Activity Report 2016

In 2016 ASLERD has step forward its consolidation.

An article on ASLERD has been created on the English version of Wikipedia and, in the future, is expected to be translated in other languages.
A descriptive ASLERD card has been created.
Unfortunately, due to lack of dedicated human resources ASLERD activities on the social networks is still quite weak.

ASLERD has successfully organized its first International Conference in Timisoara where Declaration "Better Learning for a Better World through People Centred Smart Learning Ecosystems" has been signed by several European Associations involved in Technology Enhanced and Distance Learning. Such declaration constitutes the first of further steps toward the design of policies for the future of Education. The next expected one is the preparation of an action plan.
The organization of the second yearly conference, SLERD 2017, has been started by the colleagues from the University of Aveiro. On occasion of this conference ASLERD has reached, thanks mainly to Matthias Rehm, an agreement with Springer to publish the conference proceeding.
Another important step has been the launch of the first International Student Contest (for ideas and prototypes) to support the development of smarter learning ecosystems. A additional local contest reserved to the students of the Aveiro University has also been organized.
The work done by the Association has been also recognized by the Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission with the announced participation of Marco Marsella as keynote at SLERD 2017.

In 2016 ASLERD has been registered in EDAS and has now its own PIC number.
On occasion of EDAS registration, ALERD members submitted their first European project, an ETN one, coordinate by the Aalborg University.
A future objective is the preparation of ERASMUS+ proposals.
Unfortunately the COST proposal in which several ASLERD members were involved didn't pass the first screening and the consortium decided, after the third trial, to give definitively up.

In 2016 ASLERD has consolidated also its research effort on the participatory evaluation and new papers have been published.
A recognition to the scientific activities carried on by the Association arrived with the invitation as keynote speaker of Carlo Giovannella at ICWL 2016.
The quantitative and qualitative growth of joint researches is one of the principal goals for next future, together with the preparation of joint scientific proposals.

During 2016 ASLERD has attracted 10 additional individual memberships, due to SLERD conference registrations and 3 new institutional memberships. At present it is not clear how many of the individual memberships will be confirmed in 2017.

Up to now ASLERD has not been capable to satisfactory increase the number of consolidated memberships. The increase of consolidated members is certainly a goal for 2017 and for the years to come.

Issue 31 of IxD&A journal dedicated to Smart Learning Ecosystems and Territorial Development is going to appear soon and will contain papers that have been accepted as full papers at SLERD 2016; the additional papers that have accepted following the call for papers that has been launched after the conference will be published in the issue N. 32 of ixD&A.

As far as training activities, ASLERD has been recognized as no-profit organization to use Google classroom and has been registered as badge issuer in Openbadge.me .

Regional activities

The Italian branch of ASLERD has been successful in supporting participation of some schools in local calls that allow to collect more than 1 ML€.

A quite relevant body of research has been developed to support schools in participatory monitoring and evaluation processes, as documented by the scientific paper presented at SLERD 2016.

A recognition to the scientific activities carried on by the Italian Branch of ASLERD arrived with the invitation as keynote speaker of Carlo Giovannella at CKBG 2017.

In addition ASLERD has been involved also as main partner of EMEM 2016 on occasion of which it has organized three panels dedicated to:
1. 'Learning Ecosystems as knots of the regional development'
2. 'Evaluation of Learning Ecosystems: opinions and experiences'
3. Design literacy as engine of the future education

The Italian branch of ASLERD is also been involved in the design of training programs for K12 and high schools teachers and for student involved in the Italian Dual Education (Alternanza Scuola Lavoro).

At present a small consultancy contract has been vested by ASLERD and the incomes have been used to create the Italian Student Contest on People Centered Smart Learning Ecosystem for K12 and High school students. More contracts are expected to be vested in the future.