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Kick-off Meeting Report

Milestone 3

Erasmus+ Capacity Building
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Work package 2 – Need Analysis and Mission Sharing

Saarland University (COO)
Bettina.Jochum@uni-saarland.de

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1. Introduction

Within Work Package 2 of the CHAIIn project, a Kick-off Meeting (KoM) has been conducted on 22nd and 23rd of April 2024 at Saarland University. The KoM aims to discuss different internationalisation strategies and models, facilitate peer learning, and create leadership within CHAIIn Cambodian Higher Education Institutions' top management staff. The top management of all partners exchanged their experiences of initial findings and constraints between EU and Cambodia, transfer of good practices and innovative ideas on how to incorporate international relations as an integral part of institutional strategy and policy.

Representatives from the European Commission EACEA and the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD presented the expectations of the Erasmus+ CBHE program.

2. Participant identification

	Name and Surname	Position	Institution
1	Mario Guilló	Senior Project Manager & Communication Specialist	UA
2	Juan Llopis Taverner	Director of Institutional Relations and Projects	UA
3	Soy Ty	Deputy Director General of ITC	ITC
4	Pichmony Ek	Deputy Director of Graduate School of ITC	ITC
5	Soda Ly	Secretary of Research and Innovation Center of ITC	ITC
6	Kolap Tep	Rector	PPIU
7	Ravikun Ky	Vice-Rector for International Relations	PPIU

8	Kona Chhin	Dean, Faculty of Education Science	PPIU
9	Sothy Mean	President	USEA
10	Reaksmey Jiv	Vice-President for Administration, Finance and Planning	USEA
11	Sothan Yoeung	Vice-President in charge of Graduate School	USEA
12	Thavrak Huon	Vice Rector	RUA
13	Thira Pinn	Head of Planning and International Cooperation	RUA
14	Rasmey Soeung	Staff of Planning and International Cooperation	RUA
15	Bunlay Nith	Deputy Director General of Higher Education	MoEYS
16	Niya Sear	Deputy Head of Admission Office	MoEYS
17	Laurent Te	Chairman of the Board of Directors	WU
18	Rotana Kieng	President	WU

19	Alam Shamsul	Director Research & International Cooperation	WU
20	Peng Hor	Rector	NUM
21	Veara Kim	Director of ASEAN Economic Research Institute	NUM
22	Sokunthy Ly	Official at Center of Excellence	NUM
23	Malida Peng	Career Center Manager	NUM
24	Kanharith Nop	Associate Professor at the National University of Management	NUM
25	Johannes Abele	Head of IRO	USAAR
26	Bettina Jochum	Senior Project Manager	USAAR
27	Lisa Nicolay	Project Manager	USAAR
28	Lena König	Project Assistant	USAAR

3. Best Practices of Internationalisation of HE

In the table below, the different topics presented by representatives in different positions from different disciplines and different institutions during the Kick-off Meeting are shown. The speeches delivered interesting aspects regarding the Internationalisation of HE practices at USAAR and UA, which could also be observed and discussed during the Kick-off Meeting. Additionally, a welcome dinner at a restaurant and a campus tour provided an insight on networking in an more informal context and campus facilities and student life.

Topic	Lecturer
Welcome by Saarland University and University of Alicante	Prof. Dr. Ludger Santen, University President USAAR Prof. Dr. Juan Llopis, Director of Institutional Relations and Projects at UA
Capacity Building: What is in it for you?	Beate Körner, Carina Fazius, DAAD Dr. Mareike Fröhlich, Europa-Institut at USAAR
Internationalization Strategy – University of Alicante	Prof. Dr. Juan Llopis, Director of Institutional Relations and Projects at UA
Partner Presentations: Introduction to the partner universities and the status quo of their internationalization activities	ITC: Soy Ty, Deputy Director General of ITC NUM: Veara Kim, Director of ASEAN Economic Research Institute PPIU: Dr. Ravikun Ky, Vice-Rector for International Relations MoEYS: Dr. Bunlay Nith, Deputy Director General of Higher Education RUA: Rasmey Soeung, Staff of Planning and International Cooperation WU: Rotana Kieng, President USEA: Sothy Mean, President

Topic	Lecturer
The Role of EACEA	Emanuel Gerth, Project Officer at European Education and Culture Executive Agency
Saarland University's International Relations Office	Dr. Johannes Abele, Head of IRO at USAAR
Questionnaire of the Analysis	Mario Guillo Lopez, Senior Project Manager & Communication Specialist at UA
QA Plan and Evaluation Toolkit	Sothy Mean, President USEA

4. Learning outcomes

The partners received many examples of best practice from the internationalisation of European partners. Many ideas and suggestions were taken away from the areas of internationalisation strategy and the International Relations Office. At the same time, their own weaknesses were recognised and named. These are particularly evident in the areas of Human Recourses and Funding, but structural weaknesses were also identified. Answers from the Take Aways of the Day are summarised here.

Lessons learned from specific best practices; answers given by participants:

Internationalization Strategy

- *how to create an internationalization strategy*
- *Internationalization strategy at institutional level*

- *How to successful implement of Internationalization Strategy*
- *How do other partners and EU partners operate their internationalization activities*
- *Governance of internationalization activities*

International Relations Office

- *Strategic role of IROs*
- *Challenges and solution to improve IR at home institution*
- *How to write the Strategic Plan for IRO*
- *How to effectively run the IRO*
- *IRO functions and benefits*
- *How do other partners and EU partners operate their IRO*
- *Internal collaboration and external collaboration*

Student Mobility

- *Ideas to attract students and to showcase the university for internationalization*
- *Different services and supports to provide to students and faculties for exchange and mobility*
- *How to manage mobility of students both inbound and outbound*

Other:

- *HR for Internationalisation is very important*
- *Very engaging and productive in needs analysis questionnaires and quality plan*
- *Help me to increase the CBHE in the project*
- *Key actions of the EU projects*
- *How to promote university*
- *Budget and fund*

Main barriers/challenges to be implemented at home institution, answers given by participants:

Human resources and funds:

- *Lack of financial support in general*
- *Lack of financial support for internationalization*
- *In MoEYS, there's no specific funding to support staff*
- *Lack of human and financial resources*
- *No financial support from institution for student mobility, student mobility depends on Scholarship or Fund from the Government.*
- *Lack of human resources to provide the full services, supports and information for the mobilities*
- *Improve numbers of staff in IR*

- *Provide more capacity building for staff, especially IRO staff*
- *Lack of staff performed work for International Relation Office*
- *Lack of lectures in English*

Structural constraints:

- *Language barrier*
- *Quality of education and research*
- *Lack of clear structure*
- *No English taught classes*
- *No clear strategies and structure of international relation office*
- *Equipment and software for monitoring the data*
- *In MoEYS, no specific unit to take responsibility of HE internationalization*
- *Not enough Erasmus+ grants for Asian countries*

5. Conclusions

The Kick-off Meeting facilitated peer learning and created leadership at the strategic level for the top management of the CHAIN partners. By the exchange of initial insights, the partners created a basis for the development of institutional strategies on internationalisation. The meeting allowed the participants to share experiences and good practices with representatives of the European project partners -Saarland University and University of Alicante.

Moreover, the meeting promoted mutual understanding of the partners and their respective situations. All partners consider the meeting to be very useful as start to the project, for forming a team and mission sharing.

6. Annexes

There are two annexes.

ANNEX 1: Picture 1



ANNEX 2: Picture 2

