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



Final sustainability plan for the project results

DEV 6.5.1, 6.5.2, 6.5.3, 6.5.4

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Introduction

Sustainability of the project results can be seen as the ability of the institutions involved in the projects to continue their mission and the general project programme far into the future, using the knowledge and experience gained in the project. In this context, the use of the achieved project results after the project end is also in the foreground in order to fulfil the future demands after the project end making effective and efficient use of the resources deployed during the project life time.

This sustainability plan contains a preliminary description of the activities and strategies undertaken to sustain the MILETUS project results after the end of the project lifetime. The sustainability plan is linked to WP6 - Dissemination and Exploitation to ensure that the results of the project are sustainable beyond the MILETUS project lifetime. The Sustainability Action Plan developed as a consequence of the Sustainability plan summarizes the measures for the sustainability of the project results at the Partner Country universities.

1.1. Sustainability Objectives

The sustainability objectives of the MILETUS project are to continue to exploit the results and other resources of the project beyond the project lifetime. The sustainability objectives are as follows:

- to ensure further exploitation of project results and resources after the project life time;
- to support the participating institutions for future virtual and blended mobility programmes.

1.2. Sustainability Strategy

The project results such as the learning structure (online video lectures, online learning platform, learning methodology, etc.) and administrative support structures such as students' mobility units at the Partner Country universities are the project outcomes to be maintained beyond the MILETUS project lifetime.

The sustainability strategy is aimed at achieving those goals:

- a) further utilize the learning structure created during the project period;
- b) future student and academic mobility programmes at Partner Country Higher Education institutions (PC HEIs) universities and support for such initiatives;
- c) utilize the administrative support structure (department units and offices founded and/or upgraded within DEV 2.3) for future student and academic mobility programmes.

1.3. Methodology for the sustainability planning

The methodology for sustainability planning includes the project outcomes to be maintained, the strategy to ensure the sustainability of these outcomes and the resources required to maintain the outcomes. These measures are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Sustainability measures

Project Outcomes	Strategy to ensure the sustainability of the project outcomes	Resources to ensure the sustainability of the project outcomes	Where will these resources be obtained?
Elaborated syllabus Research methodology course and Course of internationalisation (DEVs 2.4.2, 2.5.2)	Introduction of the courses into the PC HEIs curricula	Trained lecturers for the implementation of the courses	Internal operational capacities of PC HEIs
Elaborated online video courses (DEVs 2.5.1, 2.5.2, 2.6)	Introduction of the courses into the PC HEIs curricula	Trained lecturers for the implementation of the courses	Internal operational capacities of PC HEIs
Developed learning methodology (project-based PBL approach) (DEVs 3.3.2, 3.4.2, 3.5.5)	Introduction of the learning methodology into the PC HEIs curricula and future mobility programmes	Trained supervisors and lecturers for the implementation of the courses	Internal operational capacities of PC HEIs
Elaborated virtual/blended mobility models (DEVs 3.3.2, 3.4.2, 3.5.5)	Introduction of the virtual/blended mobility models into the future mobility programmes	Trained supervisors for the implementation of the future student and academic mobility programmes	Internal operational capacities of PC HEIs; Internal financing sources of PC HEIs (e.g. mobility project financing)
Elaborated online learning platform (DEV 2.4.3.2)	Support and regularly update the content of the online learning platform after the project life time	Trained supervisors and lecturers for updating of the online learning platform; trained technical and administrative staff of the responsible project partners for maintenance of the online learning platform	Internal organisational and operational capacities of PC HEIs and responsible project partners
Created project website and project accounts in social media (DEV 6.1.2)	Support and periodic update the content of the project website and project accounts in social media after the project life time	Trained technical and administrative staff of the responsible project partners for maintenance and updating the project website and project accounts in social media	Internal operational capacities of PC HEIs and responsible project partners
Established/upgraded International Relation Offices/Students' Mobility Offices (DEV 2.3)	Promotion and support of future student and academic mobility initiatives and mobility programmes after the project life time	Trained administrative staff for the management of future mobility programmes	Internal organisational and operational capacities of PC HEIs; Internal financing of PC universities (e.g. mobility project financing).

2.1. Sustainability plan for courses (DEV 6.5.1)

The aim of the **sustainability plan for courses** is to find a suitable working model for effectively utilizing the online video courses for students from the Partner Country universities after the project lifetime.

The model should contain the following components:

- Participation of students from the Partner Country universities in the courses already recorded;
- Promotion and recoding of new courses for students from the Partner Country universities by trained lecturers from the Partner Country universities;
- Promotion of courses for students from third institutions.

Table 2. Sustainability model for courses

Model element	Target group	Measures	Distribution level
Further utilize the courses created during the project period	Students of PC HEIs	The developed courses can be used for future mobility programmes (e.g. Course of internationalization)	Internal (faculties and/or International Offices of PC HEIs)
Promotion and recoding of new courses	Students of PC HEIs	The new courses can be produced in the network of PC HEIs and used in teaching on topics that are not core competences of PC HEIs	Internal/External (faculties and/or International Offices of PC HEIs)
	Students of PC HEIs / third institutions	The new certified courses for students can be produced in the network of PC HEIs	Internal/External (faculties and/or International Offices of PC HEIs)

An important prerequisite for the development of the sustainability model for the courses is the availability of the learning platform, the trained academic staff (supervisors and lecturers) and the administrative support structure.

The sustainability of the learning platform is ensured by the integration of two Moodle learning platforms developed within the MILETUS project (one for Serbia and one for Ukraine). The free open source learning management system Moodle with the General Public License guarantees the free usage of the Moodle platforms after the MILETUS project lifetime; two servers acquired within the framework of the project guarantee the maintenance of the learning platforms. The Moodle community (www.moodle.net) offers opportunities to share learning materials with third parties, while various enrollment options (e.g. free self-enrollment option or fee options for certified courses) ensure access for students from PC HEIs and third parties to the developed courses.

The trained staff of the Partner Country universities who have participated in the MILETUS virtual/blended mobility programmes are able to develop the new courses and supervise the similar format of learning programmes for students from both Partner Country universities and third institutions. The administrative staff of the International Offices/Student Mobility Offices trained as part of the MILETUS project ensure the organisational support and appropriate dissemination of the information to their students and third parties.

2.2. Sustainability plan for mobility runs (DEV 6.5.2)

The aim of the **sustainability plan for mobility runs** is to develop a suitable model for effectively utilizing the developed virtual/blended mobility programme after the project lifetime.

Table 3. Sustainability model for virtual/blended mobility runs

Model element	Target group	Measures	Distribution level
Further utilize the mobility model developed during the project period	Students and academics of PC HEIs / third institutions	The developed mobility model can be used for future mobility programmes (e.g. joint certified programmes, summer schools, etc.)	Internal/External (faculties and/or International Offices of PC HEIs)
Funding optimal division of duration of virtual and physical mobility	Students and academics of PC HEIs	Adequate duration of both parts of blended mobility runs	HEIs
Funding appropriate time slot of consultation provided by supervisors during virtual mobility run	Students, Supervisors	Consultation time	HEIs

An important prerequisite for the development of the sustainability model for virtual/blended mobility runs is the availability of learning and administrative structures as well as trained academic staff (supervisors and lecturers).

The proposed mobility model can be used for future mobility programmes, e.g. joint certified programmes, summer schools at the Partner Country universities, etc. The availability of equipment acquired for MILETUS mobility programmes ensures the technical support of the mobility model at the Partner Country universities after the project life time. In addition, the acquired eBook collection (Education) builds up for the academic and administrative staff of the Partner Country universities a comprehensive knowledge of the current state of internationalization and international mobility.

The mobility programmes beyond the project lifetime can be either fully virtual (using the available learning platform) or blended with several real trips combined with meetings, workshops and trainings sessions where participants can exchange their experiences, build academic networks and acquire international competences. As a financing mechanism, both internal sources of the Partner Country universities and external sources such as tuition fees for participants can be envisaged. However, in order to motivate participants to pay for a certified commercial program, it is essential to demonstrate the benefits of participating in such a program when applying for a job or future study.

The trained staff of the Partner Country universities who have participated in the MILETUS virtual/blended mobility programmes are able to supervise the similar format of learning programmes for students from both Partner Country universities and third institutions. The proposed mobility model can also be used for academic mobility ensuring further dissemination of the established learning methodology. The administrative staff of the International Offices/Student Mobility Offices trained as part of the MILETUS project ensure the organisational support and appropriate dissemination of the information.

2.3. Sustainability plan for Students' Mobility Offices (DEV 6.5.3)

The aim of the **sustainability plan for Students' Mobility Offices** is to develop a suitable model for effectively utilizing the upgraded administrative structure and human resources after the project lifetime.

Table 4. Sustainability model for Students' Mobility Offices

Model element	Target group	Measures	Distribution level
Further servicing the International Offices/Students' Mobility Offices upgraded/established during the project period	Administrative staff of PC HEIs	The upgraded administrative structure is able to promote and support future international mobility programmes	Internal (faculties and/or International Offices of PC HEIs)

An essential aspect of the sustainability of International Offices/Students' Mobility Offices is the availability of funding sources to ensure the effective exploitation of human resources. The Partner Country universities are encouraged to make more organisational efforts to raise internal and external financing after the project lifetime.

The concrete advantages of the extensive administrative structure for international mobility programmes were highlighted in DEV 2.3 of the project; however, the possibilities for external funding sources such as Erasmus+ Programme and other potential external resources to ensure adequate administrative structure for international projects and internationalization programmes should be addressed for each Partner Country university. An important prerequisite for the sustainability of the International Offices/Students' Mobility Offices is the full support of mobility incentives and internationalization programmes at institutional level.

The trained administrative staff of the Partner Country universities within DEV 2.3 of the project is able to coordinate the work of the International Offices/Students' Mobility Offices effectively and efficiently and to promote new international mobility initiatives and internationalization programmes at the PC universities in order to achieve a long-term impact and sustainability of the project results after the project lifetime.

3. Sustainability indicators

Sustainability indicators are intended to facilitate the evaluation of the degree of sustainability achieved and the maturity of the project results. A reliable sustainability indicator alerts to the emergence of a potential problem and provides an opportunity to avoid or reduce its effects by enforcing possible solutions.

Table 5. Sustainability model for Students' Mobility Offices

Sustainability model	Sustainability indicators
Sustainability model for courses	Number of produced courses; Number of enrolled students
Sustainability model for mobility runs	Number of international mobility programmes; Number of students eligible for participation in international mobility programmes Duration of the virtual mobility runs Duration of physical mobility as a part of the blended mobility runs Number of published papers in conferences and journals as a result of blended mobility runs Number of new joint project proposal submitted as a result of blended mobility runs Number of joint patent applications as a result of joint research during blended mobility runs
Sustainability model for Students' Mobility Offices	Number of international mobility programmes and international projects

In this way, the sustainability indicator for courses can be measured by the number of new relevant courses and the extent to which they have been used. The relevance of the themes of the courses offered is measured by the number of students enrolled in these courses.

The number of eligible students to participate in the international mobility programmes at the Partner Country universities reflects the interest of students in the mobility programmes as well as the mature level of administrative support structure available to support mobility initiatives.

The number of international mobility programmes and international projects at the Partner Country universities demonstrates the effective exploitation of human resources in International Offices/Students' Mobility Offices and their capacity to effectively coordinate the work of the administrative structure.