

## **First year of the three-year ERASMUS+ project “HARMONY” concluded with a conference and international workshop in Thessaloniki**

*Thessaloniki, Greece - Alexander Technological Educational Institute (ATHEI) of Thessaloniki – 24 – 29 October 2016*

HARMONY – short for “*Development of approaches to harmonization of comprehensive internationalization strategies in higher education, research and innovation at EU and partner countries*” was launched in October 2015 consisting of 17 partner organizations from nine countries.

The project is running for three years and is funded through the Erasmus+ Key Action 2: Capacity building, which focuses on enabling organisations to work together on sharing, developing and transferring innovative practices in education between different countries.

Nearly 30 representatives from the consortium partners gathered for the International Conference “*Internationalization of higher education in EU, Russia, Belarus and Armenia: state-of-the-art and common challenges*” and the connected workshop on best practice study visits in Thessaloniki.

In the first part of the event representatives from Armenia, Belarus and Russia illustrated the state of the art in internationalization of education, research and innovation of their respective countries. Correspondingly, each European partner gave an overview on good practice of internationalization strategy implementation reflecting on the individual activities of their home institutions. These presentations were supplemented by a first brief summary on the results of the carried out survey on internationalization in the participating institutions and the related upcoming tasks for the coming work package (*Survey and document analysis*) by the responsible partners from Tomar (Portugal) and Yerevan (Armenia).

As preparation for the second project year the work package leaders of work package 4 (*Tool kits for harmonization of internationalization strategy in EU and Partner Countries*) from Kassel (Germany) and Moscow (Russia) kicked off a fruitful brainstorming session on the overall structure and content on the tool-kit and the appendant recommendations for harmonization of internationalization strategies in EU and Partner Countries in higher



HARMONY representatives in Thessaloniki during the study visits

education, research and innovation. Together with work package 3 (*Developing a framework of a comprehensive internationalization strategy*), which will be explored further, a first structure draft of the tool kit will be presented during the next meeting in Rome (2017).



Participating organizations:

University of Seville (Spain), Aston University (Great Britain), Kassel University (Germany), SAPIENZA University of Rome (Italy), Instituto Politécnico de Tomar (Portugal), Alexander Technological Educational Institute Thessaloniki (Greece), Eurasia International University (Armenia), Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University (Armenia), Belarusian State University (Belarus), Belarusian Trade and Economics University of Consumer Cooperatives (Belarus), Voronezh State University (Russia), Southern Federal University (Russia), Penza State University (Russia), Ministry of Education and Science (Armenia), Ministry of Education (Belarus), Ministry of Education and Science (Russia), International Centre for innovation in Science, Technology and Education (Russia)

The progress of the project along with all partner profiles can be monitored on the HARMONY website.

Further Information:

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