



## Template for Local Action Plans (LAPs)

The LAPs are connected to Intellectual Output 2, and are described as follows:

*As a consequence of the mapping exercise (IO1) and the local transferability camps (E1-E6), all partner institutions have committed themselves to producing innovative research strategies for their teacher education in relation to project goals. Their main aim is to create a positive and more focused research ethos and culture in the institutions, with the ultimate effect of improving teaching and learning for school pupils. Research strategies will be discussed at the TNPM in September 2019 in Weingarten and in March 2020 in Linköping in order to exchange knowledge transnationally and thus improve the outputs' transferability potential and impact on IO3.*

*All partners will produce an innovative research strategy for their research activities in teacher education (text and graphic), which could potentially have an impact on other education departments within the institution and beyond.*

The discussion in Trondheim and elsewhere identified that there could be confusion between research strategies developed by RECITE and existing strategies at departmental or institutional level. Consequently, we decided on the term **Local Action Plans**.

The local action plan (LAP) should ideally cover the duration of the RECITE project, (i.e. to 31/08/2021) but in practice, a rolling one-year plan may be more practical, since consultation with stakeholders (mainly schools) will affect how the plan unfolds. At this stage in the project a one-year plan will provide enough of a basis for discussion.

Main objectives of the LAP (based on Trondheim discussion)

1. Improve communication with stakeholders regarding research activities at your department or unit. This could include identifying specific research groups or communities within your department, e.g. research groups working

on language learning or numeracy, of interest to the relevant schoolteachers or departments.

2. Establish regular events to share knowledge and listen to stakeholders. One issue that might be addressed specifically is the over-use of schools as data sources or venues for research projects. Better coordination of research and development activities, especially if student teachers are required to do R & D projects, could be helpful.
3. Provide research training opportunities for staff, including student teachers, in-service teachers, teacher educators, post-graduate researchers and school leaders. This means training more in the sense of professional socialisation, rather than traditional methods courses. In other words, all participants should learn more about the who, what, why and how of research activity within and beyond their particular community.
4. Provide opportunities for meta-research into the relationship between practice, teaching and learning, and research at your institution/unit.
5. Increase the transparency of research governance structures, in particular, by opening up for discussion with potential 'influencers' in the research ecosystem. This should include school students and student teachers wherever possible, as well as local education authorities. By 'governance', we mean the structures and relationships that determine what kinds of research are performed, and how the results are used. It is important for the success of RECITE and possible follow up projects that we can demonstrate changes to these structures and relationships.

At the project meeting in Linköping, NTNU will present their LAP as a possible model, but we expect that there will be considerable variation between partners.

## Local Action Plan Report Template Headings

1. **Institution name:** European University Cyprus (EUC)
2. **Period covered by action plan:** *October 2020-February 2021*
3. **Brief description of department or section involved, including numbers of persons covered by the plan.**
  - a. *Name of department or section involved in mapping:* Department of Education Sciences, School of Humanities, Social and Education Sciences
  - b. *Contact person, position, email:* Loucas Louca, Associate Professor, [L.Louca@euc.ac.cy](mailto:L.Louca@euc.ac.cy), Chrystalla Papademetri-Kachrimani, Assistant Professor, [C.Papademetri@euc.ac.cy](mailto:C.Papademetri@euc.ac.cy)
  - c. *Number of research-active staff as a whole:* 11
  - d. *Number of PhD/master students in department (etc) as a whole:* 33
  - e. *Departmental priorities in research:* Even though, the research interests of the faculty are spread in a wide range of subjects from the domain of the Education Sciences, there is a consensus, a common effort, among the faculty, to conduct research which relate to:
    - differentiated and inclusive education
    - redefining 'learning': empowering the learning environment (based on new trends, use of technology) and improving schools and
    - participatory, community approaches to research and (in-service and pre-service) teacher's professional learning and development.
  - f. *Number of persons covered by the plan: approximately 200 researchers & educators*
4. **Timeline of proposed actions:** September 2020 – June 2021
5. **Description of each of the planned activities**, including target audience if relevant, expected results and whether the activity is expected to change the direction or topics of research at your institution in any way.
  - a. ***Establishment of an Annual Teacher Research Day***

The Cyprus LAP was built around the idea of establishing an Annual Teacher Research Day in a manner that would promote the aims of the RECITE project in a long-term and sustainable manner. The 1st Annual Teacher Research Day, entitled "**Research from Teachers; Research with Teachers**" was held online (through the Blackboard Collaborate platform, on the following link <https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/6823acc5cad449f8b96150a514fd868d>) on **20/02/2021**.

The 1st Annual Research Day was first announced via email to the directors of the *Center of Excellence in Research & Innovation in Social Sciences, the Arts and the Humanities* of EUC ([SOSCIETH](#)). The email provided a brief information on the aims of the RECITE research program and included a draft invitation. Except from the informative character (since the event would take

place under the actions of SOSCIETH), the email called the directors to consider participating (and reaching to their collaborators for participation), in the event.

In a second phase an official invitation was sent (via email) for participation in the 1st Annual Teacher Research Day, to the directors of SOSCIETH and to all faculty members of the School of Humanities, Social and Education Sciences. At official invitation was followed by a more personal telephone communication. The official invitation included a brief description of the research project RECITE, the event invited them to participate in one or more of the following ways:

- Informing the educational community about research programs and activities that run at EUC and definitely involve teachers (as active participants in the research process).
- The presentation of research programs and activities involving teachers.
- The presentation of research proposals as an invitation to teachers to participate.

Academics were encouraged, if possible, to involve the participating teachers in the presentations or workshops. They were also invited to forward this information to other academics or PhD students of the EUC, who could contribute to this effort.

i. A Research Program Presentation (20 minutes)

ii. A Workshop (60 minutes)

iii. A Presentation with Teachers (20 minutes)

The submission of interest for participation in the event could be done through the following link: <https://forms.gle/8cdVeqFSMm5pEB4r7> (google form in Greek)

Upon completion of the submissions, we received 13 responses. Based on these, we developed the program and posted it on SOSCIETH website, under the events of the MRU (Multidisciplinary Research Unit) that is responsible for the RECITE research project (<https://soscieth.euc.ac.cy/index.php/annual-research-day-for-teachers/>).

The program of the conference (see below) included 3 interactive workshops and presentations from 9 different funded research projects related to cutting-edge areas of research and innovation in education. The conference was addressed mainly to primary and secondary school teachers (in-service and pre-service), but also to teachers who are undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD students.

**Saturday, 20.02.2021**

**9:00 AM – 1:15 PM**

**Greetings**

**Professor M. Vryonides**, Director, Center of Excellence for Research & Innovation in Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities (SoScieAth), European University Cyprus

**Professor A. Efstathiou**, Vice-Rector for Research & External Relations of EUC

**Dr Athina Michaelidou**, Director of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth

**Keynote Talk**

When/If research goes to school: The transfer of the "teacher as a researcher" and issues of professional development of teachers

*Dr. Stavroula Philippou, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, University of Cyprus.*

**10:00-10:10**

**TRANSITION TO THE VIRTUAL ROOMS OF THE PARALLEL WORKSHOPS**

**10:10-11:00**

**PARALLEL WORKSHOPS**

**WORKSHOP I (Group 1)**

Encouraging musical understanding through movement activities.

*Dr. Maria Papazachariou - Christoforou, Lecturer, European University Cyprus*

**WORKSHOP II (Group 2)**

Pedagogy of Documentation as a paradigm of educational research.

*Dr. Chrystalla Papademetri-Kachrimani, Assistant Professor, European University Cyprus*

**11:00-11:30**

**BREAK**

**11:30-12:50**

## PRESENTATIONS

### Chair: Dr. Nayia Stylianidou

**11:30** The impact of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) on daily life, work and the subjective well-being and happiness of teachers in Cyprus.

*Dr. Maria Chalari, Professor Marios Vryonides, European University Cyprus*

**11:50** European Research Programs in Primary Education: Teacher Education and Classroom Implementation

*Dr. Maria Tsakiri, Lecturer & Dr. Katerina Mavrou, Associate Professor & Marianna Efstathiadou, Instructor, European University Cyprus*

#### Related research projects:

- NEMO: NEw MONitoring guidelines to develop innovative ECEC teachers curricula
- SKATE: Skills & Knowledge on Assistive Technology in Early childhood inclusive education
- ENTELIS+: Accessibility skills for a technology enhanced learning in an inclusive society

**12:10** The Blended Learning for Inclusion (BLENDI)

*Dr., Eleni Theodorou, Associate Professor & Dr. Katerina Mavrou, Associate Professor & Dr. Nagia Stylianidou & Dr. Elena Anastasiou, European University Cyprus & Kyriakos Kyriakou & Dr. Maria Loizou & Dr. Elpiniki Manoli*

#### Related research project:

### Chair: Dr. Chrystalla Papademetri-Kachrimani

**11:30** Pedagogy of Documentation as a paradigm of educational research.

*Andrea Eliadou, PhD Candidate, European University Cyprus*

**11:50** FemSTEAM Mysteries: Highlighting the Contribution of Women in the Arts and Sciences through a Digital Mystery Game

*Christina Vassou, American Academy Nicosia & Professor Maria Meletiou-Mavrotheris, European University Cyprus*

#### Related research project:

- FemSTEAM Mysteries: A Role-Model Game-Based Approach to Gender Equality in STEAM

**12:10** "MediaCoach: Supporting Media Education"

*Dr. Charis Xinari, Associate Professor, European University Cyprus & Christina Stavrou, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute*

- BLENDI: The Blended Learning for Inclusion

**12:30** READTWINNING: Connecting readers to develop literacy through digital tools.

*Dr. Konstantina Charalambous, Assistant Professor, European University Cyprus & Giola Palatou & Katerina Skoufari*

Related research project:

- ReadTwinning: Connecting students through shared interests to develop a love for reading

**12:30** Exploitation of Augmented Reality in School Education: Experiences from the implementation of the European Projects EL-STEM and Living Book

*Professor Maria Meletiou-Mavrotheris, & Dr. Katerina Mavrou, Associate Professor & Dr. Konstantina Charalambous, Assistant Professor, European University Cyprus*

Related research projects:

- The Living Book – Augmenting Reading For Life
- EL-STEM – Enlivened Laboratories within STEM Education – Motivating EU students to choosing STEM studies & careers and improving their performance in courses related to STEM education

**12:50**

**AWARDS: FUNDING FOR RESEARCH BY TEACHERS**

A registration form (see the following link <https://forms.gle/GV5dZjCMfGGB1P1x5> - in Greek) was sent to all public primary and pre-primary schools and to all faculty of the School of Humanities, Social and Education Sciences with the request to forward it to collaborating teachers and students teachers (pre-service, master and PhD students).

The event was also advertised through the EUC Research Office Facebook account. For this purpose the following banner was designed:



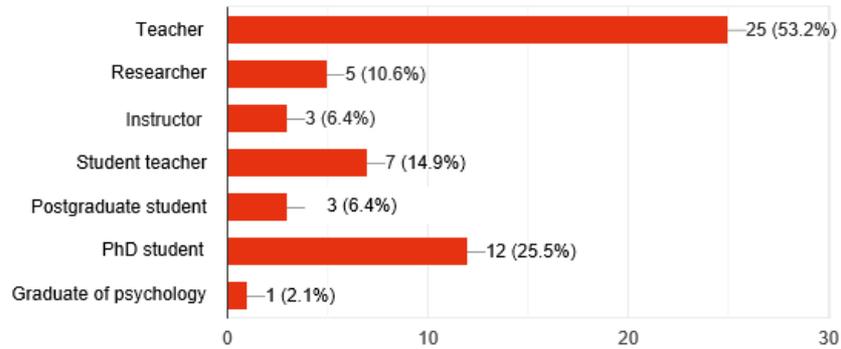
- **Σάββατο, 20 Φεβρουαρίου 2020, 09:00 – 13:00**

Eight hundred eighty one (181) in service teachers, researchers, pre-service, master and PhD students from Cyprus and Greece took part in the 1st Annual Teacher Research Day, on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

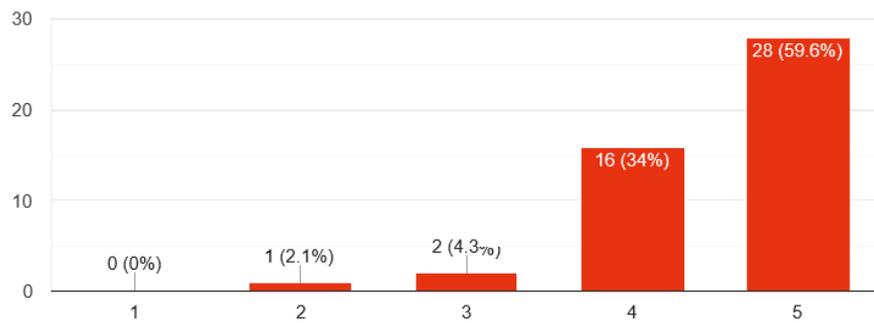
Both the invitation and the announcement of the successful organization of the 1st Annual Teacher Research Day were announced on the social media of the European University of Cyprus and other pages related to education (e.g. <https://www.facebook.com/eucresearch/posts/3584870098265822>, <https://paideia-news.com/eyropaiko-panepistimio/2021/02/24/proti-etisia-imer-a-ereynas-gia-ekpaideytikoys-apo-to-soscieth-toy-eyropaikoy-panepistimioy-kyproy/?fbclid=IwAR0bP7wdw7ut-wuGENMdPpaBj1JeBZaOBA3WRXCWzntexxM4E0h0sLAF8ts>).

At the end of the 1st Annual Teacher Research Day the participants were asked to fill in an evaluation questionnaire, which included 12 open-ended and closed-ended questions (see the following link <https://forms.gle/vTy3jif5D6jaEtH28> - in Greek). We received 47 completed evaluation questionnaires. Below are some graphs relating the closed-ended questions.

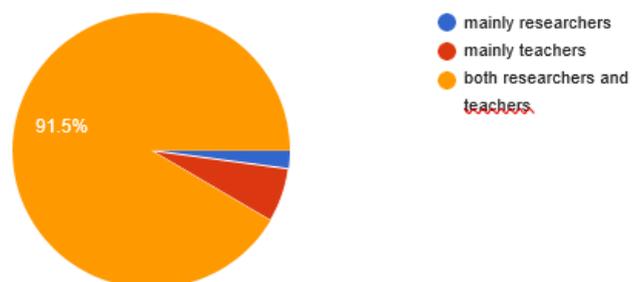
1. I participated in the 1st Annual Teacher Research Day as:



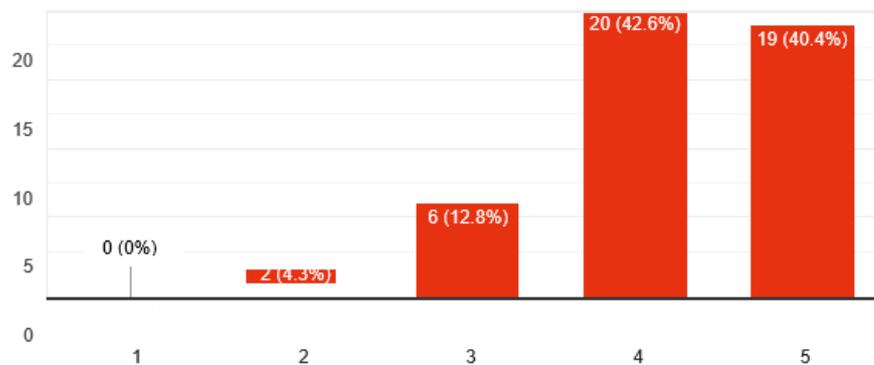
2. The 1st Annual Teacher Research Day met my expectations



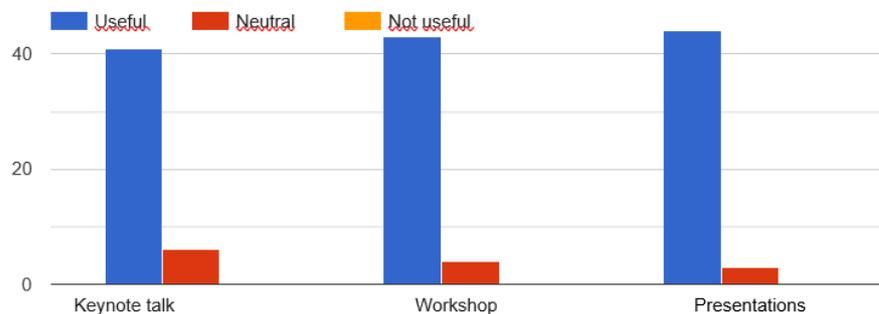
3. The 1st Annual Teacher Research Day addressed:



4. The theme of the 1st Annual Teacher Research Day had direct practical applications in my own educational or research work



5. How would you describe the usefulness of the different activities of the 1st Annual Teacher Research Day?



The questionnaire also included the following open-ended questions:

- An idea in the event I found exciting/interesting/useful is .....
- An idea in the event I found/ difficult/puzzling is .....
- Something I would change regarding the events organization is .....
- Something I would keep regarding the events organization is .....
- A disadvantage deriving from the fact that the event was online is.....
- An advantage deriving from the fact that the event was online is.....
- A suggestion I have for the organizing committee of the event is .....

In general, the responses of the participants that completed the evaluation questionnaire were very positive and encouraging. At the same time, the feedback provided is very useful for the continuation of the effort of establishing the Annual Teachers' Research Day. In analysing the data provided we concluded with the following SWOT analysis that is based on the participants' answers to the open-ended questions.

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keynote talk (successfully framed the whole event)</li> <li>- Online participation - detailed instructions &amp; technological support to such an extent that the participation becomes easy without any particular problems</li> <li>- Multiple themes - possibility for participants to choose from multiple themes</li> <li>- Easy transition to parallel workshops &amp; presentations (at any time)</li> <li>- Good organization</li> <li>- Conference structure</li> <li>- Day and time (Saturday, 9:00-13:05)</li> </ul> <p><u>Online participation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elimination of geographical limitations-distances (participants from different areas of Cyprus and Greece)</li> <li>- Easy access-comfortable monitoring-saving time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Duration of the workshop (should be longer)</li> <li>- Limited time for discussion after workshop &amp; presentations</li> <li>- More time for interaction between presenters &amp; participants</li> <li>- Parallel presentations &amp; workshops</li> </ul> <p><u>Online participation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of live contact and interaction (both among the participants and the participants with the researchers / presenters)</li> <li>- Some technical issues (mainly internet connection issues)</li> <li>- Lack of possibility of a more dynamic intervention (they could only intervene through chat)</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teachers and researchers share knowledge and experiences. They learn together. Organize events in such a way that both audiences are covered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Themes and approaches that are interesting and constructive for both teachers and researchers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Suggestions to the organizers for the 2nd Annual Teacher Research Day:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possibility of online participation even if conditions allow actual participation</li> <li>- More time for discussion and interaction between participants and presenters</li> <li>- More presentations with in-school related research</li> </ul>	

b. **Call for Funding for research by teachers in collaboration with EUC faculty**

The Centre of Excellence in Research & Innovation in Social Sciences, the Arts and the Humanities of EUC announced a competition for 3 funding of applied educational research of € 350 each. Teachers of all levels of education who are 100% of their working time in schools had the right to apply for one of the funding. The funding were awarded on Saturday, February 20, 2021, as part of the 1st Annual Teacher Research Day funded by the RECITE Research Program (Research Circulation in Teacher Education, # Erasmus + 2018-1-DK01-KA203-047069). To claim one of the funding teachers needed to submit their interest by filling out the application at the following link <https://forms.gle/CVBaBXNngspJGDxK7> (in Greek).

The application includes the following fields:

- First name - Last name
- Telephone
- Email
- Education level
- Short biographical note of the researcher
- Title of proposed research
- Description (1000-2000 words) - It should include theoretical framework, purpose, methodology - tools for data collection and analysis
- Research tools
- Budget analysis up to 350 euros

**Terms and conditions for claiming funding (as announced):**

- Funding will relate to costs relating to data collection and analysis and consumables (consumables may not exceed 30% of the total budget of each research) and which are documented through the description of the proposed research. Funding does not include the researcher's salaries, and equipment.
- The Center of Excellence in Research & Innovation in Social Sciences, the Arts and the Humanities of EUC may lend to researchers data collection equipment and/or materials for conducting the research. The evaluation of the applications will be done by the coordinators of the RECITE program: Associate Professor Loucas Louca and Assistant Professor Chrystalla Papademetri-Kachrimani. The final decision for the award of research funding will be made by the board of The Center of Excellence in Research & Innovation in Social Sciences, the Arts and the Humanities.
- Teachers of all levels of education who are 100% of their working time in schools in Cyprus (the country in which the RECITE program has been funded), have the right to apply for one of the funding.
- The research process should be completed within 11 months from the date of granting the funding and the results will be presented at the 2nd Annual Teacher Research Day, in February 2022.

- Upon completion of the research process, researchers should submit within 1 month (no later than February 1, 2022) a description of the research findings between 4000-6000 words.
- The research should not be funded by other sources, nor part of another funded research in any way.
- To conduct the research, teachers/researchers should cooperate and be in regular contact with the coordinators of the Program.
- The amount of funding will be sent upon receipt of receipts after pre-approval of each budget by the program coordinators.
- The research can be implemented in the context of a master's thesis, doctoral research, action research in a school unit.
- Proposal evaluation criteria (theme innovation, contribution to education and theory and research for teaching and learning, justified budget, theoretical and methodological documentation of the proposal).

### **Funding**

- We received 5 applications, of which 2 were funded.
- The awards ceremony took place on Saturday, February 20, 2021, as part of the 1st Annual Teacher Research Day.
- Awards:
  1. Leoni Chatzithoma, Secondary Education.  
Title of proposed research: "The coaching method as an alternative way of training teachers"  
Participatory Action Research
  2. Maria Pericleous, Primary Education  
Title of proposed research: "The use of the arithmetic line for understanding fractions with the utilization of educational robotics"  
Design Research

### c. ***PhD scholarship for classroom research***

The Center of Excellence in Research & Innovation in Social Sciences, the Arts and the Humanities (Sosciath) of EUC *announced one PhD scholarship in Education Sciences (20%) in one of the following areas*

- *Early Childhood Education*
- *Mathematics Early Childhood Education*
- *Science Education*
- *Creative Learning and Play*
- *STEM Education*
- *Scientific Thinking in Science Education*
- *Inquiry-based Teaching and Learning in Science and Mathematics*
- *Digital enhanced Learning*
- *Teacher self studies*

*The scholarship will be offered to a PhD proposal employing one of the following research approaches:*

- Qualitative educational research*
- Case Study*
- Action Research*

*The scholarship is funded by the [RECITE](#) (Research Circulation in Teacher Education) Erasmus+ Project.*

*The scholarship does not apply for current or transferred PhD students.*

*Information: <https://euc.ac.cy/en/phd-partial-scholarship-dec20/>*

*Announcement in Facebook:*

*<https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanUniversityCyprus/posts/10157941998416662>*

*Application form: <https://euc.ac.cy/en/admissions/online-application-form/>*