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## ELEVATING THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN MOLDOVA -ELEVATE-

Reference number: 573921-EPP-1-2016-1-MD-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP

### STUDY VISIT to Mykolas Romeris University 6-10 November, 2017 Vilnius

## MINUTES

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| <b>Date: MONDAY (6th of November)</b>  |
| <b>Arrival day</b>   |
| <b>Participants:</b>   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. POPOVICI Cristina</li> <li>2. CERNEV Olga</li> <li>3. COSCIUG Cristina</li> <li>4. SIMCIUC Elena</li> <li>5. PETRASCU Svetlana</li> <li>6. MANDAJI Elena</li> <li>7. BELEAEVA Anna</li> <li>8. CORNEA Sergiu</li> <li>9. MELNIC Svetlana</li> <li>10. RACOVCEANA Tatiana</li> <li>11. IANIOGLO Nadejda</li> <li>12. MITITELU Oxana</li> <li>13. CARABET Maria</li> <li>14. RURAC Ludmila</li> <li>15. TROFIMOV Tatiana</li> <li>16. BRAGOI Diana</li> <li>17. SIRBU Olesea</li> <li>18. MISTREAN Sabina</li> <li>19. IGNATOV Augustin</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Item 1:</b> All the participants have arrived to Vilnius and accommodated to Ecotel Vilnius hotel, Slucko str. 8, 09312 Vilnius. They prepare for the next week's intensive training.   |
| <b>Date: TUESDAY (7th of November)</b>   |
| <b>Venue: MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY, Vilnius, Lithuania (Ateities st. 20, Vilnius)</b>  |
| <p><b>Item 1: Registration and welcome coffee at Mykolas Romeris University (Room I-220)</b><br/>After the registration the participants have the opportunity to get to know each other better and strengthen the interpersonal relations. Mrs. Olesea SIRBU encourages the visiting team to participate in discussions, ask questions whenever is appropriate to maximally exploit the possibility to learn from the experience of Mykolas Romeris University in terms of higher education internationalisation.<br/>During the welcome coffee the participants socialise and get accustomed with the hosting team. It is established a proper cooperation climate the fact proved by intense working atmosphere.</p> |
| <b>Item 2: Welcome address by Vice-Rector for Education and Research Dr. Inga Žalėnienė (Venue: Room I-414)</b>  |



The vice-rector for Education and Research Dr. Inga Žalėnienė welcomes the participating team underlining the importance of strong higher education internationality level for enhancing the capacities of the universities to meet the modern challenges. She highlights the MRU's experience in building increased internationalisation by pursuing well designed strategic transformation process the main pillars of which being new HE financing method stressing the need for diversification, proper legal system stimulating institutional independence and autonomy and adjusted public management based on higher standards of accountability. Moreover, Mrs. Žalėnienė points out that an efficient university internationalisation strategy must consider higher internal quality standards, increased interdisciplinarity, valuation of individual talent, and need for social innovations. Furthermore, it is underlined that important support has been offered by the European Union which made possible the inclusion of MRU in the European University Association and International University Association. Mrs. Sirbu comes to highlight that HE institutions from the Republic of Moldova should develop progressive cooperation agreements with the EU counterparts in terms of double/joint degrees, cooperation projects in research in order to make it possible to accredit our institutions by the European University Association. Also she states that the experience received by the project partners during the study visits to EU partners is an important element in consolidating the strategic directions of Moldovan HE internationalisation.

**Item 3: Introduction to Mykolas Romeris University and MRU International Office by Mrs. Audra Dargytė Burokienė (Venue: Room I-414)**

Mrs. Audra Dargytė Burokienė makes a presentation regarding the MRU International Office, International Mobility and International Partnerships. She underlines the strategic role of MRU International Office in enhancing the following dimensions of internationality including: student mobility, international recruitment, exchange programmes as well as in assuring staff mobility, new and ongoing partnerships and memberships. Mrs. Dargytė Burokienė informs the Moldovan team regarding the Office's staff resources and responsibilities delegation. Also, she provides data about the student participation in outgoing and incoming international mobility, the number of bachelor and master programmes taught in English as well as the funding opportunities for both staff and student mobility highlighting especially the role of national and Erasmus+ programmes.

**Item 4: International mobility: Incoming exchange students by Senior Manager of Incoming students Ms. Inesa Cvetkova and Outgoing exchange students by Manager of Outgoing Students Ms. Eglė Bielinytė, Q&A (Venue: Room I-414)**

Ms. Eglė Bielinytė informs the participants regarding the growing tendency in the number of outgoing exchange students. She explains how the promotion of mobility takes place within the institution including by the use of social media (i.e. International Office web and facebook webpages, internal TV), organisation of thematic dissemination events such as open days, seminars, physical meetings as well as by using flyers and leaflets. Ms. Bielinytė informs Moldovan team about the procedure of selection of candidates for studies/traineeship mobility starting with the completion of online application form and finishing with selection criteria (i.e. semester mark, foreign language proficiency, motivation, and participation in diverse activities). Furthermore, it is covered the main aspects of pre-departure training and instruction, final formal procedures.

Inesa Cvetkova exemplifies the particularities of incoming student mobility procedures starting with the analysis of nominations from the partner institutions and finishing with the feedback received from the students who participated. Ms. Cvetkova explains the necessity of provision to incoming students of an introductory week as well as of a student tutor. Moreover, it is accentuated the need to involve the incoming student in diverse socio-cultural events aimed at strengthening the socialization. Also, there are presented the financing opportunities from which the incoming students can benefit including Lithuanian scholarships as well as the European Union ones.

**Item 5: Introduction of ESN Lithuania, ESN MRU Vilnius section (Students-Mentors team), Q&A, (Venue: Room I-414)**

Ms. Ugnė Jurgelevičiūtė makes a presentation about the European Student Network presenting the main objectives, principles and aims of this non for profit student organisation. She underlines the importance of the organisation for strengthening the internationality of university student life in the EU, at the national and institutional level by specifying that it unites 40 countries, having 536 sections and more than 13000 volunteers. Ms. Jurgelevičiūtė highlights the numerous social events ESN is organising including blood donation days, social



auctions, bird house workshops, movie nights. Moreover, she informs about multiple educational and cultural events ESN is providing involving both international and national students the fact allowing developing close inter-ethnic friendship ties.

**Item 6: Admission, marketing and recruitment strategy at MRU by Senior Manager Mrs. Marija Kulikauskienė, Q&A (Venue: Room I-414)**

Mrs. Marija Kulikauskienė presents the necessity of efficient admission, marketing and recruitment strategy in reaching international students in order to foster the internationality of HE. There are presented several important internet channels through which students are reached including studyportals, keystone (master studies), studylink.co.uk, educations.com and so on. Also, it is shown the need of participating in international education fairs, collection of contacts, and utilisation of recruitment agents and of student ambassadors. Moreover, there are covered the main principles of use of webinars and of social media in order to reach the target groups. A particular attention is given towards building of an effective online application system, or use of the existing ones such as Dream Apply.

After the presentation of Mrs. Marija Kulikauskienė all the participants are invited to a group photo.

**Lunch break (offered by MRU) (MRU canteen)**

**Item 7: Campus Tour (MRU Library, lecture rooms, seminar rooms, moot-court room, distance learning classroom)**

The hosts provides to Moldovan delegation a campus tour showing the available university infrastructure facilities involved in the learning process and research including MRU Library, lecture rooms, seminar rooms, moot-court room and distance learning class-room. During the tour it is underlined the contribution of European Union funding to the development and maintenance of the university infrastructure.

**Item 8: Development and implementation of Joint study / double degree programmes: MRU experience (Room I-414). Joint study/ double degree programmes in Law (Vice-dean of the Faculty of Law Assoc.prof.dr. Dovilė Gailiūtė); Comparative social policy and welfare (COSOPO) joint study programme (director Assoc.prof.dr. Svajonė Mikėnė); Double degree programmes in Economics&Business (vice-dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business prof.dr. Irmantas Rotomskis) Q&A session;**

Ms. Dovilė Gailiūtė makes a presentation of the Joint study/ double degree programmes in Law available at the Mykolas Romeris University. She mentions that there are 7 programmes taught in English available for students including European and International Business Law (joint study programme with University of Savoie, France), 2 years, 120 ECTS credits, European Union Law and Governance (double diploma programme with Bordeaux University, France), module system, 1.5 years, 90 ECTS credits, Legal Regulation of Public Administration and Human Rights (in partnership with National University of Kyiv) (2 year, 120 ECTS credits), International Law (in partnership with the University of Gent), Private Law (joint study programme with Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine), 2 years, 120 ECTS credits, Intellectual Property Law (joint study programme with Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine), 2 years, 120 ECTS credits and so on. Ms. Dovilė Gailiūtė underlines the possible challenges which can be met when developing joint/double degree studies including the differences in the legal system, structure of studies, understanding and interpretation of requirements. Also, she remarks the structure of the joint/double degree programmes including the location, several peculiarities.

Svajonė Mikėnė makes a presentation regarding Comparative social policy and welfare (COSOPO) joint study programme which is jointly organised by three European universities: University of Tampere (Finland), Johannes Kepler University (Linz, Austria) and Mykolas Romeris University (Vilnius, Lithuania). It is presented the main aim of the programme and namely to facilitate the understanding of social policy and welfare in Europe. There is discussed the duration (2 years), the curriculum (120 ECTS credits) and the main focuses of the programme including the analysis of the dynamics of social policy in the countries representing different welfare models and on analyzing different fields of social policies from various perspectives. Also, it is presented the main methods utilised to reach the objectives of the programme including contact teaching and literature examinations via online learning. Moreover, there are covered the main features of the programme including entry requirements, international mobility possibilities, career prospects and several student testimonials.

Mr. Irmantas Rotomskis informs the participants regarding the double degree programmes in Economics & Business. He presents the structure of programmes speaking about the modes of study and length of

programme, purposes, profiles of the programme, qualification requirements and regulations, admission requirements. He also points out the specific arrangements for recognition of prior learning, teaching and learning methods as well as those of assessment of student activity. There are pointed out several programme's learning outcomes, subject specific/generic competences. Moreover, there is presented the structure of the several courses considering credits awards.

**Coffee break (offered by MRU)(Room I-220)**

**Item 10: European joint master's in strategic border management –partnership and programme development experience, challenges, lessons learned. by dr. Inga Juknytė-Petreikienė, Quality assurance committee leader.**

**Q&A session**

Inga Juknytė-Petreikienė makes a presentation regarding European joint master's in strategic border management. She informs the participants about partnership and programme development experience, challenges, lessons learned. Thus, she mentions 5 phases comprising main features of the project including the preparatory phase (y. 2011), development (2012-2013), validation and review (2014-2015), implementation and monitoring (2015-2021), evaluation and re-validation (2020-2021). She specified each consortium partner's responsibilities within the project implementation. Mrs. Juknytė-Petreikienė describes the programme structure based on modular approach. Also, she describes the quality assurance structure including responsibilities and the methodology to obtain feedback from students, teachers, external monitors, alumni and others. Moreover, it has been shown a film synthesising the main achievements and challenges of the European joint master's in strategic border management.

**Item 11: Organisation of Staff Mobility at MRU (outgoing, incoming) by Mrs. Audra Dargytė Burokienė/Ms. Renata Čeponytė, Q&A**

Mrs. Audra Dargytė Burokienė makes a presentation regarding the organisation of staff mobility at MRU (outgoing, incoming). She underlines the necessity of setting tangible targets related to internationalisation. Moreover, it is described the internal way of organising staff mobility based on approved "Order on Staff mobility at MRU". She points out the strategic importance of decentralised implementation with centralised administration, furthermore, it is accentuated the role of facilitating factors and minimisation of restrictions for staff mobility. Thus, outgoing staff mobility is performed by 1) selection of candidates at the faculty level, 2) selection of staff at the administrative unit level, 3) administration of staff mobility at international office level, 4) overall supervision of staff mobility by Erasmus+ committee of Mykolas Romeris University. Incoming staff mobility is highly appreciated within MRU. There are provided important logistical support for incoming staff mobility as well as for integration of staff at the faculty level. Mrs. Audra Dargytė Burokienė speaks also of several ways of supporting incoming staff mobility outside the Erasmus schemes. She also points out the most important benefits an university obtains by developing cooperation resulting in staff mobility as well as the ways in which staff mobility can be boosted including by maximising benefiting from the Erasmus+ K107 Action.

**Item 12: Welcome Dinner in the city (should be covered from per diems by each participant) Venue "Forto Dvaras" at Pilies st. 16, Vilnius**

The participants had the opportunity to taste traditional Lithuanian food at the "Forto Dvaras" restaurant.

**Date: WEDNESDAY (8th of November)**

**Venue: MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY, Vilnius, Lithuania**

**Item 1: Tour around MRU LAB BUILDING (Didlaukio st. 55A)**

The participants have the opportunity to get acquainted with the research infrastructure of MRU LAB. It is specified that the laboratory has more than 3000 square metres. On the ground-floor there is a public space for students, the academic community, and social partners with the spaces customized to group work and brainstorming equipped with mobile workstations, two spacious halls (100 and 50 seats) for meetings, presentations, and conferences. There are also shown the event space, meeting rooms, idea rooms, and other available infrastructure.

**Item 2: Internationalization of research and related activities by Head of Research and Innovation Support Centre Dr. Nomeda Gudeliene (MRU LAB open space No. 102)**



Dr. Nomeda Gudeliene makes a presentation regarding the social innovation concept, its main principles and features. Also, there is presented the information about R&DI activities at MRU, informing Moldovan partners about the number of scientific articles, ways of developing contractual research, international projects and international scientific events. She also describes the interdependence between social innovation with business and society, providing the general framework in developing cooperation in networking, dissemination, services provision and R&D. Dr. Nomeda Gudeliene informs the participants considering the PURE experts' portal, mentioning that presently there are 247 researchers' profiles, 48 units comprised and 1514 research outputs. She also mentions specific features to increase HE projects' management. Mrs. Gudeliene informs the participating team regarding the R&DI professor workload, qualification requirements specifying the important of publishing qualitative research papers in Scopus, Web of Science databases. Also, she provides information on the way the research activity can be stimulated and which levers can be utilised by the university administration in this regards.

**Lunch break (offered by MRU) (café PAS TA (Didlaukio g. 80A)**

**Item 4: Summer schools for International students. Coordination and administration. Q&A (assoc.prof.dr. Gintarė Žemaitaitienė – Institute of Communication) (MRU LAB open space No. 102)**

Mrs. Žemaitaitienė provides a presentation regarding the challenges in the organization of summer schools. She exemplifies the key features of preparation of summer schools including the budget (i.e. only provision of studies,, study & living, all inclusive), the team involved (i.e. head of the school, teaching staff, accountancy, international office volunteers). She offers an example of summer school implementation during two weeks showing the structural distribution of activities by days of implementation. Mrs. Žemaitaitienė also speaks about the main challenges which the organizing committee of the summer school can meet including the border issues (visa, passport), accommodation (i.e. hotel/student dorm), logistics and so on. She also stresses the importance of support provision to the participants of the summer schools to create constructive and lucrative atmosphere. Moreover, after the end of the summer school is important to receive the feedback from the participants which improves the quality of the next events.

**Item 5: Dissemination of information to different target groups (academic staff, students, outside community, etc.)**

**Coffee break (offered by MRU) ( Room I-220)**

**Item 7: Presentation and Interactive session of MRU Asian Center and King Sejong Institute Vilnius by Senior Manager Ms. Karolina Zakaruskaitė and lecturers of KSI Vilnius (Korean Culture Centre Room I-312)**

Ms. Karolina Zakaruskaitė makes a presentation regarding MRU Asian Center its aims and objectives as well as some important dates about the Center. She speaks in particular about the Korean culture and traditions and underling key features of Korean history. She speaks about the steps which have been undertaken by the representatives of MRU in establishing cooperation relations with Korean HEI institutions. She informs the participants about the Korean language courses which have been undertaken at the MRU involving delegates from Korean diplomatic corps and visitors from Korean HEI. Moreover, Ms. Karolina Zakaruskaitė underlines the opportunities MRU and Korean partners provide to excelling students including study visits to Korea and exchange of students. There is provided a short view of most important Korean sightseeing as well as a presentation of a double degree programme undertaken between MRU and Dongseo University (Korea).

**Item 8: ELEVATE management workshops (Room II-230)**

Mrs. Olesea Sirbu makes a short presentation of the issues to be covered within the ELEVATE management workshops. She introduces to the participants the ELEVATE'S Project monitoring manager/CSEI.ASEM, Ignatov Augustin and Project communication manager/CSEI.ASEM, Sabina Mistrean. Mrs. Sirbu mentions that the first year of implementation of the project results is a preparatory one and the following are decisive for the project's success.

Mr. Augustin Ignatov makes a presentation regarding the first year of implementation of ELEVATE project, stating the tasks which have been achieved during this period by Working Packages. He specifies that the delay in WP1 regarding completion and analysis of survey results is caused by the fact that it was decided to undertake a more comprehensive survey than it was projected in order to deeper cover the analysis of the dimension of the internationalisation of HE in the Republic of Moldova.





Mr. Augustin Ignatov presents also the Elevate’s Monitoring and Evaluation Manual its structure and objectives. He accentuates to participants the necessity to meet all the requirements of the manual in order to comply with the commitments assumed through the contractual agreement.

**Date: THURSDAY (9th of November)**

**Venue: MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY, Vilnius, Lithuania**

**Item 1: ELEVATE management workshops (Room II-230)**

Mrs. Sirbu presents to participants the financial management requirements. Also, she provides a brief overview of the objectives and tasks to be achieved during the second and third years of the implementation of the project. Ms. Sabina Mistrean informs the participants regarding the main dissemination objectives of Elevate’s projects which are to be accomplished in the second and third year of the project. She underlines the necessity to have as a background the Communication and Dissemination Manual to reach the best compliance with the commitments of the project.

**Item 2: ELEVATE fine-tuning meeting**

Members of university working groups (UWG-2) held discussion about the realisation of the projects activity and presented the current situation on elaboration of institutional regulatory documents; elaboration process of recommendations for university research project management and talents development and its compulsory part, discussed the approximate dates the draft has to be prepared and adopted by all MD partners. P1-ASEM shared their experience on participation in the European Research Area (ERA) and advised on elaboration of ERA action plan.

**Lunch break (offered by MRU) (MRU canteen)**

**Item 3: Social programme offered by MRU – visit to Grand Duke Palace (offered by MRU)**

The participants are offered the opportunity to visit one of the most valuable sightseeing of Vilnius and namely the Grand Duke Palace and being able to know closer main aspects of Lithuanian culture.

**Date: FRIDAY (10th of November)**

**Departure day**