

# Newsletter



Issue 3 | June 2023



## NEWS ABOUT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### Training on “Design on EMI 10 Modules and Lesson Plans” at Liverpool John Moores University, UK

On April 3-12, 2023, in the frame of Erasmus+ SMARTI Project a [10-day training](#) was held at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), UK. The training sessions were devoted to the design of the EMI 10 modules and lesson plans to enhance EMI teaching, as well as innovative teaching methodologies and student-centred learning strategies. At the beginning of the meeting, welcoming speeches were made by Adam Shore, Professor from the host university and Director of Liverpool Business School, and by Gerard Cullen, SMARTI Project Manager and representative of the Project grant-holder, Dresden University of Technology (TUD).

The training sessions were conducted by EU trainers Gerard Cullen, and Sven Riddell from Dresden University of Technology; Professors Maureen Royce, Ryan Wynn-Williams,

Casey Beaumont, and Amanda Mayson from Liverpool John Moores University as well as Marina Platonova and Tatiana Smirnova from Riga Technical University.

The daily training sessions were replete with EMI-module-related theoretical materials and practical activities that were accompanied by lively group discussions. The courses were informative, interactive, and full of discussions. During the trainings, in order to create effective working conditions, the participants were given student status and access to John Moores University freestyle workspaces, library, computer rooms, etc. In the frame of the Project, each PC HEI is expected to design two modules on the basis of the materials provided by the EU trainers.

On the last day of the training, each university presented the preliminary versions of the two pre-selected modules and lesson plans which were considered by the EU trainers. The latter expressed their remarks and advice regarding the structure and content of the presented modules and lesson plans.

During the period of September-November, 2023, the implementation of piloting courses and training sessions is visualized for the HEI academic staff. The training sessions will be monitored by EU experts. On the whole, two piloting courses are expected to be completed by the end of the project.

**SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE  
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IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL YIELD,  
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INTERNATIONALIZATION**

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# Presentation of the SMARTI Project at Martuni Innovation Festival

"Martuni Innovation Festival" (MIF) was held on May 20.

The event had a clear professional orientation. It was not coincidental that the 200 participants taking part in the event were not only from Gegharkunik, but also from Vayots Dzor and Syunik Regions.

The event was filled with valuable speeches. The Rector of the National Agrarian University of Armenia Vardan Urutyun spoke about the directions of innovative agriculture. Vahagn Poghosyan, the founder of Real School, highlighted the importance of IT in military affairs. Mher Mkrtchyan, the founder of "Powerful Mind", emphasized the importance of critical thinking.

Rector Urutyun presented the new agenda of the agri-food system, agriculture, the development opportunities of the agro-technological sector, the constant relevance of agro-technological specialties, transformation of the Agrarian University, the best opportunities provided by the innovative infrastructures created for the implementation of educational and research works, and the opportunities for professional career development in Agrarian sphere.

The university was represented at the festival with a separate booth, where the opportunities offered by the Erasmus+ SMARTI program were also presented.



## SMARTI KNOWLEDGE

### EMI Training Package

The comprehensive EMI Training Package, developed within the SMARTI Project, is now available for introduction. This package is designed to benefit the academic and administrative staff, as well as the students of partner HEIs within our network.

The training package consists of 10 cross-disciplinary modules that aim to enhance EMI programs in various ways. Here's a brief overview of each module:

#### **Module 1: Communicative Approach - Student-centered and Blended/ICT/E-Learning Strategies:**

VSU is responsible for the development of this module which is aimed at enabling Armenian participants to successfully adopt Communicative Approach - Student-centered and Blended/ICT/E-Learning based to continuously foster improvements and meaningful change in the teaching and learning processes in Higher Education.

#### **Module 2: EMI Oral Teaching Skills Part 1:**

ANAU takes the lead in this module, which focuses on preparing teachers to design and deliver a range of student-centered learning activities through appropriate English use.

#### **Module 3: EMI Oral Teaching Skills Part 2:**

PAARA presents this module, which is specifically tailored to build upon module 2 to prepare teachers to use English for the facilitation of interactive student activities that focus on developing deeper learning of discipline-appropriate skills.

#### **Module 4: EMI Research & Writing Skills:**

SUSH introduces this module which involves Information Literacy inputs and is dedicated to providing Armenian participants with enhanced competence required to carry out research in English and to write BA/MA/PhD theses.

#### **Module 5: Pre-Modular Curriculum Development and Instructional Design (ECTS and EU Tuning and EU Tuning Framework Training):**

GSU offers this module, which aims at enabling Armenian participants to successfully adopt ECTS principles in their HEIs and to engage them in the Tuning Methodology to continuously foster improvements and meaningful change in the teaching and learning processes in Higher Education.

#### **Module 6: EMI Module Curriculum Development and Instructional Design:**

Also developed by GSU, this module delves into the intricacies of designing EMI modules aiming at the establishment of a theoretical framework for EMI curriculum development and instructional design, providing the learners with the toolkit of methodologies, tools, templates and platforms that may be used in efficient student-centered curriculum design.

#### **Module 7: EMI Student Assessment Strategies: (formal and alternative assessment):**

VSU is in charge of the development of this module which is dedicated to assisting learners in acquiring key terms and concepts of the assessment techniques and strategies.

#### **Module 8: EMI QA Module Benchmarking and Validation in EMI environment; Model of Digital Transformation in EMI Implementation in Academic Sector with focus on effectiveness assurance based on data analytics:**

Developed by SUSH, this module highlights quality assurance of curriculum development in an English-medium Instruction environment, providing the learners with a set of methodologies, tools, templates, and platforms that may be used in QA of EMI implementation by using benchmarking and validation tools, as well as introducing them with digital transformation concept in education and proposing a digital transformation model for EMI environment.

#### **Module 9: English Pathway Program: EMI English for Specific Training (terminology, soft skills, and key language skills package):**

ANAU brings forth this module, specifically focusing on enabling Armenian participants to enhance competence in the English language. This is additionally achieved by means of practising tasks as part of the job application process.

#### **Module 10: EMI Individual Teaching Support:**

PAARA concludes the training package with a module dedicated to enabling Armenian participants to successfully monitor their teaching staff engaging in EMI tutoring as well as equipping them with the skills necessary to achieve this.

*The Modules are currently under development and are expected to be completed at the end of July.*

# MEET THE PARTNER



Vanadzor State University (VSU) was founded on July 9, 1969. VSU is considered the largest Higher Education Institution in Lori region and strives to maintain its leading position as an educational service provider and research center in the northern region of Armenia. Currently, about 70% of the teachers in the regions are VSU graduates.

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

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The National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance Foundation (ANQA) is an independent organization founded by RA government in 2008. ANQA implements quality assurance processes through institutional and programme accreditation in preliminary, vocational and higher educational institutions. The goal is to support tertiary level institutions to create a quality culture in accordance with the legislation of RA. ANQA fosters the continuous quality enhancement in the tertiary education system, promoting autonomy and accountability of TLIs.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### National Awareness Day (NAD) 2 / Module Piloting 1 / Launch of EMI Centres

#### Module Piloting 1

The SMARTI project is excited to announce a series of crucial upcoming events that aim at advancing EMI practices in higher education institutions in Armenia. The events will take place in September-November, 2023.

In pursuit of teaching academic content in English in RA, the Project will embark on the implementation of a 10-EMI-modular training on the basis of ECTS/Tuning Modular System for the PC academic staff and trainee teachers to update the academic programs aligned with national and international levels and to overhaul the teacher training system. During the first piloting session each Armenian partner university will be implementing two modules. To raise the QA level of the piloted material, experts from EU partner universities will monitor and evaluate the piloting process.

The development and establishment of EMI Centres in PC HEIs is another significant milestone as all further EMI activities will be carried out within the EMI Centers, using their infrastructure and human resources. The Centres, which are fully equipped teaching areas, are ready to provide full-fledged classes in EMI for the declared degree programmes and retraining programmes for the academic staff. They will provide training courses, methodological research and consultations in EMI teaching/learning in Armenia. These centers will act as vital resources, offering guidance and support to academic staff interested in implementing EMI in their classrooms. Their establishment showcases the partners' commitment to fostering an environment conducive to the successful adoption of EMI across diverse academic contexts. EMI centers will be opened at PAARA, ANAU, GSU, and SUSh. VSU already has an operating EMI Centre which was opened in September, 2022.

#### EMI Center Openings

The evaluation of the first piloting and reporting on piloting as well as the improvement plan will be presented at a special seminar which will take place during the Interim Project Conference at PAARA, Yerevan. It will be followed by the second piloting.

NAD 2 is another significant activity where the project players, and online platform are introduced and updated. The content of the created training and EMI Modules, information on training, methodological and didactic materials to support staff and evaluation results are presented. The NAD aims to deepen understanding of the global phenomenon of EMI, using research and practical experiences in teaching content through English.

We invite all stakeholders, including HEI staff, researchers, and mass media, to join us for these exciting events. For more information, stay tuned for detailed schedules, agenda and participation guidelines.

#### NAD 2

## SMARTI CONSORTIUM

Coordinator



Partners



NATIONAL CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION