



Universal Learning Systems

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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Description of the organisation

Universal Learning Systems is an international consultancy firm specializing in research, education, training and project management. ULS undertakes projects for a number of clients in the educational, development and management sectors. Based in Ireland, ULS also has offices in Barcelona, Helsinki, São Paulo, Athens and Chicago.

The ULS focus is on professional development with a particular emphasis on work-based learning. ULS works in Ireland, Europe, China and the United States with a wide range of clients: these include universities, open learning institutions, schools, employers and community associations. It has particular expertise in learning around transformative education, disability and rehabilitation, e-learning, diversity, interculturalism, immigration, conflict resolution and strategic management. ULS has extensive experience of promotion of educational and learning innovation. It works closely with community stakeholders, adult education and employer networks. ULS has particular experience with post-graduate distance learning initiatives in change management and sustainable professional development. It is centrally involved in work based learning initiatives to promote employee growth and competence. ULS focuses on pro-active strategic planning for innovative learning and is actively involved in a wide range of evaluation projects.

ULS has a leading profile in EU distance learning and e-learning innovation networks. ULS has particular experience in project evaluation and quality assurance. ULS has developed an extensive range of e-learning courses in the security and pharmacy sectors in Finland in association with its partner company, *ChangeLearning*. ULS has experience of working with schools in developing enhanced engagement with teachers, communities and parents. ULS has developed human rights and diversity training for police training colleges in Ireland and Europe. ULS bases its work on the identification and development of opportunities for innovative learning competence to address future challenges. Capturing this innovation has become a key focus for ULS projects in recent years around advanced technologies and their application to human learning needs. Through its expertise on disability, migration and interculturalism, ULS has developed robust training methods and guidelines based on individual and community learning and development needs – particularly in a time of socio-economic crisis.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

ULS has a proven track record in project management and training in European projects for over twenty-five years in its core areas. ULS has undertaken significant research and consultancy work for agencies and universities in the United States, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Taiwan. A key mission of ULS is articulation of best practice in developing strategic goals and reviewing outcomes to meet needs of participants and agencies, especially in the area of human rights, migration, equality and diversity.

ULS, is or has been involved as partner or evaluator in the following EU projects since 2002:

Starting Year	Programme or Initiative	Contracting organisation	Title of the project / network	Website
2021	Erasmus+	Universidad Pablo de Olavade, Sevilla, ES	IHES	https://ihes.pixel-online.org/
2021	Erasmus +	VUC	HAVE	
2021	Erasmus + CBHE	Al Quds Open University	CARE	https://care.edu.ps/
2020	Erasmus + KA3	VUC	SIATE	https://www.siate.eu/

2019	Erasmus + KA2	University G.T.Popa, Iasi	INCREASE	www.increase.grant.umfiasi.ro
2019	Erasmus+ KA2	IKY, Greece	Superlingo	www.superlingo.eu
2018	Erasmus + CBHE	Al Quds Open University	TEFL in Palestinian HEIs	https://tefl-epal.ps/
2018	Erasmus + KA2	VUK Storstrøm	Games Based Training GBT	https://www.gbt-project.eu/
2018	EEA Norway Grants	CIE Poland	FOLM	www.folmweb.com
2017	Erasmus + SSA	University of Patras	SEnDIng	http://sending-project.eu/index.php/en/
2017	Erasmus + KA2	FSiK	Added Value	www.av.pl
2017	Erasmus + KA2	IIS F. Mengaroni	APPS	www.apps.it
2013	LLP	University of Granada	ADOLL	www.adoll.eu
2013	LLP	Ellinogermaniki Agogi	UDLnet	www.udlnet.eu
2013	LLP Comenius	CTI Patras	E-STEP	www.estep-project.eu
2012	LLP Comenius	Ellinogermaniki Agogi	TRANSit	www.transit.eu
2012	ICT-PSP	Intrasoft Ltd	OPEN DISCOVERY SPACE	www.opendiscoveryspace.eu
2012	LLP Comenius	University of Nicosia	CAREM	www.caremcomenius.eu
2011	LLP	Pixel, Firenze	NELLIP	www.nellip.eu
2011	LLP	Eurinform Bulgaria	LANGO	www.lango.eu
2011	LLP Comenius	Enable Ireland	FIESTA	www.fiestaproject.eu
2010	LLP	EuroEd	MyStory	www.mystories.eu
2010	LLP Leonardo	EuroEd	UEmploy	www.uemploy.eu
2008	LLP Grundtvig Partnership	VUC-VS Denmark	Mentor: Sink or Swim	www.vuc.dk/sinkorswim
2008	LLP transversal research	University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU	Creanova	www.creanova.ehu.es
2008	LLP Comenius	Fondazione IARD	Speak	www.speak.it
2006	LLP Minerva	Platon School	Educonlinux	www.educonlinux.eu
2005	Leonardo da Vinci	Adulta, Finland	Catit	www.catit.fi

2005	EQUAL2	Galway City Partnership	You Are Equal	www.youareequal.ie/gcp
2003	Leonardo da Vinci	Enable Ireland, Cork	Co-Guide	www.coguide.ie
2002	EQUAL	NUIG/FAS	TRED	www.tred.ie

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

ULS is centrally involved in innovative educational development, transformational school systems and enhanced use of ICT in schools and was National Coordinator for the EU *Open Discovery Space* program in Ireland (2012-2016). ULS contributed to the design and delivery of the Globe Project in Ireland (2009-10) for the *All-Ireland Program for Immigrant Parents*. ULS works with the *Immigrant Council of Ireland* and has worked closely with universities, employers and NGOs to develop best practice on interculturalism, integration and migrant rights. ULS has a long experience of working with schools in developing enhanced engagement with teachers, communities and parents. ULS has worked with schools in Cyprus to develop creative arts approaches to inclusion. ULS has contributed to language learning projects in both Spain, Greece and Italy.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

Evaluative skills, quality assurance and strategic planning. ULS has a strong focus in sustainable dissemination strategies. ULS has strong expertise in research and writing skills. ULS will contribute to a number of key activities throughout the project. This will include general actions to advance project management and development as contributing partner. ULS has significant research expertise and a long track record of publication and research excellence in innovative learning (including academic and work-based learning linkage) as well as learner support. ULS will concentrate on robust analysis of leading academic and applied trends in creative learning initiatives benchmarked against established models of best practice in inclusion, ICT skills and stakeholder engagement. ULS will contribute significant inputs on valorization through publications, papers, presentations and PR using extensive ULS professional networks.

Reasons of involvement in the project

To develop the project aims and objectives in the field of language learning and use of music. Also to deepen the contribution to EU standards and quality in the transnational engagement.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Dr. Alan Bruce is Director of Universal Learning Systems. He is a sociologist who studied in Los Angeles, Galway, Amsterdam and Hull. He has lectured in universities in France, England and Ireland and worked in policy research for the European Commission in Brussels. In Ireland, he was responsible for national initiatives in professional development in the disability sector. He is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling with the University of Wisconsin-Stout and a member of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Memphis. He teaches for the National University of Ireland Galway on learning policy, diversity and systematic training. He has written and published extensively on innovative and applied learning supports. He was Senior Research Fellow with the University of Edinburgh with responsibility for educational social inclusion and innovative EU projects from 2009-14.

Dr. Bruce has lectured and published widely on the social impact of disability, labor market policy, innovative education, distance learning, social inclusion, conflict transformation, strategic change and managing diversity. He was elected Fellow of the European Distance and E-Learning Network in Naples in 2007 and Vice-President of EDEN in 2010. He has written policy and conducted research for Irish

government agencies with particular reference to community employment, best practice and labor market outcomes for marginalized groups. He has lectured and published widely on the social impact of disability, interculturalism, migration, labor market policy, innovative education, language learning, social inclusion, conflict transformation and managing diversity.

In 2018, he was appointed as External Expert for the European Commission in Brussels on migration policy and social inclusion. In 2018, he was appointed to the EU Commission's Steering Committee on Online Training for the European Workforce. He is an international academic adviser for the University of Memphis, and was appointed to its Graduate Faculty in the Department of Psychology and Counselling in 2014. He coordinated the Diploma in Professional Studies (Managing Diversity) operated by University College Cork and Waterford Crystal.

He is Assistant Professor with UOC, the Open University of Catalonia in Barcelona and teaches courses in international conflict resolution and peace-building. He was appointed as Learning Design Expert with Universidad Nacional de Educación (UNAE) in Ecuador in 2018.

Imelda Graham, M.Phil, has worked on national and transnational projects: including serving on the board of the European Training and Development Federation for a number of years, culminating in being elected as President. She has worked with the National After School Association in the USA, and presented at conferences in the USA, UK and Europe. Imelda is currently Chairperson of the *National Childhood Network* in Ireland. Previously Imelda served on the Board of the Irish Institute of Training and Development for many years.

In addition to working with ULS on a number of EU projects, in particular E-Step and CAREM (A Comenius Multilateral Project led by University of Nicosia, which developed curriculum-linked resources for teachers to support primary age children in schools to understand Equality and Diversity, and to practice inclusion), Imelda participated in the DICE (Development of Intercultural Education) in Ireland (<http://www.diceproject.ie/>). Previously Imelda worked with the Irish partners on the European Year of Lifelong Learning and advised on Dublin City Council's work to become a city of learning. Imelda's post-graduate qualifications include a diploma from NUIG in Equality and Diversity, and currently studying childhood trauma. Imelda established a multilingual kindergarten for children aged 2-12 in a refugee camp in Greece. Her recent publications have been targeted towards early years' educators. Imelda has published over seven textbooks for pre-primary educators, including on Equality and Diversity, Transitions, CPD, Environments, Legislation and others, with Barnardos Ireland. Imelda is a member of PEIN [Prevention and Early Intervention] which is currently steering an Erasmus+ project on transitions from pre-primary to primary school.