



ERASMUS+ EDUFUSION NSG INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN VIGO, Spain (July 22-24)

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS

E3.1 (IPP, UVigo, ENTER, KAZNU, Satbayev University, KATRU, EKTU, KarU, KazNARU, KAZSEE, MES)

Press Report:

EDUFUSION NSG International Workshop in Vigo, Spain

From July 22 to 25, 2025, the city of Vigo, Spain, hosted the **EDUFUSION NSG International Workshop**, organized by the University of Vigo (UVigo) under the Erasmus+ program. This event marked a significant milestone in the development of Professional Development Programs (PDPs) for educators from engineering and technical universities in Kazakhstan, including KazNARU.

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, universities must be agile, innovative, and capable of transformation. With the rise of new technologies, globalization, and the growing demand for interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial skills, the need for high-quality teacher training has become more urgent than ever. The EDUFUSION NSG conference responded to this challenge by bringing together European and Kazakhstani partners to co-develop educational solutions aligned with international standards. Special emphasis was placed on sustainability, digital transformation, and inclusivity in education.

The workshop aimed to co-create and enhance internationally aligned PDPs tailored to the upskilling needs of Kazakhstani educators. These needs include the integration of cutting-edge pedagogical strategies, improved digital literacy, and strengthened teaching approaches in STEAM and entrepreneurship and developing environmental education. The event served as a collaborative platform for curriculum innovation, quality assurance alignment, and strategic planning for future implementation phases.

Participants

The workshop brought together representatives from leading Kazakhstani universities — including KazNARU, Satbayev University, KarU, EKTU, KATRU, and KAZSEE — as well as European partners such as IPP, UVigo, and ENTER. Officials from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Kazakhstan also participated, ensuring alignment with national environmental and educational priorities.

Venue

The sessions were held at the **Redeiras Building**, UVigo's institutional headquarters located in the historic O Berbés district. The building is a model of sustainable architecture, constructed using cross-laminated timber, reclaimed stone, and zinc roofing and represents environmental sustainability. It was selected to represent Spain at the 19th Venice Architecture Biennale in 2025.



Workshop Program Highlights

Day 1 – Foundations and Curriculum Innovation (July 22)

The first day focused on analyzing the current state of PDPs in Kazakhstan, presenting the results of a prior needs analysis, and introducing international quality standards. Participants explored inclusive and sustainable curriculum development and engaged in co-creation labs using Design Thinking and Canva tools.

Key activities included:

- Comparative mapping of existing PDPs;
- Presentation of 20 key competency gaps;
- Study visit to the Redeiras Building;
- Collaborative curriculum prototyping sessions.

The day concluded with a guided city walk through Vigo's historic center.



Day 2 – Designing the Future and Validation (July 23)

The second day offered a dynamic blend of expert talks and interactive sessions. Key topics included innovative pedagogies such as flipped learning, experiential learning, and project-based learning (PBL). Participants explored cutting-edge EdTech tools, AI applications, and the integration of the metaverse in education. Sessions also focused on planning a comprehensive “Train the Trainer” program, designing templates for educator evaluation and certification, and conducting internal curriculum audits and peer reviews. The day concluded with a final validation panel, where key insights were shared and feedback was gathered. Networking activities followed, providing participants with opportunities to connect, collaborate, and exchange ideas for future educational innovation.

The second day featured expert talks and hands-on sessions:

- Innovative pedagogies: flipped learning, experiential learning, and PBL;
- EdTech tools, AI protocols, and the use of the metaverse in education;
- Planning the “Train the Trainer” program;
- Designing templates for educator evaluation and certification;
- Conducting internal curriculum audits and peer reviews.
- Discussion of environmental education

The day ended with a final validation panel and networking activities.

Day 3 – Reflective Walk and Social Audit (July 24)

Participants engaged in a 10-kilometer reflective walk, using the time to discuss strategic follow-up actions and future collaboration. In the afternoon, a Social Audit Session was held, focusing on evaluating gender equity, inclusion, and sustainability within the proposed Professional Development Plans (PDPs). The session encouraged open dialogue and critical reflection, helping participants assess how well the initiatives align with broader institutional and societal goals. Both activities fostered meaningful engagement and reinforced the commitment to inclusive and sustainable development..



Day 4 – Strategic Planning (July 25)

A closed session for key stakeholders (ENTER, KazSEE, Ministry, UVigo) focused on:

- Strategic debrief and analysis of workshop outcomes;
- Planning educator recruitment strategies;
- Designing certification and accreditation pathways;
- Aligning with international quality assurance standards.

Outcomes and Impact for KazNARU

The EDUFUSION NSG workshop marked a significant milestone in advancing teacher training in Kazakhstan. For KazNARU, it opened promising new avenues for academic innovation and international collaboration. The sessions introduced modern pedagogical approaches, digital tools, and strategic planning frameworks that align with global education standards. This engagement not only enriched institutional capacity but also strengthened KazNARU's commitment to transformative and environmental education. The workshop laid the groundwork for future partnerships and impactful initiatives in higher education reform.

- Access to international templates and tools for PDP development;
- Participation in collaborative curriculum design labs;
- Expert guidance on accreditation and certification processes;
- Strengthened partnerships with European institutions and national authorities.

Additionally, KazNARU's involvement in strategic sessions allowed the university to contribute to future project phases, including educator recruitment strategies, certification planning, and quality assurance mechanisms. These outcomes lay a strong foundation for sustainable capacity building and educational transformation.

