

Seminar Across the Atlantic 2021

Shaping the future of ULLL - Old ways and new roads

Thursday 29 April 2021, 16:00CET



In collaboration with  **UPCEA** 



Future of Non-Formal and Informal Learning and Implications for Higher Education

Prof. Dr. Attila Pausits

Department for Higher Education Research, Danube University Krems (AT)



Today, learning already takes place across many different places in different settings. Apart from traditional formal learning like at higher education institutions, we see that non-formal and informal learning is happening in different spaces and contexts nowadays. Such types of learning are more and more important and typically taking place voluntarily in real-life situations and often through peer interactions and participatory approaches. In addition, non-formal and informal learning take place in work and leisure. Work and career-oriented learning, upskilling and reskilling on the job, and learning for personal development are frequently associated with informal, flexible and collaborative ways of learning. At the same time, we can also observe that the boundaries between formal, non-formal and informal learning are blurring. Societal needs but recent advances like through digitalization enable this development by allowing online courses to be provided in a more flexible manner and to promote peer-learning among learners with different backgrounds.

At the European level, several initiatives have been launched in the past 15 years to support non-formal and informal learning, and to promote its validation and recognition. The European Qualification Framework, the Europass and the validation process scheme for non-formal and informal learning (identification, documentation, assessment, certification) can be mentioned here as significant milestones.

To develop a vision of the future of non-formal and informal learning, a study called “The Future of Non-Formal and Informal Learning: Towards Lifelong and Life-wide Learning Ecosystems” identified major trends and drivers on different forms of learning. Based on the outcome of their assessment the presentation will discuss future scenarios and their implications for higher education institutions with a strong focus on continuing education.

Find out more about our keynote speaker [here](#).