



The week from the 13th to the 19th of this November was dedicated to the ERMIScom International Learning, Teaching & Training workshop in Arabia's campus of Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, in Helsinki, Finland.

We know that when we talk about vulnerability and affected social groups, we are talking about the ways that people are different from each other—and the ways they can be hurt by those differences. But this is also about how people are connected by their similarities, and what it means to embrace people who might not otherwise feel welcome or even marginalized. There is no denying that universities can create a fruitful environment, being the first place where knowledge is generated.

This was an opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself—to grow as a professional and gain insight into the world of community-based learning through innovative programs.

Students, professors, and facilitators from Finland, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey experienced an immersive pioneer environment where they could generate ideas and build relationships, the foundation for a lifetime of innovative thinking.

All participants were committed to helping each other with any questions or problems related to the presentations and activities included in the program. Collaborative learning methods were first explained and then participants were allowed to try different ways of working together as a group and understand the core nuances that create accessibility, inclusion, and mutual respect.

This whole experience was embraced by the overall feeling that the Arabia Campus had to offer, as well as the whole inclusive culture that defines the country of Finland. In the Arabia campus students and professors are inspired to enjoy the common ground of innovation, technology, arts, cultures, and sciences. The student's ability to connect and their capacity to pursue interdisciplinary studies are what make Metropolia University a truly exciting place to learn, and during this week we were able to generate ideas in a pioneer environment.

Beehives of communities working with each other are what drive our innovation forward. We leave Helsinki with the mindset that sustainability is possible if we work together towards the same goal.

During these seminars, inclusivity, creativity, and accessibility are at the heart of transforming participants into successful, mindful professionals who push the boundaries of knowledge and become great mentors.

Having an environment that fosters creativity and collaboration where everyone feels welcomed and can pursue their dreams is the best practice we can hope for.

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