JANUARY 2023
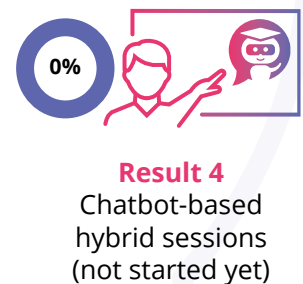
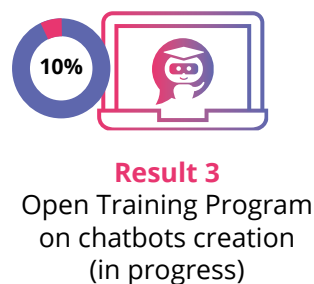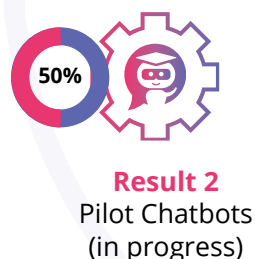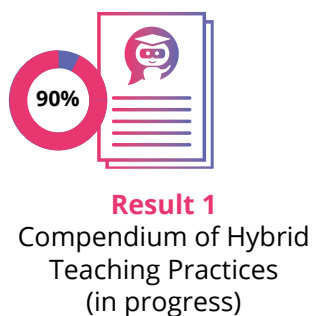# Newsletter Vol. 1

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Enhancing hybrid teaching in higher education through chatbots

HYBOT is a short name of the Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership project " Enhancing hybrid teaching in higher education through chatbots". The HYBOT project team is composed of passionate teachers and researchers, creative instructional designers and talented ICT experts coming from Estonia (Tallinn University), France (University of Cote d'Azur), Germany (Fachhochschule des Mittelstands), Lithuania (Kaunas University of Technology), and Portugal (Portuguese Open University). Together we are working on the creation and implementation of hybrid teaching scenarios supported with chatbots.

**In this newsletter, we present you our motivation, expected results, and share a few insights into our first achievements.**

90%

Result 1
Compendium of Hybrid Teaching Practices
(in progress)

50%

Result 2
Pilot Chatbots
(in progress)

10%

Result 3
Open Training Program on chatbots creation
(in progress)

0%

Result 4
Chatbot-based hybrid sessions
(not started yet)

Go hybrid with Chatbots!?

During the pandemic, various teaching and learning scenarios were designed and implemented to meet the needs of different learners. In particular, this one: the teacher was physically present in a classroom and gave a lecture to a group of on-site students, which stayed in the same classroom, and simultaneously to online students connected to this lecture in real-time. Such a scenario is nowadays called **Hybrid Teaching** (not to be confused with Blended Learning!) and might be a promising solution for a high school of tomorrow allowing for creating flexible educational pathways.

The fact is: The design of hybrid teaching scenarios requires a pedagogic know-how and additional time effort from teachers. They need to create engaging learning environments, to interact with both, online and on-campus students, and to have a deeper understanding of digital technologies.
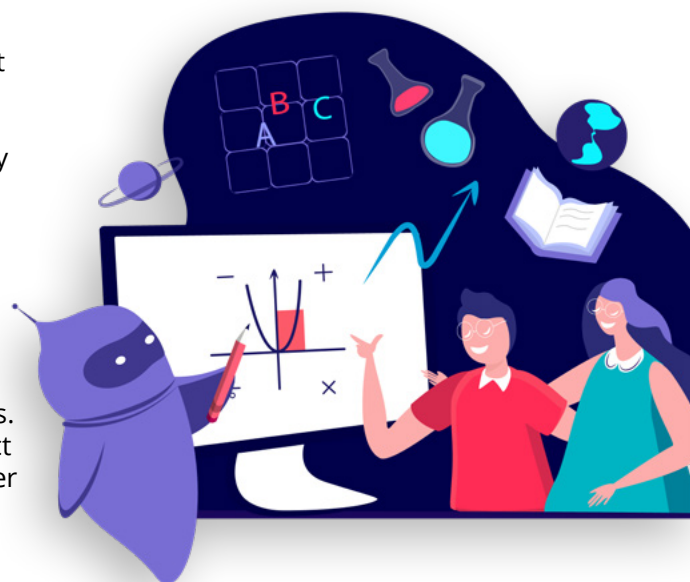
How can chatbots, or online conversational agents, support teachers when implementing hybrid teaching? To investigate this, the HYBOT project team will perform a serious of ambitious tasks aimed at:

- Identification and description of exciting hybrid teaching and learning practices: → Project Result 1: **Compendium of Hybrid Teaching Practices**;
- Selection of a suitable chatbot development tool and creation of 6 small-scale pilot chatbots for demonstration purposes: → Project Result 2 **Pilot Chatbots**;
- Improvement of teacher skills relating to the chatbot design: → Project Result 3: **Open Training Program on Chatbots Creation**;
- Development and piloting of the chatbot applications in hybrid learning settings with real students: → Project Result 4 **Chatbot-based hybrid sessions**.

We are happy to announce the completion of the first HYBOT project result, which is the Compendium of Hybrid Teaching Practices. Learn more about this source below!

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Compendium of hybrid teaching practices

To explore and visualize the phenomenon of Hybrid Teaching, the HYBOT team carried out an extensive research and identified 14 hybrid teaching and learning practices, which were designed and implemented by practitioners across and even beyond Europe. These hands-on cases were analysed, described and made available for free at the HYBOT project's website.

At this stage, the hybrid teaching practices are available at the **HYBOT project's website** as individual descriptions to facilitate the informal bite-sized learning.

At the end of the project, the case studies will be put together to a Compendium, which will serve as a valuable source for inspiration to other educators wishing to innovate their teaching.

Do you want to directly get forwarded to a few cases from the HYBOT collection? We randomly made a pre-selection below! Click around, enjoy the experience of your peers, gain some ideas for your own hybrid teaching scenario, and, of course, feel free to benefit from other Hybrid Teaching practices!
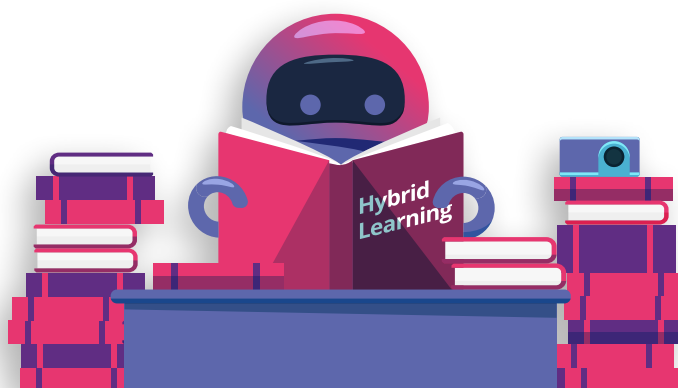
Case 1:
UWLFlex – a flexible approach for blended and hybrid learning and teaching at University of West London

Learn how the University of West London has implemented an university-wide blended and hybrid approach UWLFlex to learning and teaching in order to accommodate its students' preferences and needs.

Check Case 1

Case 2:
Intensive Week – Techno-creative workshops at Université Côte d'Azur

With this case, you receive unique insights into the organisation of the SmartEdTech program, a 90% online Master's in Science degree program that permanently offers a 10% Hybrid Learning series of workshops focusing on machine learning, fab labs, and techno-creative thinking.

Check Case 2

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Case 3:

Hybrid teaching and learning with a telepresence robot at Tallinn University

This case presents the hybrid teaching and learning model where ten physically present persons and three persons through a telepresence robot participated in the STEAM workshop arranged within the master course "Robot-supported learning in the kindergarten and primary school".

Check Case 3

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Case 4:

Hybrid teaching in Bioinformatics at Kaunas University of Technology

This case presents the model of a hybrid module implementation, in which laboratory work was supposed to be done face-to-face in regular computer classrooms equipped with a particular software, and theory lectures and seminars could be delivered both, virtually and in presence. Students could therefore choose hybrid mode when attending lectures or seminars.

Check Case 4

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Case 5:

Hybrid learning environment for the Entrepreneurship Seminar on European Virtual Venturing: a bridge between Estonia and France

The purpose of the hybrid European Virtual Entrepreneurship (EVV) seminar between Estonia and France was to raise students' awareness and competence in the field of virtual teamwork, improve their intercultural understanding and develop knowledge and skills that would help understand the value and nature of entrepreneurship.

Check Case 5

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Case 6:

Mobile, flexible, and ready to use in a few steps: Hybrid Teaching at Bielefeld University

Learn about the organisation of Hybrid teaching at Bielefeld University which was a result of a joint effort of enthusiastic teachers and experts from Centre for Teaching and Learning. They designed and implemented a hybrid teaching scenario for the course German mediaeval literature and shared insights into the technologies used, as well as strategies to engage with a hybrid students' community.

Check Case 6

Did you get inspired for hybrid teaching and want to learn more about the hybrid settings, in particular, supported with chatbots? Then do not hesitate and visit the HYBOT Community of Practice!

Community of practice

To facilitate the exchange between teachers, researchers, ICT experts and instructional designers regarding the hybrid teaching and use of chatbots, we invite all practitioners to join the HYBOT Community of Practice. The registration takes you just a few clicks and is free of charge. You will be able to communicate with your peers, to benefit from our products, and to enhance your teaching and digital skills in an informal way.

Click here to get registered to the HYBOT Community of Practice.

What is coming next?

In our next newsletter, we will showcase the selected chatbot development tool Melibo used in HYBOT, as well as our pilot self-made chatbot prototypes.

Stay tuned!

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Fachhochschule des Mittelstands (FHM)
FHM

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