#3: Updates from the E+DIETing_LAB:

Bridging Connections
at the Kielce Project Summit

On the 16th and 17th of February 2023, a vibrant meeting of minds took place in the picturesque city of Kielce, Poland, as the E+DIETING_Lab collaborators converged for a two-day summit. Parties representing the esteemed institutions of the **European University of the Atlantic (UNEATLANTICO)**, **University of Valladolid (UVA)** in Spain, **St. Pölten University** in Austria, the **Universidade do Porto** in Portugal, and **AP Hogeschool Antwerpen** in Belgium were graciously hosted their Polish counterparts from the **Jan Kochanowski University** *(UJK)* in Poland.

Under the leadership of UNEATLANTICO the E+DIETing_LAB project aims to modernise and support dietetic education by developing a digital platform featuring a patient simulation avatar based using artificial intelligence. This timely technological solution aims to enhance the experiential learning of dietitians and dietetic students.

Amidst the spirit of international collaboration, attendees explored UJK's state-of-the-art campus facilities, including those of medicine, nursing, and nutrition. They also had the chance to soak in the beauty of Kielce, nestled within the Świętokrzyskie Mountains.

Celebrating Progress

The summit began with a review of the project's milestones thus far. Partners have successfully created dietetic case studies and a working prototype of the patient simulator.

Each university group developed cases focusing on conditions such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, renal disease, and gastroenterological disorders. These are used for training the chatbot. In an effort to foster accessibility, these cases are available in English and the respective native languages of each institution, with the chatbot providing seamless translations.

During the summit, attendees had the opportunity to test the prototype chatbot, which accepts both text and speech input. This hands-on experience sparked valuable discussions on potential improvements. It was also a good opportunity for non-technical partners to meet the program developer and get clarification on the technical intricacies of the project.

Additionally, a recent publication authored by some of the project partners was presented. The paper is a systematic review of machine learning applied to the prediction of obesity and overweight. This research, carried out under the framework of the E+DIETing_Lab project, makes a significant contribution to the scientific community's understanding of machine learning in healthcare.

Finally, activities relating to communication and dissemination, quality assurance and finances were presented and discussed.

Charting a Path Forward

With case studies and a prototype in hand, the next stage is to test and evaluate the prototype with dietetic students, starting from late April 2023. Evaluations will comprise self-conducted and supervised components, focusing on case study understanding, nutrient requirement calculations, goal-setting, diet planning, evidence-based practice and use of standardised nutrition terminology.

Work on a supportive tool for dietetic educators is also underway. Initial ideas presented included automated recordings and transcription of student interviews with the chatbot to facilitate student evaluation.

Expert feedback will on the clinical case will be also be sought from National Dietetic organisations and food agencies to aid in evaluation.

Reflecting on a Fruitful Summit

Overall, the project summit was an excellent opportunity for partners to meet and be updated on developments with the E+DIETing_LAB. We left Kielce with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the next phase of the project and look forward to our next in person meeting in Antwerpen later in the year.

The E+DIETing_Lab project is jointly funded by the Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (**SEPIE, Spanish Agency of the European Programme Eramus +**) through to 2025.

You want to know more about the E+DIETing_LAB project?

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#Newsletter 1

#Newsletter 2

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