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NEWSLETTER #2

Project title: Strengthening Capacities and Digital
Competences in
Biomedical Education Through Internationalization
at Home
(BIOSINT)



Dear readers,

We are happy to announce the BIOSINT project. Through our Newsletters, our website and our social media, we will keep you informed about all the project developments. Stay

ACTIVITIES ORGANISED DURING 2023

1. KICK-OFF MEETING, KRAGUJEVAC, SERBIA, FEBRUARY 23-24 2023



The main objectives were:

- To get to know each other
- To share our motivations and wishes for outcomes

Better understanding and discussion of:

- The project objectives
- The management and administrative rules
- The planning of next activities

❖ MAIN HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING

- **Welcome Speech and Brief Information about Project from Prof. Dr Vladimir Jakovljevic,** Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, as the Project Manager. Aims and objectives of BIOSINT project were introduced by Prof. Dr Dragan Milovanović and Ass. Prof. Dr Nenad Markovic.
- **Presentations of Partner Institutions:** All BIOSINT Consortium partner institutions were introduced. They presented brief information about their expertise as an institution, strengths of their institution and their contribution to the Project.
- **Introduction of work packages:** Each partner presented a work package of which he is the leader. The tasks and deliverables of each work package are presented in detail.
- **Information on the new rules and administrative procedures for Erasmus + CBHE** Information on the new rules and administrative procedures for Erasmus + CBHE has been provided. Also, Prof. Dr Dragan Milovanovic and Prof. Dr Milan Zaric introduced the participants with the important information which they received from EACEA Officer in the online meeting held 15/02/2023.
- **Forming of the management structures:** It was agreed that all participants, after consulting with the other members of their team, would determine persons who will be members of Project Consortium Board and Executive Board, with the following information: first name, last name, function, phone number and e-mail.
- **Introduction of Quality Policy Paper:** A presentation about Quality Policy Paper of project has been made. All participants agreed with the content of Quality Policy Paper and it was agreed that the Dean of Faculty of Medical Sciences would sign the document on Monday, 27/02/2023 and that it would



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then be sent to the partners for signature, with a deadline March 3 to send back the signed.

- **Evaluation Risk Events:** In the working material, the participants received an example of a BIOSINT risk management plan.
- **Budget and equipment:** Partners have been informed about their obligations regarding to the financial issues.
- **Consortium agreement:** Prof dr Dragan Milovanovic from University of Kragujevac presented the draft of Consortium agreement. In principle, consent was given, but it was agreed that each partner should send a draft of the contract to their Legal Department and then send proposals for changes and additions, if any. After drafting the final version, the coordinator will send it to all partners for signature, and it is expected that two weeks after all participants sign the contract, the payment of the first tranche of the initial prefinancing will be made.
- **Communication Management Plan:** A presentation about Communication Management Plan of project has been made. All participants agreed with the content of Communication Management Plan.
- **BIOSINT project logo:** The BIOSINT project logo proposal was presented to the partners and it was adopted by the participants.
- **University of Medicine and Pharmacy Victor Babes Timisoara and University of Mostar – on line:** The representative of a University of Medicine and Pharmacy Victor Babes Timisoara, Agnes Balint, joined the meeting online. Agnes Balint presented brief information about her institution and importance of this project.



KICK-OFF MEETING, KRAGUJEVAC, SERBIA, FEBRUARY 23-24 2023



2. EU TRAINING MINUTES, GHENT, JUNE 07-09 2023



Main objectives:

To get to know each other and the expertise at KU Leuven regarding Internationalisation@home

- To share our knowledge
- Workshop Internationalisation@home, current status at partner universities

Better understanding and discussion of: -The project objectives and current status of internationalisation@home at partner universities

- Presentation of current status of internationalisation numbers and figures, possibilities at partner universities.

➤ Meeting Notes

- ❖ **Welcome Speech:** Prof. L. De Strycker welcomed participants at KU Leuven campus Ghent followed by a presentation of the faculty of engineering technology KU Leuven Campus Ghent.
- ❖ **Presentation by Prof. M. Hunegnaw – affordable medical technology**



Presentation by Mr. G. De Lepeleer – International policy plan FET KU Leuven. 4 Strategic targets were explained:

- offer an international experience for all students during their study programme;
- involve all staff members actively in internationalisation;
- the faculty provides the framework, means, agreements and procedures for internationalisation;
- FET engages to perform its societal role of internationalisation regarding sustainability, multiculturalism and capacity building.

- ❖ **Workshop Internationalisation@home by prof. J. Van Maele:** Prof. J. Van Maele presented IaH definitions, project objectives and current status as well as ATIAH self-audit tool: standards for IaH policies and practices. Presentation of current status of internationalisation numbers and figures, possibilities at partner universities – group discussion. All Western Balkan universities presented situations at their institutions about IaH. Specifically, all WB universities presented
 1. Languages: the use of foreign languages in formal and non-formal contexts
 2. Teaching: actions which enable students to achieve the expected international and intercultural learning outcomes at programme, course and class level
 3. Professional development and recognition: the international and intercultural dimension of university professions (teaching, research, administrative roles)
 4. Programme development: policy-level activities helping to incorporate international and intercultural perspectives into educational programmes
 5. Student support and services: all institutional actions offering practical support to home and international students in order for them to make the most of their internationalised on-campus student experience
 6. Student-organised activities: student-organised activities that encourage cooperation/interaction among local and international students and thus create the conditions for developing intercultural awareness for all students.

- ❖ **Project management by N. Markovic:** N. Markovic held short project management meeting regarding current issues.



3. WORKSHOP IN PODGORICA, JUNE 27-28 2023



Meeting objectives:

- To present results of conducted surveys among students and teachers at WB partners universities
- To create framework map for IaH strategy based on survey results and actual needs of partners universities
- To plan future activities and meetings

➤ Meeting Notes

- ❖ **Welcome Speech:** Prof. Miodrag Radunovic, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Podgorica, Montenegro welcomed participants.
- ❖ **Presentation by Prof. Natasa Popovic:** Prof. Natasa Popovic is the Vice dean for International collaboration and she gave some facts about Faculty of Medicine in general but also shared some news regarding international cooperation and research projects that were previously conducted and the ones running in this time.
- ❖ **Presentation by Ljiljana Tasic – internationalization at home state of the art:** The analysis of the state of the art IaH at the surrounding EU countries universities was presented by Prof. Ljiljana Tasic. Their analysis showed that domains of internationalization most worked on so far are faculty and staff development and community partnership, followed by diverse and inclusive environment, while the ones least addressed to so far are internationalized curriculum and language learning.
- ❖ **Analysis of the state of IaH in EU countries and WB countries:** The results of conducted surveys among students and academic staff in each WB HEI were presented by representatives from each institution.

The students` surveys had 4 parts:

- I – General information
- II – Interest in studying abroad
- III – English language and internationalization of the curriculum
- IV – Contact information

and contained questions for students to help representatives to determine the current state of student mobility, as well as the current state of other elements related to the internationalization of the faculty.

The survey for academic staff had 4 parts:

- I – General information
- II – Perceived value in the Internationalization agenda
- III – International experience
- IV – Motivation/ability to teach in English.

Also representatives from UniKg presented similar survey they conducted at their Faculty.



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Based on the results representatives showed SWOT analysis regarding in their opinion most important strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats which were discussed after each presentation and on the next day used for preparation of the strategy for IaH proposal.

❖ **Presentation Strategic management: key components of the strategy and key performance indicators by Prof. Nenad Markovic for UES:** Prof. Markovic held the presentation regarding key components of the strategy. He talked about the phases of strategic management – planning, implementation and control. We discussed in detail about important steps in strategic planning - preparation for strategic planning (participants/ organization, communication); strategic frame; definition of mission, vision, values; environmental analysis; strategic issues and strategic goals; programs; relation with budget process; indicators for monitoring and evaluation; defining criteria for positioning of priority activities and creation of action plan.

❖ **Presentation by Mr. G. De Lepeleer – Framework map (integrative) model for IaH**
Prof. G. De Lepeleer gave presentation about internationalisation strategy. 4 Strategic targets were explained, including specific target objectives, action points and output:

- offer an international experience for all students during their study programme;
- involve all staff members actively in internationalisation;
- the faculty provides the framework, means, agreements and procedures for internationalisation;
- FET engages to perform its societal role of internationalisation regarding sustainability, multiculturalism and capacity building.

❖ **Presentation by Prof. Dragan Milovanovic from UniKg – Framework map (integrative) model for IaH:** Prof. Milovanovic presented framework map proposal based on the analysis of the current situation – surveys and EU IaH reports, which contains tools to support WB universities, staff and students to develop skills and competences to operate successfully in an international environment. Discussion addressed six dimensions of the framework map:

- Professional learning and recognition
- Institutional strategizing
- Curriculum and co-curriculum
- Engagement and influence
- Support services
- Internationalized university experience

❖ **Framework map (integrative) model for IaH – Identification of key elements.**

After presentations all participants were engaged in discussion and forming of the BIOSINT strategy framework map. It contains six strategic targets addressing the six dimensions previously explained. For each target specific strategic objectives were defined, and for each objective respective activities, indicator, target values and road map time were proposed.





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❖ Concluding remarks and future activities

1. Fulfill the questionnaires one of two (questionnaire for deans or ATIAH), which would supplement survey and SWOT analysis
2. Wait for a final draft of project strategy framework and roadmap to make its own document, specific for your faculty (project partner)
3. Plan EU training visit to Timisoara (approximately, the middle of November 2023)
4. Plan for an online training with University of Kragujevac Faculty of Medical Science about internationalizing of one curriculum as an example (date to be assigned)
5. Design and adopt promotional material in digital form (as soon as possible)



WORKSHOP IN PODGORICA, JUNE 27-28 2023





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4. EU TRAINING, VRDNIK, FRUŠKA GORA, SERBIA, SEPTEMBER 21-24 2023

Presentations of the proposal documents for the implementation of IaH

The BIOSINT workshops brought together senior and junior team members from BIOSINT, along with students. The workshops featured interactive sessions, brainstorming activities, and a Delphi panel to facilitate discussions. The workshops resulted in the creation of strategies for Implementing Innovation in Biomedical Sciences (IaH) at Western Balkan Higher Education Institutions (WB HEIs). A BIOSINT framework and roadmap were improved, along with recommendations for local implementation. The discussions will be continued at the upcoming EU training session (UMF) and in alignment with partner agreements, including the use of IoC and other resources.

Meeting Statistics: The event had both onsite and online participants. Onsite participants included UniKg and UOM, while online participation was from UES, USH, UMT, UTZ, and SUM. The agenda included lectures, workshops, and team-building activities, all of which were successfully completed. The following items will be archived and sent to BIOSINT partners: presentations and working files, meeting minutes, the list of participants, and photos.

Take-Home Messages from BIOSINT Lectures:

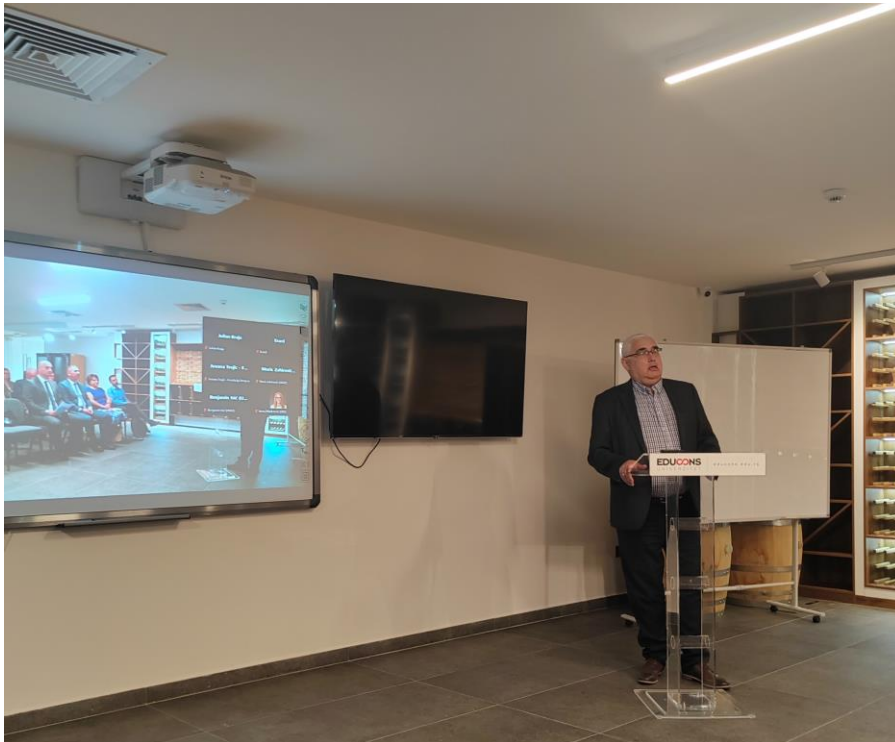
- Emphasize the importance of being innovative, creative, and open-minded, grounded in scientific evidence and ethical principles in biomedical research and education, while embracing new technological advances.
- Promote the integration of knowledge and skills among team members and domestic and foreign students, as appropriate.
- Highlight the need to control risks and maintain a focus on project deliverables and milestones.
- Stress the importance of proper communication and literacy within and outside the project team.
- Encourage the use of the experience of established medical researchers and teachers, both from within and outside the home university.
- Foster thinking about future international projects and network collaborations to enhance research and education in biomedical sciences.

These workshops have laid a strong foundation for the BIOSINT project, providing valuable insights and strategies for the implementation of innovation in biomedical sciences education. The collaborative efforts of participants from various institutions promise a brighter future for biomedical research and education in the Western Balkans.





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EU TRAINING, VRDNIK, FRUŠKA GORA, SERBIA, SEPTEMBER 21-24 2023



5. EU TRAINING, Timisoara, Romania, 17 - 20 OCT 2023



➤ Meeting objectives:

- To get to know each other and the expertise at Victor Babes University Of Medicine And Pharmacy Timisoara regarding Internationalisation at home
- To share our knowledge
- Current status of Internationalisation at partner universities
- Better understanding and discussion of the project objectives and current status of internationalisation at home at partner universities

Main points of agenda:

- Presentation of Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy – Biosint Team - Assoc.Prof. Dr. Adrian Sturza
- Internationalization in Victor Babes University Of Medicine And Pharmacy Timisoara - Agnes Balint
- Visit of the laboratories at Pathophysiology Department
- Education through research : a perspective - Prof. Dr. Danina Muntean
- Visit of the university departments
- Meeting conclusions



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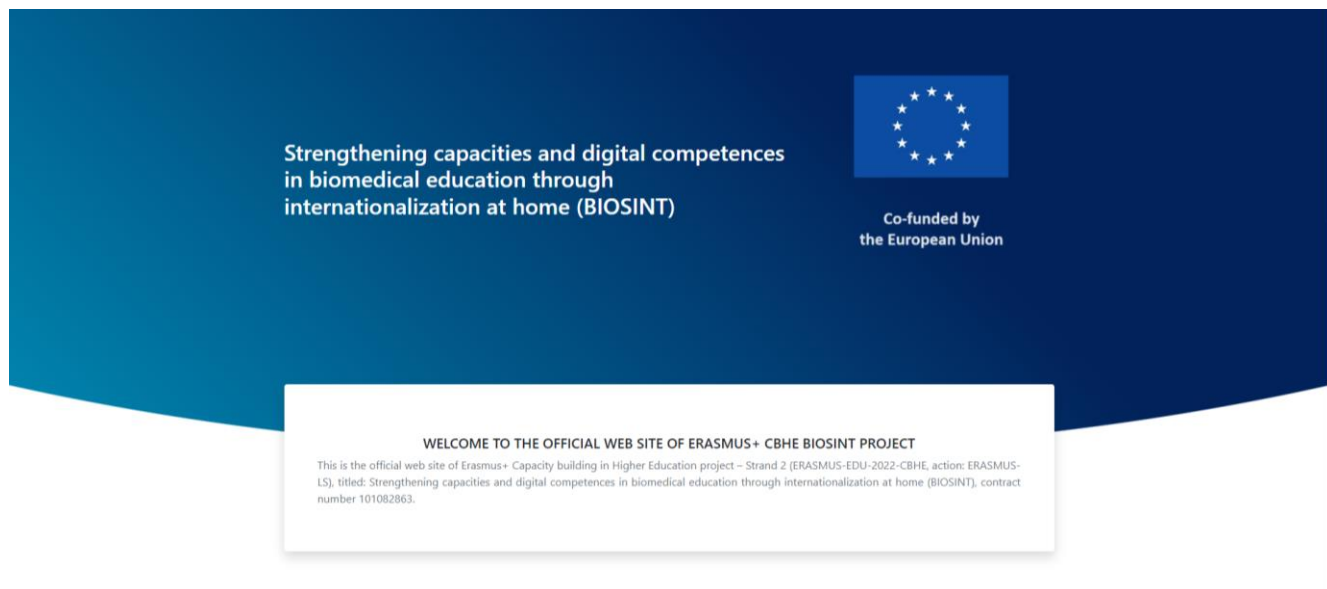
EU TRAINING, Timisoara, Romania, 17 - 20 OCT 2023





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The BIOSINT website



The BIOSINT project website is on line

The BIOSINT web site is ready for use, not only for the partners but for all the stakeholders or people interested about the intellectual outputs of the project. Our aim is for the project website to be the “information center” for all the announcements, open calls and activities that will take place during and after the realization of the project.

More information: <https://biosint.net/>

Just visit and add to your favorites!

