

## **TAM Seminar**

### **Enhancing Higher Education in Kyrgyzstan: Implementing Hybrid Learning Models for Inclusive and Future-Ready Education**

**Date:** Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2025

**Venue:** Adam University

**Time:** 09:30 – 17:30

Higher education in Kyrgyzstan is evolving rapidly, shaped by shifting student demographics, ongoing policy reforms, and the growing need for innovative, inclusive educational models. Hybrid learning—combining online and face-to-face delivery—offers significant potential to reach students in rural and remote areas, provide flexible study options, and enhance teaching quality. However, implementing hybrid education requires robust legislative support, effective accreditation processes, and carefully designed pedagogical strategies. This seminar aims to bring together higher education leaders, faculty, and international experts to discuss actionable steps for building an inclusive, future-ready higher education landscape in Kyrgyzstan.

### **Objectives of the seminar**

- Present effective strategies for implementing hybrid learning in Kyrgyz higher education institutions, with a particular focus on inclusion.
- Explore best practices in pedagogical design, teaching methodologies, and accreditation requirements for hybrid programmes.
- Discuss policies and reforms aimed at supporting institutions, especially those serving rural and remote communities.
- Foster collaboration among policymakers, institutional leaders, faculty, and international experts to advance inclusive and high-quality hybrid education.

### **09:00 – 09:30 | Registration**

- Participants arrive, collect conference materials, and network informally.

### **09:30 – 09:45 | Opening Remarks**

- **Welcome Host Address:** Rector of Adam University, Ms Svetlana Sirmbard

- **Seminar Overview & Objectives:** Gulnara Isaeva, National Erasmus+ Office in Kyrgyzstan

### **09:45 – 10:45 | Session 1: Introduction to Hybrid Learning: Concepts, Drivers and Trends**

- **Speaker:** Horia-Șerban Onița, Head of the European Higher Education Area Secretariat
- **Focus:** Defining hybrid learning and understanding various types of digitalisation in higher education; presenting global trends and drivers in hybrid learning, main features, general benefits and challenges.

### **10:45 – 11:45 | Session 2: Ensuring Inclusion in Hybrid Learning**

- **Speaker:** Jeanine Gregersen – Hermans
- **Focus:** Best practices and innovative approaches to inclusive design; addressing barriers for students in rural and remote areas—connectivity, digital literacy, and infrastructure gaps.

### **11:45 – 12:00 | Coffee break**

### **12:00 – 13:00 | Session 3: Pedagogical Design & Teaching Methodologies**

- **Speaker:** Jeanine Gregersen – Hermans
- **Focus:** Designing engaging hybrid courses that balance synchronous and asynchronous activities, incorporate active learning, and utilize technology effectively.

### **13:00 – 13:20 | Case study: Presentation of digitalisation efforts and hybrid learning in a Kyrgyz HEI**

- **Speaker:** Case studies from two representatives of Kyrgyz Higher Education Institutions
- **Focus:** Presenting particular challenges, the status quo, current efforts and key factors leading to success in advancing hybrid learning in Kyrgyz Higher Education Institutions

### **13:20 – 14:15 | Lunch & Networking**

- Informal discussions and opportunity to connect with speakers, experts, and peers.

### **14:15 – 15:15 | Session 4: Policy, Legislation & Accreditation for Hybrid Learning**

- **Speaker:** Horia-Şerban Oniţa, Head of the European Higher Education Area Secretariat
- **Focus:** Current legislative frameworks, accreditation standards, and quality assurance measures relevant to hybrid programmes.

### 15:15 – 16:00 | Session 5: Break-out sessions

- **Activity:** Participants will be divided into break-out sessions to discuss how to design institutional strategies for deploying inclusive, qualitative, impactful hybrid learning

### 16:00 – 16:15 | Coffee Break & Networking

### 16:15 – 17:00 | Session 6: Roundtable discussion on national & institutional policies to scale hybrid learning

- **Activity:** The session will start with plenary reporting of the discussions in the breakout sessions
- **Roundtable Discussion:** Ministry officials, accreditation bodies, Representatives from the NEO KG, the Higher Education Reformation Experts Team (HERE), and institutional leaders share insights on how to sustain long-term institutional growth in hybrid learning.

### 17:00 – 17:30 | Closing session

- **Concluding remarks from the experts:** Main takeaways, future steps and international opportunities
- **Closing Remarks:** Representative from the Ministry of Science, Higher Education and Innovation, NEO KG, and Partner Organizations
- **Next Steps & Potential Follow-Up Activities:** Suggestions for ongoing collaboration, possible future training, and working groups.

### Expected Outcomes of the Conference

1. **Enhanced Awareness of Hybrid Learning Models**
  - o Participants gain a clear understanding of how hybrid education can be effectively designed, implemented, and scaled in Kyrgyz higher education institutions.
  - o Stakeholders develop a shared vision of the benefits, challenges, and practical steps for adopting hybrid programmes.
2. **Strengthened Institutional Capacities and Faculty Development**
  - o HEI representatives and faculty acquire practical skills in pedagogical design, instructional technologies, and inclusive teaching methods tailored to hybrid environments.

3. **Inclusion Strategies for Rural and Underserved Communities**
  - o Participants identify best practices for reaching and supporting students in remote or resource-limited contexts, addressing barriers such as connectivity, digital literacy, and accessibility.
4. **Roadmap for Future-Ready Hybrid Education**
  - o Participants leave with a clear direction on how to collaborate on policy reforms, strategic plans and broader initiatives to modernize higher education in Kyrgyzstan.
5. **Increased Motivation and Commitment**
  - o Institutional leaders and faculty gain inspiration and confidence to champion hybrid learning within their own organizations.
  - o Stakeholders demonstrate renewed commitment to fostering inclusive, high-quality education that meets the evolving needs of students and society.