



NEWSLETTER HARMONY ISSUE-2 FEBRUARY/2017

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Development of Approaches to Harmonization of a Comprehensive Internationalization Strategies in Higher Education, Research and Innovation at EU and Partner Countries — HARMONY

Dear Readers,

Since the edition of the 1st issue of the Newsletter in August 2016 the HARMONY project partners have been working hard to achieve main objectives of the project. About progress made you could read more in the following pages.

Over the last six months we have learnt a lot about levels of internationalization in Partner institutions as well as we had a great chance to compare and adopt best practices of internationalization. The first year of project implementation has proved to be efficient and impactful for all project partners.

We have 2 more years to achieve all aims and objectives.

*Sincerely Yours,
HARMONY Project Team*



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International Conference in Thessaloniki

24-29 October 2016 Alexander Technological Educational Institute (ATHEI) of Thessaloniki (Greece) hosted the international conference "Internationalization of higher education in EU, Russia, Belarus and Armenia: state-of-the-art and common challenges".

Nearly 30 representatives from the consortium partners gathered for the International Conference and for the workshop on best practice study visit.

During the first part of the event representatives from Armenia, Belarus and Russia presented the state of the art in internationalization of education, research and innovation of their respective countries. Correspondingly, each European partner gave an overview on good practice of internationalization strategy implementation reflecting on the individual activities of their home institutions. These presentations were supplemented by a first brief summary on the results of the carried survey on internationalization in the participating institutions and the related upcoming tasks for the coming work package (Survey and document analysis) by the responsible partners from Tomar (Portugal) and Yerevan (Armenia).

As preparation for the second project year the work package leaders of WP 4 (Tool kits for harmonization of internationalization strategy in EU and Partner Countries) from Kassel (Germany) and Moscow (Russia) kicked off a fruitful brainstorming session on the overall structure and content on the tool-kit and the appending recommendations for harmonization of internationalization strategies in EU and Partner Countries in higher education, research and innovation. Together with WP3 (Developing a framework of a comprehensive internationalization strategy), which will be explored further, a first structure draft of the tool kit will be presented during the next meeting in Rome (March, 2017).



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STUDY VISIT REPORTS

In frames of WP2 (Development - Survey and document analysis) 3 Study Visit Reports were developed by WP coordinator, Instituto Politécnico de Tomar (Portugal), and WP Co-leader, Eurasia International University (Armenia).

Study visit reports introduce best practice and practical experience in implementation of internationalisation strategies of higher education, research and innovation in partner Universities, namely University of Seville (Spain), Aston University (Great Britain), and Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki (Greece).

All reports include desk and field study of the practical experience of implementation of internationalisation strategies in higher education, research and innovation; analysis of national politics on higher education, research and innovation, official documentation; descriptions of national systems of higher education; general description of HEIs; description of units in charge for international activities.

The results of the desk and field study will be accumulated in analytical materials.

REPORT of the STUDY VISIT to ASTON UNIVERSITY

United Kingdom – England

(Eurydice, 2016)

REPORT of the STUDY VISIT to ASETH THESALONIKI

Thessaloniki: Study Visit - ATEITH, 24th October 2016

Greek Higher Education System

The education system in Greece is centralized under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. There is a limited number of educational institutions at pre-school, primary and secondary level, while higher education is compulsory for 9 years to children aged 5-15. According to article 16 of the Greek Constitution, higher education is provided by Higher Education Institutions, which are legal entities with full self-administration and academic freedom, while they are financed by the government. There are also private higher education institutions but they do not award national certificates. The first Greek university was established in Athens in 19th century. Greece has 23 universities and 15 TEIs (including the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki). According to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, in 2012-13 and 2013-14 the admissions to higher education institutions in Greece have been respectively, 76,094 and 69,288. According to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (Director, 2016):

- 1) To promote knowledge through research and innovation in the areas of science, technology and innovation
- 2) To offer higher education and to contribute to the development of the country through research and innovation
- 3) To develop students' critical thinking and research skills
- 4) To correspond to the labour market needs and to create the appropriate human resources
- 5) To promote the cooperation and innovation focusing on the scientific research and innovation
- 6) To promote the cooperation and innovation focusing on the scientific research and innovation

The five levels of the FHEQ are numbered 4-8.

FHEQ Level	Corresponding FQ-EHEA cycle	Typical title each level
8	Third cycle (end of cycle) qualifications	Doctoral
7	Second cycle (end of cycle) qualifications	Master, Integrated MPhil, PhD
6	First cycle (end of cycle) qualifications	Bachelor's degree
5	Short cycle (within or before first cycle) qualifications	Diploma, Certificate

The University offers a catalogue of nearly 70 undergraduate and 74 graduate study programs taught on liberal arts and humanities, social and juridical sciences, pure sciences, health sciences, engineering and architecture areas. (Source: US, 2014)

The University offers also 138 postgraduate study programs leading to doctorate degrees on the same field study areas. (Source: US, 2014)

In 2014-15 there were 159 higher education providers in the UK in receipt of public funding via HEFCE. There were 2.27 million students studying at UK higher education institutions. (Source: US, 2014)



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MONITORING VISIT

22/12/2016 field monitoring visit took place at the Russian-Armenian University in Yerevan (Armenia).

Ms. Lana Karlova, Coordinator of National Erasmus+ Office (NEO), and Ms Edith Soghomonyan (NEO staff) met and discussed the progress of activities with local project representatives. Representatives of the Armenian Ministry of Education also took part in Monitoring visit.

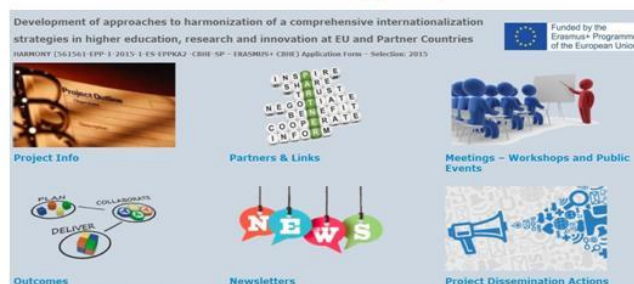
The monitors from the NEO Armenia point out that the project implementation is running smoothly. Furthermore, the monitors positively observed high motivation and enthusiastic to actively contribute to achieving the project outcomes and outputs.

Also several recommendations were given, and Armenian Project partners are currently working to address the recommendations and to apply those in the project implementation and will report on this in the upcoming project Intermediate Report.

PROJECT PROGRESS ASSESSMET

- *Implementation of WP1 (Preparation) has come to the end. As a result Self-Assessment Questionnaire and Questionnaire for external users were developed.*
- *SWOT analysis and e-book of analytical materials will be published soon.*
- *According to the Workplan of the Project the process of equipment purchase has started. For budgetary reason purchase will be held in 2 steps. The second round of purchase should be open after June 2017.*
- *Draft of the Cooperation Agreement was developed.*
- *Official website of the project was developed by leader of WP6 (Dissemination) Alexander Technological Educational Institute*

www.harmonyproject.eu



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UPCOMING EVENTS



• *27-31 March SAPIENZA University of Rome (Italy) will host the 4th Meeting of the Project partners. During the meeting the following events will take place:*

- *Multi-lateral cooperation agreement signing ceremony;*
- *Presentation of the results of comprehensive research of the level of internationalisation of higher education, research and innovation (basing on policy documents analysis and survey results);*
- *Presentation of a structure of the Tools kits for harmonization of internationalization strategy in EU and Partner Countries in higher education, research and innovation;*
- *Presentation and discussion of the Framework of a Comprehensive internationalization strategy.*

- *Nomination of Project Expert Board*
- *Creating of Expert Community for Internationalisation of Higher education Network*
- *Development of a Framework and Action Plans by project partners*
- *Approval of Action Plans by HEIs Administration, regional authorities, National Ministries*



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SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ



Министерство образования и науки
Российской Федерации



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