

# Students' Mobility Capacity Building in Higher Education in Ukraine and Serbia



[www.miletus.mnau.edu.ua](http://www.miletus.mnau.edu.ua)



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

## Newsletter



### SHORT INSIGHT INTO MILETUS PROJECT



The project “Students’ Mobility Capacity Building in Higher Education in Ukraine and Serbia” (MILETUS) is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union and runs between October 2016 and October 2019. Thirteen partner institutions responsible for its implementation come from five different countries.

The project addresses capacity building in the field of virtual, real and blended mobility runs at higher education institutions in Ukraine and in Serbia. By creating the needed governance on a ministerial and institutional level, MILETUS strives to achieve the improvement of Master graduates’ employability chances in

companies working internationally and the quality enhancement of PhD students’ research, which would consequently lead to their greater contribution to high-quality research in the partner countries.

The main objective of the project is intended to be reached by fulfilling the pre-set specific goals, first of which is developing methodological framework for virtual and blended mobility runs along with encompassing guidance on best practices for key stakeholders at institutional and inter-institutional levels. Furthermore, MILETUS will improve students’ mobility governance at institutional level through Students’ Mobility Offices and trained teaching staff. Finally, the project will help develop mobility format that enables better social inclusion (for students with disabilities), as well as mobility formats for PhD students to broaden their collaboration spectrum and improve research quality.

Read more about MILETUS project and its rationale on the [link](#).



## MEET THE MILETUS TEAM: PARTNERS ON THE PROJECT

The consortium in charge of the implementation of the MILETUS project is made of thirteen partner institutions and organizations that come from five countries: Germany, Italy, Denmark, Ukraine and Serbia. Here, you can see the list of all the partners and get to know all about them by clicking on the names of their institutions:

- Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH) – Project Coordinator – Germany
- National University of Kyiv – Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) – Ukraine
- Mykolayiv National Agrarian University (MNAU) – Ukraine
- Private Higher Educational Institution Kharkiv University of Humanities “People’s Ukrainian Academy” (PUA) - Ukraine
- Lesya Ukrainka Eastern European National University (EENU) – Ukraine
- Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (MESU) – Ukraine
- University of Niš (UNI) – Serbia
- University of Novi Sad (UNS) – Serbia
- Singidunum University (SU) – Serbia
- Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia (MEST) – Serbia
- Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI) – Italy
- Aalborg Universitet (AAU) – Denmark
- Top Class Foreign Language Center (TOPCL) – Serbia



## EVENT IN FOCUS: KICK-OFF MEETING OF MILETUS PROJECT



The MILETUS Kick-Off Meeting was held from February 1<sup>st</sup> to February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 in Hamburg, Germany. The Meeting was hosted by the Project Coordinator, Hamburg University of Technology.

The primary focus of the meeting was to define the main project activities and develop the most efficient plan for their achievement. In addition to presenting the consortium members among each other, the Kick-Off Meeting served to establish a good understanding of responsibilities and a successful networking between all the partners, in order to ensure a smooth implementation of all the upcoming activities. The project partners were informed about the project

management and financial rules, agreed on the processes of the internal management, set up the Steering Committee and discussed in detail the activities of each work package. Last but not least, the consortium agreed upon the next steps and their due dates in the first project period.

For more about MILETUS Kick-Off Meeting, please follow the [link](#).



## **SOLID FOUNDATION – STRONG SUPERSTRUCTURE: PREPARATION WORK PACKAGE REACHING ITS COMPLETION**



In order to set healthy fundamentals for the project, MILETUS team led by WP1 leader, University of Niš (UNI), started its work from shaping a complete and precise definition of mobility and identifying its role in the educational process. The definition is based on distinguishing key features of mobility practices established in the EU partners' institutions, provided by the EU partners themselves and carefully analyzed by the WP leader. The work within WP1 continued with the examination of the existing regulatory basis and identified practices in Serbia and Ukraine, followed by collection and analysis of best practices in the field of students' mobility beyond the project partners' experience in the Program Countries.

In order to be well-prepared to identify and establish the best practices in the field of mobility, we thoroughly investigated deficiencies and potentials of mobility programs in Ukraine and Serbia, along with the existing mobility programs. Moreover, HEIs involved in the project conducted a carefully designed research among students in order to identify their needs and wishes with regards to mobility. Students unable to embark on real mobility experiences were particularly encouraged to take part in the research whose results were thoroughly analyzed afterwards. Furthermore, in order for the project activities, and therefore the outcomes, to be practical and useful afterwards, one more important research was conducted within the same work package: UNI and NaUKMA investigated the needs of international companies in Serbia and Ukraine regarding the competencies they expect their potential future employees to possess. What is more, since we are well-aware that there is no good practice without a solid theoretical base, we gathered the best titles in the fields of internationalization, mobility, project management, intercultural competence, cultural diversity and fighting language barriers in the academic environment in order to strengthen our knowledge and enrich the libraries of the partner HEIs with the literature on the subject matter. Finally, with the aim of preparing students to conduct the planned research successfully during their mobility runs, the current work in progress of the MILETUS team is development of the research methodology courses based on real needs by first assessing the existing syllabi and identifying the gaps to be bridged.



## **TRAINING SESSION FOR TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**



Within the work package 2, entitled “Building learning foundation for the facilitation of students' mobility initiatives”, Training Session for Teaching and Administrative Staff was held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017. The Training, designed and structured as train-the-trainer sessions, was hosted and organized by WP2 leader – NaUKMA together with participation and support of the European partners. Each HEI partner delegated two representatives of the teaching staff, selected in accordance with the previously defined selection criteria, and one participant from the administrative staff to attend the Training. As administrative staff participants, representatives of the International Relations Offices

or the Dean's Offices were delegated.

EU partners' universities conducted a cycle of lectures on the following topics:

- Innovation and Technology Transfer (TUHH)
- Problem-Based Learning in Teaching of Students (AAU)
- Introduction to Best Practices in Mobility Programs: Advertising and Recruiting for Mobility (POLIMI)

The lectures were followed by workshops whose aim was for the participants to exercise in real-life situations. Focal points of the joint brainstorm and discussion covered the problematic issues of the virtual mobility, its very definition and the structure it should have. Also, a fruitful debate among the partners raised a number of questions concerning innovation and transfer of technologies in all areas, especially in education, specific qualities that make a student innovative, types of learning with a special emphasis on the problem-based learning, the real mobility experience at HEIs and how it could be used for virtual mobility runs. The structure and functions of International Relations Offices at HEIs were considered, as well.



## REALITY CHECK:

### MONITORING VISITS OF NEO SERBIA AND NEO UKRAINE TO MILETUS PROJECT

In the first project year, MILETUS project was twice visited by the representatives of National Erasmus+ Offices – Serbian and Ukrainian one. The visits were made to secure a good understanding of the project responsibilities and goals, as well as to offer some valuable advice and suggestions for overcoming the potential obstacles that might come in the way of a successful project implementation.



The first Preventive Monitoring visit was made by representatives of Serbian Erasmus+ Office who visited the University of Novi Sad. The meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in the Central University Building in Novi Sad. Representatives of UNS, UNI, SU and TOPCL attended the meeting. Results achieved in the first eight months of the project implementation were presented, as well as the activities that have been initiated. The meeting was concluded with a discussion concerning the implementation of some of the important tasks and constructive recommendations were made.

Almost three months later, on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, in Kyiv, National Erasmus+ Office Ukraine made the second Preventive Monitoring Visit to the MILETUS project. This time, the Meeting was held at NaUKMA premises and attended by the Project Coordinator, TUHH, along with the representatives of all Ukrainian partner institutions. Similarly to the previous occasion, the fruitful discussion was opened and valuable recommendations were made.



## MILETUS IN THE VIRTUAL SPACE

In the first project year, MNAU has launched the project's website and TOPCL has started our Facebook Page and Twitter Account. They bring MILETUS wherever you are!

Take the opportunity and follow us to keep in touch with the latest news about Erasmus+ Project MILETUS!



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