



Report on the First Multiplier Event of the project DigiReady+ Grant Agreement N°: 2021-1-EL01-KA220-HED-000027521

Thursday, October 13, 2022
University of Duisburg-Essen

October 2022

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1 Objective

The objective of the first multiplier event of the DigiReady+ project was to bring together people involved in higher education, including HEI administration, government, staff, faculty, and researchers, to discuss how the integration of digital technologies in Higher Education changes the landscape, the challenges it can introduce and how to develop strategies towards supporting digital readiness. In particular, the event aimed to serve as a project multiplier, dissemination, and sustainability event, also focusing on the recruitment of associate partners to participate in the validation of the outputs.

2 Agenda

During the event, we shared the outputs of the project with the local and regional stakeholders, that is, institutional policymakers, HEI government, administration, and HEI educators in the Central European areas (specifically, Germany). To do so, the event featured a series of talks, a plenary discussion with the participants and a hands-on activity that required active involvement and enabled participants to familiarize themselves with the conceptual Integrated Framework for assessing HEIs Digital Readiness based on Institutional and Instructional Data Analytics. The agenda of the event is presented in Table 1. The original agenda is part of appendix B.

10:00	Welcome
10:30	Prof. Dr. Nikolaos Avouris (University of Patras, Greece) – Introduction of DigiReady+
11:00	Coffee Break
11:15	Prof. Dr. Irene-Angelica Chounta (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany): a Data-driven Framework for the Assessment of Digital Readiness in Higher Education Institutions
12:00	Lunch

13:00	Plenary Discussion: Planning an Online Toolkit for Assessing Digital Readiness Chair: Nikoleta Giannoutsou (Joint Research Centre - European Commission, Spain)
14:30	Interactive Workshop: Grouping data-informed indicators of HEI dimensions for “measurable” aspects of Digital Readiness
15:30	Coffee Break
16:00	Prof. Dr. Armin Weinberger (Saarland University, Germany): “Challenges & pitfalls of practices and research on educational technology”. Invited Keynote.
16:45	Closing

Table 1: Overview of the agenda

3 Organization

3.1 Organizing team

The organization of the event was carried out by Prof. Dr. Irene-Angelica Chounta and the research group colaps (<https://www.uni-due.de/colaps/>). Representatives of the DigiReady+ project consortium, that is partners from the University of Patras, the Universidad de Valladolid, the University of Duisburg-Essen, EDEN Digital Learning and GUnet contributed to the program and the event.

3.2 Schedule

The event was organized as a full-day event, from 10 am to 17 pm. In addition to a variety of information about the project, the focus was on:

- a. A plenary discussion on designing an online toolkit for assessing digital readiness. The session was chaired by Dr. Nikoleta Giannoutsou, Joint Research Center (JRC) Spain - European Commission.
- b. A hands-on activity to group data-informed indicators of HEI dimensions for “measurable” aspects of Digital Readiness.

- c. A keynote on the topic “Challenges & pitfalls of practices and research on educational technology” from Prof. Dr. Armin Weinberger from Saarland University.

3.2 Dissemination and Registration

The event was disseminated mainly through an announcement on the official project website: <https://digiready.eu/2022/09/invitation-to-the-first-multiplier-event/>. Furthermore, the event was shared via UDE’s newsroom channels, the IZfB and ForBiID platforms, social media and the networks of individual stakeholders from the project’s consortium.

Participants registered by filling in an online form (<https://forms.gle/f9Snv8T3btfcMz99>) (appendix B). The event was free of charge, but registration was required.

3.3 Location and facilities

The event took place at the Gerhard-Mercator-Haus/Mercator House, Lotharstraße 57, 47057 Duisburg (https://www.uni-due.de/de/universitaet/gebaeude_duisburg_lr.php) . The Mercator House offers a multifunctional conference room, a big kitchen, and a separate room for catering as well as several other smaller rooms on the second floor. The multifunctional conference room is equipped with a sound system, a beamer, chairs and work tables as well as high tables. The latter can be set up and used if necessary. In accordance with fire safety regulations, the room can be seated differently for different occasions. The Mercator House can be booked for special events and is normally used for talks and workshops. Coffee, tea and soft drinks as well as lunch was offered in the separate catering room during the event. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizing team suggested the use of masks.

3.4 Participants

In total, 30 people from 13 Higher Education Institutions and from four different countries participated in the multiplier event. Figure 1 provides an overview on the countries of the

participants. Most participants came from the University of Duisburg-Essen (9 persons), followed by the Ruhr University Bochum and the RWTH Aachen University which each provided 3 persons. Figure 2 provides an overview of the different affiliations. In total, nearly half of the participants were researchers. Furthermore, staff faculty members, administrative employees, curriculum developers, a data protection manager and a science manager participated. Excluding the project team members, 22 participants took part without being related to the project.

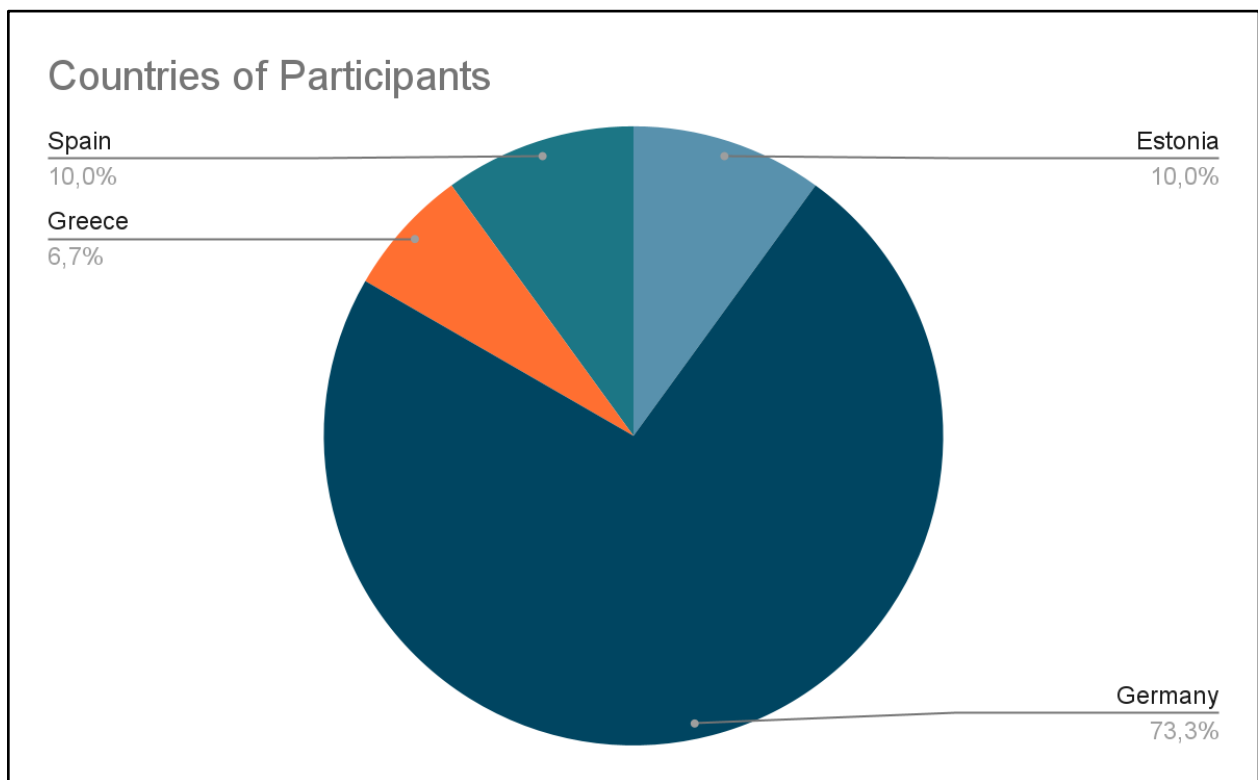


Figure 1: Percentage distribution of the countries of all participants, including the project team.

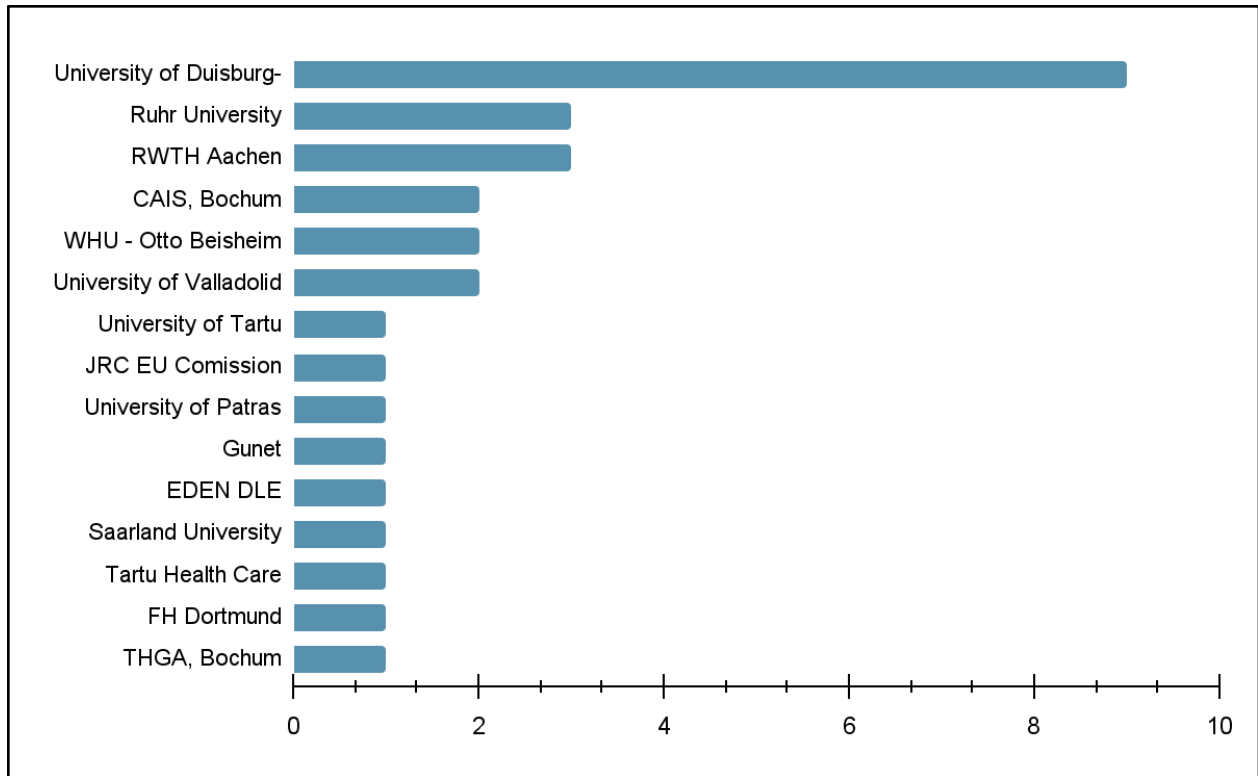


Figure 2: Overview of the total amount of participants per affiliation.

A satisfaction survey for the event was created and shared with the participants via e-mail as a follow up. Given that the survey is currently ongoing, the results will be shared. The results will be shared via the project's website. The survey can be found in Appendix C.

4 Implementation

4.1 Welcome

The event took place at the Mercator House in Duisburg and started at 10:00 am with the registration of the participants. Initially, Prof. Dr. Torben Weiss (Vice-Dean of the faculty of Engineering) was scheduled to give the greeting and present the University of Duisburg-Essen but he was unable to attend due to health reasons. On that account, Prof. Dr. Irene-Angelica Chounta (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany) gave the initial greetings at at 10:15 am. The slides that

were used to facilitate the event are publicly accessible and shared via the following link:
<https://digiready.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/1st Multiplier Event SlideDeck.pdf>

4.2 Introduction of DigiReady+

At 10:30 am, Prof. Dr. Nikolaos Avouris (University of Patras, Greece) introduced the audience to the DigiReady+ project and consortium, the main goals and timeline as well as the impact and vision.

4.3 Presentation on the framework

After a short coffee break, Prof. Dr. Irene-Angelica Chounta firstly presented the concept of the data-driven framework for the assessment of digital readiness in Higher Education Institutions. She reported on the outcomes of previous workshops (Figure 3) and the development of the indicators and the current framework (Figure 4). At 12 noon, a lunch break and the possibility to network was offered to the participants.

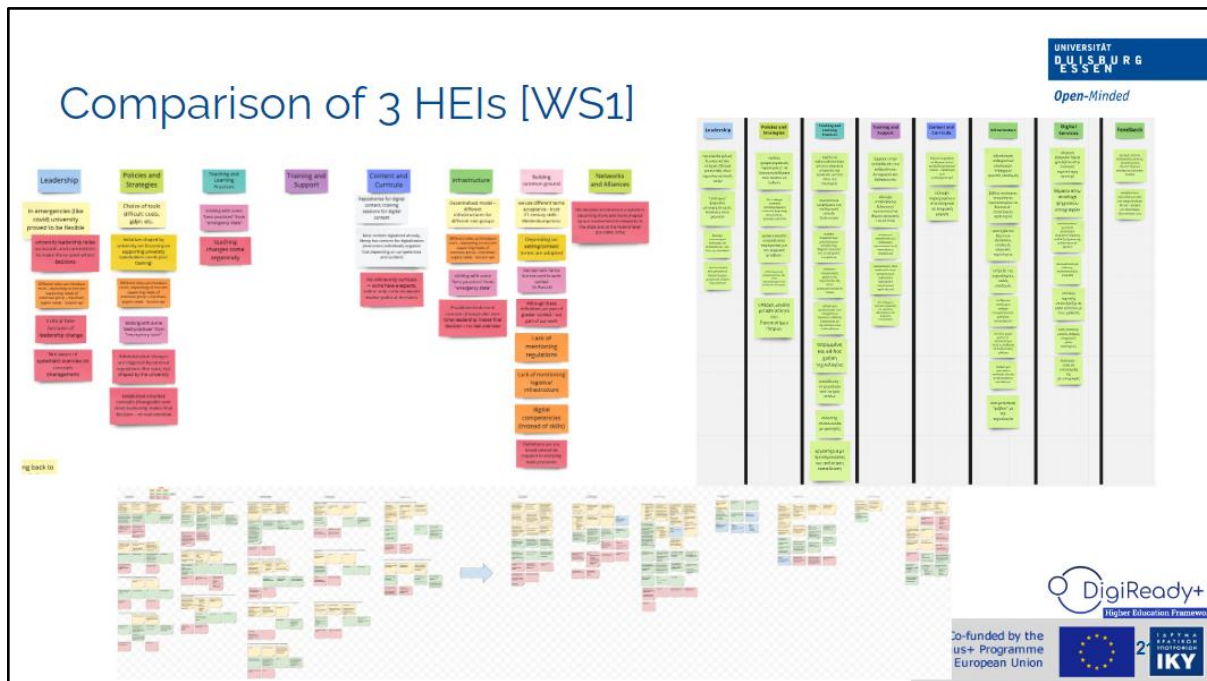


Figure 3: Output from the first DigiReady+ Workshop on the self-assessments of Digital Readiness in three Higher Education Institutions.

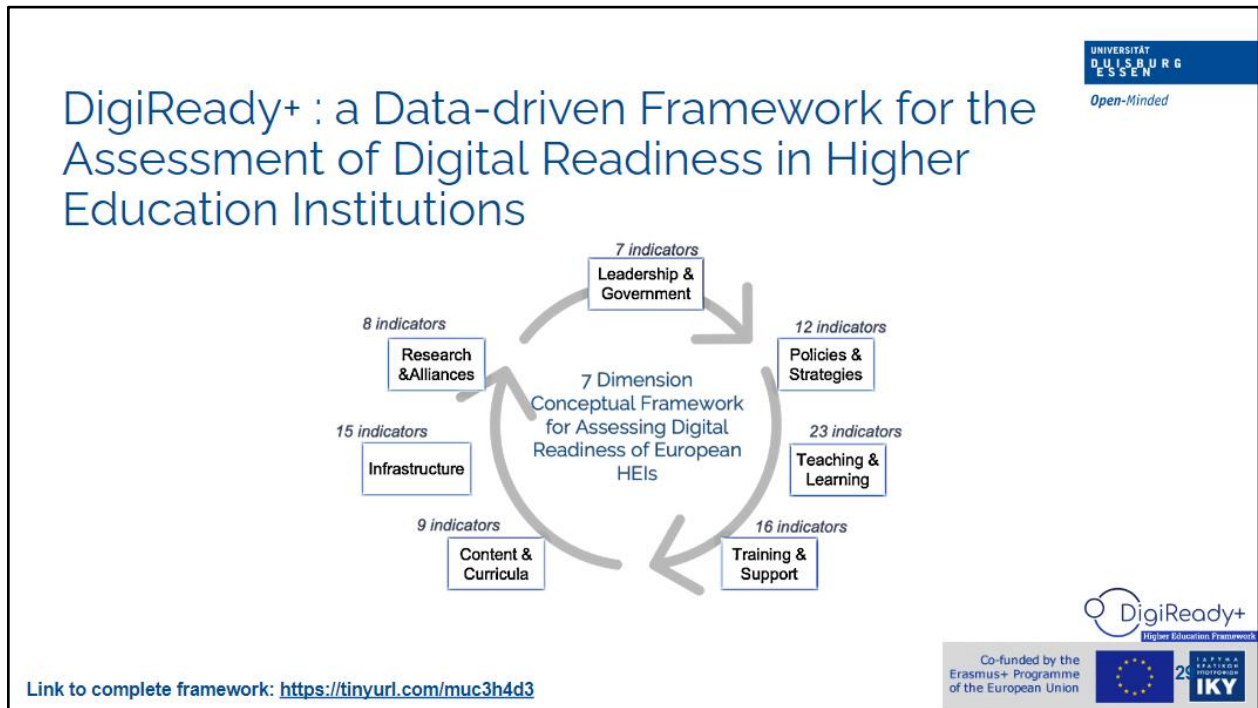


Figure 4: Presentation of the conceptual framework for assessing Digital Readiness of European HEIs, their 7 dimensions and indicators.

4.4 Plenary Discussion

After the break, at 1 pm, a plenary discussion chaired by Dr. Nikoleta Giannoutsou (Joint Research Center, Spain) on the topic of “Planning an Online Toolkit for Assessing Digital Readiness” took place. Kostantinos Tsibanis (Gynet, Greece), Prof. Dr. Yannis Dimitriadis (University de Valladolid, Spain) and Prof. Dr. Irene-Angelica Chounta participated in the discussion (Figure 5). Kostantinos Tsibanis presented the projects’ approach on the implementation of an open-source toolkit and application programming interfaces, followed by the presentation of the current status of the design of a knowledge repository by Professor Dr. Yannis Dimitriadis. Prof. Dr. Irene-Angelica Chounta gave an outlook on the further work of the large-scale validation of the DigiReady+ framework.



Figure 5: Picture of the plenary discussion with Dr. Nikolaia Giannoutsou, Kostantinos Tsibanis Prof. Dr. Yannis Dimitriadis and Prof. Dr. Irene-Angelica Chounta (from left to right).

4.5 Interactive Workshop

At 2:30 pm the interactive, hands-on workshop on grouping data-informed indicators of HEI dimensions for “measurable” aspects of Digital Readiness began. The participants were divided into four groups. Each group received a set of 49 cards with data indicators¹ that reflected aspects of digital readiness and a German/English translation of the indicators. Each set consisted of 7 data-informed indicators per dimension (for example, 7 indicators from dimension 1 “Leadership and government”, seven indicators from Dimension 2 “Policies and strategies” etc.). The groups

¹ The list of the 90 data-informed indicators of Digital Readiness can be found here: https://www.google.com/url?q=https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vRM4BaKciYAj9KdnLcWp_zQE9uKH9huXAbGZla3NxQgA2GkB4LfZqyuNTN8WrIVJ_XZRApNkXSbcASY/pubhtml&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1666684316111130&usg=AOvVaw3fv-kCFLxJrHmRgUwkn5-F

were asked to discuss whether each indicator is indicative/relevant or non-indicative/ relevant for digital readiness. Furthermore, the groups were asked to discuss the (1) interpretation of the indicators, (2) the feasibility (and applicability) in their home institutions and (3) data privacy concerns. After the group activity, one person per team presented the results to the audience.

The first group started by sorting the cards. Engagement was high, and the process involved participants selecting a card, commenting on it, and providing arguments, followed by discussion. Figure 6 shows the sorting of group 1, where indicative measures are sorted to the top and non-indicative measures are sorted downwards. Additionally, the group also took many notes on their discussions, which can be seen at the bottom of the picture.

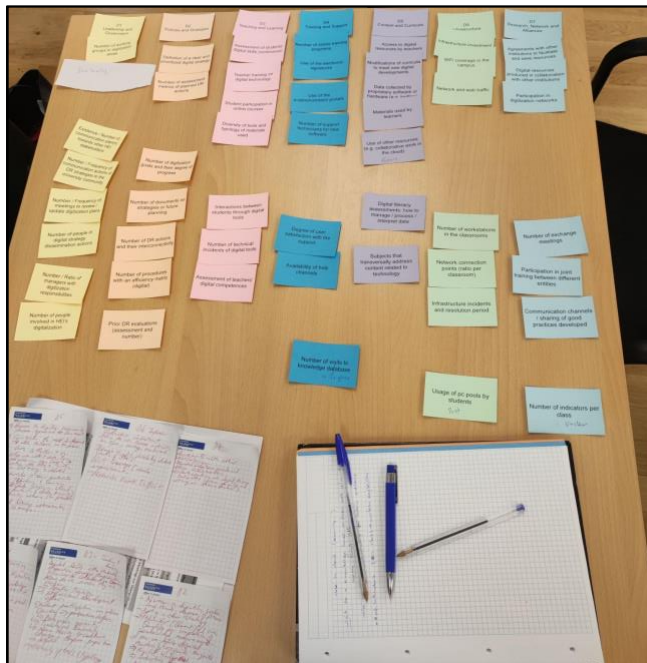


Figure 6: Output from the card-sorting activity from group 1.

The second group put their notes on the discussed aspects directly on the cards. Therefore Figure 7 shows the front view of the cards on the left side and the back view of the cards on the right side.

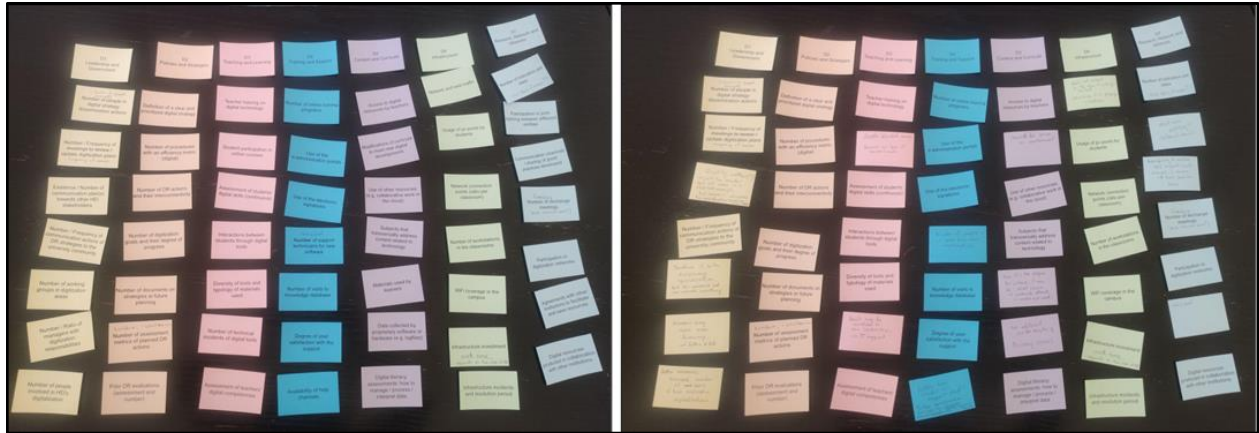


Figure 7: Output from the card-sorting activity from group 2 (front side view on the left, backside view on the right)

Group 3 marked the indicators with numbers to facilitate the note taking. The group started by taking notes on their discussions on the backside of the cards. Since the first dimension took the group much time, they decided to change their approach and take a broader overview of all indicators and verbalize the comments and opinions. At the end, the group arranged the cards based on their priority in each dimension. The result can be seen in Figure 8, where the cards are sorted from top to bottom from high priority to low priority.



Figure 8: Output from the card-sorting activity from group 3. The cards are sorted from high priority for DR (at the top) to low priority (at the bottom).

Group 4 discussed every card dimension by dimension and marked every single card with Y for “yes” (= indicative) or N for “no” (=non-indicative). When they could not agree 100% whether a card was indicative or non-indicative, they marked it with a tilde for „rather yes“ (~Y) or „rather no“ (~N). Additionally, they commented some thoughts directly on the frontside of the cards. The result of their classification as indicative/non-indicative and the comments can be seen in



Figure 9: Output from the card-sorting activity from group 4. The cards are marked with “Y” for yes (=indicative) “~Y” for “rather yes”, “N” for “no” (non-indicative) and “~N” for “rather no”.

4.6 Keynote

After another coffee break and the opportunity to follow up on open questions from the group work, Prof. Dr. Armin Weinberger (Saarland University, Germany) gave the keynote on “Challenges & pitfalls of practices and research on educational technology”. The event ended at 5pm with the closing by Prof. Dr. Irene-Angelica Chounta.



Figure 10: Picture of Prof. Dr. Armin Weinberger delivering the keynote.

Appendix A: Agenda of the Multiplier Event



DigiReady+
Higher Education Framework



colaps
https://www.uni-due.de/colaps/

UDE

First Multiplier Event
@ Mercator House, University Duisburg-Essen

Agenda

10:00	Welcome
10:30	Prof. Dr. Nikolaos Avouris (University of Patras, Greece) – Introduction of DigiReady+
11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:15	Prof. Dr. Irene-Angelica Chounta (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany): a Data-driven Framework for the Assessment of Digital Readiness in Higher Education Institutions
12:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00	Plenary Discussion: Planning an Online Toolkit for Assessing Digital Readiness Chair: Nikoleta Giannoutsou (Joint Research Centre - European Commission, Spain)
14:30	Interactive Workshop: Grouping data-informed indicators of HEI dimensions for “measurable” aspects of Digital Readiness
15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00	Prof. Dr. Armin Weinberger, Saarland University: “Challenges & pitfalls of practices and research on educational technology”. Invited Keynote.
16:45	Closing

Visit the project online: <https://digiready.eu/>

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Appendix B: Invitation form

[DigiReady+]: Invitation to the First Multiplier Event

[Please feel free to share this invitation with potentially interested colleagues]

On behalf of the Erasmus+ KA2 project "Digital Readiness in European Higher Education Institutions: a Data-driven Framework Guided by Institutional and Instructional Analytics (DigiReady+, <https://digiready.eu/>)", we are pleased to invite you to the First Multiplier Event, which will be held on **October 13th, 2022 in Duisburg, Germany**.

What is DigiReady+?

DigiReady+ aims to provide data-informed assessments of digital readiness for higher education institutions.

The project is a European Cooperation Partnership in higher Education funded under the Erasmus+ KA220.

What to expect from this Event?

In the First Multiplier Event we aim **to bring together people involved in higher education** including HEI administration, government, staff, faculty and researchers to discuss how the integration of digital technologies in Higher Education changes the landscape, the challenges it can introduce and how to develop strategies towards **supporting digital readiness**.

In this event, **participants will:**

- a) be introduced to the DigiReady+ Integrated Framework for assessing HEIs Digital Readiness based on Institutional and Instructional Data Analytics and how this framework can be used on multiple levels, such as when designing Policies and Strategies for the academic community or when creating curricula and teaching plans for promoting digital learning;
- b) gain insights regarding the state-of-the-art on assessing Digital Readiness in HEIs and existing practices that other European HEIs have in place regarding digital readiness;
- c) learn what kind of data can be used to assess digital readiness and consequently, how to simplify the process of designing digitalized solutions for teaching and learning;
- d) discussing with other stakeholders and experts the challenges that academic institutions may face from the integration of digital technologies, especially in the post-pandemic era, what successful practices we established during the pandemic we should maintain and when to move forward.

Event Information

- Full-day event (from 10:00 to 17:00). Drinks, buffet lunch and snacks will be provided.
- The official language of the Multiplier Event is English.
- Participation in the event will be free of charge, but registration is required. Registration deadline: October 7th
- Participants will receive a certificate of participation.
- The agenda of the event can be found at the end of this form.

The Venue

The event will take place at the Mercator House in the University of Duisburg-Essen (Campus Duisburg). <https://goo.gl/maps/aCiAQpb4MFQ4MpLV9>

If you have any questions about the event please contact Prof. Dr. Irene-Angelica Chounta (irene-angelica.chounta@uni-due.de)

Disclaimer: Any identifying information provided here will remain confidential to the organizers of the event and will only be used for purposes related to the organization of the event.

[In Google anmelden](#), um den Fortschritt zu speichern. [Weitere Informationen](#)

* **Erforderlich**

E-Mail-Adresse *

Ihre E-Mail-Adresse

Registration

Name (Firstname, Lastname) *

Meine Antwort

Affiliation *

Meine Antwort

Among the following roles, please select the one that describes your current position best: *

HEI Government

Administration

Staff

Faculty

Curriculum developer

Researcher

Sonstiges: _____

Registration *

I hereby confirm my participation at the DigiReady+ First Multiplier Event to be held on October 13th

Dietary Restrictions

Meine Antwort

Note

By registering, you agree that film, image, word and sound recordings may be made of you during the event. These recordings may be used by the DigiReady+ Project without restriction in the context of public relations, taking into account all legal framework conditions. If you do not wish this, please inform the conference team on the day of the event.

Manual Registration

Alternatively, you can fill in the registration document provided here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycksu6zs> and email it to: irene-angelica.chounta@uni-due.de




Agenda

- 10:00: Welcome
- 10:30: Prof. Dr. Nikolaos Avouris (University of Patras, Greece) – Introduction of DigiReady+
- 11:00 coffee break
- 11:15: Prof. Dr. Irene-Angelica Chounta (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany): a Data-driven Framework for the Assessment of Digital Readiness in Higher Education Institutions
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 Plenary Discussion: Planning an Online Toolkit for Assessing Digital Readiness
- 14:30 Interactive, Hands-on Workshop
- 15:30 coffee break
- 16:00 Prof. Dr. Armin Weinberger: Challenges & pitfalls of practices and research on educational technology (Invited Keynote)
- 16:45 Closing

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Appendix C: Satisfaction Survey



DigiReady+
Higher Education Framework

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First Multiplier Event - Assessment form

This form was designed to help us collect feedback from the attendees of the DigiReady+ Multiplier Event. Your opinion is important to us, and we will use it to improve our next event for attendees.

Participation in this survey is voluntary and anonymous.


We thank you in advance for the time and effort you are investing in filling out this form!

On behalf of the organizers and the project consortium
<https://digiready.eu/>

[In Google anmelden](#), um den Fortschritt zu speichern. [Weitere Informationen](#)

*** Erforderlich**

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How well did the content of the event meet your expectations? *

1 2 3 4 5

Extremely poor Excellent

How would you rate the agenda of the event? *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Extremely poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Excellent

How would you rate the quality of presentations? *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Extremely poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Excellent

How would you rate the event in terms of its usefulness in explaining the importance of a framework for measuring digital readiness indicators in HEIs? *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Extremely poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Excellent

How would you rate the chosen location for the event? *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very inconvenient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very convenient

How would you rate the networking opportunities during the event? *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Extremely poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Excellent

How would you rate the overall organization of the DigiReady+ Multiplier event? *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Extremely poor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Excellent

What suggestions do you have for follow-up events and for actions that should be taken?

Meine Antwort
