Get ready for virtual mobility with the new OpenVM SIG

Date: 19 June 2020

Today is the launch of the OpenVM Special Interest Group (SIG), a new special interest group dedicated to virtual mobility hosted by EADTU. The OpenVM SIG emerged from the Open Virtual Mobility Erasmus+ strategic partnership (2017 - 2020)[1] following the commitment of all project partners to mainstreaming virtual mobility in context of open education. The goal of the OpenVM SIG is to share resources, experience and know-how that can be used by staff and students in higher education institutions to develop, assess and recognise virtual mobility skills. Anyone interested in supporting virtual mobility within their institution is welcome to join the OpenVM SIG!

The need to offer staff and students internationalisation opportunities is faced by practically every European college and university. For some, this can be met through travel grants and placements. However, for the vast majority of staff and students, traditional forms of mobility in form of travels are simply not possible or feasible. An internationalisation experience through a virtual internship, a collaborative cross-border project or a virtual placement can be a meaningful alternative or add-on for students and staff in higher education. However, many universities and colleges lack the skills to provide, support and enhance these types of virtual, international learning experiences. This is why the OpenVM Erasmus+ strategy partnership developed an online Learning Hub[2] which provides a set of MOOCs and OERs to support development, assessment and recognitions of skills needed for successful participation in virtual mobility.

Over the past 3 years, OpenVM involving partners in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Romania, Italy, Spain and Belgium have been developing frameworks, tools and guidelines for developing, assessing and recognising virtual mobility skills, including eight MOOCs, each dedicated to a specific skill cluster, e.g. intercultural skills, media and digital literacy, e-assessment tools for automatic self-assessment and peer-assessment, a semantic directory of virtual mobility skills and open digital
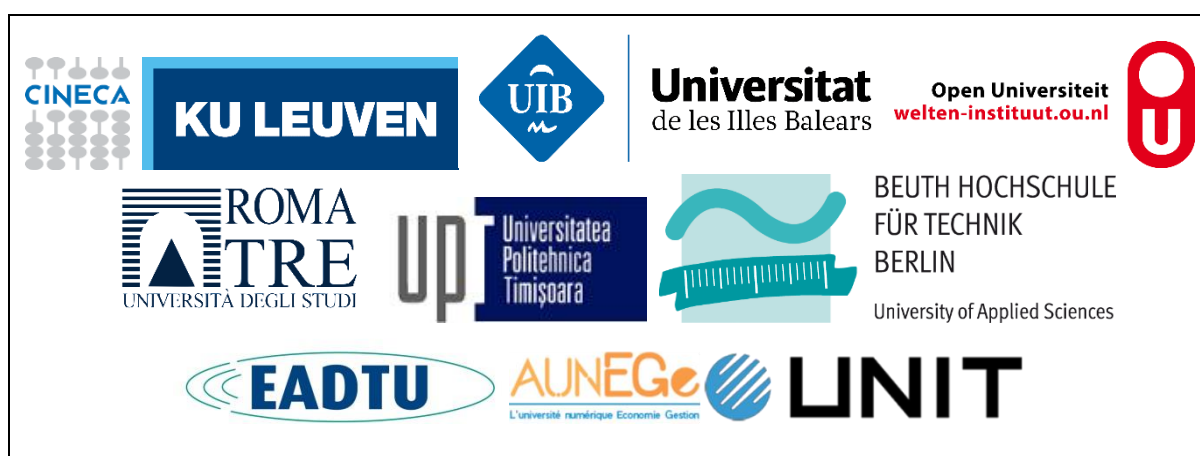
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[1] https://www.openvirtualmobility.eu/
[2] https://hub.openvirtualmobility.eu/my/

credentials (Open Badges and Blockcerts) to recognise and share skills online. The OpenVM project has been running pilots to test out innovative pedagogical approaches and digital tools which can be used to help students and staff to improve their virtual mobility skills. The project's funding phase ends in August 2020 and the launch of the OpenVM SIG aims to carry this valuable work forward and to provide all colleges and universities with tools and resources they need to successfully launch virtual mobility opportunities for their staff and students.

Join the OpenVM SIG if your university or college is planning to start offering new or to mainstream existing virtual mobility opportunities to your students and staff. As a member of this online special interest group, you will have access to all project outputs as well as to a network of experts and experienced professionals who can help you plan and realise successful virtual mobility experiences for your students and staff.

For more information: https://www.openvirtualmobility.eu/