



The EEA Scholarships Programme: A Plus in Education

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Transforming the Romanian area by learning is a brave endeavour of our institution, which requires efficient instruments and significant support. This is why implementing the EEA Scholarships and the Inter-institutional Cooperation Programme during the last four years has come together with our hope of positively influencing academia and the educational system as a whole and with our

wish of bringing added value to the learning/teaching process in each participant university.

Statistically, in a nut shell, the EEA funds supported 12 cooperation projects, 8 study visits, 13 small-scale bilateral cooperation projects and 48 mobility projects with 439 students and staff mobilities from Romania to the Donor Countries, and 69 students and staff mobilities from the Donor Countries to Romania. All of them **transmit** the message of an increased interest of the Romanian Higher Education Institutions in **transnational** experiences on the one hand, and also of the academic staff and students from Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein in coming to Romania, on the other hand.

The cooperation projects covered a wide range of fields, such as medicine and bio-medicine, technical entrepreneurship, ITC, research, music, technology,

sustainable and fair development, migration including Roma migration. We should highlight the **transversal** component of these projects, linking the educational system to the public sector, welfare, culture of peace, environmental monitoring and a few others.

We are convinced that all these themes will generate notable and **transparent** structural and institutional changes in the Romanian educational system and even beyond, in the social and economic sectors. We are confident that the **transfer** of innovation and good practices will continue to expand the continuous interaction between institutions from the Donor Countries and the Romanian universities. Hopefully, it will be confirmed in time by a structural change of mentalities in approaching education in all of its aspects.

In this respect, it gives me a great pleasure to announce that the EEA Financial Mechanism will continue to finance the next programme focused on education in Romania, on a much larger scale, including school education, vocational education and training and a component dedicated to improving conditions for Roma population.

Monica Calotă
Director of the National Agency for
Community Programmes in the Field of
Education and Vocational Training



TRANSNATIONAL

The Scholarships and Inter-institutional Cooperation Programme in Higher Education for Romania

Reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area represent a goal for the EEA and Norway Grants Programmes. Education and training lay at the foundation of a sustainable economic and social development. International cooperation and investment in education and training for skills and lifelong learning are two important elements provided by the Scholarships Programme, within the EEA and Norway Grants.

In Romania, the Programme in the field of Scholarships and Inter-institutional Cooperation Programme in Higher Education (PA19/RO15) is implemented by the National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training (ANPCDEFP), which activates under the coordination of the Ministry of National Education. Its donor programme partners are the Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS), the National Agency for International Education Affairs (AIBA), and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation and Education (SIU).

The PA19/RO15 Programme was dedicated to the development of human and knowledge capital by:

- increasing mobility for higher education students and staff
- increasing and strengthening institutional cooperation in the higher education area

between our country and the Donor States: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

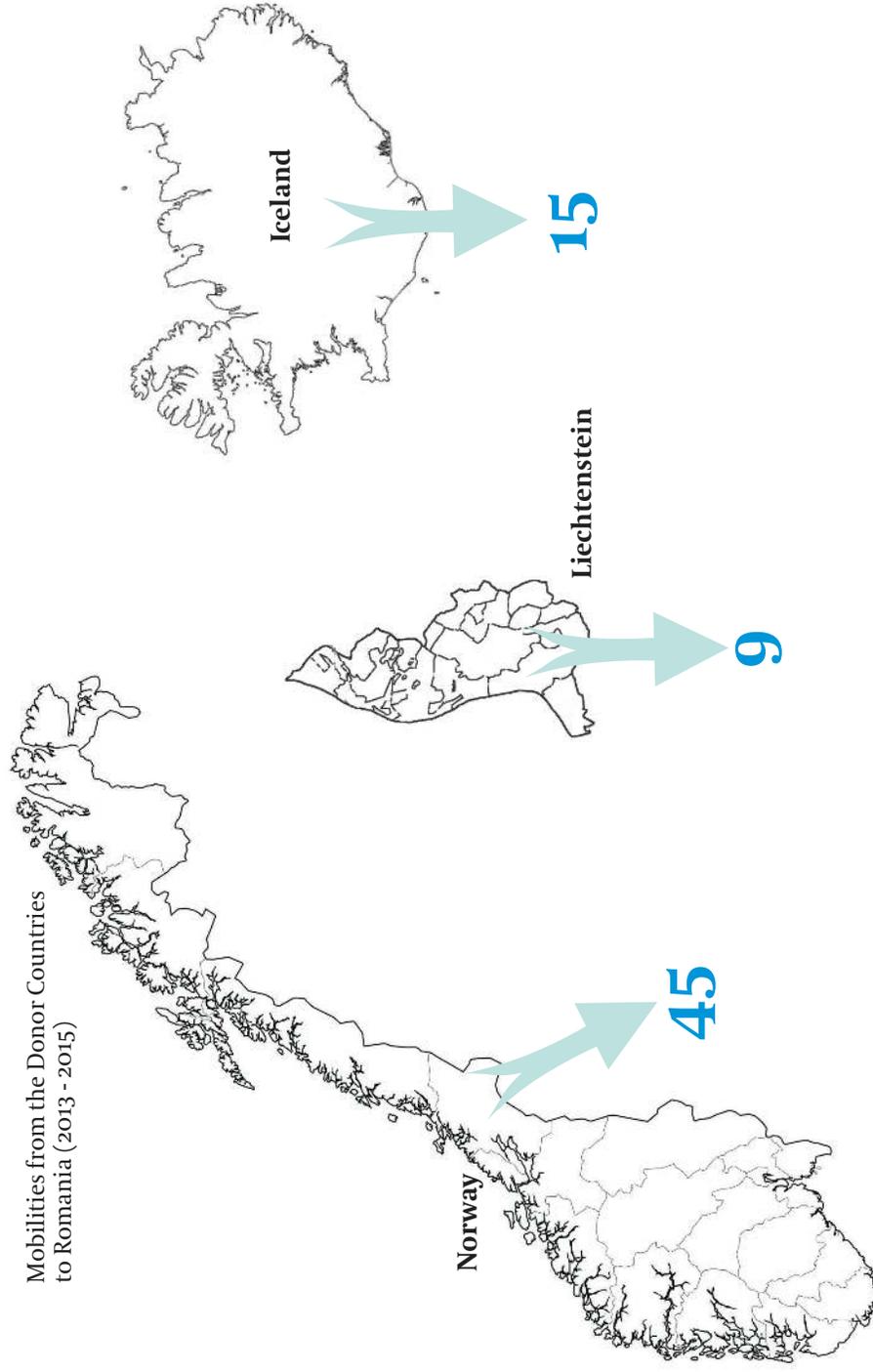
4,5 million euros were offered by the Donor States, and 0,5 million euros by Romania to modernize higher education and training in the country and to increase the transfer of relevant expertise from/to the Donor States.

Preparatory visits, mobility projects for students and higher education's staff, study visits, inter-institutional cooperation and small size bilateral cooperation projects were implemented by universities and their partners in order to develop qualitative educational offer, better connect to the labour market and better respond to the increasing European competitive demand for growth and jobs.

Moreover, through the projects, social inclusion in various fields was enhanced, students and staff's critical thinking developed, citizenship skills, democratic values and attitudes were promoted.

According to the country priorities and the key objectives of the EU cohesion policy, specific projects dedicated to social sustainability and social justice, including combating discrimination and intolerance, and supporting Roma population, were highly appreciated during this financial period.

Mobilities from the Donor Countries to Romania (2013 - 2015)



Romanian mobilities to the Donor Countries (2013 - 2015)



Legend

	2015			2014			2013		
	NO	IS	LI	NO	IS	LI	NO	IS	LI
Outgoing									
Romanian students	82	35	4	65	28	5	33	21	2
Romanian teachers	16	17	1	10	6	1	19	12	1
Romanian non-academic staff	23	8	2	16	4	2	15	6	5
Incoming									
Foreign students	6	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	2
Foreign teachers	8	6	1	5	4	1	8	2	0
Foreign non-academic staff	10	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	2



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BUCHAREST

“Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy

“Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bucharest (CDUMP) is the first University of Medicine and Pharmacy existing in Romania, with more than 160 years of activity. According to the 2016-2017 World University Ranking by Academic Performance, CDUMP is on the second place among universities in Romania and on the 1228th place worldwide.

The University provides medical education to over 1500 international students and has over 11,000 students enrolled.

It traditionally generates the largest number of medical professionals every year.

Project title: “Development of multidisciplinary innovative strategies for the care of the Romanian individuals with cleft lip and/or palate”,

Implementation dates: February 2014 – February 2015

The University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Carol Davila” invited professionals from the University of Oslo (Norway) and the “Romania Cleft” Association involved in the cleft-lip and palate care to join efforts and improve the cleft treatment of Romanian patients. During the bilateral medical meetings with multidisciplinary cleft teams in Oslo and Bucharest, and through a common effort, the Cleft-lip and Palate Management Good Practice's Guide for Romanian professionals and the Informative Guide for parents were elaborated.

By implementing the project, social isolation and familial abandonment of the Romanian cleft lip and palate patients, including those from disadvantaged families, will be avoided and a better integration in the society will be provided to them.

Website: www.cleft-eeagrants-ro-no.ro





Polytechnic University of Bucharest

The Polytechnic University of Bucharest is the oldest and the most prestigious engineering school in Romania, with more than 190 years of activity. Today, it continues its modernisation process and has a permanent dialogue with renowned universities abroad, respectively with more than 150 universities from 27 countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. Staff and students mobilities in EU universities, joint research and master programmes, joint PhD theses supervised by professors from UPB and European universities, and the involvement in the Erasmus+ programme are proving that the institution's integration in the European educational system.

According to the 2016-2017 World University Ranking by Academic Performance, UPB occupies the second place in the country and the 751st place in the world.

**Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Sciences
Project title: 3D Modeling Techniques for BioMedical Engineering (MOBILE),
Implementation dates: August 2015 – June 2016**

The MOBILE project invited specialists within the field of 3D modeling, engineering, biology, biomedical engineering and e-learning from the Polytechnic University of Bucharest, the ASCENDIA Design Ltd. and the Reykjavik University (Iceland) to generate a common structure, curriculum and content for a conventional and an e-learning teaching module. Throughout the project, the institutional cooperation developed and implemented this new multidisciplinary teaching module, embracing science (medicine, biology) with engineering.

An important achievement of the MOBILE project is the new expertise offered to the Romanian students in the field of biomedical engineering, which lacks professionals so much. The new teaching module and e-learning strategy will embody a more responsive approach of HEI to the labor market and will facilitate, for large masses, the access to this specific and needed knowledge.

Website: mobile.chim.upb.ro

Centre of Research, Consulting and Technical Assistance in Engineering of Materials and Welding (CAMIS Center)

Project title: “Augmented Reality for Technical Entrepreneurs” (ARTE)

Implementation dates: June 2014 – May 2016

The project was the result of a joint cooperation between the University of Akureyri (Iceland), the Polytechnic University of Bucharest, the certification organisation: the Information Technologies Institute (Lithuania) and two social partners: the Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Bistrița Năsăud (Romania) and Macdac Engineering Consultancy Bureau Ltd. (Malta).

Through this institutional cooperation, the interdisciplinary teaching module: “Augmented Reality (AR) for Technical Entrepreneurs” (ARTE) was created. In Romania and Iceland, the module will boost students' entrepreneurial skills, via skills in business planning combined with ICT tools, such as augmented reality. By accessing the teaching module, vulnerable students, including Roma, will improve their employability and reduce discrimination on the Romanian labor market.

Website: www.camis.pub.ro/index.php/arte-partnership

Centre of Research, Consulting and Technical Assistance in Engineering of Materials and Welding (CAMIS Center)

Project title: “Augmented Reality (AR) and 3D printing (3DP) for Technical Entrepreneurs” (ARTE3DP)

Continuation of the ARTE project, ARTE3DP created a common structure, curriculum and content for the “Augmented Reality (AR) and 3D printing (3DP)” interdisciplinary teaching module, provided for stakeholders in the Science/Engineering/Business and Higher Education areas.

The new teaching module, result of the small size bilateral cooperation with the University of Akureyri (Iceland), links AR with 3D printing for a better visualization of the final product, for making 3D printing more feasible and more economical. It offers students the possibility to acquire entrepreneurial skills related to and exploiting AR and 3DP technology and rises awareness on the new AR technologies and 3DP for prospective business entrepreneurs.

Pro-Europa Roma Voice Association was included in the project as a silent partner to train Roma in these new technologies and boost their entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.camis.pub.ro/index.php/index.php/arte3dp-project



Faculty of Medical Engineering

Project title: MOBILE II – Winter School

Implementation dates: August 2015 – February 2017

The MOBILE II – Winter School project continued the activity of the predecessor project, MOBILE – 3D Modeling Techniques for Bio Medical Engineering, by organising a Winter School dedicated to the biomedical engineering field. Romanian and Icelandic students and top international scholars in the biomedical engineering field from different countries participated and shared their knowledge. During the Winter School, collaboration opportunities were created for students with different cultural or ethnic backgrounds and exchange of expertise with top international experts took place.

MOBILE II project was the result of the small size bilateral cooperation with the Reykjavik University (Iceland).

Faculty of Automatic Control and Computers, Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Project title: Soundbridge

Implementation period: 2016

In order to elaborate a portal with interactive audio content and social networking tools for visually impaired people, the Polytechnic University of Bucharest (UPB) developed a small size bilateral cooperation project with the University of Iceland (UoI). Two intensive research programmes, with participants from both computer graphics and virtual reality group in UPB and acoustics group in UoI were developed in order to generate new research proposals, including the social portal. The main purpose of the portal is to support and inform the visually impaired community and to promote highly accessible interactive audio content for them. Through this portal, the visually impaired people will have the opportunity to socialize and to have access to entertainment and training.

Project title: "Exploring advanced materials structure when interacting with geothermal steam for producing renewable energy"

Implementation period: 2016

A small size bilateral cooperation project was implemented jointly with the University of Iceland in order to test corrosion and new materials in the geothermal environment. Within the project, a new composition of multicomponent materials was designed to be used in geothermal industry as a protective layer for the turbine blade.

In the first workshop in Iceland, scientists met engineers involved in the geothermal energy production and maintenance of the turbine blade and rotors. During the second workshop in Romania, the materials' scientists met materials producers in the coating field. They tailored the composition of multicomponent materials to meet the requirements needed by the geothermal industry.

The structural and morphological properties discussed and studied during the project will be presented in the future corrosion conferences and the obtained results will be shared with professional from the geothermal industry.



National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)

The National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) was set up in 1991. SNSPA is educating professionals to elaborate and manage public policies, to develop country's international relations, to manage private companies, to communicate and promote country or company's image. Distinctively, it is dedicated to the education process as a response to contemporary issues at national, regional and global level. At the academic level, SNSPA is cooperating with several worldwide universities. It aims at educating specialists in the field of political, administrative, social communication and economic sciences, which are able to activate in the specific national and international field.

Faculty of Public Administration

Project title: “Public sector renewal through ICT, a life-long learning”

Implementation dates: September 2014 – August 2016

The inter-institutional cooperation project strengthened the competence of the partners: SNSPA, University College of SouthEast (Norway) and Valahia University of Targoviste (Romania) in the field of the electronic government. It enriched the educational offer with on-line modules on ICT for the e-government public services, as a solution to the renewal of the public sector, and it created a platform for future scientific collaboration. The existing competence in the Romanian public electronic service delivery was improved by updating employees on the new opportunities of digitalization through the online courses elaborated within this project. The courses gave students the key qualifications that are important in an international labor market defined by globalisation and internationalisation. They include, among other: intercultural skills, knowledge of European and international connections, an understanding for other cultures and ways of working, expertise in and knowledge of foreign languages.

Website: www.psr-ict.eu



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CLUJ-NAPOCA

“Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy

“Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj Napoca is the oldest institution of medical education in the region of Transylvania. The University offers, within its three faculties of medicine, pharmacy and dental medicine, 10 specialties in English, French and Romanian languages. Over 800 professors are involved in the educational process of the University. They are guiding more than 9,000 students, out of which 2000 coming from 50 countries worldwide. National medical scholars and specialists from the most representative university clinics in Cluj Napoca are offering students practical guidance, accompanying the learning process in the University. According to the 2016-2017 World University Ranking by Academic Performance, the university occupies the fifth place in the country and the 1213th place in the world.

„Iuliu Hațieganu“ University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca

Project title: “Nanotechnology approach in Acute Myeloid Leukemia management” (NanoLAM)

Implementation dates: January 2014 – December 2015

Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) is one of the most common and deadly leukemia worldwide. Its prognosis is poor, in part due to diagnosis in late disease stages.

A better understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying AML genesis, leading to the development of better early diagnostic tools, are thus imperative.

“Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca and its partners from Norway, the University of Bergen, and Romania, „Babeș-Bolyai“ University and „Ion Chiricuță“ Institute of Oncology in Cluj-Napoca, focused their research project on a new early leukemia detection methodology using state-of-the-art approach in technology, as well as on the development of new nanomaterials based therapeutic agents for Acute Myeloid Leukemia management.

They evaluated the efficacy of various nanostructures in order to better diagnose and treat AML.

Young investigators in highly specific protocols of nanopharmacology and molecular oncology were trained within the project.

Website: www.nanolam.umfcluj.ro



Research Center for Functional Genomics and Translational Medicine

“Innovative Nanoparticles-based Chemotherapy for Acute Myeloid Leukemia” (NanoCHEM)

Implementation dates: July 2015 – September 2016

The present research project further extends the very recent advancements in biotechnology: the new methodology for patients that receive tyrosine kinase inhibitors using state-of-the-art mass spectrometry. It represents a follow-up of a previous research collaboration between Romanian and Norwegian partners regarding the gold nanoparticle (GNP)-based DDA of tyrosine kinase inhibitors for the chemotherapy of acute myeloid leukemia.

Jointly with its Norwegian partner, the University of Bergen (Norway), and the Romanian partners, „Babeş-Bolyai“ University of Cluj, „Ion Chiricuța“ Institute of Oncology in Cluj, Fundeni Clinical Institute in Bucharest, the University in Cluj-Napoca focused on the design of innovative nanostructures for bio-medical applications, including their use against cancer cells (bio-imaging using optoacoustic tomography, Raman spectroscopy and fluorescence microscopy) and cancer (cell and tumor) therapy with minimal side-effects on the healthy surrounding cells.

The technical goals of the project were supplemented by a teaching activity, designed to bring an interdisciplinary solution to this disease, as well as to strengthen the collaboration between various fields of science.

Training of the young investigators in high technology research protocols, with a special emphasis on the training of young doctors, resident physicians, PhD students and post-doctoral researchers that are of Roma ethnic minority represented a special feature of the project, in order to combat discrimination and intolerance in the scientific community.

Website: www.granturi.umfcluj.ro/nanochem

3

CRAIOVA

University of Craiova

With more than 700 educational staff involved in guiding students in their learning process and scientific research, the University of Craiova occupies a prestigious place in the Romanian higher education system and in the region of Oltenia. It provides knowledge and represents a major innovation resource in the region. Since its set up in 1947, the University developed its 4 initial educational domains with other 9 faculties according to the local/regional educational needs and demographic trends. The most important resource of the University is represented by the Academic Community of Craiova: students, academic staff, researchers, and administrative staff. It supports the University to become the strategic point of a competitive, participative and inclusive economy in the region.

Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

Project title: “New Tools For the Integration of Transversal Skills In Modern Teaching Practice” (TRANSMOD)

Implementation dates: July 2014 – June 2015

The cooperation project with Bifröst University (Iceland) and Nesna University College (Norway) aimed at developing modern teaching methods for professional training and Romanian teaching by harnessing a wide array of innovative inputs from the Icelandic and Norwegian universities.

After evaluating the importance of transversal skills within national education systems, selecting transversal skills that should be developed in teaching modules according to European and national labour market demands, studying relevant scientific literature with a view to both establishing the current status of relevant research and improving the understanding of the issue, sharing experiences and requiring input on how to effectively teach transversal skills to students in social sciences and humanities, after detecting and assessing actual needs in the three countries, a Good Practice Guide focused on the Integration of Transversal Skills in the Educational Process was elaborated. The guide will be published at an internationally refereed publishing house and will be disseminated to all interested stakeholders.

Website: <http://proiecte.ucv.ro/transmod>

Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

Project title: Learning to Live Together: Modern Perspectives on Transversal Skills in Education for Sustainable and Solidary Development (ElitMod)

Implementation dates: July 2016 – January 2017

Education for Sustainable and Solidarity Development (ESSD) was the topic which brought together the University of Craiova, Bifröst University (Iceland) and Nesna University College (Norway) in order to develop citizens' spirit of living together.

In this respect, current situation with regard to ESSD within the national academic contexts in Iceland and Romania was explored, the main objectives of research focused on ESSD were refined, the possibility of combining humanistic and social approaches in an interdisciplinary research on ESSD was studied, new methodologies aiming at raising awareness and mobilizing students in favour of ESSD were identified.

Finally, a competency-based approach on ESSD was developed, the ESSD-related skills of students were evaluated and the real-life potential impact of ESSD was explored.

Website: <http://proiecte.ucv.ro/elitmod>



“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași is the oldest institution of higher education in Romania. Since 1860, it continues the tradition of excellence and innovation in education and research. Thus, the university brings together more than 23,000 students and 745 educational staff. It cooperates with more than 400 universities worldwide and has developed over 700 bilateral Erasmus agreements in 51 European countries.

According to the 2016-2017 World University Ranking by Academic Performance, the university occupies the fourth place in the country and the 1098th place in the world.

Faculty of Geography and Geology, Department of Geography

Project title: Designing Thematic Routes to Foster destination experience in Iași, Romania (INTERFACE-IS)

Implementation dates: October 2016 – February 2017

The project capitalized on the cultural heritage of the city of Iași (Romania) and was based on the Norwegian experience brought by the project partner, Volda University College, that enhanced its heritage discovery through a number of touristic thematic routes.

The joint activities designed were: the three days seminar in Volda and Ålesund, Norway, “Destination Management, Visitor Experience and Thematic Routes models”, the workshop in Iași, Romania, “Developing Tourism Resource and Enhancing Destination Experience for Tourists Visiting Iași, Romania, through Designing Thematic Routes” and the final Conference in Iași, Romania on “Thematic routes implementation and monitoring”. All these facilitated the transfer of knowledge among the participants from Volda, Ålesund and Iași, between the Norwegian practices with successful models of tourism and the Romanian experiences from Iași, a city with national monuments of history, art and architecture.

Both staff and students from Norway and Romania discovered different educational, administrative and societal systems and learned from each other. Both teams developed their intercultural skills and combined knowledge, initiatives, experience and technology to elaborate the thematic touristic routes for Iași and their promotion.

Project website: <http://iasi.travel>

**Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences,
Department of Sociology and Social Work**

**Project title: “Comparing Collaboration in Education
and Practice in the Health and Welfare Field”
(CompEd)**

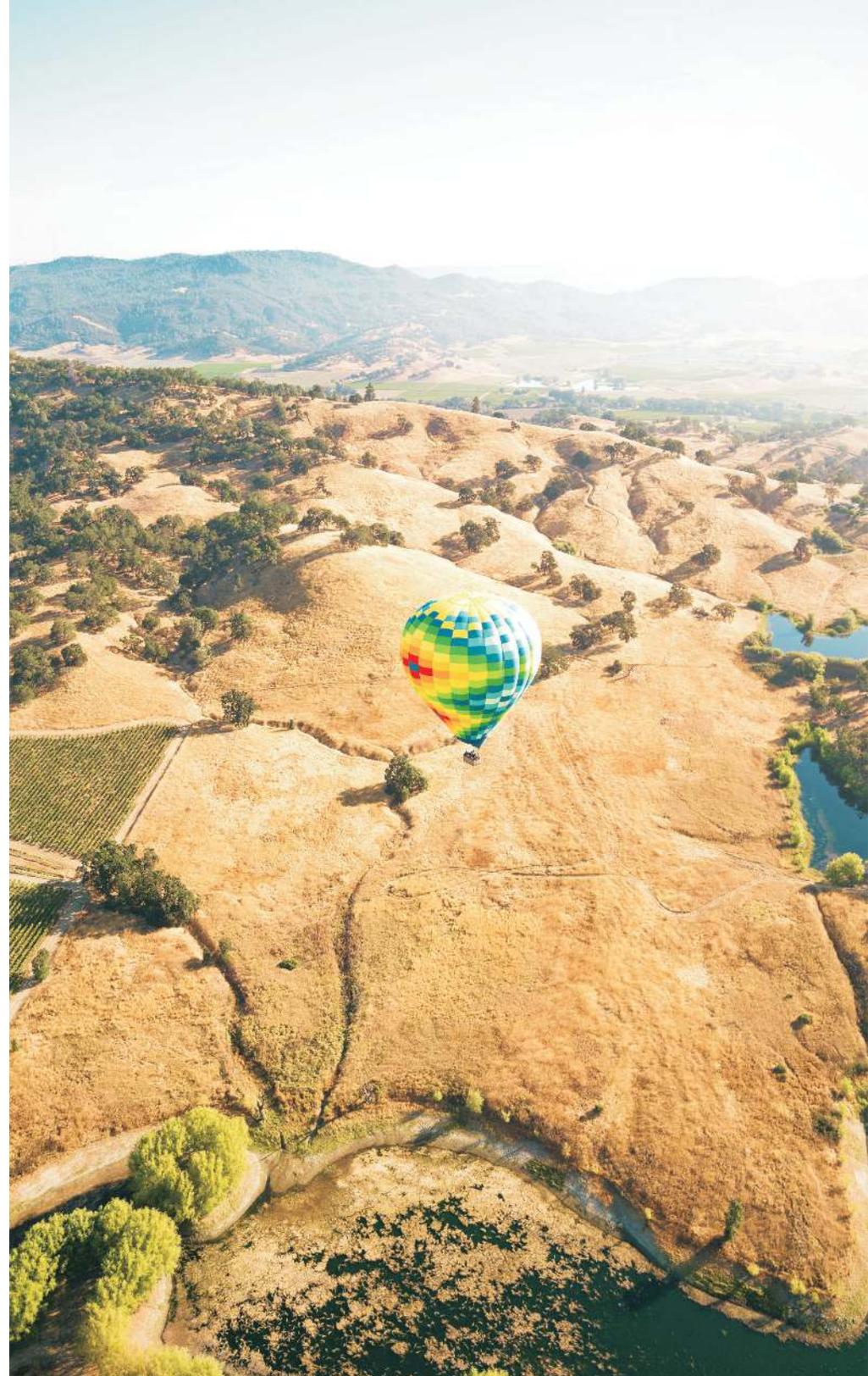
Implementation dates: September 2016 – January 2017

The small size bilateral cooperation project with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology conducted a joint comparative study-analyses of education and practice in the health, social care and welfare system in Romania and Norway. CompEd focused on opportunities for innovation in the welfare and health system for elderly and disabled persons in both countries, and included, in this respect, the academics, service users and service providers' perspectives.

A seminar, two international workshops and a final conference facilitated the direct interaction between teachers and students of the two universities, between specialists in the field of social and public health in Romania and Norway, and beneficiaries, service providers and peer workers.

The project strengthened the collaboration between the University of Iasi and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim at the institutional level and also between teachers and students of the two universities. Thus, they succeeded to develop common joint research capacities, to discover mechanisms for effective collaboration between the fields of social welfare systems and public health in Romania and Norway. Romanian and Norwegian students were actively involved in the program and acquired multinational, multicultural and transdisciplinary practice skills useful on the labor market.

Website: www.fssp.uaic.ro/comped



5

SIBIU

“Lucian Blaga” University

“Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu (LBUS) manages 9 faculties in the field of: theology, law, letters and arts, engineering, social and human sciences, sciences, agricultural sciences, medicine, economics, food industry, and environment. It is active at international level by cooperating with more than 100 academic institutions from 30 countries and by supporting an extensive exchange of students and study visits for its staff.

Jointly with partners from abroad, LBUS set up the Career Counseling Service and the Business Association of the University to enable students' inclusion in the business field. An Academic Excellence Centre for Research in the Business Management and Applied Research was set up, as well.

Faculty of Engineering

Project title: Digital Factory: Concepts, Implementations, Present and Future Challenges (DigiFact)

Implementation dates: September 2014 – August 2015

The DigiFact project, elaborated jointly with Buskerud and Vestfold University College (Norway) and the University of Evora (Portugal) contributed to the improvement of the higher education teaching methods by focusing on cross-curricular topics; student centered learning approach and use of new technologies in the scientific fields of engineering, software engineering, business informatics and management.

An online course platform with new skills adapted for new jobs in the fields of engineering and ICT was created, using the experience and competences of the Norwegian partner. The platform, based on an innovative approach, was dedicated to students, as well as to professionals and practitioners. The new online course, its materials and teaching methods established a better connection between the study programs and their practical relevance in the work field, increased the employability of the beneficiaries and supported the involved universities to jointly modernize their activities.

Website: <http://digifact.grants.ulbsibiu.ro>

Faculty of Social Sciences

Project title: Understanding Transnational Roma

Migration: Challenges and Perspectives for Romania and Norway

Implementation dates: September 2016 – January 2017

This small bilateral cooperation project brought together experts from Norway and Romania in the field of migration studies to address the issue of Roma migration between the two countries. During the common workshop, this phenomenon was addressed from a joint, transnational perspective. Participants, scholars from the two partner universities, LBUS and the University College of Southeast Norway, and other experts in the field, NGO activists, policy and political decision makers, members of the local Roma communities debated topics falling under two headings: *Health, gender, and aging of migrant communities*, and *Roma migration, identity, and memory*. During the project activities, social science experts from the two partner universities shared experiences in order to understand the dynamics of Roma migration patterns from Romania to Norway and back, and to improve both policy making and social condition of the subjects involved in these migration processes. In this respect, other experts from various Romanian universities were invited at the event.

Faculty of Engineering

Project title: A Mobile Platform for Environmental Monitoring

Implementation period: 2016

This small size bilateral cooperation project was the result of harmonizing the experience of the LBUS on embedded systems reduction of house energy consumption (future house automation) by using a PLC-based embedded system, with the partner's research results, the University College of Southeast Norway, on smart cities and technologies improving services and citizens' lives. The partners strengthened their existing research cooperation by designing and developing a mobile environmental monitoring platform, a low cost "proof of concept" prototype to be placed in cars. Whenever the car is parked in the cities, it can become a mobile sensing unit, monitoring the environment around and forwarding the information to a server. The 20 environmental monitoring units produced within the project will show the feasibility of this proposed solution. The "proof of concept" prototypes will be used for experiments, but more important to pave the road for a larger joint project on data analytics and visualization of collected environmental data.

Service for International Relations and Community Programmes

Project title: “Best practices exchanges for internationalization of higher education”

Implementation dates: September 2016 – January 2017

LBUS and the University College of Southeast Norway decided to establish high quality standards in the internationalization work by focusing on cross-cultural communication and solving problems in an international environment.

The joint project, designed through a small size bilateral cooperation project, improved key professional skills like: communication, team-work, creativity, flexibility, problem-solving, mediation and negotiation for staff working in international relations offices of both universities. It generated, as well, an exchange of ideas to facilitate future cooperation, an increased number and quality of mobilities for students, teachers & academic staff, improved services offered by universities through assistance with visa and legal issues, electronic services, language support & cultural courses, orientation and welcome services etc. It also addressed the internationalization at home for non-mobile students through international activities: workshops, seminars, webinars, summer schools and modules of foreign culture and civilization.

Based on the activities and discussions during the workshop, all the conclusions were gathered in a Best Practices Handbook, a guide with measures to improve the activity in the International Offices of the Higher Education Institutions.

Faculty of Social Sciences

Project title: “Understanding and Tackling the Migration Challenge: Mapping Options for a Resilient Approach”

Implementation dates: July 2016 – January 2017

The small size bilateral cooperation project strengthened the academic and research partnership between LBUS and the University College of Southeast Norway through knowledge exchange and cooperation in the field of migration, refugees and security. It provided a significant understanding of Europe's migration challenges, societal security, demography, legislation and inclusion management.

The main topics addressed by the joint conference were the incentives for irregular migration: the root causes of irregular and forced displacement; the anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling measures; the repatriation of irregular migrants; the common asylum policy, a coherent application of the current system combined with the re-evaluation of the effectiveness and fairness of the Dublin system; the new policy for legal migration combining a better integration, and a clearer matching of immigration to labour-market needs in host countries with an increasing focus on development in the countries of origin.

The conference represented a base for designing the course on “Migration Challenges and Solutions” to be later incorporated in the curricula at interested universities or offered as a stand-alone course to those interested and will extend the specific expertise of the Global Studies Center at LBUS on migration, inclusion, security, combating extremism and other forms of violence.

6

TÂRGOVIȘTE

“Valahia“ University

“Valahia“ University of Târgoviște manages 9 faculties in the field of economics, materials engineering and mechanics, electrical engineering, electronics and information technology; orthodox theology and educational sciences, environmental engineering and food sciences; political sciences, letters and communication, humanities, sciences and arts, law and administrative sciences.

In order to develop excellence, the Scientific and Technological Multidisciplinary Research Institute was created under the aegis of the University. It elaborates joint research-development projects between the academic staff and their partners at national and international level, and direct programmes with beneficiaries.

Department for Studies in Foreign Languages
Project title: “A piece of culture, a culture of peace” (COOLPEACE)

Implementation dates: June 2014 – December 2015

The Romanian summer school for Nordic and Baltic studies entitled “A piece of culture, a culture of peace” is an educational programme organised by Valahia University of Târgoviște in partnership with the University of Agder, the University of Oslo, Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK), the Embassy of Lithuania in Romania, Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania and the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies.

The interdisciplinary teaching modules and the good practice guide developed within the project strengthened the connection between the academic offer and the labour market jointly with the Romanian-Norwegian-Baltic cooperation at the level of the higher education's values: culture and peace.

The summer school looked at culture in a broad sense and assumed that it includes besides literature, visual art, architecture etc. values which stand at the core of human strive for a better life, and finally for well-being.

Education is a key tool in creating such a culture of peace and contributing to building peace in the minds of the people, accepting diversity and avoiding polarization, hatred and demonization of the other.

Website: <http://dsls.valahia.ro/coolpeace.htm>

7

TIMIȘOARA

West University of Timișoara

In the last 12 years, the West University of Timisoara (WUT) adapted its educational offer to respond to changes in the national education policy, demography, market economy, to local and regional needs and new technologies. In a world of mobility, in which distances have been comprised due to rapid transportation and online communication, the University represents a regional educational leader, with eleven faculties open to the international academic community and more than 123,000 students enrolled.

The Romanian Academy Awards were offered several times to professors of the University in Timișoara for their performance and excellence in the research activities. According to the 2016-2017 World University Ranking by Academic Performance, WUT occupies the ninth place in the country and the 1555th place in the world.

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
Project title: „Opportunities and Challenges for Tertiary Educational System in Promoting Evidence – Informed Good Governance Society“ (ActiveGovEdu)
Implementation dates: July 2015 – September 2016

The project addresses the creation and development of a transnational network and an operational incubator for the academic environment, public authorities and civil society in the field of good governance and participatory democracy. It increased and strengthened the institutional cooperation between Romania and Iceland at the level of higher education sector and non-governmental organisations, in order to support innovation and improvement of the educational offer, teaching, research, mediation in participatory democracy, citizenship, advocacy and voluntary service, and thus, to meet the need for international competitiveness. Result of a cooperation between Romanian and Icelandic partners: the WUT, Timis County Youth Foundation in Timisoara, Roma Women Association for Our Children in Timisoara and the University of Iceland, the project facilitated the transfer of innovative approaches between partner institutions and the development of approaches oriented to the human capital development through: transfer of good practices and institutional long life learning development, field visits, youth direct involvement in social participatory decisional processes, including in Roma communities, and direct support for equal rights, such as security, voting rights, freedom of speech and assembly, property and economic rights, equal access to social goods and services, health, labour, and other equal opportunities and obligations.

Website: www.activegovedu.proiecte-feaa.ro/home-en

Project title: “Institutional Change for International Exchange of Students with Disabilities”

Implementation dates: July 2015 – August 2016

The project, a joint cooperation between the WUT and University of Agder (Norway), Universidad de A Coruña (Spain) and Szegedi Tudományegyetem (Hungary) addressed the issue of the international mobility of students with physical disabilities by focusing on two matters: transfer of good practices and institutional development.

Situated at the intersection of two main dimensions of higher education priorities: internationalization and social equity, the project will empower, socially and economically, students with disabilities to access the benefits of an international mobility in terms of professional and personal development.

Moreover, it tackled the issue of the institutional development in the higher education sector, having the potential to function as a pilot project for governmental strategies at local and national level, especially in the beneficiary states. The four associated partners will set up a network of higher education institutions and will act as lobbying institutions within their national and international framework in order to improve existing institutional culture in the sense of understanding and meeting these students' needs.

Website: <https://mapped.eu/node/63>

East-European Center for Research in Economics and Business

Project title: “Transnational cooperation for research consolidation through knowledge and innovation transfer” (KnowReset)

Implementation dates: July 2014 – July 2016

The project addresses the creation and development of a transnational incubator for advanced, exploratory and interdisciplinary research in the socio-economic environment through a joint partnership between the WUT and its partners: the Institute for Economic Forecasting in Bucharest and the University of Iceland.

In this respect, the three partners designed a model of transnational cooperation to support research and attractiveness for a career in research, based on the development of common products and results. They organised a joint conference, summer schools, workshops, study visits, research and analyses activities especially related to the fight against discrimination, racism and xenophobia. They facilitated the translation and publication of studies and reports, the elaboration of new solutions and worked for the adaptation of solutions developed in both countries.

Website: www.knowreset.proiecte-feaa.ro/about-project

Project title: „La Pleiade. Autour de la littérature française“

Implementation dates: August 2015 – February 2016

This small size bilateral cooperation project developed a close scientific collaboration between the two universities; the WUT and the Oslo University (Norway) and between their French departments, which consisted in publishing a volume of studies about French literature and about teaching literary texts.

During the project, the institutional partners exchanged scientific and pedagogical experience, facilitated student exchanges between them and organised public conferences and workshops with bachelor and master students, professors and researchers from the two universities. A volume with francophone studies was edited at the end of the project. The francophone conferences and workshops presentations are available on the electronic platforms for francophone students of the two universities.

Faculty of Music and Theatre

Workshop Piano Masterclass. West University of Timișoara – Agder University, Kristiansand

Implementation dates: January – March 2017

This small bilateral cooperation project in the field of music, between the West University of Timișoara and Agder University (Norway), developed master classes for students in Timisoara and Kristiansand, a program with works for piano and two pianos, a recital of students from the Agder University and a final concert performed in the Agder University by professors and students from both institutions, with works composed by Romanian and Norwegian composers.

FB page: www.facebook.com/PianoProjectUVT





TRANSMIT



One of the best experiences I had in Iceland was driving the Golden Circle and being caught in a Icelandic snow storm that turned a 3 hour drive into a 10 hour slow drive with almost zero visibility at night, with the fear of falling off the mountain road.

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Working in a foreign country and being able to speak to many tourists from different corners of the world, I learned to be a more open minded person.

Marius Nour
„Alexandru Ioan Cuza“ University of Iași

I learned to be more responsible and more confident in myself. I learned that if you work for what you wanted, you can see that your work is appreciated and valued. People in Norway are willing to help you when you have a problem or you are lost. I experienced this on my own. Choosing this program was the best thing that I did so far.

Alexandra Savin
„Alexandru Ioan Cuza“ University of Iași



While in classes, we tried, together with our teachers, to make the interaction not only enjoyable, but also to get the most of our stay there; working in different groups during the “case studies” activities in international business communication, marketing research and even during the Norwegian classes led us toward a new word of thinking and interaction. We've learned to think more wisely and widely, to consider more of the others' opinions and ideas. Opened to discussions, the courses were not teacher-centred, but focused on developing the inter-student interaction, ideas exchanges and cultural understanding.

When the evaluation came, there was no surprise that we did our best at exams, because all the information we needed had been discussed thoroughly during our “chats” in class.

To sum up my experience, I need to answer the question of my mentor when I came back: Would I go again? YES! This has been by far the best student experience until now!

Andreea Cristina Dobrescu
“Mircea cel Bătrân” Naval Academy, Constanța



I found very interesting the fact that Norwegian teachers concentrate in involving each student in the class, to develop their skills and encourage them to express their own ideas and opinions regarding the subject. These type of activities in comparison with the Romanian classes were first of all a different way of acting during the classes and second, a good opportunity for foreign students to interact with other nationalities people, to exchange experiences and ways of life, traditions and future perspectives. We also had to accomplish tasks that required us to take interviews to different persons that are working in multinational companies in order to develop and come up with solutions to different problems that might occur in large working places. This is how we actually learnt how to speak Norwegian, or how to start a conversation. In my opinion, knowing the basic foreign words of the people that welcome you in their country is a matter of respect and gratitude. And so I learned to say “God morgen” (Bună dimineața!), “Jeg heter Oana” (Numele meu este Oana.), “Hyggelig å møtedeg” (Mă bucur să te cunosc!). And last, but not least, you can never go wrong with saying “Takk”!

Oana Gabriela Popa
“Mircea cel Bătrân” Naval Academy, Constanța



All I knew about Liechtenstein was only what Wikipedia offered and let's face it, those are just facts and figures. But many of you know that you get to know a country when you are actually there and can breathe the air and see the people and hear their language or, in this case, dialect, that you can only learn by hearing it and trying to imitate it. Fürstentum Liechtenstein (FL) is unique not only because of its size but also because of its dialect, its people who say "hoi" to you even if they do not know you.

"Travelling is the only thing that money can buy and makes you richer" they say. Well, I can confirm that spending 9 months as an intern at the University of Liechtenstein, going up and down that road has definitely made me richer. Liechtenstein or the so much used abbreviation FL is definitely not the most popular destination for the typical mobility experience, but everything that differentiates it from all the other experiences sticks with you for longer than expected.

I did not choose this place, it chose me I think. And it pushed me and it forced me to open my eyes and my mind. And now I cannot get enough of what I see and understand.

Sara Timariu
"Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu

When I arrived in Iceland the first thing that I observed was that Icelanders are kind, very sociable and open minded, strange because I was expecting them to be more cold as Nordics. I was fascinated by the landscapes, ice and volcanoes; it is indeed "the land of ice and fire".

I made a lot of friends, Icelandic and foreign students from Germany, France, Finland, Latvia and others. It was nice studying together, working at essays, having parties and traveling along Iceland. The most impressing thing was to see the northern lights and we had a perfect view in Bifröst. My memories are unique and beautiful.

My educational experience was a very good one. Bifröst University had all the support that I needed to study well and to be in touch with all the information that I needed. The library had every book that you could imagine and they even borrowed the books that they didn't have so that one could study at his/her best. We had an online platform where the teacher pre-recorded a lesson so that every student could prepare in advance, in order to be able to speak freely, get involved, and understood better the notions.

Ana-Maria Diana Stănoi
University of Craiova, FEEA



