

MINUTES OF ERASMUS+ BOOST/ Boosting Armenian Universities Internationalization Strategy & Marketing Kick-off meeting, Yerevan, Armenia

Meeting/Project Name:	<i>ERASMUS+ BOOST/ 573975-EPP-1-2016-1-AM-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP</i>		
Date of Meeting: (MM/DD/YYYY)	20/11/2017-21/11/2017	Time:	10:00-18:00
Meeting Facilitator:	Kristina Tsaturyan	Venue:	AUA

1. Meeting Objective

- Coordination Meeting
- Open Conference

Consortium partners:

Name	Institution
Ara Yeremyan	ASPU
Kristina Tsaturyan	ASPU
Raisa Avetyan	ASPU
Anna Hakhumyan	ASPU
Anush Sargsyan	ASPU
Gohar Arakelyan	ASPU
Anahit Ordyan	AUA
Gayane Makaryan	AUA
Mariam Galstyan	AUA
Anahit Farmanyanyan	Shirak State University
Asya Harutyunyan	Shirak State University
Hasmik Berdikyan	Shirak State University
Arkadi Avanesov	YSC
Narine Avetisyan	YSC
Gohar Dokholyan	Vanadzor State University
Lusik Vardanyan	Vanadzor State University
Arus Hovakimyan	Vanadzor State University
Tatevik Gharibyan	MoES
Arsen Hakobyan	MoES
Gayane Harutyunyan	ARMENIC
Nazani Gevorkyan	ARMENIC

Name	Institution
Vicenc Fernandez	UPC
Berenice Martin	UPC
Rui Mendes	IST
Graca Pereira	IST
Mirko Varano	KTH
Viktor Kordas	KTH
Maura Lerga Feilp	URV
Madli Krispin	TUT, Project Manager

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Present and disseminate the outcomes and achievements of the project
- Review and brainstorm on the developed draft indicators for Internationalisation benchmarking
- Review the draft national internationalisation strategy
- Discuss in details of the ongoing and upcoming activities of the working packages of the project;
- To set deadlines for certain outcomes

The consortium partners participating in the study visit were 29 representatives from the Universities of Armenia, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Estonia, the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia and the National Information Center for Academic Recognition and Mobility. In order to have wider awareness raising on the Project goals and objectives an invitation was disseminated among the extra-consortium Armenian HEIs to participate in the national open Conference.

20, November, 2017

The coordination meeting launched with the opening speeches of AUA Assistant Vice-President, Anahit Ordyan and AUA Provost Dr. Randall Rhodes. They welcomed all the participants in AUA and briefly introduced the purpose of the meeting and the importance of internationalization for Armenian higher educational institutions. They emphasized the vital role of the coordination meeting and wished them fruitful, productive and fertile cooperation.

Kristina Tsaturyan, Head of the International Cooperation Unit of ASPU thoroughly presented the achievements, outcomes, work-plan and the deadlines of the activities of the project for separate work packages, as well as next steps to be taken during the project lifetime:

WP1. To develop comprehensive national internationalisation policy framework and tools for facilitating the internationalization practices in Armenia- Based on the outcomes of study tour in Sweden a meeting was organized with the deputy Minister in Armenia and a draft national internationalisation strategy document comprising 7 main objectives is developed and reviewed with comments by the European partners.

WP2. To create National Platform for Internationalisation in Higher Education and online tools for mapping and benchmarking the internationalisation processes- Based on Erasmus+ HARMONY project benchmarking results a set of indicators are developed.

WP3. To build capacities of ICO staff of HEIs, MoES and social partners on strategic management, marketing and cultural challenges and implementation of credit mobility- The dates of trainings to be implemented at European institutions were presented.

WP5. Dissemination- one open conference is organised, the logo and the website of the project are created as well as leaflets and a poster are developed.

WP6. Management- kick-off meeting and one coordination meeting are organised. The presentation was followed by discussions and negotiations and deadlines for each activity were set.

Tatevik Gharibyan from Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia introduced the policy documents and regulatory framework for internationalization as well as its aims and objectives. She presented the current state of internationalization at Armenian higher educational institutions mainly the number of international students in Armenia as well as the international projects.

Anush Sargsyan, Head of the Electronic Education Department of ASPU presented the criteria of HEI internationalisation and developed indicators based on Erasmus+ HARMONY project benchmarking analysis. She thoroughly introduced the main sections of internationalization criteria such as general data, internationalization of management, academic staff internationalisation, international mobility of students, internationalization of academic programs, internationalization of research as well as international impact and visibility. She highlighted that the list of criteria consists of both quantitative and qualitative indicators.

The presentation was followed by comments done by the consortium partners on the indicators and recommended to separate or generalize some of the indicators. The Consortium members particularly mentioned that further review and improvement of benchmarking indicators should be done to align with the goals and objectives of HE internationalisation. It was discussed, that the final indicators should be piloted at each

University for their validity and feasibility of further application. The deadline for the final version was set April, 2018.

The main points highlighted and next steps:

- Smaller working groups were created for the purposed of the WP1 and WP2, particularly:
- **Group 1: Development of Higher Education Internationalisation Strategy at national level:** Kristina Tsaturyan (ASPU), Gayane Harutyunyan (ARMENIC), Gayane Makaryan (AUA), Tatevik Gharibyan (MoES), Arsen Hakobyan (MoES). First draft to be disseminated is scheduled for 20 December, 2017, the final one- April, 2018. The work should be done in cooperation with UPC and KTH.
- **Group 2: Development of national model for description of study programs and guidelines to HEIs:** Lusik Vardanyan (VSU), Gohar Dokholyan (VSU), Narine Avetisyan (YKSC), Anahit Farmanyanyan (ShSU).
- The groups should develop feasible workplan of the activities and send to all the Partners, and particularly to KTH, as the Leader of WP1. ***Deadline for the workplans is 05.12.2017.***
- KTH as the Leader of WP1 will coordinate the works of the WTs based on the workplans and deadlines provided.
- **Another** working group was created in the frame of WP2 to work on developing benchmarking indicators for internationalization /Anush Sargsyan, Kristina Tsaturyan (ASPU), Tatevik Gharibyan (MoES), Mariam Galstyan (AUA), Lusik Vardanyan (VSU)/. The work of this WG and the ones in the frame of WP1 should synchronize the work and ensure the continuity and interconnectedness of HE Internationalisation goals and objectives. The group will meet once a month to discuss the results and outcomes.
- Second draft of indicators to be presented **/due date- by December, 2017/.**
- Training to be organized in Spain on strategic management of international cooperation for the period of 19-23 February, 2018. The preliminary agreed quantity of participants is 28 Armenian partners and 6 EU.
- Organize training on marketing and cultural challenges within HE Internationalisation in Portugal on 18-22, June, 2018, The preliminary agreed quantity of participants is 28 Armenian partners and 6 EU
- Organize training on implementation of Credit Mobility in Partner Countries in Tallinn, Estonia in September or October of 2018.
- The Consortium agreed that the EU Partners will develop the training materials and deliver the trainings as mentioned above, meanwhile, the AM Partners will have the assignments received beforehand from the EU Partners by the training.
- The trainings will have workshops that will lead to particular results envisaged by the Project.

Kristina Tsaturyan, Head of International Cooperation unit introduced global and national perspectives and challenges of internationalisation, general requirements, elements to consider for developing a national strategy for Internationalization of Universities Strategic objectives of the HE Internationalization in Armenia. As well as she introduced the consortium partners the world café method for discussion of the objectives of HE Internationalization. For this aim 4 groups with coordinators and facilitators were formed to work on 4 sections during the national open conference:

1. **Creation of an international environment and integration of an international dimension into the curriculum (joint degree programs, joint delivery of modules with foreign partners, language proficiency...)** /Mirko Varano from KTH and Mariam Galstyan from AUA)
2. **Strengthening the ties with the Universities and research organizations outside Armenia** (Vicenc Fernandez from UPC and Kristina Tsaturyan from ASPU)
3. **Provision of incentives to increase the number of short-term and long-term inbound and outbound mobilities for University staff and students** /Madli Krispin from TUT and Gohar Dokholyan from VSU/
4. **Strategic management of Internationalization and provision of incentives for the inclusion of Armenian Universities in global rankings** /Rui Mendes from IST and Tatevik Gharibyan from MoES/

Rui Mendes from IST introduced the Quality Assurance Plan. He indicated the importance of partners' contribution for ensuring the highest possible quality of the project. He presented the main activities of Quality Assurance plan which are Quality management plan/due date-April/, quality evaluation reporting and follow-up during the project lifetime and inter-project coaching and peer-review /due date-end of 2nd year/.

The main points highlighted

- One contact person per university's quality assurance department will contribute to the quality control of the project (deadline for the candidacies to be provided 30.11.2017)
- IST to suggest time and date for skype meeting for QA contact persons to discuss the QA plan and further activities
- IST to finalize the QA plan with specific deadlines and send to the Consortium.

Gayane Makaryan from AUA presented the dissemination strategy of the project and the preliminary agreed dates of further meetings and conferences to be held. Other dissemination activities such as BOOST Project website, leaflets and other activities have been presented. Dates to consider:

Conference data:



- Vanadzor State University-April, 2018
- YSC- October, 2018
- ASPU- June, 2018
- Shirak State University- 2019
- ASPU-November, 2019
- AUA-April 2019.

Kristina Tsaturyan from ASPU shortly presented the financial report of the project, travel and costs of stay. Afterwards the consortium partners had a discussion on the equipment purchase issues.

The main points highlighted

- To purchase equipment by the end of February, 2018
- Technical report to be presented in March by Partners, 2018.

The first day was finalized with organizational issues on effective communication and organization of activities at institutional level.

21. November, 2017

The next day started with the opening of national open conference. The open conference was launched by welcome speeches of AUA provost Mr. Randall Rhodes, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of RA Vahram Mkrtchyan, ASPU Vice-Rector Ara Yeremyan and National Erasmus office coordinator Lana Karlova. They emphasized the vital role of the Project, the importance of Internationalization for Armenian Universities and wished them fruitful, productive and fertile cooperation.

Anahit Ordyan from American University of Armenia presented the rationale, aims and objectives of the Project. Madli Krispin, Rui Mendes, Vicenc Fernandez, Maura Lerga Feilp and Mirko Varano introduced the internationalization strategies, perspectives and strategic aims in Estonia, Portugal, Spain and Sweden respectively.

Afterwards consortium partners together with extra-consortium Armenian HEIs representatives participated in world café method discussion. All the participants were divided into 4 groups and each group joined facilitators determined beforehand during the coordination meeting:

1. **Creation of an international environment and integration of an international dimension into the curriculum (joint degree programs, joint delivery of modules with foreign partners, language proficiency...)** /Mirko Varano from KTH and Mariam Galstyan from AUA)



2. **Strengthening the ties with the Universities and research organizations outside Armenia** (Vicenc Fernandez from UPC and Kristina Tsaturyan from ASPU)
3. **Provision of incentives to increase the number of short-term and long-term inbound and outbound mobilities for University staff and students** /Madli Krispin from TUT and Gohar Dokholyan from VSU/
4. **Strategic management of Internationalization and provision of incentives for the inclusion of Armenian Universities in global rankings** /Rui Mendes from IST and Tatevik Gharibyan from MoES/.

Each facilitator was given a specific topic on internationalisation which was discussed with each of 4 groups. The groups were given 25 minutes to discuss and make notes on the topic. After the discussions the facilitators of each theme presented orally the discussed topics. The world café method was successfully done as all of the participants of the open conference contributed on their part to the development of reports on the above mentioned topics. It was agreed that the AM rapporteurs will provide written recommendations on each of the set of questions to KTH **by 27th of November**, meanwhile KTH will review, analyse and provide specific directives for the development of HE Internationalisation Strategy based on the recommendations by **8th of December, 2017**. The conference was finalized by world café method.

The main points highlighted

Immediate action:

- All the partners to update the consortium partners list and send via email to the coordinator of the project;
- All the partners to give feedback on each material shared via email and provide fruitful communication;
- EU partners to send the International Mobility reports with the supporting documents to ASPU;
- Facilitators to send the reports on the discussed topics by November 27, 2017;
- KTH to send analysis by 8th of December, 2017.
- Working groups to submit second draft of HE Internationalisation Strategy based on the recommendations received by December 20, 2017.