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NEWSLETTER #2

INTERBA IS AN ERASMUS + CAPACITY BUILDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT FOCUSING ON:

1. Formulating a coherent and detailed IaH concept in the Partner HEIs
2. Levelling up the scope and viability of IaH activities implemented in Partner HEIs
3. Training Expert Pool capable of developing and integrating IaH into HEI environment
4. Launching an Online Platform as a tool for IaH implementation
5. Establishing and modernizing the existing structure/entities responsible for IaH at HEIs

INTERnationalization at Home: Embedding Approaches and Structures to Foster Internationalization at Western Balkans (INTERBA)

PROJECT DURATION: 2020-2023



WHAT IS THE AIM OF INTERBA PROJECT?

The aim of the project is to strengthen international, intercultural & global dimension via Internalization at Home (IaH) implementation at partner HEIs in order to enhance the quality of education and make a meaningful contribution to the society.

PROJECT RECAP

INTERBA is an Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education project, led by the University of Tirana, Albania. The consortium has 10 partners out of which 6 are HEIs from the Western Balkans, and 4 partners HEIs from Program countries namely: Germany, Italy, and the UK. The project is envisaged to last for 3 years. INTERBA project's general aim is to strengthen international, intercultural & global dimension via Internalization at Home (IaH) implementation at partner HEIs to enhance the quality of education and make a meaningful contribution to society.

Project specific objectives:

- To formulate a coherent and detailed IaH concept that could be mainstreamed into the partner HEIs Roadmaps following on from their specific exigencies.
- To level up the scope and viability of IaH activities implemented in partner HEIs.
- To train expert pool capable of developing and integrating IaH into HEI environment.
- To launch an online platform as a tool for IaH implementation.
- To establish/modernize structure/entities responsible for IaH at HEIs.

Project Outcomes:

- 5 staff from each Partner Higher Education Institution trained.
- 20-30 staff re-trained in each Partner Higher Education Institution.
- 240-360 trainees and visiting academic staff.
- 500 trainees overall in the region will be part of the network of experts.



TRAINING OF TRAINERS



TRAINING OF TRAINERS

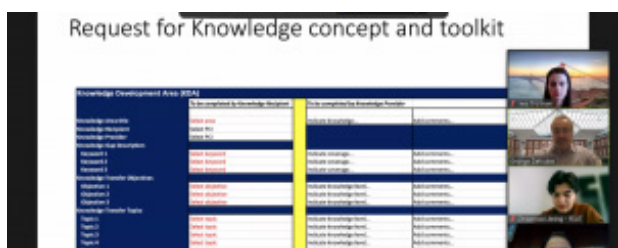
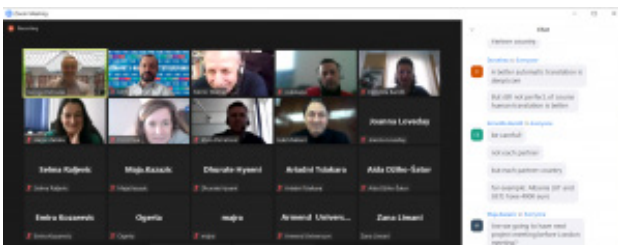
MAIN ACTIVITIES

12. TRAINING OF TRAINERS

EU funded Erasmus + CBHE project INTERBA held the Training of Trainers meeting in London during 07-10 February 2022. Participants were trained on how to prepare the Training Portfolio (SCATE methodology) and how to deliver similar sessions in their own university. The scope was to prepare for adapting the training sessions for their training pilots and re-training workshops foreseen by INTERBA.

13. TRAINING WORKSHOP – SCATE PLATFORM

INTERBA training workshop held from Middlesex University, London on SCATE platform. As part of the Work Package 3, the SCATE platform will facilitate the creation of training context to increase capacity in internationalization.



TRAINING WORKSHOP – SCATE PLATFORM

14. INFO DAY AT UNIVERSUM COLLEGE

Universum College organized a two-day InfoSession to promote the INTERBA project. The target groups were students from Albania and Montenegro as well as senior researchers from Kosovo. During both days the participants were introduced the objectives of the INTERBA project and the benefits of the project in general.



INFO DAY AT UNIVERSUM COLLEGE



PILOT TRAININGS IN TIRANA



PILOT TRAININGS IN TIRANA

15. PILOT TRAININGS IN TIRANA

Another meeting of INTERBA project was organized during 11-14 April, at the premises of the University of Tirana – coordinator of the project. Such activity consisted of several sessions focusing on project management, work packages progress, trainings, Training of Trainers, and study visits discussion among the partners. In addition, pilot trainings were presented by six partner universities from three countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, and Kosovo) under the monitoring of colleagues from universities in Germany, Italy, and England.

16. INTERBA PROJECT INFO DAY AT EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA

INTERBA Project Info Day took part at the European University of Tirana on April 26th 2022. The coordinator of the project, Prof. Assoc. Dr. Mirdaim Axhami presented the progress of

the project, and the impact it will bring in the Internationalization at Home of the partner institutions. This event targeted academic staff from UET and UT, students, and international stakeholders.



INTERBA PROJECT INFO DAY AT UET

17. PILOT TRAINING CAGLIARI

In the framework of Work Package 4 of the INTERBA project, a three-day meeting was organized in Cagliari, Sardinia during 13-15 July 2022. Representatives from all project partners attended the meeting. The purpose was to pilot the trainings, created under Work Package 3 from partner countries. University of Tirana, Universum College and University of Prishtina presented two pilot trainings each, which were developed according to the SCATE methodology, introduced from Middlesex University during Train the Trainers in London in February 2022. The topics of the trainings included:

- “Online communication platforms and online collaboration”, held by Prof. Dr. Blerim Rexha, University of Prishtina
- “Blue Economy and Sustainability” held from Prof. Asoc. Dr. Ermelinda Kordha Tolica, University of Tirana
- “Social Enterprise Business Ideas” held by Prof. Shqipe Rashiti, Universum College
- “Digital Marketing” held by Prof. Arlinda Qehaja, Universum College
- “Achieving gender equality through gender equality plans and gender budgeting”, by Dr. Linda Gjika (Cepani), University of Tirana
- “Research methodologies in ICT” by Hena Maloku, University of Prishtina

Also, during the three day meeting, Train the Trainers program was re-introduced by Professor George Dafoulas, from Middlesex University.



PILOT TRAINING CAGLIARI



PILOT TRAINING PALERMO

18. PILOT TRAINING PALERMO

In the framework of Work Package 4 of the INTERBA project, a three-day meeting was organized in Palermo, Italy during 18-20 July 2022. Representatives from all project partners attended the meeting. The purpose was to pilot the trainings, created under Work Package 3 from partner countries. European University of Tirana, University of Tuzla and Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar presented two pilot trainings each, which were developed according to the SCATE methodology, introduced from Middlesex University during Train the Trainers in London in February 2022. The topics of the trainings included:

- “Combined Water and Energy Integration in the Process Industries” by Prof. Dr. Elvis Ahmetović, University of Tuzla
- “The impact of COVID-19 on Students with Disabilities” by Prof. Vesna Bratovčić, University of Tuzla
- “IT Governance in higher education”, by Dr. Agim Kasaj, European University of Tirana, Albania
- “Didactics, curriculum development and curriculum design”, by Majra Lalic and Maja Kazazic, Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar, Bosnia and Hercegovina
- “Research Methodology, Scientific Writing and Result Presentation: Humanities and Social Sciences”, by Aida Džiho Sator, Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar, Bosnia and Hercegovina
- “Quality Development for International and Project Management”, by Dr. Ketrina Cabiri Mijo, from European University of Tirana

Also during the three day meeting, Train the Trainers program was re-introduced by Professor George Dafoulas, from Middlesex University.



INTERBA INFO DAY – INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS UT

19. INTERBA INFO DAY – INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS UT

In the framework of INTERBA project, on 11 October 2022, at the Faculty of Economy of the University of Tirana, the activity “INTERBA INFO DAY – INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS UT” (Dissemination and Exploitation Meeting in Albania) took place. During this meeting, the main focus was on one of the main products of this project: the e-learning platform (Moodle), training courses and experts. This activity welcomed about 40 colleagues and academics, in the role of project coordinators and members of working groups in international projects implemented by the University of Tirana, which they contributed with their expertise gained from the international projects implemented by the University of Tirana over the past 5 years.



INTERBA INFO DAY – INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS UT



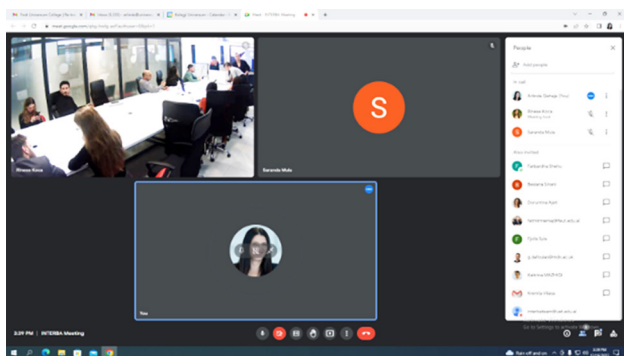
RE-TRAININGS AT EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA

20. RE-TRAININGS AT EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA

Two sessions of re-trainings were held at UET on December 13th and 15th, 2022. The topics of the trainings were the following: “Methodologies of Scientific Research in ICT”, first created by University of Prishtina, and piloted in Cagliari, was presented by Prof. Assoc. Dr. Elvin Meka at UET. The target audience included academic staff from the Faculty of Economy, Business and Development, Administrative Staff and students from Bachelor and Master study programs. “Research Methodology, Scientific Writing and Result Presentation: Humanities and Social Sciences” was conducted by Prof. Assoc. Dr. Belina Budini, Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Education and Liberal Arts at UET and targeted academic staff from the Faculty of Humanities, Education and Liberal Arts, Administrative Staff and students from Bachelor and Master study programs.



RE-TRAININGS AT EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA



RE-TRAININGS AT UNIVERSUM COLLEGE

21. RE-TRAININGS AT UNIVERSUM COLLEGE

Two sessions of re-trainings were held at Universum College on December 20th and 22nd, 2022. The topics of the trainings were the following: "Didactics, curriculum development and curriculum design" focused on the stages of the curriculum development process as part of the project. Starting from the assessment, program learning outcomes, taxonomies, and diversity until the evaluation of the curriculum. Not only, but the training also discussed the syllabus, curriculum mapping, and stages to achieve it. "Quality Development of International Relations and Project Management" included financial management principles, reporting tips, most common mistakes in the financial report. The training also included procurement issues and relevant supporting documents, rules procedures, and the most common mistakes of this process.

22. RE-TRAININGS AT UNIVERSITY OF TUZLA

On December 28 and 29, 2022, hybrid workshops and re-training were held at the University of Tuzla, Faculty of Technology, in the newly formed INTERBA Laboratory – Computer Center, as one of the INTERBA project outcomes and via the Zoom application.

Training 1:

Session 1: INTERBA project presentation and Re-Training programme. Professor Elvis Ahmetović delivered the information about the INTERBA project and the re-training programme to the participants. Session 2: Re-Training – Didactics, curriculum development, and curriculum planning. Associate professor Nijaz Tihic and Professor Elvis Ahmetović delivered the training.

Training 2:

Session 1: INTERBA project presentation and Re-Training programme. Professor Elvis Ahmetović delivered this session as new participants attended workshops and re-training. The goal was to share information about the INTERBA project and retraining programme with a wider audience. Session 2: Leading Towards Sustainable Gender Equality Plans in Research-Performing Organizations. Associate Professor Vesna Bratovčić delivered this session focused on sustainable gender equality plans in research-performing organizations.



RE-TRAININGS AT UNIVERSITY OF TUZLA



RE-TRAININGS AT UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA

23. RE-TRAININGS AT UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA

INTERBA Retraining Session "IT Governance for Universities" was held on December 12, at Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana (#FEUT). The training portfolio was created by European University of Tirana (#UET), piloted in Palermo, and presented during the retraining session at #FEUT by Assoc. Prof. Ezmolda Barolli, Assoc. Prof. Kreshnik Vukatana, and Assoc. Prof. Elira Hoxha. The target audience included academic and administrative staff, mainly from the Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana.

The Retraining Session "Social Entrepreneurship" as part of the INTERBA project activities was held on December 21, 2022, virtually through the Zoom Platform, at Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana. The training portfolio was created by

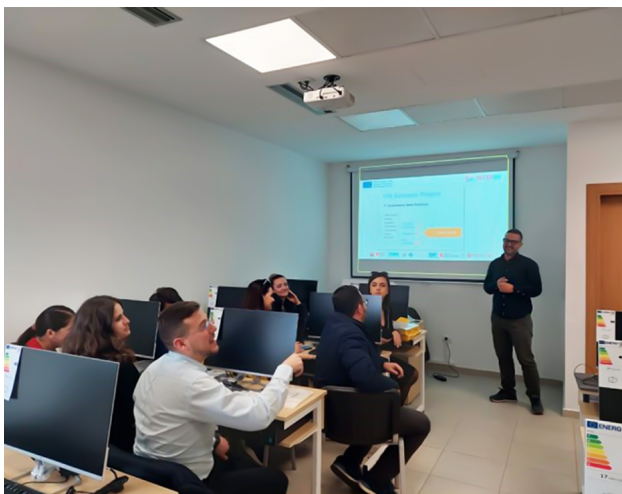


RE-TRAININGS AT DZEMAL BIJEDIC
UNIVERSITY OF MOSTAR

Universum College, Kosovo, piloted in Cagliari, and presented during the retraining session by Dr. Sllavka Kurti, Prof. Assoc. Dr. Arjan Tushaj dhe Prof. Dr. Fatmir Memaj. The target audience included academic and administrative staff, mainly from the Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana.

24. RE-TRAININGS AT DZEMAL BIJEDIC UNIVERSITY OF MOSTAR

In the framework of INTERBA project, two hybrid trainings were held at Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar. The training sessions included the following topics: "Methodologies of scientific research in ICT" and "Improving the quality of international cooperation and project management". The sessions were held for teaching staff as well as students, by Prof. dr. Emina Junuz and Prof. dr. Maja Kazazić.



RE-TRAININGS AT UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA



RE-TRAININGS AT DZEMAL BIJEDIC
UNIVERSITY OF MOSTAR



RE-TRAININGS AT UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA



SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP IN HAMBURG

25. RE-TRAININGS AT UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA

On December 12 and December 29, 2022, re-training was held at UP in the framework of INTERBA project. The first training was on “Didactics, Research Methodology, Scientific Writing and Result Presentation: Humanities and Social Sciences” (Delivered by the Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar). It focused basic principles of research and scientific methods in humanities, social sciences, engineering and ICT and the acquisition of theoretical and practical skills required to: plan, conduct, analyze and present a scientific assignment in the scientific area. The second training was on “IT Governance for Higher Education Institutions” (Delivered by the European University of Tirana (UET)). It focused on the formation of the stakeholders of the HEI, i.e. training on IT Governance, training for high management, academic and administrative staff, students, local entrepreneurs and training future researchers and professionals



SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP IN HAMBURG

26. SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP IN HAMBURG

A three-day workshop on sustainability and exploitation workshop was held at Hamburg University of Technology. The purpose of the workshop to develop the action plan for KPIs for the medium- and long-term sustainability of the pedagogic model and Train-the-Trainers workshop, to define strategic areas for financial sustainability and to discuss the implementation of the remaining tasks of the project.



RE-TRAININGS AT UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA

27. INFO DAY AT UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA

University of Prishtina organized an Info Session on November 30th, 2023 to promote the INTERBA project. Participants were introduced to the objectives of the INTERBA project and the outcomes of the project in general.



INFO DAY AT UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA



INFO DAY AT UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACT

I. Prioritization expertise and internationalization areas (WP2)

- Ability of knowledge experts to build, sustain and expand inter- and intra-institutional networks.

II. Knowledge repository generated in the project (WP2)

- Ability of knowledge experts to further propagate the ideas of IaH in university curricula, courses, and practices.

III. Training and re-training courses produced (WP3)

- Availability of the freely accessible courses and educational materials that incorporate the SCATE model (open educational resources).

IV. Validated Pedagogic model (SCATE) (WP4)

- Ability of the partner universities to diffuse the educational models and practices in further follow-up initiatives.

V. Train-to-Trainers (TtT) methodology (WP4)

- Ability of the partner universities to use the educational models and practices for a wide target group.

VI. E-learning (Moodle) platform (WP5)

- Availability of the training offer and the e-learning platform after the end of the project.

VII. Collaboration with Business Industry (WP8)

- Establishment of Memorandum of Understanding between HEIs and businesses for future training opportunities.



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