

# CreaLab Annual Report 2021

### Learning Safari

### Broadening the HSLU horizon with a Learning Safari

The lure of the unknown! Want to get to know distant institutes, new faces as well as different methods and then discover potential for future projects and initiatives? The future lab CreaLab launched the HSLU Learning Safari this year.

The HSLU Learning Safari was developed jointly with the "University Development and Services" and "Human Resource Management" departments of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. It serves the active networking of new as well as long-standing HSLU employees and is to be a central component in the future, in order to promote cross-divisional thinking.



Participant of the Learning Safari dives into the world of beekeeping thanks to VR Bees

The first Learning Safari took place on 2 November, with twelve participants from four departments. During the day, different activities were completed, and core projects were presented, giving participants an overview of the university's interdisciplinary initiatives.

The inauguration of the Learning Safaris was certainly a highlight of the past CreaLab year and the beginning of a promising initiative. For those who missed it: Various HSLU Learning Safaris will also take place in 2022. Information and registration can be found here.

### **European Network of Living Labs**

### CreaLab becomes ENOLL member

The future lab CreaLab has been accepted into the ENOLL- European Network of Living Labs! This opens an important door to the ENOLL partner network for us.

As a member, we can benefit from a diverse event programme and from cooperation with future-oriented thematic groups. For example, European networking with the thematic group "Social Impacts of AI" becomes possible. We already had our first interactions with this network at the Digital Living Lab Days (DLLD21), which took place from 6 to 10 September.

Since its inception, the future laboratory CreaLab has seen itself as an inter-, multi- and transdisciplinary living laboratory in which the future is shaped in diverse interactions. We are proud that this has also been recognised by another partner, and look forward to the future collaboration.



Since 2021, we have been part of the European Network of Living Labs. A network with over 400 participants from all over Europe.

### Research projects

### VA-PEPR

Almost no other information technology is spreading in the home as quickly as voice assistants.

The change in routines and everyday practices in dealing with such "intelligent" voice assistants is the subject of an SNSF research project with the participation of the future laboratory CreaLab.

Leading experts from the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, the University of Applied Sciences OST (St. Gallen) and the University of Dundee are analysing people's usage behaviour as well as the ethical and social interplay in connection with such voice assistants as part of the VA-PEPR (Voice Assistants - People, Experiences, Practices, Routines) research project. The findings are to be translated into guidance for users, developers, designers and service providers in business and industry.

In collaboration with the Mozilla Foundation, the research team will continuously share and discuss its findings with an international community of experts. Especially with regard to the ethical dimensions associated with the study of voice assistants and their use in the home. The interdisciplinary team around VA-PEPR will keep you up to date here.

### DigiKanti

The DigiKanti research project explores the question of how schools can pave the way for digital transformation. Digitalisation is profoundly changing forms of learning and teaching in schools and thus the work of teachers. It leads to increasingly individualised learning and teaching that is independent of time and place.

The research team with several CreaLabbies is investigating how teachers can be supported on an organisational level to use digital technologies as profitable as possible, for their areas of responsibility.

The aim is to make recommendations for actions based on the current situation in the canton of Lucerne and to formulate best practices for further development, in order to create a science-based contribution to practice.



iPad instead of notepad? New technologies are spreading in the classroom and changing learning methodology

#### Digital Explorer 2030

The future lab CreaLab has been involved in thinking about the future for ten years now. And the focus is on actively shaping the future in a sustainable way. With the project "Digital Explorer 2030", we wanted to go one step further this year and build a network with partners from research, business and society that deals more intensively with the topics of sustainability, digital transformation, and entrepreneurship.

Unfortunately, the promising project did not make it over all the hurdles - the proposal for further funding (NTN Booster) was rejected. Despite the negative decision, however, we will publish further articles on sustainability topics on our website. In longer discussions with experts, we would like to highlight the ways that enable us to live sustainably.

### **VR-Bees**

The VR-Bees research project itself has set the task of making it easier for upcoming beekeepers to get started in beekeeping. Together with BienenSchweiz (beekeepers' association of German and Rhaeto-Romanic Switzerland), they are making use of virtual reality. In a virtual space, authentic and different experiences can be gained without unnecessarily disturbing a bee colony. The interdisciplinary research team around the CreaLabbies; Ursina Kellerhals and Richard Wetzel firmly believe

reality can play an important role in the education of beekeepers. Together with Naomi Burgess, they have also published an article based on this. It was later presented at a conference as part of the Foundations in Digital Games and can be read here.



Looks just like the original: the virtual beehive in the VR-Bees project

## **Education and training**

#### DiGoDeCo

To learn more about the design process, students of the Bachelor in International Business Administration have been allowed to work on a DiGoDeCo (Digital Organisation Design Collaboration) project for the last 10 years. This module is carried out every spring in cooperation with the future lab CreaLab and the agency Actioncy GmbH. This year, around 45 curious participants dealt with the topic of "Virtual Assistance".

The project helps the students to acquire various skills that can be of great benefit in their professional lives. "The focus is on the ability to develop new ideas and business concepts in open systems and in cooperation with international teams," explains Jens Meissner. In the 21st century, this is an enormously important core competence.

The history and proven methodology used in DiGoDeCo is the subject of a research paper on interdisciplinary forms of teaching. In her publication, Crealabbie Julie Harboe intends to persuade other business schools to embrace the notion of Action Learning. The paper is currently being written and should be published early next year.

# Lectures, media reports and publications

### The 5 Killer Criteria of Interdisciplinary Working

Working across borders is booming. Multi- and interdisciplinary work is about completing tasks with different professional backgrounds and across departmental boundaries. Almost every job advertisement is looking for new staff who enjoy working in an interdisciplinary setting. But interdisciplinarity settings can be very challenging. CreaLabbie Jens Meissner showed how five central killer aspects can be avoided. Read the article here.

### Best Paper Award goes to...

CreaLabbie Patricia Wolf and her co-authors won the John Bessant Best Paper Award at the 22nd CINet Conference. Her paper "Shall we dance?" compares the innovation process of the PlasticTwist project in Austria and shows common ways in which intermediaries can initiate and support local sustainability projects.

# 25th Symposium on Privacy and Security

Ursula Suri participated in the panel of the 25th Symposium on Privacy and Security. The Symposium on Privacy and Security (SPS) is the oldest data protection event in Switzerland and is an annual fixed date for everyone interested in data protection and security issues.

### Flash Fiction Applications

What about the networking of the Central Swiss cultural scene? Around 70 participants accepted the invitation of the Talent Promotion Culture on the 16th of November in the Neubad.

Who was also present? - the future lab CreaLab with Ursina Kellerhals and Barbara Kummler. As workshop leaders, they guided the participants through the creative and creative part of the evening.

With the help of a flash fiction workshop, the young and experienced cultural workers asked themselves questions about the future and catapulted themselves forward forty years.

On Thursday, 7 January 2021, Ursina Kellerhals conducted a methods workshop for the CC Regional Economics on behalf of CreaLab. After an input on the topic of innovation methods and creativity techniques, the eight participants went through a creativity workshop on a current research topic in the CC.



Creative visualisations and interpretations of Central Swiss cultural assets

# ITC Digital Transformation of the World of Work

With the Network for Transdisciplinary Research (td-net), the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences operate a hub for the promotion of trans-disciplinarity in research and teaching.

The Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts recently became the first Swiss university of applied sciences to be represented on the scientific advisory board of the td-net.

Crealabbies Sabine Junginger and Alex Willener gave insight into their concrete projects and experiences on transdisciplinary research at this year's ITC "Digital Transformation of the World of Work".

### The future of plastic

Led by Julie Harboe and Chris Obrist, a workshop on the future of plastic took place on 23 November.

At FabLab Lucerne, interested people could learn about the Plastic Twist project and find out what life without (or with less) plastic could look like

# For the success of sustainability initiatives

Four Crealabbies came together to publish an article on how NGOs and universities can influence sustainability transformations. The article was funded by the EU Horizon 2020 research project and is related to the Plastic Twist project described above. The finished article can be read here.

### Interactive documentary film

Interactive documentaries are still a fairly new phenomenon in which viewers are given the opportunity to influence the course of the film.

Crealabbie Florian Krautkrämer is the project leader of an interdisciplinary team and wants to use his work to develop criteria for distinguishing between different interactive documentaries. Current information and findings can be found on the project website.

### **Working techniques**

#### Becreate

Becreate supports interested researchers in implementing projects. Becreate.ch offers a rich fund of diverse methods. The platform offers three different approaches to successfully design projects: Innovation Workshops, Open Projects and (Inter)connected Media Projects.

A total of over 250 contributions can be found, which are read by almost 650 active users. In 2021, the following CreaLabbies projects were published on the platform:

 Compared to conventional Design Thinking, Reversed Design Thinking enables a better understanding of the original problems when developing approaches to solutions. 2. CHET (Creativity for Higher Education Teachers) is a project funded by the ERASMUS + programme of the European Commission. CHET aims to equip teachers at technical universities with the skills and competences to incorporate innovation and creativity into their teaching.

#### Appreciation in the Zoom Age

Thanking and appreciating is something that often comes up far short via virtual interaction.

For example, the person saying thank you simply lacks the ability to maintain authentic eye contact, let alone make it at all. Carefree small talk also does not fit into the format of a virtual encounter for most people.

Two dozen CreaLabbies tackled this problem and went in search of possibilities for virtual socialising and authentic appreciation. The collection of creative ideas can be found on our website.

### **Networking at CreaLab**

Despite the fragile, pandemic situation, the CreaLabbies were able to participate in various network meetings and events.

The events served to receive creative input, listen to educational lectures and network across HSLU borders. In 2021, this took place both disguised in virtual space, under bed sheets in the great outdoors, but also at the new HSLU campus in Rotkreuz, where thoughts on Christmas were already being considered in September.

The year was rounded off with the network meeting on the 7th of December and a subsequent Christmas party at the restaurant Adler in Emmenbrücke.



Old electronic waste is turned into Christmas decorations with a lot of creativity

### interspin CreaLab

In February 2015, the core team of the Future Lab Crealab founded the association "interspin Crealab" as a spin-off in order to be (even) closer to practice. The interspin Crealab supports organisations from the private and public sectors in solving complex future challenges. interspin Crealab is interspinular: it moves dynamically between practice, research and society. Up-to-date information is available on the Future Lab CreaLab bloq: sites.hslu.ch/crealab



### Stay in touch

Our CreaLab network is constantly on the move. In order to give you the most up-to-date and comprehensive overview of news and current events, we are increasingly using LinkedIn. There, we are already followed by over 200 people from all over the world. If you aren't already doing it, this would certainly be a smart New Year's resolution for 2022!

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