



## 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.

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

### The Second TIGRIS Project Symposium

On 13th June 2019, the Kurdish partners of the TIGRIS Project met at Duhok Polytechnic University for their annual regional project management meeting.



Prof. Dr. Adnan Abdulazeez, President of Duhok Polytechnic University, greeted the partners with a

He was followed by Mr. Bryar Hassan from the project’s regional co-coordinator, the Kurdistan Institution for Strategic Studies and Scientific Research, in his speech reinforcing the importance of internationalisation strategies and the role of the Ministry in this regard.

Mr. Hassan then kicked-off the meeting’s working programme by presenting a proposed framework for internationalisation strategies for the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR) and the universities of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.



As part of framework, he suggested refining the Law on Higher Education (Rule number 10 – 2008) towards the internationalisation process while also issuing/refining the regulations related to the national ranking (NUR), joint programmes, budget

allocation, quality assurance, and international marketing. Moreover, he suggested arranging a conference on Bologna process and implementation of ETCS and discussed additional topics, such as logistical process for student and staff mobility, involvement of other universities, especially the private universities, national scholarship schemes and funding, and the representation of TIGIRS project at the Ministry Council.

The agenda continued with individual presentations of Kurdish HEI partners, in which they presented their internationalisation strategies developed, thereby also identifying necessary reform items as well as current shortcomings and progression constraints.

The final presentation was given by Ms. Vian Mahmud Zamdar, Focal Point at the MHESR, in which she presented the Ministry's views of the subject, agreeing that refining the Law on Higher Education (Rule number 10 – 2008) is a necessity for the internationalisation process.



After a lunch break, the partners continued with their working programme now focusing on issues related to the management and implementation of the project.

Besides other topics, the partners reviewed and discussed the project budget in relation to the financial regulations of the Kurdistan Regional Government and their need for adaptation to EU funding rules.

Additionally, partners discussed the further implementation of the Bologna process at Kurdish HEIs, and the inclusion of foreign experts and students' representatives in this process.

Kurdish partners also developed plans regarding additional meetings with the MHESR as well as for future project activities such as promotion and outreach activities or the development of a sustainability strategy for project results.



### Workshop at Masaryk University

From 24th – 26th of June 2019, the partners of the TIGRIS project convened at Masaryk University, Brno for the Workshop on Strategy Development, Change Management and Internationalisation of Doctoral Training. The workshop was organised in tandem with the project's annual Consortium Meeting.



In Brno, the project team and participants of the workshop were welcomed first by Dr. Jan Pavlik, Director of the Centre for International Cooperation at Masaryk University, followed by short welcome addresses by the project's coordinator Dr. Uwe Muuss (University of Göttingen), and regional co-coordinator Prof. Dr. Polla Khanaqa (Kurdistan Institution for Strategic Studies and Scientific Research).



The assembled TIGRIS consortium then immediately got into work by holding the annual Consortium Meeting. First, the consortium jointly reviewed the results of the midterm progress reports to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), which previously assessed the project's implementation as "good".

Here, the project's coordinator Dr. Uwe Muuss presented a detailed overview of the results to the consortium, after which the partners engaged in discussing the results and advice given by the EACEA, as a result devising follow-up and a timeline for their implementation.

### **Consortium Meeting at Masaryk University**

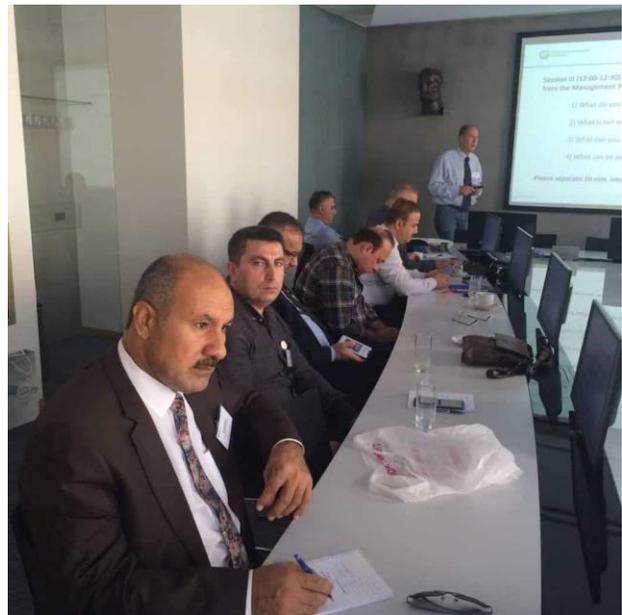
The Consortium Meeting then proceeded with a joint session conducted by Jakob Hedderich, TIGRIS Project Manager at the University of Göttingen, in which the partners reviewed in detail the project's past implementation and achievements and engaged in planning for the implementation of activities in the second half of the TIGRIS project. As a result, the consortium devised a detailed implementation plan and time schedule.

As final activity of the Consortium Meeting, the partners lead by the TIGRIS Financial Officer Laura C. Hoffmann (University of Göttingen) jointly reviewed the financial status of the project and discussed the management of the grant.

Aiming to support Kurdish partners in implementing reforms for the internationalisation of higher education and managing the coming processes of change at their institutions, Dr. Uwe Muuss (University of Göttingen) conducted a workshop session on change management with the partner

institution's top management present during the workshop.

Tackling another key topic for Kurdish partners, Jef Schrooten (KU Leuven) during the second half of the day delivered a training on joint international doctoral education, thereby introducing the Kurdish partners to contemporary European best practices while also conducting a training exercise exemplary applying these concepts to the case of the Kurdish partners. In part, the training session built on the findings of the Graduate SPIRIT project, another Erasmus+ sponsored project.



On the third and final day, the participants split into two groups: While the TIGRIS Focal Points and project managers participated in a second project management meeting, the university presidents and vice-presidents joint Dr. Jan Pavlik (Masaryk University) for a Q&A session on internationalisation and HEI governance.

As a final activity of the workshop, participants went on a guided campus tour kindly organised by Violeta Osouchová and Adam Hykl of the Centre for International Cooperation at Masaryk University, providing Kurdish and European partners with the chance to get an inside look into the facilities and inner workings of Masaryk University.

## Contact Information

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### Useful links and References:

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

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