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

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### TRAINING WEEK at Mykolas Romeris University 13-17 February, 2018 Vilnius

## MINUTES

<b>Date: Tuesday, 13th February 2018</b>
<b>Arrival day</b>
<b>Participants:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BELOSTECINIC Grigore</li> <li>2. CASIAN Angela</li> <li>3. CRUDU Rodica</li> <li>4. BRAGOI Diana</li> <li>5. BOSTAN Viorel</li> <li>6. BUGAIAN Larisa</li> <li>7. BOAGHE Dionisie</li> <li>8. SCRIPNIC Elena</li> <li>9. POPA Andrei</li> <li>10. TODOS Irina</li> <li>11. AMARFII-RAILEAN Nelli</li> <li>12. IANAC Igor</li> <li>13. IBRISIM Liudmila</li> <li>14. CALUGHER Viorica</li> <li>15. BETIU Mircea</li> <li>16. CHIRITA Valentin</li> <li>17. MELNIC Victoria</li> <li>18. CHICUŞ Nicolae</li> <li>19. SAVGA Larisa</li> <li>20. COROPCEANU Eduard</li> <li>21. VELIŞCO Nadejda</li> </ol>
<b>Item 1:</b> All the participants have arrived to Vilnius and accommodated to Ecotel Vilnius hotel, Slucko str. 8, 09312 Vilnius.
<b>Date: Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018</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> All the participants have registered and have received the agenda of the study visit, and MRU designed materials. During the registration process all the participants were invited to network and help their selves with an welcome coffee. Mr. Rodica CRUDU, the academic coordinator of the ELEVATE project, have introduced the host to the</p>



visiting group and all the participants were encouraged to ask questions and explore all the opportunities to learn more about Lithuanian experience to internationalise the higher education. Additionally, there was a brief presentation of the participants in order to strengthen the community and communication within the working group.

**Item 2: Welcome address by Vice-Rector for Education and Research Dr. Inga Žalėnienė (Venue: Room I-414)**

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.

Mrs. Žalėnienė presented the Mikolas Romeris University and its way pursued towards internationalisation. She mentioned about the importance of cooperation agreements and becoming a member in the European Association of Universities and International Association of Universities. The vice-rector, also, mentioned about the reform processes that MRU have implemented during the last years in order to cope with the competition at the national and international level. Therefore, in its strategic plan for MRU development, internationalisation plays the most important role, being considered as a way to overcome the spill over effects of the migration and brain drain, processes Lithuania faces in the last period. However, higher internal quality standards, increased interdisciplinarity, valuation of individual talent, and need for social innovations were also outlined as important moments to consider in building an efficient university internationalisation strategy. Of course, it was 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.

There were stressed out the main MRU achievements in the field of internationalisation of education and research, as well as tools used to support these processes. Additionally, Mr. Mrs. Žalėnienė presented the recommendations of OECD for strengthening the Higher education system in Lithuania and the role of MRU in this process (merge of MRU with Vilnius Gediminas Technical University).

The presentation of Mrs Žalėnienė was followed by the Q&A session. Participants were asking about: the number of private and public universities in Lithuania (Mr. Grigore Belostecinic, the rector of Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova), the potential merge between the MRU and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University and its potential impact on the internationalisation of the new created institution (Mr. Andrei POPA, rector of Cahul State University, Moldova); How does the MRU support motivate faculty staff to get involved in international research projects (Mrs Larisa SAVGA); What are the main challenges MRU faces in the internationalization of research and education, as well as what are the main objectives of further internationalization (Mrs. Rodica CRUDU, academic coordinator of ELEVATE project).

Mrs. CRUDU thanked on behalf of the visiting group the vice-rector for her comprehensive presentation and for warm welcome at MRU, highlighting the importance of the ELEVATE project in bridging the exchange of MRU internationalization experience and consolidate 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 credit mobility organisation: Incoming exchange students by Senior Manager of Incoming students (Ms. Inesa Cvetkova); Outgoing exchange students by Manager of Outgoing Students (Ms. Eglė Bielinytė), and Incoming and outgoing Staff Mobility at MRU (Renata Ceponyte and Audra Dargyte Burokiene); Q&A (Venue: Room I-414)**

Ms. Inesa Cvetkova presented the MRU policy regarding the incoming student mobility, starting with the analysis of nominations from the partner institutions and finishing with the feedback received from the students who



participated. Ms. Cvetkova explained the necessity of provision to incoming students of an introductory week as well as of a student tutor. Moreover, she mentioned about the need to involve the incoming student in diverse socio-cultural events aimed at strengthening the socialization. Also, there were presented the financing opportunities from which the incoming students can benefit including Lithuanian scholarships as well as the European Union ones.

Ms. Eglė Bielinytė presented the statistics and trends in the number of outgoing exchange students, explaining the tools and procedures used to inform, register, test and select the candidates for mobility programs, as well as the main aspects of pre-departure training and instruction, final formal procedures.

Participants have asked about the number of foreign students coming to MRU to get an entire degree and how many incoming international students are currently at MRU for short term period (Mr. BETIU); what are the country of origin of incoming students (Mrs. BUGAIAN) etc.

Ms. Renata Ceponyte was presenting the MRU achievements in the field of ingoing and outgoing staff mobility. The MRU teaching and administrative staff were actively involved in the mobility programs, this bringing know-how and innovation, helping MRU to strive in the currently competitive environment, to become better and more efficient. Moreover, it is described the internal way of organising staff mobility based on approved "Order on Staff mobility at MRU". The convenor pointed out the strategic importance of decentralised implementation with centralised administration, furthermore, the role of facilitating factors and minimisation of restrictions for staff mobility were outlined. 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 mentioned about several ways of supporting incoming staff mobility outside the Erasmus schemes.

**Item 5: Admission, marketing and recruitment strategy at MRU (Ms. Marija Kulikauskiene), Q&A, (Venue: Room I-414)**

Ms. Kulikauskiene presented the tools and ways used by MRU to promote study programs and attract foreign students. She explained how the promotion of mobility takes place within and outside the university (i.e. study fairs, use of Dream application tool, International Office web and MRU Facebook webpage, internal TV, recruitment agents etc.), as well as the importance of organising thematic dissemination events such as open days, seminars, physical meetings as well as by using flyers and leaflets.

Mrs Savga asked the presenter whether MRU has a marketing department and how many persons are working in this department. Also, Mr Bostan required more details about the cooperation of recruitment agencies and the method used to pay their efforts to find students. 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.

Being asked which of the methods proved to be more efficient (Mrs. Crudu), the answer was - a combination of different tools. However, Mrs. Zaleniene pointed that the most effective way to attract foreign students is the bilateral agreements and double diploma programs.

After the presentation of Mrs. Marija Kulikauskiene all the participants are invited for a group photo.

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

**Item 6: Campus Tour (MRU Library, lecture rooms, seminar rooms, moot-court room, distance learning classroom)**

The hosts provided 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, Asian room etc. During the tour it is underlined the contribution of European Union funding to the development and maintenance of the university infrastructure.

**Item 7: 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. Doviļė Gailiūtė); Comparative social policy and welfare (COSOPO) joint study programme (Assoc. prof., dr.**

**Vida Cesnūyte); 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 made a presentation of the Joint study/ double degree programmes in Law available at the Mykolas Romeris University. She mentioned 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 outlined the challenges MRU faced in developing joint/double degree studies, including the differences in the legal system, structure of studies, understanding and interpretation of requirements.

Mrs. Vida Cesnūyte presented to the Moldova delegation the Comparative social policy and welfare (COSOPO) joint study programme which is jointly developed and lunched by three European universities: University of Tampere (Finland), Johannes Kepler University (Linz, Austria) and Mykolas Romeris University (Vilnius, Lithuania). It was presented the main aim of the programme and namely to facilitate the understanding of social policy and welfare in Europe. There was presented 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 analysing different fields of social policies from various perspectives. Also, there were presented the main methods used 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 informed the participants about the double degree programmes in Business Informatics (which does mostly function as a franchise program managed by the Middlesex University, UK); Finance and Financial markets (with few universities of Ukraine and Azerbaijan). He presented 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 was presented the structure of the several courses considering credits awards.

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

**Item 8. European joint master's in strategic border management –partnership and programme development experience, challenges, lessons learned. by Mrs. Danguole Seniutiene, head of State Border Protection Department at the Faculty of Public Security. Q&A session**

Mrs Seniutiene have presented the 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. Seniutiene 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, a film synthesising the main achievements and challenges of the European joint master's in strategic border management was shown to the participants of this session.

**Item 9: Transfer from MRU to the Ecotel Vilnius Hotel (organized and offered by the MRU)**

**Date: Thursday, 15th of February 2018**

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

**Item 1: Creative introduction by MRU students to celebrations of Lithuanian Centennial**

A group of students wearing national clothes were welcoming the members of the Moldovan delegation at the entrance of the university, by giving as present to every attendee a slow with Lithuanian Flag.

**Item 2: Tour around MRU LAB BUILDING (Didlaukio st. 55A)**

There was presented the MRU LAB research infrastructure to the visiting group. The lab has more than 3000 square metres. On the ground-floor there is a public space for students, academic community, and social partners with the spaces customized to group work and brainstorming, two spacious halls (100 and 50 seats) for meetings, presentations, and conferences. There are also shown the meeting rooms, idea rooms, and other available infrastructure. MRU LAB is the working, meeting and brainstorming place of 16 interdisciplinary research groups, each being specialized in different fields of the social innovations area.

**Item 3: 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 did a presentation about research, development and innovation activities carried out by the MRU researchers, informing Moldovan visiting participants about the number of scientific articles, ways of developing contractual research, international projects and international scientific events organized by the MRU. Mrs Gudeliene highlighted once again the importance of social innovations as a research area for MRU and described the interdependence between social innovation with business and society, providing the general framework in developing cooperation in networking, dissemination, services provision and R&D. She informed attendees about the 247 existing MRU researchers' PURE profile comprised in 48 units and 1514 research outputs. There were discussions about the R&DI professor workload, qualification requirements specifying the important of publishing qualitative research papers in Scopus or/and Clarivate Analytics databases, and ways the research activity can be stimulated, which levers can be utilised by the university administration in this regard.

**Item 4. Lunch break (offered by MRU) (MRU LAB open space No. 102)**

**Item 5: ELEVATE Management workshop (MRU LAB open space No. 102)**

Mrs. Rodica CRUDU thanked the ELEVATE Lithuanian project team for well organised meeting and warm host of the Moldovan delegation, as well as all attendees for engagement, interest and implication in the discussions around the presentations. Mrs. Crudu reminded about the tasks to be settled and undertaken in the short run within the ELEVATE project. She expressed her conviction that the MRU achievements and challenges in different fields of education and research internationalisation, presented during the working sessions, would serve all Moldovan HEIs as valuable insights in the process of designing their own internationalisation strategies. She encouraged all participants to cooperate in this process and share their own experiences. Mr. Bragoi Diana asked every participant to sign and present all the reporting required documents.

**Item 6: Departure to a Vilnius city tour by MRU bus, and after the tour, transfer to the Ecotel Vilnius Hotel**

All the participants had the opportunity to have a city tour. The guide Migle, told the participant about the history, monuments, churches and stories about Vilnius. The tour started with the Cathedral square, Gediminas monument and avenue, St. Peter and St Paul's Church, and continued with a panoramic view over the city from the highest hill of the city, Church of St. Casimir, Gate of Dawn and other sight views of the city. This city tour gave all the participants the opportunity to learn more about the history and main aspects of Lithuanian history and culture. After the city tour, all the participants were transferred to the hotel.

**Date: Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

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

**Item 1: ELEVATE management workshops (Room I-220)**

Mrs. Crudu presented 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.



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Mrs. Bragoi informed 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.

**Item 2: Fine-tuning meeting (Room I-220)**

University working groups (UWG-1) held discussions on advancement of university integrative function; the university leaders analysed the state of art of elaboration of university strategies, discussed the university guidelines for increasing the quality and scope of academic mobility, the activity leader proposed an proximate date of the document delivery.

**Item 3: Ceremony of Raising the National flags (Simonas Daukantas square). Presidents address**

The participants are offered the opportunity to listen and watch the Lithuanian president's speech, enjoy the concert in the Cathedral square and 100 fires on Gediminas Avenue.

**Date: Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**Departure day**