

Students' Mobility Capacity Building in Higher Education in Ukraine and Serbia / MILETUS



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Conference on cooperation
among HEIs and ministries
in the field of mobility
Aalborg, 13-14 February 2019



National frameworks for virtual/blended mobility programs in Serbia and Ukraine



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DEV 1.1.1

Definition of mobility and its role in educational process

Roles of Ministries: to specify existing regulatory framework or practices in their countries that suggest deployment of already-existing bodies within HEIs or funding of new ones for effective institutional governance of mobility programs

DEV 1.2.1

Analysis of deficiencies and potential in Ukraine and Serbia

Roles of Ministries: to provide their input and observations related to deficiencies and potential with regard to organizing and performing mobility programs in their countries





MESU - Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Report submitted in November 2017, amended on 11 February 2019

MEST - Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia

Report submitted in October 2017, amended in October 2018

- None of the Ministries seem to have established legal framework regarding student mobility, but
- Both Ministries point to establishing successful mobility practices and are making attempts toward legal framework





MESU

- Existence of strong International Office, Academic Mobility Department/Office, or Centre of International Academic Mobility in HEIs
- Government Program *Training, internship, advanced training for students, postgraduate students, research and academic staff abroad, improvement of professional qualifications of research and academic staff, senior executives and specialists in food, manufacturing, agrarian industry, medical and pharmacy service* implemented in 2011-2014, 950 participants from 50 Ukrainian HEIs
- Bilateral agreements on cooperation between Ukraine and other countries in the field of education (www.mon.gov.ua)
- Erasmus Mundus mobility projects





MEST

- Serbia for Serbs from the Region: 10 grants in 2017/2018, 18 grants in 2018/2019
- World in Serbia: 50 grants to students from 25 Non-Aligned Movement countries in 2017/2018
- Bilateral agreements: 54 grants to students from Russia, PR China, Italy, Poland, Syria, Korea, and Ukraine in 2018
- CEEPUS programme: 300 scholarship months to students and teaching staff from Central, Eastern and South-East Europe in 2018/2019
- Promotion of internationalization of education and realisation of mobility in Serbia: publication entitled „Study in Serbia“ for distribution at international fairs and through diplomatic-consular offices





- ERASMUS+ KA1 International Credit Mobility?

Both MESU and MEST noticed the problem in recognition of ECTS obtained during mobility at host institution





MESU

- New Law on Higher Education adopted in Ukraine in 2014 changed the curriculum development by shifting the responsibility for educational programmes and list of subjects from the Ministry to HEIs, so the HEIs got more flexibility in the process of recognition
 - Recommendation to HEIs in order to increase the number of recognized courses is to conduct recognition on the basis of the course description rather than title and add them to the individual students plan
- August 2015 - Decree No. 579: *On Approval of the Provision on the Procedure for the Implementation of the Right to Academic Mobility*
 - Key aspects: the right to participate in mobility programs; clear definition of types and forms of mobility; consolidate the process of recognition on the basis of ECTS; „safe return“ of mobility participants to to their places at home institution





MEST

- Amendments to the Law on Higher Education: Article 41 of the Law amended with paragraph 3, as follows:

Among different study programmes, within the same level and type of studies, it is possible to transfer the ECTS credits.

The criteria and requirements for transferring the ECTS credits and the relevant knowledge assessment are defined by the general act of the independent higher education institution, i.e. by the agreement between the higher education institutions.

Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this article, for students who participate in an international mobility programme, the transfer of ECTS credits is possible among different study programmes within all the levels and types of studies.



MESU

Capacity building for virtual mobility:

- Currently working on amendments to the *Provision on the Procedure for the Implementation of the Right to Academic Mobility*
 - New draft: clearly defines who can participate in mobility, tasks and goals; describes principles of realisation; defines international agreements as basis for realisation; differentiate types of mobility by the place of realisation (**virtual**, internal, international), by species (credit, degree) and by form of implementation (studying, internship, volunteering, summer school, language, training, etc.); regulates recognition process.
- Provisions on accreditation of study programmes are to be developed by the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance.
 - Procedure for accreditation of virtual mobility study programmes may be foreseen



MEST

Capacity building for virtual mobility: Accreditation of distance study programmes – Standard 15

- Distance study programme can be accredited only if the higher education institution has accredited study programme under the same name which is realised in a classical manner
- HEI may organise a distance study programme for each field and each educational-scientific and educational-artistic field if the curriculum content, supported with available resources, may be acquired in a quality way through distance studies, and if it ensures the same level of knowledge of graduate students, the same efficiency of learning and the same rank (quality) of the diploma as in case of the regular way of study programme realisation.





MEST

Law on Higher Education does not contain any provisions which directly define virtual mobility, but there are some indicative provision, such as (article 96, paragraph 7):

Closer requirements and the manner of realisation of distance study programmes are defined by the general act of the higher education institution.

Practically, this means that the higher education institution may, on its own, regulate the recognition (transfer) of ECTS credits also when it comes to virtual mobility.



Thank you for your attention!



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Questions to the Ministries

1. Is there any possibility to incorporate in the legal framework that virtual mobility of students would be awarded/evaluated with some ECTS?
2. Is it possible to provide new solutions for accreditation of virtual (or blended) mobility programs or courses?
3. Is it possible in the future to provide complete study programs for physically challenged students to be virtually designed – courses, exams, certificates, diplomas, etc.
4. Preparation, adjusting and recording of virtual mobility courses, and the teaching itself as well, require additional skills and significantly more time and efforts as compared to preparation and teaching of ordinary courses.
Would it be possible to provide additional recognition and/or stimuli to teachers involved in virtual mobility?





Questions to the Ministries

5. Are there any prospects for the implementation of virtual educational mobility projects at the institutional level in Ukraine? Today, at least in the post-Soviet space, such projects (like MILETUS) are rather experimental projects. Is it possible that they become a regular educational practice in our country?
6. If the prospect of institutionalizing virtual educational mobility in Ukraine does exist, will there be a special legislative basis for organizing this kind of education and how soon will it be created?
7. Are there any assumptions about how the work of professors involved in virtual educational mobility will be paid? (Based on labor agreements? What other options?)
8. Is there any suggestion how formally students will be motivated to participate in such projects? (will certificates be issued, etc.? If so, which ones? From which educational institution? What official value will they have? (With further employment? As an opportunity to study in foreign universities? Etc.)

