

Report on the evaluation received from the Israeli NA monitoring visit (April 2018)

Dear Konstantinos,

As part of our on-going monitoring of Erasmus+ Capacity-Building in Higher Education projects in the Partner Countries, Mrs Kathrin Theurillat , Coordinator of the National Erasmus+ Office (NEO) in Israel, carried out a field monitoring visit of your project at the HIT Holon, on 30 April 2018. We would like to thank all participants in the field monitoring visit for the time they devoted to the discussions and for having provided updated information on the project implementation.

We are pleased to learn from the feedback that the following has been achieved by the project;

- The project is progressing according to schedule with the preparatory stage near completion.
- 3 surveys were circulated amongst industry, faculty members and students in order to map students' skills that are required by industry, the perception of the importance of soft skills in research, and teaching performance and its impact on the teaching level in HEIs. The partners are in the process of finalizing a summary report of the survey's findings.
- Every partner understands very well the guidelines for the use of the grant and knows to consult the coordinator, and the NEO, with every question that arises.
- The project uses social media such as Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to disseminate information. The project has a website, which respects the visibility regulations and includes all relevant information on the project and the consortium but also offers a private section where all materials of the developed courses, modules and ICs will be available to the partners for evaluation and discussion.

However, we note that there are some weaker elements that need attention;

- Although the surveys show interesting data, it mainly reflects the current state in Europe. Although it is very likely that the situation in Israel is not very different due to the international character of this industry, as it is a national Israeli project.
- Slight modifications and changes were made to the courses and modules to be developed without consulting EACEA. Please note that these activities cannot be funded from the grant without prior authorization.
- Originally it was planned that the partners will also send students to participate in the ICs. However as this topic is mostly relevant to staff, the partners decided to focus on inviting more staff to attend without getting prior authorization from EACEA.
- There was a slight problem with the Technion and its independent Research Authority, which, after long discussions, is close to a resolution. As the Technion's financial management is part of the Research Authority (the TRDF) which is a separate legal entity from the Technion, and it was not part of the consortium, the coordinator could not transfer any funds to the Technion. This issue was discussed with the Agency, the NEO and the parties involved and finally it was decided

that it would be solved as part of the Partnership Agreement. This caused a delay in the signature of the PA, but thanks to the commitment and flexibility of the coordinator, at point of visit the problem was already close to be resolved.

- The dissemination plan has not yet finalized. Neither has the quality assurance plan nor the sustainability plan.
- We would like to summarise here below the main recommendations and comments from the visit, which should be taken into consideration;
- We remind you that for any changes from what is written in your proposal, prior authorization is required from EACEA. Otherwise, these changes cannot be funded from the grant.
- We also remind you that if participants from activities outside the consortium are invited to the project, their travel and cost of stay cannot be funded from the grant.
- It is also recommended that the information gathered in the surveys will be used as a mean of dissemination of the project to other relevant stakeholders. The partners are encouraged to re-distribute the surveys amongst Israeli industry and HEIs in order to gain as accurate local data as possible and thus developing to most relevant courses and materials to Israel.
- In your intermediate report, please provide us with the following information on all the new courses to be developed;

Name of the course

Level (Professional certificate, Bachelor, Master, Doctorate)

Type of degree (from 1 HEI, Multiple degree, joint degree)

Number of ECTS credits

Have learning outcomes been used in the course design?

Which universities have been involved in designing this course?

Is it a new course?

Is it an updated course?

Is it a course that has been simply translated from an existing course at a European partner university?

Recognised by the HEI?

Accredited by the national authorities?

Already being taught?/When will the teaching start?

Number of students enrolled per year

Employability rate of the students graduating per year

Does the course include internships

Does the course include a career orientation service

Does the course include any other career development measures

- Please note that if it is planned to use an external auditor to evaluate and support the project throughout its lifetime, this cost cannot be funded from the grant.

We kindly ask you to actively follow these recommendations and to provide us with information in your next report on how you have addressed these issues.

Please ensure the dissemination of this feedback to your project partners, and do not hesitate to contact us or the National Erasmus+ Office in Israel (in copy of this e-mail) should you need any further clarifications.

We thank you for your commitment and wish you a successful continuation of your project activities.

Best regards,