOGOS University
College, Tirana,
Albania**



WHO ARE WE?



The DiLanEdu-WB project brings together 10 full partners and several associated partners, including higher education institutions and schools from Albania (LOGOS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITETI I TIRANES, UNIVERSITETI "EQREM ÇABEJ" I GJIROKASTRËS), Kosovo (UNIVERSITETI I PRISHTINES, UNIVERSITY ISA BOLETINI IN MITROVICA) Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNIVERZITET U BANJOJ LUCI, UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU), Montenegro (UNIVERZITET MEDITERAN PODGORICA), Greece (PANEPISTIMIO DYTIKIS MAKEDONIAS), and Germany (OTTO-VON-GUERICKE-UNIVERSITAET MAGDEBURG). As the project leader, LOGOS University College oversees the coordination and strategic direction of all activities, reflecting its long-standing commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and international collaboration.

PROJECT GOALS

The core aim of DiLanEdu-WB is to support the digital transformation of language education systems in the Western Balkans through:

- Modernization and digitalization of language-related study programs
- Establishment of Language and Digital Learning Laboratories
- Empowerment of academic staff and students through digital competencies
- Development of a sustainable regional digital education network



KICK-OFF HIGHLIGHTS

On the first day, project partners presented their roles: LOGOS University led the project coordination, Otto-von-Guericke University focused on curriculum development, University of Western Macedonia on digital competencies, University of Banja Luka on digital labs, University of Prishtina on quality assurance, and University of Sarajevo on dissemination and sustainability.

The second day featured a roundtable on digital transformation in language education in the Western Balkans, followed by meetings of the General Management, Project Management, and Quality Monitoring Committees.

Key project documents were reviewed and approved, along with presentations of the project's visual identity and dissemination and sustainability strategy.

The day concluded with the signing of partnership agreements.

On the final day, the meeting ended with a summary of results and a discussion on the next steps in project implementation.

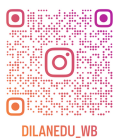




- The presentation of DiLanEdu-WB at the conference attracted the attention of around 100 academics and researchers from various local and international universities, representatives of educational institutions and other interested stakeholders from the region and beyond.
- The participants were introduced, among others, to the main objective of the project, the expected outcomes and its potential impact on language education in the region.
- The interest shown was an indicator of the relevance of the project's mission towards the advancement of digital transformation and teaching methods in foreign language education across Western Balkans.



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MEET THE PROJECT COORDINATOR



Konstantinos Giakoumis
LOGOS University College

Can a Glass of Wine Save the Youth?

I am a Professor of History, Arts and Didactics, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Linguistic Communication, and overseer of the Research, Innovation & Development Support Unit at LOGOS University College, Tirana, Albania. With a doctorate in Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies from the University of Birmingham, UK, I've spent over 30 years digging into the cultural, social, economic and political history of the Balkans – mostly on purpose.

What keeps me excited about academia is not only the past, but also the future. Digital technologies and AI are rewriting the rules of knowledge and communication, and at LOGOS – a forward-thinking, non-profit institution with a mission “to serve society through education, research, and innovation” and to foster “individual development to transform lives” – I've found fertile ground to explore how these changes can actually benefit the humanities.

The DiLanEdu-WB[1] project was born, quite literally, over a glass of wine. I was sitting with Prof. Eleni Griva, a fellow enthusiast for all things Humanities, from the University of Western Macedonia, Greece, while a nearby table of teenagers scrolled endlessly through their phones. We found ourselves asking: How can language education in the Balkans keep up with the digital revolution? How do we redesign language programs so that they're not just competitive, but also meaningful? And – perhaps most importantly – how can we help students develop real oral communication skills when “talking” increasingly means tapping on a screen? Our conversation grew into a project, with crucial input from Assoc. Prof. Alexandros Kleftodimos, our go-to tech expert, another key contributor and the unofficial godfather of the project (yes, he named it; and yes, he's a Bob Dylan fan, too). Drawing inspiration from the Homo Digitalis project,[2] DiLanEdu-WB zooms in on language education and how it must evolve in our digital times.

Today, with AI and Large Language Models developing at a pace that's frankly unnerving, digital literacy and critical language awareness are more important than ever. If we want our students – and societies – to tell the difference between fact and AI-generated fiction, we need to sharpen their language tools. That's what DiLanEdu-WB, generously co-funded by the European Union, sets out to do. It may not actually save the world. But if it helps a new generation speak more clearly, think more critically, and listen more attentively – well, that's a start.

[1] ERASMUS-EDU-2024-CBHE PROJECT NUMBER: 101179642 – DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN LANGUAGE STUDY AND EDUCATION OF THE WESTERN BALKANS.

[2] ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE-STRAND-1 PROJECT NO 101129182 HOMODIGITALIS – BRIDGING THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES AND EDUCATIONAL MEDIA DIVIDE IN THE WEST BALKANS.

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