

The Ceramics and its Dimensions project: recent exciting developments – Kat Evans

Ceramics and its Dimensions is a European project led by Porzellanikon, the Bavarian State Museum for Porcelain, with over 20 partners from 11 European countries. The project is co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

On 2nd October the Future Lights international ceramics competition took place at Staffordshire University's Digital Kiln. Competitors were shortlisted and the final 16 presented their work to a panel of judges from universities and museums across Europe.

On 4th and 5th October, Staffordshire University supported the delivery of an international ceramics congress titled 'Ceramic Values: Can Ceramics make a difference?' The congress was hosted by the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery and the British Ceramics Biennial. Both organisations valued the event management skills and customer service approach of the members of the Project Delivery Team who supported the event.

Andy Mackay of the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery said:

'Many, many thanks for your valuable help during congress last week. We just couldn't have done it without you. Your experience and calm pragmatism helped to make the difference – and your friendly smile.'

The project's recently published book *Viewpoints: ceramics in architecture around Europe. Two case studies from community perspectives in Burslem and Cabanyal* was presented and distributed during the congress. The book, containing photographs of and essays on ceramics in architecture from contributors in Stoke-on-Trent and Valencia, was compiled and published by the Project Delivery Team.



DESTINY project: outcomes and achievements – Jonathan Westlake

The three-year DESTINY (Developing Employability Skills Through Innovative education using MOOCs for Youth) project, funded by the European Union, is coming to an end. The project was set up to address the problem of youth unemployment in Europe and has looked at upskilling unemployed people, and those looking to advance their careers, using massive open online courses (MOOCs). Staffordshire University and other higher education institutions from Spain, Greece and Slovenia have teamed up with small businesses to investigate the market in four different areas to discover what businesses require from work-seekers and have created MOOCs to provide training in the required areas.



There are many MOOCs on the internet, but they seem mostly to be focused on technical knowledge. The findings of the DESTINY project were that employers were looking for soft skills in many areas – things such as resilience, reflection and communication. These are among the courses being offered by the project.

The Spanish partners, University of La Laguna, Tenerife, and EVM offer courses for the Tourism sector. The Slovenian partners, DOBA and Kadis, offer courses for Business. Staffordshire University and Bitjam in the UK offer courses for the Healthcare sector. The Greek partner, Technical Educational Institute of Crete, offers courses in Fibre Optics.

Access the courses at <http://learning.destiny-eu.net> and find out more about the project at <http://destiny-eu.net>.

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