

Series of Online Training Sessions Concludes Successfully within DIRNA Project

The final session of the series of online training sessions organized by partners from Finland since October 2025, within the framework of Work Package 4.5 (WP4.5) of the DIRNA project — of which Khazar University is the coordinator — was held on June 29, 2026. The training sessions were aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of project participants, promoting the exchange of international experience, and supporting digital transformation processes in higher education institutions.

The final session of the online training series was moderated by Aytaj Misgarli, Director of the Library and Information Centre of Khazar University, and was presented by the project's Finnish partners, Kati Clements and Saana Mehtälä. The session was devoted to summarizing the outcomes of the training sessions held within the project framework, presenting the developed educational materials, and discussing future directions for cooperation and new joint project opportunities.

During the seminar, it was noted that the training program was shaped on the basis of needs identified during the Summer School and study visits. Following a survey conducted among participants after the initial training sessions, the program was refined and additional educational materials were developed on topics of greatest interest to participants.

Within the session, discussions were held on current topics including international repositories, university rankings, research funding, the development of international cooperation, data management, and trust in information systems. The importance of expanding experience-sharing among universities, disseminating successful local practices, and further strengthening international cooperation was also underscored.

In the second part of the meeting, partners exchanged views on future cooperation prospects and discussed opportunities for developing new joint projects. During the discussions, the application of AI in education, digital transformation, sustainable development, planetary wellbeing, teacher training, STEAM education, and the development of innovative learning environments were identified as priority directions for future cooperation.

At the close of the seminar, moderator Aytaj Misgarli expressed gratitude to all partner universities for their active participation and productive collaboration throughout the project. She expressed confidence that the continuation of the successful partnership formed within the DIRNA project and the development of new international projects will make a significant contribution to the further advancement of cooperation in the field of higher education.



What's next?

- For DIRNA D4.5 – finishing up the remaining training materials (Charlie) and the report (Saana & Kati)
- For FUTURE – we are happy to collaborate on project proposals! Our [Innovative Learning Environments research group](#) focuses on many themes related to technology, education and wellbeing, such as
 - School education (K-12) and higher education contexts in Finland and Europe
 - Learning environment design (physical and digital)
 - Digital wellbeing and technostress
 - Planetary wellbeing and sustainability-related action competence
 - AI use in education
 - Teachers' professional competence development
 - STEM and STEAM education, creativity
 - Physical robots in education

future





Manage



Saana Mäkelä



Kati Mäkelä



Charlie Mäkelä

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