



Leading and Managing Change in Higher Education (La MANCHE)

5th PARTNER MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 15th September 2015

Time: 10:00 am

Venue: Gori Teaching University, Georgia (GTU)

Attendees: see list attached

1. Opening address by Prof. Giorgi Sosiashvili, Rector of GTU. He welcomed the project meeting participants at the premises of GTU and in Georgia. Prof. Sosiashvili outlined that the La MANCHE project is a priority for GTU as it is highly relevant to the ongoing processes of higher education modernisation in Georgia. Dr Stephen Stock, Deputy Head of Operations at the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia congratulated the project partners on the work completed in this Tempus IV project. He spoke about importance of project sustainability and project links and synergies with other EU initiatives. He wished the meeting participants a successful meeting and productive work.

Prof. Todor Radev, Rector of Varna University of Management (VUM), the project coordinating institution, thanked the organizers for having agreed to host the final project meeting on such short notice and for their hard work and kind hospitality. He also took the opportunity to express his gratitude and recognition of the great work completed in La MANCHE by all project partners. Furthermore, he referred to various VUM initiatives to ensure that cooperation in La MANCHE sustains beyond the end of the project. Prof. Radev spoke about the opportunities provided by the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility scheme and the double degree programmes agreements established between VUM and some of the partner institutions.

Following this, the project participants were welcomed in Gori and Georgia by the Mayor of the city of Gori. He wished the participants good luck with the meeting and invited them to explore the city of Gori and its surroundings. Last but not least, the meeting participants were greeted by a representative of the Ministry of Education in Georgia who thanked for the invitation to attend the meeting and for the opportunity to learn

more about the achievements of the project which is considered highly relevant and beneficial for the higher education modernisation processes in Georgia.

2. Overview of La MANCHE project implementation and management

Christina Armutlieva, La MANCHE project coordinator, provided an overview of the achievement of the project objectives and referred to the milestones of project progress and the key project outputs. It was concluded that all activities were carried out in line with the initial project design and that the project will be completed on time as initially planned. Christina also presented in a nutshell the project main legacy, namely the Strategy for Leading and Managing Change in Higher Education (La MANCHE Strategy) which will be published shortly. Christina thanked all project partners and, in particular, the Work Package leaders for their outstanding work and commitment in La MANCHE.

3. La MANCHE Strategy and work in WP7

The session was led by Dr Vadim Sirkeli from Comrat State University in Moldova (CSU). He spoke about the project work in Work Package 7 which was completed by the consortium members between June 2014 and September 2015. In the beginning of the workshop he benchmarked the progress achieved in Work Package against the indicators in the application form. The analysis of the figures showed that all indicators in Work Package 7 had been achieved. Furthermore, some key activities in Work Package 7 had an even broader coverage and project partners had reached out to more target users than initially envisaged. Following this, Vadim spoke in details about the La MANCHE Strategy and focused on its priorities and main goals. He also presented the entrepreneurial university concept as an overreaching university governance approach embedded in the La MANCHE Strategy. The participants in the workshop analysed the list with recommendations to be included in the La MANCHE Strategy and made suggestions for improvement. They also discussed and finalized the Strategy text structure.

4. Dissemination and work in WP9

The session was led by Satik Avagyan, representative of ANAU, Work Package 9 leading institution. In the beginning Satik reminded the participants on the main purposes of project dissemination, namely distribution of information, awareness raising, engagement, promotion and contribution to project results sustainability. Following this, the participants in the workshop went through the main dissemination activities completed in the project over the last three years and analysed the figures and results of these activities. Examples of successful project promotional events and best practices for dissemination applied in the project were also presented and discussed.

5. Project sustainability

In the end of the project day, a workshop on project sustainability was held. The project partners discussed the milestones in the project sustainability plan as follows:

1. La MANCHE VTT activities
2. Transnational Themed Working Groups
3. Project website with project resources
4. Multiplication trainings in leading and managing change and public lectures in grassroots leadership and student engagement
5. La MANCHE Strategy.

The project sustainability plan was endorsed by the consortium members. In addition, possible post-project activities to create project synergies were subject to discussion. These include:

1. Dissemination at external events: the consortium partners will strive to deliver presentations and talks that link the La MANCHE agenda and results to external events agenda, as well as to explore the possibilities of synergies.
2. Policy recommendations and papers: through face-to-face meetings with policymakers, presentations at policy-related events, publishing or presenting policy papers or discussion papers, initiating or contributing to public debates within the media, etc.

In the end of the project day, the partners discussed the agenda of the upcoming two days including the Final Dissemination Event on 16th September and the Workshop Women in Leadership on 17th September. They also thanked the host institution's representatives for their kind support and hospitality.



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FINAL DISSEMINATION EVENT MINUTES

Date: 16th September 2015

Time: 10:00 am

Venue: Gori Teaching University, Georgia (GTU)

Attendees: see list attached

The Final Dissemination Event was opened by Prof. Giorgi Sosiashvili, Rector of GTU and representatives of Gori City Council and NEO in Georgia. The Conference was live streamed. In the beginning of the morning plenary session, the participants and online followers got acquainted with the main project achievements in Work Packages 3, 5 and 7 including the La MANCHE Strategy content and key messages. Prof. Pantelis Skaynnis from University of Thessaly held a keynote speech about the entrepreneurial university concept and its implications for the university governance processes.

In the afternoon plenary session as well as during the panel discussions, Partner Countries universities speakers focused on the impact of La MANCHE at their institutions and provided examples of positive project spin-off effects and implications. Topics of the presentations varied from student engagement and shared leadership to implementation of ICT in university management and operations, internationalization and improved stakeholder management.



Leading and Managing Change in Higher Education (La MANCHE)

5th PARTNER MEETING

WORKSHOP WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

MINUTES

Date: 17th September 2015

Time: 10:00 am

Venue: Gori Teaching University, Georgia (GTU)

Attendees: see list attached

During the last day of the 5th partner meeting, a workshop Women in Leadership was held. The capacity building event's main purpose was the promotion of female leadership in higher education. During the workshop, EU experts acted as trainers. The trainees from the Partner Countries universities gained knowledge about the status quo and current statistics concerning gender balance in the EU as whole and, in particular, in Greece and Portugal. EU experts also focused on the variety of responses and approaches identified and applied in the EU including the 2011 initiative "Women on the Board Pledge for Europe". The latter is a call for publicly listed companies in Europe to voluntarily commit to increasing women's presence on their boards up to 30% by 2015 and up to 40% by 2020. Voluntary initiatives to support and promote gender balance in various EU countries, legislative measures in the form of binding quotas in some European countries like Norway and France, and the 2012 proposal for a directive on improving the gender balance on corporate boards were also presented at the workshop.

The project partners also discussed the key reasons for gender inequality in academia and in society at large. These include the big difference in the type of education followed by women and men (women are as a rule under-represented in the STEM subjects, which, however, are most in demand on the labour market). The difficulties in balancing care responsibilities with work, the classical "glass-ceiling" bias, stereotyping and discriminations, and the structural disadvantages of the institutions including the pay gap issue, were also discussed by the project partners at the workshop Women in Leadership Workshop.