Coimbra Group High-Level Seminar on Education Policy "(Generative) Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education"
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi, 21-22 November 2024

With a history dating back to the 1950s when the term itself was coined and recognized in the academic community, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has undergone tremendous advancements from Newell and Simon's *General Problem Solver* and Joseph Weizenbaum's *ELIZA*[1] to OpenAI's *ChatGPT*. Despite its humble beginnings, generative AI is nowadays capable of producing texts, images, videos, sounds/voices and complex data in seconds. The rapid progress of AI urges all relevant stakeholders, especially Universities, to consider both broader societal impacts[2] and risks, and specific implications for strategic planning and action in education and research. Universities may play a key role in unlocking the transformative potential of generative AI in shaping the future, but a strong strategic, responsible and responsive approach is certainly needed.

Over the last years, AI has become a priority for many CG Working Groups[3] and it is becoming also the subject of constructive inter-Working Groups exchanges, in line with the growing concern and emphasis around AI at the European policy level[4].

The High-level Policy Seminar is designed to offer Rectors and Vice-Rectors for Education of Coimbra Group Universities unique perspectives, valuable knowledge, dynamic dialogues and an engaging experience on the responses to the widespread adoption of generative AI tools in our academic communities. The members of the CG Education Innovation Working Group already identified institutional policies and academic practices on the use of generative AI tools, and will provide a number of relevant examples, as premises for further and richer exchanges.

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[1] Haenlein, M., & Kaplan, A. (2019). A brief history of artificial intelligence: on the past, present, and future of artificial intelligence. *California Management Review*, *61*(4), 5-14. https://doi.org/10.1177/0008125619864925.

[2] Vinuesa, R., Azizpour, H., Leite, I., Balaam, M., Dignum, V., Domisch, S., Felländer, A., Langhans, S. D., Tegmark, M., & Fuso, Nerini F. (2020). The role of artificial intelligence in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. *Nature Communications*, *11*(1). 233. doi: 10.1038/s41467-019-14108-y.

[3] See for example, the Conference "Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Universities" organized by the Research Support Officers Working Group, held at Charles University in November 2023. https://www.coimbra-group.eu/responsible-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-universities/.

[4] See the development of the EU Artificial Intelligence Act, formally adopted formally by the European Council in May 2024. https://artificialintelligenceact.eu/.

The event aims to explore and discuss both **benefits** and **challenges** in integrating generative AI into the academic life, by approaching timely topics such as:

- The need to embed **AI literacy** as part of the broader digital literacy into the study programmes, but also to acknowledge the **strengths and weaknesses of incorporating generative AI into curriculum design[5]**;
- The potential of generative AI **to enhance teaching, learning and assessment** in higher education;
- The promise of generative AI **to create new opportunities to foster creativity** across academic communities, and **to support equity and inclusion** (through personalized learning, interactive learning experiences, real-time feedback, etc.);
- The role of generative AI in **(re)considering university teachers' roles and workloads**;
- The need for **ethical considerations** to be well thought-out (ensuring academic integrity, promoting responsible AI use, addressing potential biases in AI-generated content, etc) and explicitly addressed in institutional policies and educational practices.

Coimbra Group High-Level Seminar on Education Policy (Draft) Programme

12:00-13:00	Registration and lunch	
13:00-13:30	Welcoming remarks	- Management team, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi - Ludovic Thilly, Chair, Coimbra Group Executive Board - Representative of the Romanian Ministry of Education (TBC) - Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission (TBC)
13:30-14:15	Keynote 1	*The Implications of AI for Higher Education: Emerging Patterns in OECD Countries* Simon Roy, OECD, Head of Higher Education Policy
14:15-15:00	Keynote 2	*The Role of Higher Education for Successful Digital Transformation and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence* Pinar Heggernes, University of Bergen, Vice-Rector for Education and Digital Knowledge, Member of Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium
15:00-15:15	Coffee break	

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5 Chan, C. & Colloton, T. (2024). *Generative AI in Higher Education: The ChatGPT Effect.* London: Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003459026.

15:15-16:15	Workshop	*Using generative artificial intelligence in teaching, learning and assessment.* Hands on workshop in a AICU computer lab.
16:15-17:00	Keynote 3	*Opportunities, Challenges and Adoption Strategies of GenAI technology in Education* Vincent Wade, Trinity College Dublin, Chair of Computer Science (Est. 1990), Co-Founder of ADAPT SFI Research Centre for AI & Digital Media Technologies, Co-Director of SFI Centre for Postgraduate Research Training in Digitally-Enhanced Reality (School of Computer Science & Statistics)
17:00-18:00	Students' voice	*The use and the misuse of ChatGPT for learning.* *AI literacy needs* Exchange of views with AICU students.
19:00	Dinner	

Friday, 22 November

9:00-9:45	Keynote 4	Beatrix Busse, University of Cologne, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs and Teaching (TBC)
09:45-10:30	Case studies presented by members of the Education Innovation Working Group	**(Generative) Artificial Intelligence in the Coimbra Group Universities** – organized according to **four topics:** • AI and curriculum design/study programmes • AI literacy – equity and inclusion • AI in teaching, learning and assessment • AI ethical considerations. Institutional policies and practices
10:30-11:15	Industry's voice Keynote 5	Florin Olariu, Technical Manager at Centric IT Solutions Romania, Member of an OpenAI working group (TBC)
11:15-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-12.30	Round Table	Panel discussion on *integrating AI into the academic life, with a focus on policy and strategy*
12:30-12:45	Taking it forward after the seminar	Education Innovation Working Group Chair and Vice-Chair
12:45-13.00	Concluding remarks	- Ludovic Thilly, Chair, Coimbra Group Executive Board - Management team, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi
13:00-14:00	Lunch	