



ASEM Expert Group Digitalisation

Online Seminar on Best Practices on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education

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Conclusions

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Moderator: Ruben Janssens (Ghent University, Belgium)

1. Short Summary

The seminar brought together the teacher and the student perspective, to exchange views on the use of Artificial Intelligence – short AI – in today's teaching and learning (T&L) in Higher Education. It aimed to promote mutual understanding of each other's actions and needs.

The idea was to provide a platform to make helpful, low-threshold, and, above all, practically tested AI tools and applications tangible and understandable. The seminar was designed for university staff (teachers, administrators, managers) as well as students with an interest in the field, but the event was open to the wider public, too.

Student representatives from Asia and Europe presented their experiences with AI applications. They provided concrete insights into which tools they use for summarizing study materials, creating and quality-assuring texts and presentations, and even for creative tasks like graphic design. Likewise, the teacher representatives gave insights into their views on the topic and demonstrated AI-based possibilities for creating teaching materials, optimizing lectures – for example, through translation into other languages – and analysing student assignments.

The discussion between the speakers and the audience addressed, amongst others, the prerequisites that need to be met or created, the risks associated with the use of AI and how they can be avoided, and – not least – how to improve digital literacy regarding artificial intelligence in universities. Additionally, there was an extensive debate about the expectations students have of universities and lecturers have of students when it comes to using AI.

2. Conclusions

General conclusions

Overall, there was widespread consensus amongst the participants that AI brings a range of potential benefits to higher education settings, also when looking at aspects of international cooperation between institutions. At the same time, it comes with risks and uncertainties that necessitate good and concerted regulation, aligned with and transparent for all stakeholders involved. This is unanimously considered a challenge, especially given the extremely fast evolution of new tools and applications.

Further, it was observed that – largely owing to the global nature and availability of most digital tools – there is no recognisable difference between developments and patterns of use of AI tools in Europe and Asia. Still, it was considered expedient to continue observing the trends, in order to understand, for example, the impact of the banning of certain AI tools / providers in designated regions.

Student perspective

According to the statements during the seminar, students appreciate AI's ability to reduce the workload by facilitating and speeding up previously cumbersome tasks, and to tailor learning experiences based on individual needs, strengths, weaknesses, and interests. This allows learning at one's own pace and following unique learning styles.

There's a need for increased awareness and advocacy about AI among students, highlighting both benefits and ethical concerns. Bearing in mind that there are different stages of knowledge also due to socioeconomic demographics.

Teacher perspective

The teachers' views presented during the seminar, too, revealed the large potential for the reduction of workload, for example in the preparation of lectures or learning materials, which – in turn – leaves more capacities for research and other creative tasks.

At the same time, the surge of AI tools used in assignments makes it much more complex to assess students' own accomplishments and merits. Also, it necessitates to reconsider both the content and the methods of teaching to align with the drastically changed world that the students will inhabit and work in. The teachers also require continuous professional development to effectively harness AI tools.

3. Further Material

For **concrete examples of the tools which were presented** during the Online Seminar, you may consult the respective Power Point Presentations of the speakers:

- [Presentation “AI in students’ life and learning” by Urszula Lis](#)
- [Presentation “AI in HE: Teacher Perspective” by Carlos Delgado Kloos](#)
- [Presentation “Artificial Intelligence in Teaching \(AIDE\)” by Jonathan Kovilpillai](#)