

PRESS-RELEASE

Erasmus+ programme significantly contributed to drastic in Higher Education of Uzbekistan

This is one of the conclusions of the National Impact Study (NIS) on impact of Erasmus+ projects (2015-2020) on higher education system of the country¹. Majority of experts and respondents participated in the study agreed that without the impact of the Tempus and Erasmus+ projects a rapid modernization of higher education in Uzbekistan in 2017-2020 would hardly had been achieved. This is in particular true concerning the new and often innovative areas of education, strengthening of internationalization process, as well wide introduction of the credit-modular system.

To discuss key findings of the study and look for the future cooperation opportunities, the webinar was held with the support of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education and the Delegation of the European Union in Uzbekistan.

In a view of forthcoming new Erasmus+ Calls for Proposals the results of the NIS and recommendations developed will be presented and discussed on the 1st Day of the webinar. The representatives of respective ministries and state committees will get acquainted with the cooperation opportunities and direct involvement in Erasmus+ projects jointly with the higher education institutions (HEIs).

The most relevant topics of Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) Erasmus+ projects, which will be presented by HEREs in accordance to on-going reforms in politics and economy, higher education, science and innovations, agriculture and healthcare system, will be discussed on the 2nd day. The topics have been developed and presented by the National Team of Higher Education Reform Experts in the analytical part of the NIS with the description of the respective reforms for 2017-2020.

Intermediate National Impact Study “Erasmus+ projects` impact on development and modernization of higher education in Uzbekistan:

A number of conferences², discussions and studies were held in 2020 – the last year of Erasmus+ (2014-2020) with the aim to evaluate the programme impact on higher education at the regional level in Central Asia³. This impact study is focused on the Erasmus+ programme impact in Uzbekistan. The research methodology is based on the methods of sociological analysis of documents and surveying of target audience. The documents used for research included field monitoring reports and self-reports of project teams. In order to strengthen the evidence of the study, surveys were held through online questionnaires, as well as focus groups discussions and structured in-depth interviews with experts.

Erasmus+ in Uzbekistan:

For the higher education system of Uzbekistan, 2017-2020 has become a period of rapid transformations and important decisions aiming to improve the quality of higher education. It has greatly increased the relevance and importance of rapidly developing international cooperation. One of the important areas of

¹ National Impact Study report in English and Russian is available for downloading http://www.erasmusplus.uz/images/shared/file/NIS_RU_%20for%20printing.pdf

² Regional report of Erasmus + for Central Asia: <http://www.erasmusplus.uz/news/E-CBHE-Action---Regional-reports.htm>

³ Report of the Regional Cluster Meeting “Capacity Building in Higher Education project impact in Central Asia”, November 19-20, 2020: https://erasmusplus.kg/ca_cluster_meeting/report/

this cooperation is the Erasmus+ programme, involving a total of 65 universities from all regions of the country. Erasmus+ programme is one of key directions of cooperation not just with the European universities, but also with universities in Central Asia, CIS member states and other regions of the world.

Thanks to Tempus and Erasmus+ programmes the higher educational institutions of Uzbekistan could greatly enrich their experience of cooperation with universities in the European Union and in the neighbouring countries, develop a number of joint master's programmes, create joint departments and unique scientific laboratories, which had a significant impact on improving their international recognition and ranking.

The relevance of the Erasmus+ programme, its wide range of activities and opportunities for long-term cooperation are aligned with the goals outlined in the Concept for the Development of Higher Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030, as well as the recently adopted Law on Education and the Law on Science and support their implementation. The advanced teaching technologies introduced within the framework of joint projects, educational platforms established, and access provided to the educational resources of European universities greatly supported the transition of the entire education system to the online format in in the context of the pandemic in 2020 and the current year. Virtual mobility and combined mobility allowed for the personal development of teachers, participation in joint publications and continued joint research studies for the researchers at the universities in the country.

Within all six Calls (2015-2020) in total 43 Erasmus + CBHE projects were financed for Uzbekistan, including 12 national projects, involving European and Uzbek universities, 11 cross-regional projects, and 20 regional projects -with the participation of HEIs both from Uzbekistan and a number of other Central Asian countries.

The total project budget allocated for 43 Erasmus + CBHE projects is €36.6 million euro, including about €11.5 million (31.4%) particularly for HEIs in Uzbekistan.

According to the statistics of the partnership with universities of different countries and regions of the world the leaders are the Central Asian countries, as well as HEIs of the Russian Federation. The largest numbers of partner HEIs from programme countries are the universities of Italy, Spain and Greece.

The first three places among 10 leading Uzbek HEIs in the Tempus IV and Erasmus+ CBHE projects are occupied by the Tashkent University of Information Technologies (TUIT), Bukhara State University and the National University of Uzbekistan (NUUz). For the first time in the history of Tempus and Erasmus+ CBHE projects, TUIT became the grantholder of the project, which demonstrates the capacity of the project teams in Uzbekistan, the high quality of applications with the participation of Uzbek HEIs and a certain level of trust with regards to the HEIs of Uzbekistan.

Erasmus+: What's new for the 2021-2027 programming period?

In March 2021 the European Commission adopted the first annual work programme of Erasmus+ 2021-2027. With a budget of €26.2 billion, (compared to €14.7 billion for 2014-2020), complemented with about €2.2 billion from EU's external instruments. It will seek to be even more inclusive and to support the green and digital transitions Erasmus+ will also support the resilience of education and training systems in the face of the pandemic.

The new Erasmus+ programme (2021-2027) provides opportunities for study periods abroad, traineeships, apprenticeships, and staff exchanges in all fields of education, training, youth and sport.

Two-day webinar will be recorded and broadcasted live on NEO YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/NEOUZErasmusUZ>