



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 modernization, accessibility, and internationalization 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 second issue of a series Newsletters that are issued by KISSR and supported by UGOE.

Study Visits

From 4th – 17th March 2018, a total number of 30 representatives from the 10 Kurdish partner institutions of the Erasmus+ TIGRIS Project travelled to Europe to participate in study visits to the European partner institutions.



Their journey led them half across Europe from Brno to Prague to Groningen to Leuven. At each destination, specially tailored programmes

consisting of seminars and workshops awaited the Kurdish participants covering a broad range of topics and offering the latest know-how in internationalization of higher education in Europe.



At Masaryk University, the participants took part in a comprehensive training programme introducing the partners to the management of modern day international relations offices and offering practical training on related tasks such as project writing & management as well as international marketing.



The visit to the Global Impact Institute focused on familiarizing the Kurdish partners with the latest and future trends in transnational education offering an insight into the ongoing internationalization efforts worldwide while also addressing topics like internationalisation of the curriculum and developing international degree programmes.

At the University of Groningen, the participants were provided with an in-depth look at everything related to international academic mobility and internationalization at home with topics ranging from international recruitment and admission requirements to running an international welcome center up to the establishing of a university's own Language and Culture Policy.

During the final visit to KU Leuven, the Kurdish partners gained valuable insights into the application of instruments for internationalization such as the establishing of English language programmes as well as Joint & Double Degrees while also being introduced to research-focused topics like the internal allocation of research and lobbying and alliances in a research driven business.

Overall, the study visits were considered a great success receiving high evaluation results by the participating Kurdish partner institutions.

Feedbacks on the Study Visits

1 “The five days’ visit to Czech Republic where we visited Masaryk University and Global Impact Institute were extremely beneficial for the individual development and more importantly for the internationalization of the university.” **Excerpt from the report on the study visits by Erbil Polytechnic University (EPU)**

2 “The study visits were indeed very helpful and informative. As University of Raparin, we learned a great deal of things which we had a faint idea about before then, especially about the significance of internationalization and the management of an international office. Moreover, another very important aspect of the study visits was national and international networking [...] The visits allowed us to see that in Europe [...], there are networks which allow participating institutes to combine their strengths while moving forward respectively. By identifying the weaknesses of each and every partner, such networks allow more effective collaboration.” **Excerpt from the report on the study visits by University of Raparin (UOR).**

3 “The seminars [...] have been valuable and informative, especially with regard to contemporary topics and technologies. And the most important thing we learned [...] is that we are working as a Team to reach the goal [...].” **Excerpt from the report on the study visits by Sulaimani Polytechnic University (SPU)**

The Project Symposium

On 14th May 2018, the Kurdish partners of the Erasmus+ TIGRIS Project gathered at Sulaimani Polytechnic University (SPU) for the first TIGRIS Project Symposium.



This regional event, which was organized by the Kurdistan Institution for Strategic Studies and Scientific Research (KISSR) in collaboration with Sulaimani Polytechnic University (SPU) and the University of Sulaimani (UoS), was dedicated to the review of the progress of the Erasmus+ TIGRIS Project and the discussion of future measures and activities to be implemented to enhance internationalization of higher education in Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

During the meeting, the partners each gave a presentation regarding their activities for internationalization during the past six months and engaged in further discussions on the project, its objectives as well as the exploitation of the project's results.

As a result of the meeting, the partners composed a list of actions suggested to be implemented in the future to further facilitate internationalization of higher education in Kurdistan Region of Iraq, including measures for institutional reform at Kurdish HEIs, creating improved conditions for Internationalization at Home as well as suggestions for supporting legislature to be introduced by the KRG Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR).

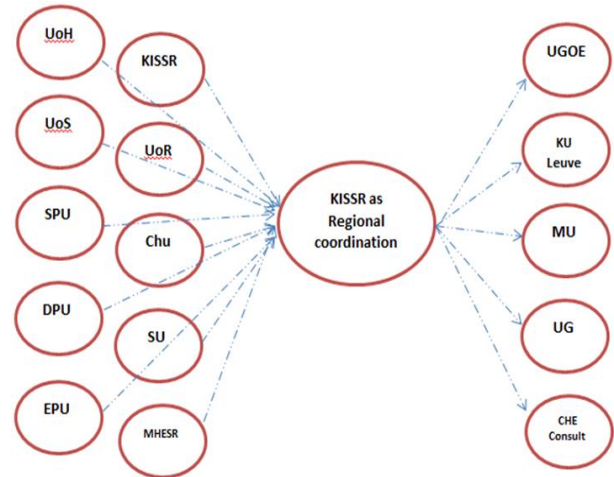


The results of this productive meeting will further be used in the upcoming phase of the Erasmus+ TIGRIS Project, which includes the development of strategies for internationalization of higher education in Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Regional coordination

During the TIGRIS Project Kick-Off Meeting, held at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen from 8th – 10th November 2017, the benefit and value of appointing a Regional Coordinator, to act as a main point of contact between the partners in Kurdistan and the Coordinator, was noted and, as a result, it was unanimously decided to incorporate such a role within the TIGRIS Consortium. The Kurdistan Institution for Strategic Studies and Scientific Research (KISSR) was unanimously appointed as Regional Coordinator given its international experience, pro-active international collaboration, and the existent international office and personnel

support which it can offer to coordinate and support the activities in Kurdistan. The activities and responsibilities of the Regional Coordinator will be managed by the Office for International Affairs, under the direction of Prof. Dr. Polla Khanaqa and the instruction of Mr. Bryar Hassan and Mr. Zana Kareem.

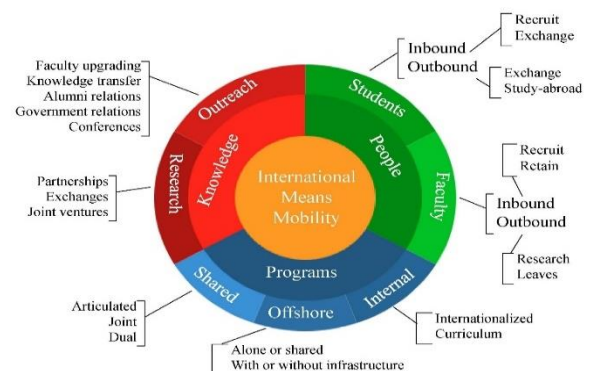


The role of Regional Coordinator is intended to support the Coordinator and the overall project activities. In so doing, the Regional Coordinator will contribute to the joint coordination and (academic and administrative) management of the project. The Regional Coordinator will also assume a supporting role towards the other partner country partners in the region, assisting them wherever required or requested.

Pillars of Internationalization

During the project symposium, the pillars of internationalization process are briefed as follows:

- Knowledge
- People
- Program



Outreaches and Results

Since KISSR is the leader of Dissemination and Exploitation phase of the project, these are the most important outreaches:

- Arranging a memorandum of understanding between local universities and the foreign universities.
- Guiding the local partners regarding the project activities and dissemination affairs.
- Info days and TV interviews with discussing roles of the Gottingen International office/KRG-Iraq. In addition, the importance of TIGRIS project was discussed.
- A series of Interview done with regional coordinators discussing the importance and roles of the international offices and TIGRIS project.
- Publishing newspaper articles regarding the project significance.

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Useful links and References:

<http://www.tigris-erasmusplus.eu/>
<http://www.kissr.edu.krd/en/TIGRISProject.php>