**RENOVATE: REGIONAL NETWORK OF AGENCIES FOR SUPPORT OF UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS COLLABORATION IN THE ICT FIELD**

Priority - D-4: «University-enterprise cooperation, employability of graduates»

Duration: 3 years.

***1. Coordinator: University of Patras (Greece)***

2. University of Trento (Italy)

3. Koblenz-Landau University

4. Wroclaw University of Technology (Poland)

5. Trento Rise (Italy)

Kazakhstan

6. KIMEP University, JSC

7. AL-FARABI KAZAKH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

8. Kazakh National Technical University named after K.I.Satpaev

9. JSC Zhezkazgan Baikonurov University

10. Altynsarin National Academy of Education

11. Ministry of Education and Science

Kyrgyzstan

12. Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov

13. Bishkek Academy of Finance and Economics

14. Osh Technological University

15. Bishkek Business Club

16. Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic

Tajikistan

17. Khujand State University

18. Khorog State University named after M. Nazarshoev

19. Tajik State Pedagogical University named after Sadriddin Ayni

20. Center of development and support of VET education

21. Ministry of education and sciense of Republic of Tajikistan

China

22. Nanjing University

23. Nanjing University of Science and Technology

24. WOW-trans Inc.

WP 1. Deep analysis of “university-business” relations in EU and CA countries

1. Establishment of an Academic Board on university-business relations improvement
2. Forming regional stakeholder teams
3. Deep analysis of needs of University-Business cooperation system
4. Questionnaires for entrepreneurs on the needed graduates competences
5. Review of the best “university-business” collaboration practices in EU

In the preparation phase of the project each partner university will establish the Academic Board that will be responsible for representation of university side in cooperation with ICT companies. At the kick-of meeting that will be held in Patras participants will acquaint with the project work plan, management and quality controlling systems, further activities. After that all Academic Boards’ staff will start working on university-employer relations research. At first the Boards will prepare the list of participating organizations in the project in spite of participating in the RENOVATE project institutions. Each partner country will form regional stakeholder teams for the best cooperation and coordination of work. List of involved organizations will be made in the form of report. Under the European supervision Boards will study the subject of university-employers relations on EU and Asian countries, make a deep analytical research of the area and prepare questionnaires for entrepreneurs on the needed graduates’ competences on the ICT labour market. At the closing stage of preparation phase Boards will provide a review of the university-business collaboration in EU and Asian countries, elaborate a plan for relations changes and justify it according to European best practices.

WP 2. Guidelines for the University Departments on Relations with Employers (RED)

1. Draft version of guidelines on “University-Business cooperation" on based of results of the questionnaires and the needs analysis
2. Workshop on the Guidelines for representatives of key stakeholders and regulations for National Coordination Agencies
3. Online conferences on each life stage of the guidelines development
4. Final version of guidelines for REDs and Regulations for National Coordination Agencies
5. Presentation of the Guidelines on cooperation between universities and ICT companies in National Ministries

Relying on the deep analysis results, polling of regional stakeholder teams and general plan of university-business relations improvement one university from each partner country will elaborate a draft version of guidelines for the REDs on “University-Business” cooperation between academic staff and labour market representatives by Academic Boards. Workshop on discussion of elaborated guidelines and regulations for National Coordination Agencies on University-Business Cooperation will be held in Wroclaw. Also there will be several online conferences on each life stage of the guideline development. With close collaboration of university staff and participating organizations list of changes according to national priority of each Asian country will be compiled and justify by European partners. Universities responsible for guidelines elaboration will improve drafts according to results of the workshop and online conferences. Final versions of guidelines and regulations will be approved by consortium and Quality Control Commission. Each university which have taken part in guidelines elaboration will present the cooperation programme in National Ministries.

WP 3. National Coordination Agencies on collaboration with ICT companies (UBNA)

1. National Coordination Agencies on university-business relations in ICT establishment (UBNA)
2. Retraining of UBNAs' staff in EU for getting experience on UBC
3. Content management of the ICT Competences Framework Portal
4. Regional Network of UBNA

For the better collaboration of universities and employers in Chine, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan National Coordination Agencies on university-business relations in ICT will be established in Nanjing, Bishkek, Dushanbe and Almaty. Corresponding representative universities will contribute a work plan of UBNAs. Administrative staff will be selected for the National Agencies. Trento University will hold weekly retraining courses for the selected staff from Asian universities. After retraining UBNAs’ staff will be able to make cooperation between educational institutions and organizations, provide consulting services for students and graduates and coordination of REDs’ work. National Coordination Agencies will manage content for the ICT Competences Framework Portal. For the better experience exchange and mutual interaction among Asian UBNAs, it is proposed to establish Regional Network National Coordination Agencies on university-business relations in ICT. Mutual agreements will be assigned by each partner university. Network will be found and members will cooperate via Internet for the experience exchange.

WP 4. Development of Asian ICT Competences Framework Portal

1. Requirements specification for the ICT CF Portal from stakeholders
2. IT developers team
3. System Design Document – SDD (detailed descriptions of the architecture and system components)
4. Development of the new CF Portal and deployment
5. Testing Analysis Report
6. CFP manual and product documentation

Each university and National Agency will prepare a list of requirements specifications on the future ICT Competences Framework Portal. Workshop in Koblenz will be held to justify the final version of requirements specifications. Content for the Portal will be compiled by members of National Coordination Agencies on university-business relations in ICT. Physical model of database will be developed under the leadership of University of Koblenz-Landau. The System Design Document will be designed by Kyrgyz State Technical University according to justified requirements specification under the leadership of UKOLD. This document completely describes the system at the architecture level, including subsystems and their services, hardware mapping, data management, access control, global software control structure, and boundary conditions. The SDD should define a virtual machine that implements all requirements in the RAD, and it should provide a foundational guide for further implementation details all the way to an executable solution. Development process will be based on the leading agile development methodology, also known as Scrum. It will help to be better able to cope with the necessary unpredictability of continuous discovery and learning. The Test Analysis Report records results of the tests, presents the capabilities and deficiencies for review, and provides a means of assessing software progression to the next stage of development or testing. Results of each type of test are added to the software development document for the module or system being tested. The ICT CF Portal will be deployed till the end of the project and after the project life-time. Portal guideline will be elaborated, printed and published. Also its electronic copy will be available.

WP 5. Align of Master courses on ICT to the labour market needs

1. A set of enrolled Master students and topics of Master theses assignment by supervisors from academic and entrepreneurial sides
2. Internship and externship of pilot groups
3. Presentations of theses with attendance of National Ministries representatives
4. Report on needed improvement of educational programme by UBNA based on labour market research and presentations results

Under the new cooperation programme between Asian universities and ICT companies there will be created a pilot group of Master students. On the base of the analytical research of the labour market needs Master theses’ topics will be selected and suggested to the group. For the best accordance to the requirements of entrepreneurs and high level of raining two supervisors per each Master student will be selected from academic and entrepreneurs side. After that all participating students will complete the internship and externship in EU and native countries. EU universities will prepare courses on most needed ICT subjects. After finishing the research on Master works all participants from the pilot group will present their Master theses to Academic Board, teams of stakeholders and representatives of National Ministries. On the result of theses’ presentations a report on needed improvement of educational programme in ICT will be prepared by UBNAs according to current state of arts and entrepreneurs needs.

WP 6. Dissemination & Exploitation

1. Project web-site
2. Promotion in mass-media
3. Round table of the Academic Board and stakeholders on the UBNAs advancement
4. National Job Fairs
5. Annual conference of Ministries with stakeholders and the UBNAs representatives
6. Polling of Master students after theses’ presentations
7. Publishing materials on project activities

Development of the project web-site will provide by the Al-Farabi Kazakhstan National University. All information about the project will place there. New materials will upload in time. General information about the project will be prepared by each university. Consortium will cooperate with local mass-media for the wider project spreading. For the best University-Business cooperation round tables will be held with participation of the Academic Board and stakeholders. UBNAs effectiveness will be discussed and the quality and scope of work will be increased. The National Job Fair will be held at partner universities to help young people to understand what competences are needed in ICT field on labour market. Annual conferences will be held in Wroclaw, Koblenz and Patras with the participation of all partners. After the Master theses’ presentations each participant from the pilot group of students will be polled with questioners for quality control and improvement of current state of arts. Relying on the results of project progress and implementation of activities European partners will prepare a report on recommendations on UBNAs’ improvement. All materials on project progress and implementation of activities will be published by each participant in mass-media and web-site.

WP 7. Quality plan

1. Quality Control Commission (QCC)
2. Quality assurance plan
3. Internal semi-annual evaluation of the project
4. Analytical reports on “university-business” relations changes
5. Annual experts' review

Quality Control Commission will be established for control and monitoring of the project quality. Level of coherence between work plan and actual results will be assessed by comparing the actually achieved results at the moment of the next assessment with those pointed out in the work plan. Evaluation will be carried out by the experts of EU and CA participating universities. Feedback from project participants will be carried out by comparison with the work plan, by analysing of the project participants questionnaires. Questionnaires are to be designed by all the consortium members and analysed by the local coordinators. Analytical reports on UE relations changes will be provided by the QCC. External expertise of the project quality will be carried out by 2 experts each year. Project expertise with recommendations will be published in semi-annual reports.

WP 8. Management

1. General and Local Project Management Group
2. Day-to-day management
3. Project documentation keeping and analysing
4. Quarterly reports on project progress and implementation of activities
5. Coordination meetings

The General and Local Project Management Group will be established to perform internal control and evaluation. The representatives of national coordinators will form the Groups. University of Patras as a project coordinator appoints central project officers, who would take responsibility for administration, coordination and record-keeping. Each partner university will appoint national project officer; all other partners will also choose one project officer. Project documentation will be kept and analysed by each partner. During the entire life-time of the project all of the participants will be responsible for the monitoring and the unproblematic realization of the project and for providing quarterly progress reports. Coordination meetings will be held in Amsterdam, Koblenz and Patras. Other meetings will be provided by webinars.