

The Impact of CBHE Projects on the Reformation of Higher Education System in Turkmenistan



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Prepared by the National Erasmus+ Office in Turkmenistan

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Overview of the Erasmus+ Programme Activities for 2014-2020

The Erasmus+ is the European Union's Programme aims to support actions in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport for the period 2014-2020. The Programme provides grants to give opportunities to students, trainees, staff and volunteers to spend a period abroad to increase their skills and employability. It supports organisations to work in transnational partnership and to share innovative practices in the fields of education, training and youth.

The actions of the Erasmus + Programme are divided into decentralized actions and centralized actions. The decentralized actions are managed in each programme country by National Agencies that are appointed by their national authorities. The centralized actions are managed at a European level by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) located in Brussels.

To boost skills and employability, as well as modernizing Education, Training, and Youth work, the Programme has received a budget of €14.7 billion; a 40% increase compared to previous spending levels, reflecting the EU's commitment to investing in these areas for seven year programme.

The International dimensions of Erasmus+ provide cooperation between Programme Countries and Partner Countries. 34 Programme Countries: 28 EU Member States; Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia.

Over 150 Partner Countries: Eastern Partnership countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, territory of Ukraine - as recognized by International Law; Southern Mediterranean countries - Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia; Western Balkans - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro; territory of Russian Federation as recognised by the International Law; Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; Latin America; South Africa; ACP Countries; Industrialized Countries.

See all countries in Erasmus+ Programme Guide:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/programme-guide>

For higher education institutions and individuals from Turkmenistan, Erasmus+ provides four main opportunities:

Key Action 1

International credit mobility of individuals and Erasmus+ Mundus Joint Master Degrees promoting the mobility of learners and staff from and to Partner countries

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Key Action 2

Capacity Building projects in Higher Education promoting cooperation and partnerships that have an impact on the modernization and internationalization of higher education institutions and systems in Partner Countries, with a special focus on Partner Countries neighboring the EU.

Key Action 3

Support to policy dialogue through the network of Higher Education Reform Experts in Partner Countries neighboring the EU, the international alumni association, policy dialogue with Partner Countries and international attractiveness and promotion events.

Jean Monnet activities with the aim of stimulating teaching, research and reflection in the field of European Union studies worldwide.

ERASMUS+ Programme Web-site:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmusplus/node_en

New projects and mobility agreements are selected each year within the Erasmus+ Call for Proposals. Organisations and individuals seeking funding can consult the Erasmus+ Programme Guide, which provides a comprehensive list of opportunities supported by the programme. The Erasmus+ Programme Guide will lead you through the first steps of how to apply for these opportunities and where to go for further information.

You can find information on other Erasmus+ actions here

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities_en

Details on calls at the web-site of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) responsible for management of the Programme:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus_en

Resource: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus_en

Contact: info@erasmusplus.org.tm

The brochure gives a brief description of the Turkmen universities' activities in the Erasmus+ CBHE projects in the period of 2014-2019. The projects have been focused at the achieving of long-term impact on the higher education system and institutions of the Central Asia to provide the ministries and universities with data, experience and good practice from EU, and the methodology essential for the reform in the higher education area.

The Capacity Building Projects, based on multilateral partnerships, have delivered to the CA universities the required knowledge for economic development through job creation, better governance, increasing entrepreneurship and mobility. Among expected impacts of CBHE projects there is advancement in university governance, innovation capacities and internationalisation together with the increasing of regional and cross regional cooperation.

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Considering that the publication text may contain some typos or inaccuracies, the National Erasmus+ Office would be grateful for any comments and suggestions to be sent to our email address: info@erasmusplus.org.tm

The Impact of CBHE Projects on the Reformation of Higher Education System in Turkmenistan



Since 2014 under the TEMPUS Programme and its successor Erasmus+, the Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education (CBHE) projects have had significant progressive structural and systemic impact on the higher education reform in Central Asia countries. The promotion of the international academic cooperation between CA and EU universities has undoubtedly become the most important instrument of TEMPUS and Erasmus+ which has effectively motivated university staff and authorities opening new horizons for them.

In Turkmenistan, the activities of EU educational programmes, including Tempus and Erasmus+, have steadily encouraged the progressive structural and systemic changes in the higher education system. The Tempus projects of 2013-2016 - QAMEL, PROMIS, INOCAST, UNIWORK supported the Turkmen academic staff to gain experience in e-learning and developing digital learning aids, provided them with enormous amount of factual material and practice to be used for teaching and academic research, and also paved the way for Erasmus+ projects. The Erasmus+ CBHE projects have facilitated to broaden the range of subjects covered in the Turkmen university programmes contributing to the curricula reform and the introduction of new teaching methods, have made possible mobility visits for students and teachers, influenced to a certain extent the university management and strengthened links between the higher education institutions and industries.

Since 2015, the Turkmen universities with the State support (Decree of the President of Turkmenistan, 21/07/2015 “On modernizing the material and technical means of higher educational institutions and improvement of the teaching efficiency”) have been developing their scientific and technological potential. The measures have been focused



on facilitating the knowledge exchange, enhancing equipment and facilities, introduction of advanced technologies and new methodologies for teaching aids and university research activity.

The flexibility of CBHE within the period of 2015-2020 has ensured timely and constructive response to most important decisions and reforms in Turkmenistan concerning the technological advances in economy, social sphere and further improvement of the national Higher Education System.

The Turkmen Government has initiated a number of regulations to harmonize the higher education with Bologna process and shows the commitment to further advances, such as, the implementation of comprehensive plans aimed at raising the national education system to a new qualitative level in compliance with existing international standards. A two-tier system with BA and MA programmes has been incorporated in five universities with international criteria and ECTS credits. It is intended to create a network of technology centers and educational institutions aimed at upgrading the abilities and skills of academic staff and promoting the generation of new ideas and solutions based on a completely new expertise.

The CBHE projects contributed to realizing the State “Programme on the Development of Innovative Activity for 2015-2020” (adopted 11/06/2015). **“Professional Master’s Degree in Informatics as a Second Competence in Central Asia” (PROMIS)** initiated the process of incorporating the MA programmes in September 2015 in two Turkmen Institutions (the Turkmen State Institute of Economics and Management, the Turkmen State Institute of Transport and Communication) with improving vocational features of the MA's degree by strengthening the relationships between the universities and local companies, and adapting the teaching process to the social needs. The Project has become an excellent opportunity for the Institutions to adopt Master’s degrees network, and for internship students to get their first professional experience by working part-time for IT companies and complete their study at the university.



Such practice has contributed to preparation of young specialists to integrate easily into the labor market.

The Project **“Innolabs in Central Asia for a Sustainable Catalyzation of Innovation in the Knowledge Triangle” (INOCAST)** – has funded developing the innovative laboratories in two Turkmen higher education institutions (the Turkmen State Institute of Transport and Communication and the Turkmen State Institute of Economics and Management).

The International Innovation Labs are considered to be a collaborative tool between universities and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to stimulate innovation processes in marketing communication. The Laboratories create an environment where creative and innovative thinking is stimulated. Undergraduate students are coached by their lecturers to challenge business problems faced by SMEs. This working method offers students real case studies as a part of the practical learning model. The enterprises can offer authentic business problems to the HEI students as case studies, where students learn by working at genuine problems rather than by solving textbook exercises. Furthermore, students improve their employability by acquiring profound business knowledge and entrepreneurial thinking.

The INOCAST project provided opportunities for students to develop and realize their ideas in practice. Both Institutions have launched piloting versions of the Innolab platform for exchanging experience and catalyzing innovations: the E-learning courses and implemented innovative laboratories have provided the teaching staff and students with practical skills on using computer technologies, access to Moodle platform, implementation of a sustainable platform for exchanging experience and developments. INOCAST also supported establishing the effective collaboration and assistance with industry partners.



The project “**Accessibility and Harmonization of Higher Education in Central Asia through Curriculum Modernization and Development**” (**ACADEMICA**) with a focus on technical and engineering education inspired the training of a new generation of engineers working in collaboration with ministries and business partners **which was in line with the** Digital Education Concept adopted on 05/09/2017. ACADEMICA supported establishing the modern educational environment in two HE Institutions (the Turkmen State Institute of Finance and the Turkmen State Institute of Culture), modernization of curricula through integration of innovative ICT based teaching and learning approaches and open educational resources which contributed improving the competencies of university lecturers in engineering sciences in relation to their active involvement in the global digital educational space.

The on-going project “**Modernisation of Higher Education in Central Asia through New Technologies**” (**HiEdTec**) currently work on adaptation of three Turkmen HEIs (International University for the Humanities and Development, Oguz Han Engineering and Technology University of Turkmenistan, State Power Engineering Institute of Turkmenistan) to the digital generation through introduction and effective use of ICT-based Innovative Educational Technologies and Didactic Models in the teaching process.

Three Turkmen universities - International University for the Humanities and Development, Turkmen State Institute of Architecture, and Institute of Telecommunications and Information Technologies currently work on the development and implementation of a new practice oriented, student-focused MA program on **CRENG (“Crisis and Risks Engineering for Transport Services”)**. The Project members are involved in capacity training courses and establishing innovative teaching and learning environments on CRENG. The Project implementation will be particularly important for Turkmenistan considering the country’s progressive development of the Transport System and integration into the Global transportation system.



The Concept for Improving Foreign Language Teaching and Learning (22/12/2018) specifies training and retraining foreign language academic staff and teachers and the creation of a continuous and interrelated system of teaching and learning foreign languages for the period from 2019 to 2024. All Turkmen projects' staffs have received significant assistance from the EU funded Projects in reinforcing their foreign language skills participating in CBHE Projects.

The CBHE projects continue to have a significant impact on the modernization of technical facilities and resources of Turkmen universities: since each project allocates funds for the purchase of unique laboratory equipment, software and modern textbooks, as well as for long-term subscription to the world electronic educational resources.

EU Projects have become the main tools of inter-university cooperation between the EU and CA universities and Turkmenistan HEIs. Each completed TEMPUS - Erasmus+ project demonstrates further development of academic and scientific cooperation between universities, and application of achieved results.

The cooperation experience of EU universities between Higher Education and the Labour Market has also been introduced within the framework of the project **“Regional Objectives for Administrative Development” (ROAD)** which has maintained developing a competency training framework for local civil servants and has established training and counseling Centres in two HEIs (International University for the Humanities and Development of Turkmenistan, the Turkmen State Institute of Finance). Currently, Centers offer training for civil servants. The subjects are coordinated with the Academy of Civil Servants in accordance with the Agreement on Cooperation and the regulations of the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan. Upon successful completion of the courses, the trainees are provided with certificates.

The Project ROAD has made a great contribution to life-long professional development in the country. The participated teaching staff have improved their academic capacity, quality of teaching and learning, modernized their university curricula with advanced methodologies and integrated ICT-based pedagogical approaches.

The TEMPUS and Erasmus+ CBHE projects have stimulated the process of internationalisation in Higher Education of Central Asia which has improved the university cooperation and supported academic mobility, publication of textbooks, literature and training programmes, and also developed infrastructure and the academic quality. The Erasmus+ projects have involved the Higher Education of Central Asia in systemic reform. The idea of creating the CAHEA (Central Asia Education Area) draws people imagination much stronger today than ever including institutions and ministries authority, rectors, academics and even students.

The List of On-going Erasmus+ Projects in Turkmenistan

1.	Reference Number	598092-EPP-1-2018-1-BG-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP
	Project Title	Modernisation of Higher Education in Central Asia through New Technologies
	Project Acronym	HiEdTec
	Project Duration	36 months
	Grant Requested	988,773 EUR
	Coordinator	University of Ruse Angel Kanchev
	Involved Partners	<p>University of Ruse Angel Kanchev Almaty Technological University Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan Innovative University of Eurasia Ala-Too International University Issykkul State University named Kyrgyz State Technical University Khorog State University Tajik Technical University Technological University of Tajikistan International University for the Humanities and Development Oguz Han Engineering and Technology University of Turkmenistan: State Power Engineering Institute of Turkmenistan Andijan Machine-Building Institute Tashkent State University of Economics Tashkent University of Information</p>
	Project Objectives	<p>The Project goal is to adapt the education system of CA countries to the digital generation through introduction and effective use of ICT-based Innovative Educational Technologies in the teaching process.</p> <p>The Project is expected to achieve the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sustainable academic network will be created for sharing experience and exchange of good practices in the field of IET and didactic models - five Concepts of adapting the education system to the digital generation are being developed in line with the specific conditions of each partner country - 15 IET Centres and 45 active learning classrooms and Virtual classrooms will be established in Partner universities - Courses for trainers and lecturers for the acquisition of

		digital skills and learning methods will be organized with the access to Cloud-based Virtual Libraries of the digital educational resources, and 75 PowerPoint presentations of lectures suitable for delivery on an interactive electronic white board.
2.	Reference Number	598218-EPP-1-PL-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
	Project Title	Crisis and Risk Engineering for Transport Services
	Project Acronym	CRENG
	Project Duration	36 months
	Grant Requested	999,949 EUR
	Coordinator	Warsaw University of Technology
	Project Consortia	Berlin Technical University University of Valenciennes ECM Space technologies GmbH Pryazovskii State Technical University Dnipropetrovskii National University of Railway Transport University named after Academician V. Lazaryan State University of Infrastructure and Technologies Baku Engineering University Azerbaijan Technical University Azerbaijan Technological University Turkmen State Institute of Telecommunications and Informatics International University for the Humanities and Development Turkmen State Architecture and Construction University The Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan Baku Transport Agency The Ukrainian Railway
	Project Objectives	The Project partners will develop and implement new practice oriented approach to MA program on CRENG including innovative teaching/learning approaches and ECTS, develop and establish innovative teaching/learning environments that will bring the participated HEIs closer to the labor market. The created environments will include new innovative MA program on CRENG, educational materials on new developed curricula with e-learning courses which will be uploaded to the MOODLE platform.

		The Project teams plan to establish innovative laboratories (CRENG Labs) where students could acquire practical skills on using intelligence, digital and information technologies for CRENG, and new teaching and learning approaches to the International Project Based Learning and Skills Wallet.
3.	Reference Number	597985-EPP-1-2018-1-KZ-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
	Project Title	New and Innovative Courses for Precision Agriculture
	Project Acronym	NICOPA
	Project Duration	36 months
	Grant Requested	999,847 EUR
	Coordinator	Seifullin Kazakh Agro Technical University
	Involved Partners	<p>Agraren Universitet - Plovdiv Ceska Zemedelska Univerzita v Praze Ecm Space Technologies Gmbh Ministry of Education and Science Kazakhstan Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan Mirzo Ulug'bek Nomidagi O'zbekistonmilliy Universiteti North Kazakhstan State University Named After Manash Kozybayev O'zbekiston Respublikasi Vazirlar Mahkamasi Huzuridagi Ta'lim Sifat Qilish Davlat Inspektsiyasi Nyyazow adyndaky Turkmen Oba Hojalyk Uniwersiteti Shokan Ualikhanov Kokshetau State University Technische Universitat Berlin Toshkent Axborot Texnologiyalari Universiteti Toshkent Irrigasiya Va Qishloq Xo Jaligini Mehanizatsiyalash Muhandislari Instituti Turkmen Dowlet Binagarlik-Gurlusyk Instituty Turkmen Oba Hojalyk Instituty</p>
	Project Objectives	NICOPA is aimed to modernize curricula in precision agriculture using new technologies - Geographic Information System/GIS, big data, remote sensing through analyzing and updating existing curricula according to educational needs. NICOPA will develop new certified curricula according to the new achievements in the agricultural area, the labor market demands and the Bologna Process. The teams plan to test innovative curricula and accredit new practice oriented, student- focused core and transferable curricula including ECTS and innovative teaching facilities.

		New equipped laboratories PAL, classes VCR on Precision agriculture using sensing data Service Office PASO will be established in each Partner university.
4.	Reference Number	610198-EPP-1-2019-1-ES-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
	Project Title	Development of a Master Programme in the Management of Industrial Entrepreneurship for Transition Countries
	Project Acronym	MIETIC
	Project Duration	36 months
	Grant Requested	807 014.00 EUR
	Coordinator	Universidad de Santiago de Compostela
	Project Consortia	Universidad de Santiago de Compostela Ay Economics Research Centre S.L. Univerza v Ljubljani Universita Degli Studi di Napoli Federico II D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan State Technical University Turkmenistan Ylymlar Akademiyasy Turkmen State Institute of Economics and Management Turkmen State Institute of Finance Karaganda Economic University of Kazpotrebsoyuz Technological University of Tajikistan Centre of Technologies of Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan Tajik State University of Commerce Technopark "Fanovar" Educational Centre Business-Pro
Project Objectives	The project's aim is to strengthen academic capacity of HEIs in Industrial Entrepreneurships in Central Asia by the development and implementation of interdisciplinary Master program through establishing sustainable cooperation between project partner HEI and the labor market. MIETC outcomes will fill the gaps in relevant knowledge and skills of local HEIs, students and business in Industrial entrepreneurship and link them to the labor market.	
5.	Reference Number	574243-EPP-1-2016-1-PT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
	Project Title	Regional Objectives for Administrative Development
	Project Acronym	ROAD

Project Duration	36 months
Grant Requested	815 588,00 EUR
Coordinator	Instituto Superior Tecnico, Universidade de Lisboa
Involved Partners	Instituto Superior Tecnico, Universidade de Lisboa Issykkul State University named after K. Tynystanov Ishenaly Arabayev Kyrgyz State University Jalal-Abad State University Capacity Building Consulting Group, Bishkek International University for the Humanities and Development of Turkmenistan Turkmen State Institute of Finance Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya Universitat Rovira I Virgili, Tarragona Escola de Administracio Publica de Catalunya Universitat de las Palmas de Gran Canaria Kungliga Tecniska Hoegskolan, Stockholm
Project Objectives	<p>The Project teams have implemented the local development strategy to improve the Turkmen civil servants competencies by creating f2f and virtual training and counseling Centers with recommendations for sustainable development.</p> <p>The Project results are particularly important for the Turkmen universities: two HEIs have implemented a new training scheme for providing support to the Turkmen public administration currently undergoing the reform process.</p> <p>The incorporated ROAD training centers at IUHD and TSIF structures, coordinated with the Academy of Civil Servants of Turkmenistan, offer the civil servants an open and personalized environment adjusted to their needs and demands. The content of courses has been expanded according to the training needs of state and municipal employees.</p> <p>Currently both Centers continue their activities planned for 2020 academic year.</p>

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