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PRINTeL Newsletter 4

**INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE-WORKSHOP
AT YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY (YSU)
*16-17 May 2019***

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TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE-WORKSHOP AT YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY (YSU) 16-17 MAY 2019



Within the frame of the ERASMUS+ PRINTeL project **“Change in Classroom: Promoting Innovative Teaching & Learning to Enhance Student Learning Experience in Eastern Partnership Countries”** a two-day international conference-workshop entitled **“Innovative teaching and learning in Higher Education Institutions”** took place in Yerevan State University (YSU) on 16-17 May, 2019. It was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the foundation of YSU.

More than 70 representatives of PRINTeL Project EU and PC partners participated in the event, the main purpose of which was to fine-tune the newly designed and tested Teacher Training (TT) courses and prepare them for further regular usage at Teaching Staff Development Centres (TSDCs) of the PC HEIs. The participants represented the universities of the Project's PC partners (National Polytechnic University of Armenia (NPUA), Vanadzor State University after H. Tumanyan (VSU) Ilia State



University (ISU), Georgian Technical University (GTU) and Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University (TeSaU), Belarusian State University (BSU), Brest State Technical University (BrSTU) and Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (YKSUG)) and EU partners (Universitat de Barcelona (UB), Universidade do Porto (U. Porto), Linkopings Universitet (LiU), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven) and FH Joanneum Gesellschaft mbH (FHJ)), as well as representatives from Yerevan State University, National Erasmus+ Office in Armenia (NEO) and National Center for Strategic Research in HE.

The choir of YSU Cultural Centre (artistic director-the RA Distinguished

Artist Karen Sargsyan, choir conductor- Ruben Karaseferyan) performed at the opening of the international conference-workshop. YSU Rector Aram Simonyan, the university vice-rectors, the heads of different departments, the deans, representatives of the teaching staff and students were present at the “Innovative Teaching and Learning” conference-workshop.

“PRINTeL” project is aimed at enhancing innovative teaching and learning methods in 9 Eastern Partnership higher education institutions (HEI) and introduction of new technologies of teaching. The partners of the project are a number



of leading universities of Georgia, Belarus, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Sweden and Austria.

“The cooperation with “PRINTeL” project being implemented within “ERASMUS+” program is one of the most successful ones for the university”, said the Rector.



The Rector informed that the project set 4 main tasks: to enhance Teacher Training courses, to develop innovative teaching skills, to create the virtual platform for teaching and learning and to promote innovative teaching.

“I can state that 1.5 years after the initiation of the project both our university and other HEIs participating in the project have got significant achievements”, stated the Mayor.

The YSU Vice-Rector on Academic Affairs Menua Soghomonyan greeted the participants of the conference, congratulated on the Centennial of

YSU foundation. The “PRINTeL” project coordinator, director of YSU Quality Assurance Centre Armen Budaghyan noted that the representatives of the HEI involved in the project gathered to work out new actions aimed at introduction of innovative methods of teaching.



The head of the National “ERASMUS+” Office in Armenia Lana Karlova noted that this project can succeed due to diligent work. She wished success to the participants of the program.

Professor of KU Leuven Wim Van Petegem claimed that their goal is to create innovative studies. He stated that one of the most important principles of the project is the correct use of new technologies in teaching and learning. Comfortable classrooms are to be provided for students not only in universities but at home as well to get distant education.



Professor Joan-Tomas Pujola from the University of Barcelona said that to get assistance in innovative teaching and studies students should use mobile phones and tabs.

training programs implemented by them.



Professor Maria Lopes Pinto from the University of Porto, the Deputy head Didacticum of Linkoping University Peter Dalenius, the Professor of the University of Applied Sciences of Graz Doris Kiendl presented the results of the

The representatives of the universities of Armenia, Georgia, Belarus also made reports. After plenary sessions the participants were engaged in five parallel group discussions on innovative and technology-enhanced active teaching and learning methods and instructional technologies.

The parallel sessions referred to the following topics: active learning with



the special focus on technology enhanced collaborative learning, active learning and ICT-enhanced teaching: m-learning and gamification, video as learning tool for teachers and students: video lecturing and promoting interaction in the classroom, active learning in the flipped classroom, hybrid/blended teaching and learning.

The local Armenian teachers and students also contributed to providing feedback on the delivered TT courses. Based on the findings of the Workshop as well as on the results of the post-training feedback evaluation surveys, the TT courses were finalised for further adoption and usage in partner universities. 66,1% of the participants were very satisfied with the conference-workshop, 30,6% of them were satisfied and 3,2% were quite satisfied with the conference-workshop. The general comments of the participants of the PRINTeL project were collected and registered. The average evaluation of the responses of the participants has brought

forward the following results: the majority of the individuals who expressed extended comments characterized the overall organization of the YSU International conference-workshop high-positively. The presentations and sessions were regarded by the participants with thorough interest. They found that a lot of information covering all the topics was presented during the conference-workshop and it was effectively covered in the agenda. The following suggestions and reflections from the participants were put forward: the presentations should be sent to participants, including the Management meeting presentation; the number of the presentations in plenary sessions should not be increased; the presentations should be more aim-specific; there should be a pre-set structure for parallel sessions activities in order to have compatible outcomes of the work of each work group, and innovative recommendations were not present in all the presentations.



**Tamar Kupreishvili,
Assistant Professor
Georgian Technical University
(GTU)**

*PRINTeL Project Yerevan Conference-
Workshop*

On 15-18th of May 2019 within the frame of the ERASMUS+ “Project #585760-EPP-1-2017-1-AM-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP/PRINTeL”, “Change in Classroom: Promoting Innovative Teaching & Learning to Enhance Student Learning Experience in Eastern Partnership Countries” the international conference-workshop entitled “Innovative teaching and learning in Higher Education Institutions” was held in Yerevan State

University (YSU, Armenia), where I participated too.

Other participants in this Conference-Workshop were PRINTeL Project EU and PC partners.

The main purpose of this international conference-workshop was to fine-tune redesigned and tested TT courses, to prepare them for our next regular using at TSDCs.

First, what I loved was the conference beginning which was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the foundation of Yerevan State University. Then, they took us to visit the museum of Sergei Parajanov.

After the conference meeting, the groups were divided in five parallel groups to continue working in their modules. Each of them represented their TT courses held by them at their national Universities, where there shared the knowledge of innovative pedagogy which they have gained from EU partners.

After the end of the second working day, the plenary sessions resumed and the participants shared with one



another the conclusions about the innovative pedagogy.

This busy work schedule included the cultural events too.

Konstantin Mulyarchik, Associate Professor Belarusian State University

My name is Konstantin Mulyarchik and I am an Associate Professor at the Belarusian State University.

Me and my colleagues have participated in the International Conference-Workshop within the Erasmus+ PRINTeL project that was held in Yerevan State University on May 16-17, 2019. It's been a great pleasure to meet colleagues from Partner Countries universities (Georgia, Armenia, Belarus) as well as from the European universities. During two days we have been given enough time to discuss our experience and challenges in promotion of active learning technologies in our countries. According to the joint opinion, conferences like the one in YSU are very effective to share the experience,

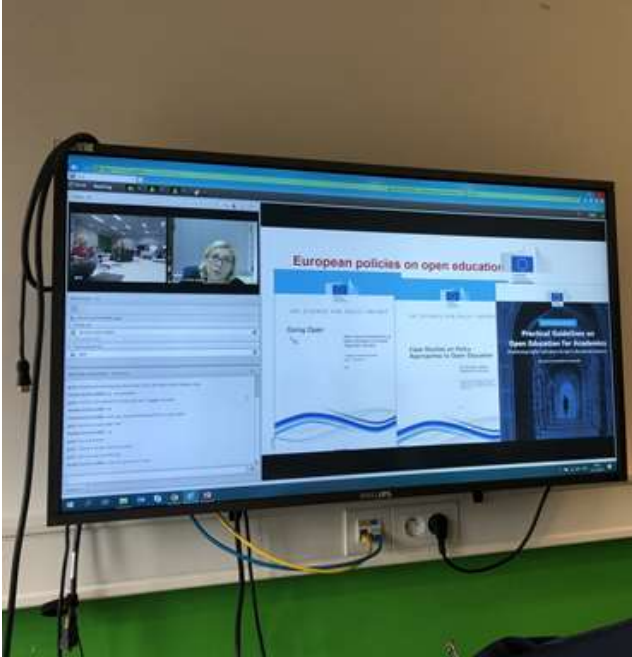
consolidate the feedback, decide and agree on the next actions within the project.

It will be great to participate in future in conferences like this.

News Letter #4

Training and Workshop on the Development of Open Educational Resources (OER) at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium

On October 15-17, 2019 the training and workshop on the Development of Open Educational Resources (OER) was held at the Catholic University of Leuven (KU Leuven) in Belgium. The training sessions and workshops conducted in the frame of ERASMUS+ PRINTeL project were organized at LIMEL (KU Leuven's Educational Video Producing Center).



The training sessions were guided by leading experts of the field under the supervision of Prof. Vim Van Petegem and Prof. Chris Van Keer.

Twenty nine representatives from nine partner universities of Armenia, Georgia and Belarus participated in the training and workshop.



The training sessions covered the following topics:

- What Open Educational Resources are;
- Why their use should be stimulated;
- Where Open Educational Resources can be found;
- How trainees can create and share their own Open Educational Resources;
- How these resources can be incorporated in the teaching and learning process;
- Tips for recoding high quality videos;
- Copyright issues – the rights of owners and the responsibilities of users.



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The aim of the training was to provide trainees with theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Participants were given a chance to work in a professional video recording studio and record their own knowledge clip.





Trainees' impressions after the training on the Development of Open Educational Resources (OER)

Elene Zhuravliova
Associate Professor
***School of Natural Sciences
and Medicine***
Iliia State University

In the frame of PRINTEL project, on 15th -17th October 2019, together with my colleagues I have visited the University of Leuven and participated in training dedicated to production and correct use of Open Educational Resources (OER). The qualified trainers shared their experience about academic fairness policy in OER: licenses, copyright, etc. They postulated main principles

for constructing MOOCs and other OERs: selection of reading material, relevant assessment forms, giving feedback and other. We have discussed challenges of OER learning based on the best examples of leading Universities. To improve our practical skills and stimulate our activity trainers proposed us to prepare short educational video. This team work included selection of topic for clip, writing clear script, recording video in the professional studio. Presentation of recorded clip was followed by wide discussion with trainers and other participants. All these stages as well as a training entirely, encouraged us for making Open Educational Resources for our University and transfer these knowledge and skills to our colleagues.



Tamar Magalashvili

Associate Professor

School of Business,

Technology and Education

Ilia State University

The training under umbrella of active learning and teaching expanded my knowledge in using videos during lecturing. The training helped me to gain information and improve skills for designing the whole process of developing the videos. The experience the trainers shared with trainees was valuable and fruitful for me. Theoretical as well as practical suggestions I received from trainers will help me to deliver training at my university. Also, I am ready to use chance to develop a knowledge clips and practice in using alternative medium to deliver lectures or combine them with other material to enrich my courses.

Information about using MOOCs and rules of licensing was very useful and on time for me. I will take into

consideration the suggestions and hints I got during the trainings.

Classroom physical environment, technical support, welcoming trainers and colleagues made training dynamic, informative, active and pleasant.

Giga Khositashvili

Deputy Library Director / Full-time Lecturer

School of Arts and Sciences

Ilia State University

On 15th -17th October 2019, I had the privilege to visit University of Leuven under the PRINTEL project. The training course was dedicated to the creation of Open Educational Resources. During our visit, we were explained the theoretical foundation of the open access, broadly discussed the varieties within the copyright. The training also devoted some time to designing the MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses), that are seen as the best example of open educational resources. After sharing ideas about



the MOOCs in general, the trainers also presented the content elements, such as activities, reading materials in different format as well as the assessment methods. Finally, after the theoretical part trainees were able to practice in specially equipped studio and capture very short video lecture. These three-days training opened a new window, with lots of opportunities that can be implemented at our home universities to enhance the teaching and learning processes. E-tools that are freely accessible nowadays, can be integrated into our classes on a daily basis, to support the students' engagement and guarantee better outcomes.

GTU Team: Assoc. Prof. Boris Gitolendia, Assoc. Prof. Natia Kochladze and Assist. Prof. Darejan Tsutskiridze

On 15 – 17 October, 2019 at KU Leuven (Belgium) was conducted ToT course on the Development of Open Educational Resources (OER) within Erasmus+ PRINTeL project. 3 GTU representatives: Assoc. Prof. Boris Gitolendia, Assoc. Prof. Natia Kochladze and Assist. Prof. Darejan Tsutskiridze participated in ToT training course.

The main topic of the training was how to create and develop OER based on KU Leuven experience. We have received answers about the meaning of OER, why should we use them, how can we incorporate them into daily practice, about the skills needed to access and use OER to develop appropriate teaching materials. We had a possibility to prepare short video



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in specially equipped studio at LIMEL ourselves.

Quite intensive training schedule included various activities: interactive session in webinar format, lectures, group works, training, practical works.

We'd like to note that the topics covered by the training were very interesting and new for us, providing important recommendations for future activities. We've acquired new skills in OER with the ability to apply them in our practice, to share newly gained knowledge and experience to our colleagues thus promote innovative pedagogic elements in GTU.



ERASMUS + Project “Change in Classroom: Promoting Innovative Teaching and Learning to Enhance Student Learning Experience in Eastern Partnership Countries” - PRINTeL

Dissemination Conference

“ACTIVE AND TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING: CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES”

The conference took place at Ilia State University (Tbilisi, Georgia), November 13-14. Meeting was opened by Giga Zedania (Rector of Ilia State University), Lika Glonti 9 (Head of the National Erasmus+ Office, Georgia) and Ketevan Darakhvelidze (Head of Development Office, ISU). After,



Armen Budaghyan (PRINTeL Project Coordinator - YSU) Introduced the Conference Workshop.

The first day of Conference included 5 Plenary sessions, Chair opened each plenary session, introduced frame of session and briefly reviewed discussing issues. Moderators made presentation about TOT, experience of facilitation of studied methods at home universities, recent activities, challenges, problems and ways of problem solving.



After presentations, chair summarized presentations and opened discussion:

Plenary session 1: Chair - Sandra Meier (Lecturer and Project Manager – FHJ) Hybrid/Blended Teaching & Learning - Key Challenges and Solutions Moderators: Anna Alexanian (Associated Professor, YSU), Tamar Mikeladze (Associated Professor, Tesau);



Plenary session 2: Chair –Aleksandre Ergeshidze (Associate Professor, ISU) Video as a Learning tool for teachers & students: Video Lecturing & promoting Interaction in the Classroom - Key Challenges and Solutions. Moderators:

SviatlanaHanchar (Head of Department of Foreign Languages, YKSUG), Dali Sekhniashvili (Ass. Prof. Faculty of Engineering, Economics, Media, Technology and Social Sciences, GTU Technology and Social Sciences/DepartmentGTU);





Plenary Session 3: Chair - Chris van Keer (Professor, KU Leuven) Active Learning with special focus on Technology Enhanced Collaborative Learning Moderators: Konstantin Mulyarchik (Associate Professor, BSU), Tamari Kupreishvili (Lecturer at the Department of Political and International Relations , GTU);

Science, BrSTU), Tamar Magalashvili (Associate Professor, ISU).



Plenary Session 4: Chair - Gunvor Larsson Torstendsdotter (Head of Didacticum, LiU) Active Learning in the Flipped Classroom Moderators: Menua Soghomonyan (Associated Professor, YSU), Levan Tsagareli (Professor – ISU);

The Second day was dedicated to the Training Outcomes from Trained Faculty Members and students Perspective (Moderators: Giga Khositashvili (Invited Lecturer, ISU), Arusyak Abrahamyan (Assistant Professor, NPUA) and to the Open Discussion TSDC Experience (10 minutes per EU partner) Presentators: EU Participants Moderator: Elene Zhuravliova (ISU).

Plenary Session 5: Chair – Joan-Tomas Pujola (Tenured University Lecturer – UB) Active learning & ICT-enhanced teaching: M-learning & gamification. Moderators: Tatsiana Lisouskaya (Head of Department of Humanitarian

The Academic Staff and Students from partner universities evaluated the effectiveness of the trainings held the frame of Project. The achievements and challenges of the meeting were also discussed. The models of training centers in the partner universities and practical experience were shared.



Impressions after the PRINTeL Dissemination Conference:

Natalya Sayanova (Tumilovich)
BSU

The conference provided useful feedback, which helped to evaluate the results of the trainings and their implementation in the educational process, and revealed the difficulties that academic staff faced. The speeches of the moderators were logical, reasonable, aroused the interest of the audience and provoked additional questions.

In my opinion, the plus in the organizational aspect was the participation of students, who are interested themselves in the use of innovative technologies in the learning process.

Such events allow you to share experience, use the achievements of colleagues, take into account the specifics of the introduction of new forms

and methods, taking into account the speciality and the university.



Konstantin Mulyarchick
BSU

Another PRINTeL dissemination conference took place in Tbilisi on November 13-14, 2019. During this conference we have been presented the experience from PC universities on application of active learning methods in the teaching practice. During the plenary session and panel discussions it was very important to hear that what have been studied and discussed actually finds its real application and helps make the classes better as evidenced by the fact that



teachers and professors come across various challenges. One of the core takeaways for me from the conference was the idea that PC universities realities must be considered while adopting active learning techniques.



Svetlana Hanchar
Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno

It was an amazing experience to meet your wonderful country, new people, who are really devoted to what they do, and of course sharing teaching experience is the greatest and the most important part of the

conference as well as of the PRINTeL in general.



Natasha Manturova
BSU

It provided useful feedback and helped to evaluate the results of the trainings and their implementation, revealed the problems faced by teaching staff. Moderators' speeches were logical, reasonable and interesting to the audience. Students who took part in the conference shared their opinions about using innovative technologies in the learning process. This feedback is very useful in improving of teaching process. Such kind of events give



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opportunity to discuss achievements and problems with colleagues, to share your own experience, to establish contacts and to collaborate.