

YEBO! PROJECT

Development of the Internationalization of PhD studies in South Africa



Newsletter n°1

Kick-off meeting, December 2017

The project launch took place on December 4th and 5th 2017 in Montpellier. It gathered thirty participants representing the fifteen international partners involved in this project.

During this Kick-off, the outline of the implementation of the project and the rules of "working together" were defined.

The main objective was for the partners to take ownership of the project, to introduce each other, to understand the content and structure of the project, and to start working on the first activity, that is their internationalization capability maturity framework.



Welcome !

We are pleased to open the first newsletter of the YEBO! project and to welcome the partners from South Africa, Germany, Sweden, Belgium and France.

The YEBO project aims to strengthen the internationalization of doctoral studies in South Africa and in Europe.

Over the past 25 years, the international dimension of higher education has become more important for governments and higher education institutions. Internationalization is perceived to be a key factor for modern knowledge-based societies; and has steadily increased in importance and scope.

We hope that the YEBO! project will provide us an excellent platform for collaboration and an opportunity to develop innovative tools for internationalization.

Wishing you a pleasant reading,

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Erasmus+

Grant holders meeting on the 29 and 30 January 2018, Bruxelles

The YEBO! Project is funded by the Erasmus+ programme managed by the Education, Culture and Audiovisual Executive Agency (EACEA).

The agency is entrusted with the implementation of programmes and activities on behalf of the European Commission. The aim of the meeting was to address some practical issues, such as grant agreement management, but also to present the mid-term review of the Erasmus+ programme.

The meeting provided some excellent opportunities for networking and sharing knowledge with experienced practitioners and people from other projects in similar areas, and from other partner countries. Two representatives were present at the meeting on January 29th and 30th 2018. Camylle Pernelle as the coordinator (UM) and Leolyn Jackson as co-coordinator (CUT).

During this meeting they met with the project officer in charge of the project. The regulations concerning ERASMUS+ Capacity Building projects were presented.



To be noted: the consortium has the possibility to change some of the activities planned in the application form of the project if they are deemed not relevant during the implementation and if the Consortium agrees with it. So this allow us to be much more flexible in terms of activities if we have to in the future to best fit the needs of the partners.

Another point that has been underlined during this meeting is the importance of buying the equipment as early as possible. During the next meeting in April 2018, the partners will decide on the kind of equipment that will be purchased.



Lauching of the Activities !

Internationalization rate questionnaire

This questionnaire was the first step to help us clearly define the issue faced by each partners and to draw some possible solutions from it.



All of the answers to the questionnaire have been gathered. The work package leaders, VGTU and CPUT, are currently working on a report that will be presented in the next meeting on the 12th and 13th of April in Cape Town.

Quality Assurance

TUB and UCT have been working on the documents that will allow us to monitor the quality of the involvement and outputs produced for every WP as well as the involvement of each partner. The Quality Charter will be presented and signed during the meeting in Cape Town.

Partnership Agreement

All of the fifteen partners signed the Partnership Agreement for the project YEBO ! engaging them to respect the regulation put in place by the EACEA. The first funding transfer will take place by the end of April.

Training Capacity

UG and TUT are currently working together to gather all the existing training that existed among all of the partners. The information will help us evaluate the training capacity of the partners and to see what is doable for the project in term of training. A focus has been made on training that concern these three fields :

- International visibility of PhD students research
- International relations offices & doctoral schools capacities
- Supervision of International PhD students



Coming up ...

Mapping of the Internationalization activity!

On the 12 and 13 April in Cape Peninsula University of Technology will take place the next meeting of the project. Fourteen partners are expected to be there. For this meeting several topics will be on the agenda.



AGENDA

On the 12th of April :

First, the results of the internationalization rate questionnaire will be presented. CPUT, VGTU and CUT will present the conclusions and trends observed for each region (European and South African).

UM will also present how the results were gathered internally and the issues faced since everyone struggled to gather all of the information required in the questionnaire. This discussion will allow a debate as to see how the international data can be better monitored and gathered by each institution.

A session will be dedicated to the equipment and the other one on the financial and administrative management. During them will be detailed : funding amount, EACEA regulations, explanation about the transfers and the supportive documents that will need to be provided.

On the 13th of April :

A work session co-led by CUT on the PhD Portal is planned. This will be the occasion to define what already exists and work on the content and structure of the platform.

Most of the time for this 2nd day will be dedicated to the training sessions and conferences. The format that these activities take will be established, as well as their subjects. First list of experts to contact will be drawn.

Finally the meeting will end on a talk about the Quality Assurance. The documents who will help monitor the quality of partners' participation will be discussed and at the end of this session the quality charter will be signed.

