



Transfer of Good practices & Reinforcement of Internationalization Strategies in

The TIGRIS Project has been awarded for EU co-funding within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme “Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education”. Capacity building projects in the field of higher education support the modernisation, accessibility, and internationalisation of higher education in Partner Countries, in this case Kurdistan. The TIGRIS Project, which will run for 3 years from 2017 – 2020, is coordinated by the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany. The project consortium is composed of 4 European partners and 10 Kurdish partners, including the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR), as well as 2 associate partners.

Welcome

Dear Partners of the Erasmus+ TIGRIS Project, Dear Readers, welcome to the Erasmus+ programme (TIGRIS) Newsletter. This is the first issue of a series Newsletters that are issued by the KISSR supported by UGOE team.

Kick-Off Meeting

The Kick-Off Meeting for the TIGRIS Project, which has been awarded for EU co-funding within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme “Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education”, took place from 9th – 10th November 2017.



Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, the Coordinator of TIGRIS project, hosted this event which was attended by representatives of all partner universities within the Consortium.



The Managing Director for Administration and Financial Affairs from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Kurdistan, University Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Directors of International Offices, amongst others, participated in this meeting on behalf of the partner HEIs from Kurdistan, whilst academic and administrative staff members closely involved in internationalisation processes or well-experienced in international relations and international collaboration participated in this meeting on the EU partner side.

The Kick-Off Meeting focused on providing a detailed overview of the project and the project

activities for the next 3 years. Management procedures, financial regulations, and the EACEA's evaluation of the project proposal all formed key discussion points during the first day, whilst the second day was dedicated to an interactive workshop on the designated work packages followed by a general question and answer session. This meeting also offered a welcome opportunity for the project partners to present their institutions, as well as their respective institutional challenges, strengths, and international status quo.



All in all, the Kick-Off Meeting was deemed to have been a great success and highly beneficial in laying solid

foundations for future cooperation and the efficient and effective implementation of the upcoming activities.

OVREVIEW

The TIGRIS Project will aim to work on three different levels in order to support the modernisation, internationalisation and accessibility, and of higher education in Kurdistan.

At an **institutional** level, the project will capitalise upon internationalisation as a process with the potential to further develop Kurdish HEIs. The **national** level, the project supports the MHESR's objective to modernise its Higher Education system. At an **international** level, it is hoped that aligning the Kurdish Higher Education system with the EHEA.



OBJECTIVES

Higher education plays a crucial role in economic and social development and as a catalyst for sustainable development by producing high quality human resources and disseminating the results of scientific and technical research.

In light of this, the following objectives have been determined for the TIGRIS Project, which the partners will seek to address



throughout the project's lifespan and within the activities undertaken:

- Improve the quality of Higher Education in Kurdistan;
- Develop new and innovative education programmes;
- Modernise the Higher Education system in Kurdistan through policy reform;
- Create and implement national legislation which will facilitate the accreditation of joint and double degrees, the recognition of studies abroad, and the ECTS;
- Foster cooperation across different regions of the world via joint initiatives and collaborative action;
- Strengthen management structures and services geared towards international relations;
- Develop advanced strategic policies regarding the internationalisation of education, collaborative research, academic mobility, and international student services within Kurdistan
- which will bring Kurdish HEIs closer to their European counterparts;
- Transfer best practices and disseminate knowledge so as to understand how to cooperate within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and European Research Area (ERA).

KRI-Göttingen University Office &

Local and International relation office KISSR

Dr. Yusuf Goran, the KRG Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, opened an office of the University of Göttingen, which is one of the most important and most prestigious universities in the world in the city of Göttingen, Germany at Kurdistan Institution for Strategic Studies and Scientific Research (KISSR) in the province



of Sulaimani. During the opening ceremony, Dr. Yusuf Goran stressed on his continued interest in the opening of the university's office, as well as its continued support to raise the level of scientific and academic relations with Germany.

After the ceremony, the university started its first activities through holding a workshop. Dr. Yusuf Goran emphasizes on the quality of education, and scientific research, hoping that the University of Göttingen to cooperate with them for achieving further goals.



Also, he offers suggestions, futuristic joint projects between the University of Göttingen and all Kurdistan Region Universities, and ways for joint

scholarships to enhance science and higher education in the Kurdistan Region.

Accordingly, the university has recently given an acceptance to open a corporative university between University of Göttingen and Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Incidentally, the University of Göttingen (German: Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, GAU), known informally as Georgia Augusta, is a public comprehensive research university in the city of



Göttingen, Germany. Founded in 1734 by George II, King of Great Britain and Elector of Hanover, and starting classes in 1737, the university is the oldest in the state of Lower Saxony and the largest in student enrollment, which stands at around 26,000. The university is highly renowned and respected both in Germany and throughout the world. This reputation has thus shaped Göttingen into a university city with a high student and colleges population.

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Useful links and References:

<http://www.tigris-erasmusplus.eu/>

<http://www.kissr.edu.krd/en/TIGRISProject.php>