

## **Erasmus+ DiFree Project Inspires Participants Through the “Becoming a Freelancer” Forum**

The “Becoming a Freelancer” Multiplier Event, hosted by the Accounting and Business School at the Polytechnic Institute of Porto, gathered partners of the Erasmus+ DiFree community – “Digital Freelancing for Higher Education Students and Recent Graduates” – along with aspiring freelancers, students, academics, and other interested individuals. Open to everyone, this occasion provided a platform for meaningful dialogues and networking opportunities.

Key features of the Multiplier Event included the Digital Freelancing Forum, interactive sessions with industry professionals, and visits to specialized training labs. During the Forum, all attendees participated in a lively roundtable discussion that showcased insights from various expert freelancers, including Jaquelina Isabel Santos (Virtual Assistant, Eazyhelp), Pedro Rodrigues (Communication and Graphic Design), Joana Amorim (Business Consultant and Grants Writer), Margarida Porto (Social Media and Community Manager), Ricardo Nunes (Digital Communication), and Yana Marques (Translator and Interpreter). The session featuring Pedro Duarte, manager of the freelance translators’ exchange, along with contributions from Isabel Ardions, manager of the Centre for Employability and Cooperation with the Business Community at the Polytechnic Institute of Porto, proved to be both comprehensive and inspiring. Throughout the visits to training laboratories, participants explored specialized facilities for freelance translators, accountants, and account managers, generating significant interest and engagement.

The “Becoming a Freelancer” Multiplier Event successfully highlighted the opportunities and challenges in freelancing while equipping attendees with the knowledge and motivation necessary to navigate the evolving digital work landscape.

After the successful Forum, Erasmus+ DiFree partners convened for a Transnational Project Meeting to review their activities. Among the key topics discussed were project overviews and progress reports presented by the DiFree Project Coordinator Prof. Andrea Colantoni from the University of Tuscia and Prof. Anna Romagnuolo, the Project’s Scientific Coordinator. Insights and feedback on the DiFree Project Mentorship Programme shared by Prof. Paulino Silva from the Accounting and Business School sparked a productive discussion with Prof. Yannis Skarpelos from Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences. Additionally, Prof. Anabela Mesquita from the Accounting and Business School of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto articulated her perspectives on the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plan for the DiFree initiative, which prompted further discussions among partners. The meeting concluded with a summary of vital decisions and a roadmap for the next steps in the DiFree Project.

This milestone reflects the ongoing collaboration among international partners committed to advancing the objectives of DiFree, which aims to equip higher education students and recent graduates with the skills and resources they need to thrive as digital freelancers.

*DiFree stands for Digital Freelancing for Higher Education Students and Recent Graduates. This Erasmus+ KA220-HED Project aims to equip undergraduates and recent graduates with the tools necessary to succeed in the freelance marketplace, which is increasingly dependent on digital skills and online working environments. The project brings together five partners from four European countries: Italy, Greece, Portugal, and Spain. Its duration is from February 1, 2022, to February 1, 2025. The coordinator is the University of Tuscia. Detailed information about Erasmus+ DiFree is available on the official project website: <https://www.difree-project.it>.*