



In his session, Dr. Kriete, a seasoned practitioner and expert on the matter from the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Göttingen, provided the participants with a comprehensive overview of the topic thereby not only exemplifying recognition procedures at the University of Göttingen as well as their underlying principles and regulations but also providing practical examples and cases for their application.

Following on this, in a joint working session the participants together with Dr. Kriete and Jakob Hedderich, the TIGRIS Project Manager at the University of Göttingen, reviewed the recognition procedures existing in the Kurdistan Region. Here, it became evident that due to the limited cases of credit mobility, recognition processes for periods of studies at Kurdish HEIs are in need for further development and refinement.

The second half of the day was dedicated to the topic of shaping intra-institutional cooperation for internationalisation at HEIs.

For this, Prof. Dr. Achim Dohrenbusch, Dean of Studies at the highly international Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology, presented a view from the faculties thereby not only showing a practical application of internationalisation as a purpose-driven concept (e.g. enhancing the quality of education & research) but besides other things exemplifying that different views on and degrees of internationalisation very well exist within one and the same university.

The ensuing discussion also very well illustrated the importance of the faculties in shaping and implementing internationalisation as well as the high degree of autonomy they need and should enjoy.

Following on this, Dr. Uwe Muuss, Head of Göttingen International, continued with the topic of intra-institutional cooperation for internationalisation presenting an overview of the relevant stakeholders involved in internationalisation at the University of Göttingen as well as exemplifying their joint collaboration for making internationalisation possible.

Special focus was given to linking the central administration with the faculties both in terms of developing international strategy as well as implementing internationalisation, e.g. by such measures as establishing dedicated international officers or even offices at the faculty level.

For this, Dr. Muuss also presented on the structure, role and tasks of Göttingen International as the university's own IRO thereby including the topics that were originally scheduled for the first day of the workshop.

Also, to make up for the first day lost the participants together with Dr. Muuss and Jakob Hedderich put in some extra hours jointly reviewing and analysing the International Relations Offices of TIGRIS Partner HEIs.

Due to very high demand by partners, the full next day of the training workshops (Wednesday) was allocated to the topic of project and proposal writing.

Göttingen International's own Netra Bhandari, Regional Coordinator South, Southeast, Central Asia and the Middle East, and supported by his colleague Jakob Hedderich conducted the training, in the session combining theoretical information with hands-on training:



While the first half of the day provided participants with an introduction to the topic as well as the necessary knowledge on funding opportunities, organisational approaches and strategies to find partners, the second half of the day was devoted to

a practical exercise challenging the workshop's participants to develop a concept for an EU CBHE project aiming at building knowledge, skills and competences, which can be put into practice immediately by Kurdish partners. Therefore, the training's focus was deliberately put on EU funding programmes, in which Kurdish HEIs are eligible to submit proposals.



Managing academic mobility is one of the key tasks that come with internationalisation of Higher Education, hence another full day was allocated to this important topic.

For this, Göttingen International's Karen Denecke, Coordinator of the Erasmus+ Key Action 103, designed a comprehensive training session walking the participants through the complete process of managing academic mobility from start to finish thereby exemplifying key features and requirements of the process.

As part of the training, partners during a joint working session were challenged with designing procedural steps to be implemented before, during and after a mobility, which can later be applied to the processes in management and administration of academic mobility at home.

Continuing with the topic of managing academic mobility, after the lunch break Göttingen

International's Patrick Lajoie, Coordinator of the PROMOS Programme, took over presenting the use case of MoveOn, one of the IT-solutions used by the University of Göttingen to manage and administer academic mobility.

As part of the session, Kurdish participants could witness a live demonstration of the tool as well as received an overview of and first-hand report on the features, use and implementation of such a solution as well as the benefits, challenges and costs that go along with setting up and maintaining such systems (digitalisation). Additional questions by Kurdish partners were answered in a Q&A.

The final session of the day was dedicated to the topic of developing academic mobility and partnerships with European HEIs via the Erasmus+ Key Action 107.

The coordinator of the Erasmus+ Key Action 107 at Göttingen international, Olga Uchlna, introduced the participants to the funding line, provided comprehensive insights into how European HEIs use it, as well as worked with Kurdish partners on how they can best approach EU HEIs to develop student and staff exchange with EU HEIs.



For this, a clear time-schedule was established as well as advice on how to approach partners provided.

As part of this training session, the topic of recognition of studies was picked-up again and the use of a learning agreement for students (and to lesser extent mobility agreement for staff) exemplified. For this, partners were shown and

trained on real-world examples of different mobility cases.

The first session on Friday, the final day of the workshop, was devoted to the topic welcome services for international students and staff.

Dr. Philipp Jeserich, Head of the Incoming Office, by the example of the University of Göttingen presented to the partners how support structures and services for international students and staff can be set up to meet the demands and to foster sociocultural adaptation, personal development and academic success.

The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of basic principles and considerations and exemplifying their application and operationalisation at Göttingen International such as applying New-Public-Management principles to break up scalar and departmentalised organisation by introducing support services as a “pilot” (meaning single or primary access point) that supports international students and staff to navigate their new environment successfully. Questions from Kurdish partners were addressed in a follow-up Q&A.

This was followed up by the final session of the training workshop, in which the participants together with Dr. Uwe Muuss and Jakob Hedderich reviewed the outcome of the workshop providing a welcome opportunity to address open question.

During this session, a joint review of the current admission process and procedures for international students, currently in place in the Kurdistan Region, was conducted. As part of this, the participants were presented with the anabin database provided by The Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the German Länder, which is an important tool for the verification and recognition of foreign degrees.

The workshop then closed with the award of certificates of participation to the participants.

After that, Laura C. Hoffmann, Financial Officer of the TIGRIS Project at Göttingen International, and Jakob Hedderich provided individual meetings for selected partners to address questions on the administration of the grant thereby continuing the constant training efforts by the University of Göttingen as coordinator of the TIGRIS project.

Bologna and ECTS Tuning Training Workshop by the Tuning Academy at the University of Groningen

From March 2nd – 6th 2020, the University of Groningen hosted a training workshop in framework of the Erasmus+ TIGRIS Project.



The training workshop conducted by the Tuning Academy provided comprehensive trainings on the Bologna Process and ECTS for a total of 10 Bologna Practitioners from all TIGRIS Partner Institutions from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq including the KRG Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.



The workshop started with an introduction by Prof. Dr. Robert Wagenaar, Director International Tuning Academy Groningen, and Dr. Maria Yarosh, Researcher International Tuning Academy Groningen. Following this, opportunities were provided to each Kurdish partner to present the current status, achievements, and challenges of their institution in regard to the Bologna Process and the implementation of ECTS and to jointly discuss common and institution-particular challenges. The final activity of the first day was a site visit to the Academy Building, University Library, Faculties of Arts and Law and Tuning Office.



The second day of the workshop was divided into two sections. While in the first section Dr. Mohammed Hussein Ahmed, General Director and Head of the Apparatus of Supervision and Quality Assurance from at the KRG Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, presented on the Bologna Process in Kurdistan Region universities from the governmental perspective, the second session of the day kicked-off the training programme, which in the remaining days provided the participants with comprehensive insights into everything related to the Bologna Process: from key principles of Bologna and ECTS to Learning Outcomes and ECTS-based programmes to student workload and assessment and grading scales – every aspect was touched upon.



As part of the training, participants also conducted an institutional self-assessment exercise to establish the current level of compliance with ECTS implementation indicators and were provided with ample opportunities to discuss open questions and issues with the Tuning Experts in extensive Q&A sessions.

The final day of the training workshop was dedicated to working on an institutional and joint action plan for implementing the Bologna Process and ECTS in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, which was presented to and discussed with the Tuning Experts with the expected outcome to further facilitate the ongoing reform processes in Higher Education in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Internship Week at International Offices of EU partners

After the completion of the trainings held at the University of Göttingen, selected participants of the

training workshop, from 9th to 13th March 2020, took part in a one-week internship programme designed for International Relations Managers and Officers at the University of Groningen, KU Leuven, and Masaryk University providing internship opportunities for a total of 9 International Relations Managers and Officers from TIGRIS partner HEIs from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The objective of the internship week was to familiarise staff from International Relations Offices of Kurdish partner HEIs with work experience and management practices at International Relations Offices of European HEIs and to enable the transfer of experience and know-how gained to the Kurdish partner universities.

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Useful links and References:

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

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