



NEWS ABOUT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

ESP and ECTS/Tuning Modular Training at the Catholic University of Portugal in Porto, in a Hybrid Format

On January 16-22, 2022, in the frames of Erasmus + SMARTI project a **5-day training** was held at the Catholic University of Portugal (UCP) in Porto in a hybrid format. At the beginning of the meeting welcoming speeches were made by Eduardo Cardoso, professor from the host university, leader of WP1 and WP4 of the Project, and by Gerard Cullen, SMARTI Project Manager and representative of the Project grant-holder, Dresden University of Technology (TUD).

Representatives from partner universities and organizations from Europe, the Russian Federation and Armenia were participating in the training sessions which were conducted by EU trainers Gerard Cullen, Sven Riddell from Dresden University of Technology; Eduardo Cardoso, Tim Hogg from the Catholic University of Porto; Professors Maureen Royce, Ryan Wynn-Williams, Casey Beaumont from Liverpool John Moores University; Ieva Ziemele, Marina Platonova, and Tatiana Smirnova from Riga Technical University.



The training sessions were replete with theoretical materials and practical activities that were accompanied by lively group discussions. The training topics were primarily related to types and peculiarities of academic writing, ESP (English for specific purposes) and EMI (English as a means of instruction) methodologies, SCL (student-centred learning) strategies, module design, learning outcomes developed by Bloom's Taxonomy, and criterion-based assessment.



In the frames of the Project, a series of in-house trainings are expected to be held in PC HEIs on the basis of the materials provided by the EU trainers.



**SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE
METHODOLOGY, APPROACHES AND
TOOLS FOR TEACHING THROUGH THE
MEDIUM OF ENGLISH IN ORDER TO
IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL YIELD,
SUSTAINABILITY AND
INTERNATIONALIZATION**

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IN-HOUSE MULTIPLICATION TRAINING ON ESP AND ECTS AT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ACADEMY OF THE RA

On March 30, 2022, PAARA launched the multiplication events based on the ESP and ECTS/Tuning Modular Training held at the Catholic University of Portugal on January 17-22, 2022 in the frame of the SMARTI Project.

The multiplication training comprises six (three theoretical and three respective practical) interactive sessions.

The first two sessions were held on March 30 and April 1, 2022. The training is organized by Tereza Khechoyan, Director of the Centre for International Cooperation and Development of PAARA, Lead Coordinator of the Project in Armenia and Tatevik Movsisyan, Deputy Director of the above Centre, SMARTI Project team member.

For more details visit [the link](#).

On April 5 and 8, two more sessions within the in-house ESP and ECTS/Tuning Modular Training in the frame of the SMARTI Project took place at PAARA. This time the large and zealous audience (teaching and administrative staff as well as students) got familiarized with the European Credit Transfer System and Tuning methodology. The training was held by Ms. Gayane Hovhannisyan, Project team member, Head of the Centre for Quality Assurance, and supported by Mrs. Tereza Khechoyan, Director of the Centre for International Cooperation and Development, local coordinator of the Project, and Ms. Tatevik Movsisyan, Deputy Director of the above Centre, Project team member.

Details are available [here](#).

On April 12 and 15, the concluding training sessions on ESP and ECSTS/Tuning were held at PAARA. This last part of the training was dedicated to making effective presentations in English.

During the first theoretical session held on April 12, the participants were assigned to give presentations on their preferred topics by leveraging the newly-provided tips to make presentations more effective and engrossing.



IN-HOUSE MULTIPLICATION TRAINING ON ESP AND ECTS AT VANADZOR STATE UNIVERSITY



lively discussions during the workshops livened up “the academic atmosphere” and helped them considerably to overcome the language barriers which at first seemed rather unsurmountable especially to those with a fairly low English proficiency level. Surprisingly enough, even these participants managed to successfully deal with nearly all the tasks and activities assigned at the end of each session. The training had its intended result due to the team’s high morale and “the spirit of compromise” which was easily perceived from the outset: first contributing to the training process and then benefiting from its outcomes.

The in-house multiplication training on ESP and ECTS at Vanadzor State University was launched on 28 March, 2022. The three 3-hour face-to-face sessions devoted to ESP (English for specific purposes) and EMI (English as a means of instruction) methodologies as well as academic writing peculiarities were mainly based on the materials provided during the ESP/ECTS Tuning Modular Training held at the Catholic University of Porto, Portugal on January 16-22, 2022. The trainings were conducted by Lusik Vardanyan, local project coordinator, Associate Professor of the Chair of Foreign Languages and Literature and Nune Khublaryan, Assistant Professor of the Chair of Mathematics and Informatics.

The key topics of the in-house multiplication training on ECTS conducted on 3-9 April were related to the primary approaches of Tuning Methodology, the Tuning Project, the key features of ECTS as well as Bloom’s revised Taxonomy analysed from the perspective of knowledge and cognitive process dimensions. The training was an excellent opportunity for the participants to share their knowledge and perception of the main priorities of the 21st century teaching, learning and assessment, more specifically, the means that are making the transition from lower order thinking skills (LOTS) to higher order thinking skills (HOTS) possible.

The participants’ active engagement in



The participants definitely enriched their knowledge and skills of making effective presentations, interpreting different graphs and charts, identifying the main differences between formal and informal writing in general, and between the types of cover letters in particular.





IN-HOUSE MULTIPLICATION TRAINING ON ESP AND ECTS AT ARMENIAN NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY

On 28 March the multiplication training sessions commenced at ANAU based on the training week conducted at Catholic University of Portugal, Porto on January 17-21 by professors from Dresden University of Technology, Riga Technical University and Liverpool John Moores University within the frameworks of Erasmus+ KA2 SMARTI project.

The training sessions at ANAU were delivered by the SMARTI Project researcher, Professor Ara Amiryan. Each session lasted for three hours and overall, participants from the University staff took part in it. The sessions ended on 8 April.

As in all other partner Universities, the topics of training sessions at ANAU included those of “English for Specific Purposes” and “ECTS and Tuning Modular Framework” discipline. The participants of the training sessions were able to learn how to write presentations, motivation and cover letters and received more knowledge about the ECTS system, curriculum design, CEFR, etc.

All the participants of the training received presentations adjusted by Professor Ara Amiryan.

For more information, please visit [the link](#).



IN-HOUSE MULTIPLICATION TRAINING ON ESP AND ECTS AT STATE UNIVERSITY OF SHIRAK



The training was conducted by the SMARTI Project team member Director-Acting Vice- Rector for Educational and Methodological Process Management Centre Nazeli Avetisyan. For more details visit [here](#).

On March 24-25, the first 2 trainings were held at SUSH. The first phase of ESP/ECTS Tuning Modular training was conducted by Hasmik Matikyan, lecturer of the Chair of English Language and Literature, who participated in the training organized by Catholic University of Portugal in Porto.

During the training H. Melkonyan mentioned the importance of SWOT analysis of the activities of each organization to highlight its strengths and weaknesses. He also presented some methods of SWOT analysis. For more details visit [here](#).



The teaching staff and students from Informatics and Applied Mathematics participated in the training. For more details visit [here](#).



On April 28, 2022 closing ceremony of in-house training series was held. The training participants were awarded certificates. For more details visit [here](#).



On April 13-14, 2022 the last phase of trainings took place at State University of Shirak, which aimed at defining learning outcomes of study programs and modules/courses and peculiarities of ECTS credit allocation.



The second phase of multiplier training was on April 7-8, 2022. The topic of the training was SWOT analysis as a means of organization and personnel self-analysis.

The training was conducted by the project local coordinator Hovik Melkonyan.





SMARTI STEERING GROUP MEETING AT LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY



On April 19-21, 2022 a steering group meeting within the Erasmus+ CBHE SMARTI Project was held at Liverpool John Moores University which was attended by PAARA Rector Khachatur Ghazeyan and Director of the Centre for International Cooperation and Development Tereza Khechyan. The tasks completed so far in the frame of the Project, the emerged issues and further activities were discussed during

the meeting.

Tereza Khechyan presented the activities fulfilled by the Consortium-member Armenian partner institutions, which was highly appreciated by the attendees.

The upcoming activity within the Project, EMI Curriculum Training, is envisaged to be held at Liverpool John Moores University during the first two weeks of September, 2022. Furthermore, the Armenian partner institutions will organize the “National Awareness Day” events within the Project in October.

Details



SPECIAL HYBRID ANNUAL STEERING MEETING OF COORDINATOR & AR PARTNERS AND INTRODUCTORY MAIN CURRICULUM TRAINING

On September 27-29, a hybrid online meeting was held between representatives of the PAARA and other participating universities of Armenia. The aim of the meeting was to analyze the work carried out so far within the framework of the Project, to summarize the results of the meetings of the Armenian universities, to clarify the existing problems and the roadmap for overcoming them, as well as to discuss a number of technical issues.

The Project Coordinator from Dresden University of Technology Gerard Cullen, and Katja Ullmann, lecturer of the same university, visited Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia in this regard, and both had lectures offline. Andrea Stubenrauch and Sven Riddell, professors from Dresden University of Technology lectured online. The meeting was opened by PAARA Rector Mr. Khachatur Ghazeyan. He welcomed the participants and wished them fruitful work. On the first day of the three-day meeting, the Armenian representatives of the project presented the work done within the framework of the Project.

On September 28, the next day of the training, “English as a medium of learning” seminar/training was held.



SMARTI KNOWLEDGE

For the dissemination of information about the project and the application of its results, an article was co-authored and submitted for publication to the "Quality of Higher Education" magazine of the UK *Taylor and Francis* publishing house due to the cooperation of Lusik Vardanyan, Naira Safaryan and Tatevik Movsisyan. The article was peer-reviewed and approved for publication in the 2023 special issue. The title of the article is "On some issues about English medium instruction in Armenian higher education institutions: based on the desk and field study of the Erasmus+ SMARTI Project".

NEWS ABOUT EMI CENTRES

The Official Opening of the EMI Center at VSU

The EMI Centre at Vanadzor State University was launched on 29 September, 2022. At the beginning of the Opening Ceremony welcoming speeches were made by the VSU Rector Rustam Saakyan; Gerard Cullen, SMARTI Project Manager (TUD); Lusik Vardanyan, local coordinator of the Project; Mariya Brutyan, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities; and Vard Ghukasyan, representative of Erasmus+ National Office. The event was attended by Katja Ullmann, professor from Dresden University of Technology (TUD), the VSU administrative and academic staff as well as bachelor and master students. The EMI Centre is equipped with facilities conducive to ensuring the smooth implementation of activities each of which will be a stepping stone to enhancing the standards of higher education and the internationalisation of the Master's Programme "Software Engineering" and the Bachelor's Programme "English Language and Literature" selected for the Project. The Centre aims at organizing training courses and give consultations on a regular basis to the subject teachers who are expected to conduct their academic disciplines in English with a strong emphasis on student-centred learning methodologies on the one hand and innovative approaches to research and teaching on the other.



MEET THE PARTNERS



Armenian National Agrarian University is one of the higher education institutes of our Republic and the only higher education institute in the agrarian sphere in Armenia. In 1994, as a result of the unification of Armenian Agricultural and Yerevan Zootechnical Veterinary Institutes (which, since the day of their foundation in 1930, have played a great role in promoting and developing agrarian sphere in the RA, as well as in preparing skillful and professional specialists for former USSR Republics), Armenian Agricultural Academy was founded.

For more details please visit [here](#).



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M. Nalbandyan State University of Shirak is the biggest educational and cultural centre of Shirak Region established in 1934 as a Leninakan Pedagogical Institute. In 2016 Gyumri State Pedagogical Institute after M. Nalbandyan was restructured and renamed M. Nalbandyan State University of Shirak. In 2022 the University passed institutional accreditation and received the certificate.

Now M. Nalbandyan State University of Shirak has 3 faculties and 11 specialized chairs.



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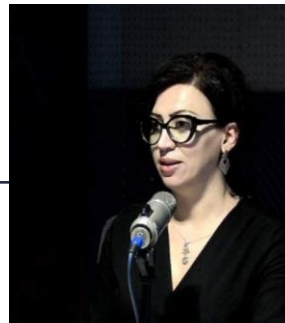


UPCOMING EVENTS

EMI TRAINING AT LJMU (April, 2023)

EMI training is one of the main deliverables of SMARTI Project which is going to be delivered by Liverpool John Moores University in UK, Liverpool. According to the agreement between the current project partners the EMI training will take place during the first two weeks of April, 2023.

The upcoming EMI training in the UK is going to include the information on all ten EMI modules which eventually will become part of the curriculum of each project partner University. After the training, each partner University will start developing its EMI modules for its EMI program. The training will elaborate on the modules like communicative approach (student-centered) and blended/ICT/E-Learning strategies, EMI oral teaching skills, EMI Research & Writing Skills, EMI module curriculum development and instructional design, EMI student assessment strategies (formal and alternative assessment) etc.



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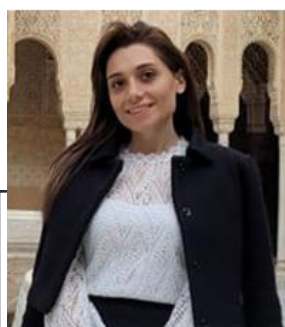
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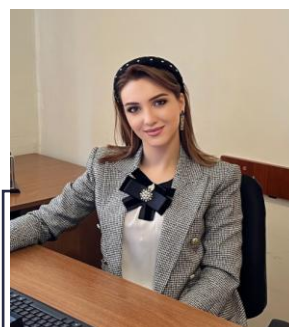
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