

Support to strengthening the higher education system in Azerbaijan



Twinning project ENI/2018/395-401

Mission Report

Short-Term Mission on Activity 2.3 Hold training workshops on innovative teaching, learning and assessment methods, including the allocation of credits based on learning outcomes and student workload in order to ensure that student-centred curricula are also implemented in practice

(February 10 –14, 2020)

1. Name and Function of the Expert:

Full name of expert

Ms. Inga Juknytė-Petrikiėnė, Lithuania

Signature



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2. **Objective and Tasks of the Mission:**

The mission is carried out within the framework of:

COMPONENT 2: PILOT STUDY PROGRAMME IN PRIORITY AREAS ARE IMPROVED TO BE MORE STUDENT-CENTRED

Activity 2.3 Hold training workshops on innovative teaching, learning and assessment methods, including the allocation of credits based on learning outcomes and student workload in order to ensure that student-centred curricula are also implemented in practice

Benchmarks for this activity are:

- 4 trainings (with 100 participants) and training materials on student-centred approaches for teaching, learning and assessment delivered;
- Suggestions for content and organisation of further training workshops



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3. Time schedule of mission:

Date and Time	Activity
10 th of February 2020 Monday	<p>10:00-13:00 Meeting with Component Leader II Azad Akhundov.</p> <p>13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH</p> <p>14:00-17:00 Deskwork</p>
11 th of February 2020 Tuesday	<p>10:00-13:00 Training on innovative teaching, learning and assessment methods.</p> <p>13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH</p> <p>14:00-16:00 Training continues after the lunch.</p>
12 th of February 2020 Wednesday	<p>10:00-13:00 Training on innovative teaching, learning and assessment methods.</p> <p>13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH</p> <p>14:00-16:00 Training continues after the lunch.</p>
13 th of February 2020 Thursday	<p>10:00 – 13:00 Training on innovative teaching, learning and assessment methods.</p> <p>13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH</p> <p>14:00-16:00 Training continues after the lunch.</p>
14 th of February 2020 Friday	<p>10:00-13:00 Selecting best electronic guides or resources on innovative teaching and learning methods used in European Higher Education Area.</p> <p>13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH</p> <p>15:00-17:00</p>



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4. Relevant Background Information/State of Affairs regarding the mission

MS STE mission was to develop university academic staff and managers competences in employing innovative teaching, learning and assessment methods, allocation of ECTS based on learning outcomes and student workload.

5. Achievement of the Expected Results

Three workshops (in total 18 hours) with academic and administrative staff representing Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University, Sumgait State University, Azerbaijan Technical University, Baku State University, Azerbaijan Oil and Industry University and Baku Engineering University were held on student - centred approach to teaching, learning and assessment in higher education (see Annex 1).

With the representatives of academic and administrative staff from Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University, Sumgait State University, Azerbaijan Technical University, Baku State University, Azerbaijan Oil and Industry University and Baku Engineering University, the key concepts of student - centred approach (different needs and expectations, different learning styles of students body; opportunities to students make choices about their own learning and contribute to the design of learning experiences; increased student autonomy and responsibility; ECTS and students workload; engagement of students in active learning experiences; teacher – student relationships and work in partnership; both way feedback system; teacher's work orientation towards the empowerment of student) were discussed. Learning outcomes, teaching, learning and assessment methods as the most important parameters of student - centred approach were emphasised. Recommendations for further readings were provided (Annex 2).

Masterclass on innovative teaching, learning and assessment methods, by using teaching, business simulation, role play, group discussions, completing assignment, students' presentations, reflections teaching and learning methods and case study as assessment method. The used student - centred teaching, learning and assessment methods were highlighted were disputed with participants (Annex 2).

Additionally, electronic guides and resources on innovative teaching and learning methods used in European Higher Education Area (Annex 3) were collected afterward.

6. Unexpected Results

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7. Issues Left Open After the Mission

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8. Recommendations (including recommendation for future missions)



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The main challenge is competence-based curricula implementation in practice. In order to reach the real change in higher education, support must be provided to help HEIs' communities to achieve transition to competence-based higher education standards. Therefore, in order to strengthen the impact and sustainability of the project for further development and real implementation of competence-based higher education in Azerbaijan it is strongly recommended to establish within universities Support centres for development of academic capacities to implement and maintain student-centred approach. Vivid example is Teaching and Learning centre established at Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University, teaching staff Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University trained under the current Twinning project has a high potential to lead the trainings for academic community in order to implement and maintain student-centred approach at the university.

9. Acknowledgments (if any)

The expert expresses her gratitude to the representative of Ministry of Education Mr. Azad Akhundov, Component II Leader and Twinning team dr. Lisa Bydanova and Aytaj Atakishiyeva for preparation for workshops at Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University. Special gratitude is given to the teaching staff of Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University Mirvari Qasimova, Jala Semedova and Ayten Ibrachimova for the voluntary translation and facilitation of three days' workshop.

Annexes:

Annex 1. Agenda of the workshop

Annex 2. Power point presentations

Annex 3. Electronic guides and resources on innovative teaching and learning methods



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