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Transforming and adapting IUC courses to interactive online practices of teaching and learning

A story of muddling through

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Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik

- Consortium of universities run independently by members
- Five decades in organising and supporting international cooperation
- International courses, workshops and conferences in all academic fields
- Participants from different regions, countries, and continents
- Establishing connections in the academic environment
- Connecting scientific communities and connecting communities through science

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How is it done in a traditional way?

- Participants disconnected from their standard environment and away from daily obligations
- Intensive academic work and discussions in a collegial atmosphere
- The work in the inspiring atmosphere of Dubrovnik
- Intense student/professor communication during academic programme and social activities

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How is it done in a traditional way?

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Devastating effect of the pandemic

- Without location
- Without social interaction
- With inadequate technical equipment

How to make an effort to secure the continuity of the academic programme and keep connections alive?

How to establish the same atmosphere?

How to overcome cultural differences online?

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Transferring to online and hybrid models

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Online model solutions

- The use of platforms Zoom or Teams for academic work, Gather town or other for socialising
- Establishing online group assignments or projects ahead of time
- Decreasing lecturing time and structuring more practical, applied work
- Assigning break-out rooms with teachers moderating the work and/or moderating the subgroup sessions
- Recording lectures and making them available later on

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Hybrid model solutions

- Investing into technical equipment

  Good resolution camera with 360° rotation, microphone
- Challenging moderation of discussions – on site and online
- Working simultaneously with on location and online break-out groups and structured Q&A and reporting.

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What did we learn, what do we keep?

The moment restrictions were lifted we experienced a need for meeting and a return to on location courses.

People wish to come together and discuss in person

In 2022 more people at the attend IUC courses than in 2019

Online connections remain a good solution for occasional lecture when travel is difficult or impossible

Hybrid models are the least valued, difficult communication leads to exclusion

Possible hybrid model: first part of the programme assigned online, second part of the programme – all participants meet on site

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What might the future bring?

Possible new limitations and restrictions for on location courses:

- Pandemics
- War
- Travel restrictions by authorities
- Limited funding
- Air-travel constraints due to air pollution
- As well as limitations and restrictions that we can not imagine yet

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What do we need for that future?

Different scenario's on the shelf for alternatives to prevent a next full stop to happen.

- Continuing development of intuitive online (and hybrid) methods for teaching, learning and research cooperation
- Training of lecturers and researchers to work (and have fun) in online and hybrid environments
- Development of better virtual reality for hybrid lecturing
- Affordable hard ware and soft ware
- Investment in professional support

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Thank you for your attention!

Questions? Comments?
Do you want to share your own experiences?

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