

Report on the outcomes of a presentation and participation - Young Researcher and Innovator Conference¹

Action number: CA22145

Grantee name: Merve KARA

Conference Details

Conference title: The European Conference on Games Based Learning

Conference web-page: <https://www.academic-conferences.org/conferences/ecgbl/>

Conference venue²: Nord University, Levanger, Norway

Conference start and end date: 01/10/2025 to 03/10/2025

Accepted contribution details

Title of the presentation: Designing AI-Enhanced Educational Digital Escape Room Games (EDERGs): A Framework for Teacher Implementation

Type of the presentation: (oral/poster) Oral

Co-authors: Zeynep Cömert, Yavuz Samur

Other details of the presentation: Session title: Mini Track on Educational Escape Rooms, Chair: Panagiotis Fotaris

Outcome of the conference participation

At ECGBL 2025 I presented my accepted contribution on an AI-assisted framework and platform for designing Educational Digital Escape Room Games (EDERGs). The talk outlined the design rationale, workflow (from learning outcomes to puzzle generation and assessment), and early classroom pilots, and it positioned the work within current trends in AI-supported instructional design. The presentation drew strong interest from both researchers and practitioners; the Q&A focused on validity of learning outcomes, teacher workload, data privacy/ethics, and how the framework scales across subjects and age groups.

My affiliation and the COST Action CA22145 *Computational Techniques for Tabletop Games Heritage* support were acknowledged on the title slide and during the talk, which helped highlight the connection between heritage game design patterns and contemporary digital escape-room pedagogy. Following the session, I continued discussions during coffee breaks and other tracks, sharing a short overview of the platform's authoring flow and inviting collaborators for classroom pilots and comparative studies.

New contacts and collaboration leads.

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

² For an online conference, specify virtual participation; for hybrid conferences, specify whether it is an in-person or virtual participation.

- University and research-lab colleagues working on game-based learning expressed interest in (a) mapping tabletop design patterns to digital escape-room mechanics and (b) co-developing a shared taxonomy of puzzle types aligned with learning objectives.
- Teacher-educators and K-12 practitioners proposed small trials using the platform to co-create subject-specific games (e.g., literacy, science process skills) and to evaluate teacher experience (time-to-design, usability).
- Several COST Action members initiated follow-ups to explore joint activities within the Action's framework, including potential research visits/exchanges and co-organized workshops on assessment and analytics for educational games.

Planned next steps.

1. Schedule virtual meetings to scope at least one cross-institution pilot in the coming term, including common instrumentation (pre/post measures and task analytics).
2. Draft a joint paper comparing instructional design pathways (teacher-led vs. AI-assisted) for EDERGs, using shared rubrics and datasets from pilots.
3. Contribute to a COST-affiliated working group on design patterns and learning analytics for educational/tabletop-inspired escape games, with the aim of producing a practical guide for teachers.

Overall, the conference significantly increased the visibility of my work, led to multiple concrete collaboration threads with European researchers and practitioners, and positioned the project within the COST Action CA22145 community as a bridge between heritage game design knowledge and scalable, AI-supported classroom practice.

Acknowledgement of inclusion of necessary supporting documents to claim the grant

I confirm that the following documents have been uploaded on e-COST as an integral part of this report:

- the certificate of conference attendance.
- the programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the presentation (oral or poster) of the grantee.
- copy of the given presentation (oral or poster).