

ERASMove -

Moving Forward on Social Sciences and Humanities

REPORT MEETING IN METSOVO AT THE INVITATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA

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ERASMove - Presentation

ERASMove European University, based on the European Alliance on Sustainable Mobility – ERASMove – is a transnational and inclusive joint university that will contribute to the social and economic transformation of mobility in Europe by raising awareness on Sustainable Mobility, developing interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral strategies as well as providing recommendations to stakeholders at all levels.

The consortium aims at creating a European multilingual inter-campus university boosting mobility among students and staff, to enhance students' employability and promote cross-sectoral cooperation in all training, research and innovation activities.

This includes new forms of flexible short-term mobility for students and staff, new forms of learning in distance and soft skills educational packages that are easy to diffuse among partner universities. By 2025, ERASMove also aims at creating a major international centre of multidisciplinary expertise (in health, engineering and technology, social sciences, law and economics...) on sustainable mobility, through joint multidisciplinary research labs fostering socio-economic experimentations.

ERASMove - Presentation

It is in this context that a meeting between five of the seven universities of the alliance (University Clermont Auvergne, University of Ioannina, University Ovidius din Constanta, OTH Regensburg, and Western Norway University of Applied Sciences) took place in Metsovo, Greece, on April 25 and 26, 2023, at the invitation of the University of Ioannina. The different roundtables that were organized and the very fruitful discussions that took place had a common objective: the brainstorming and the emergence of concrete projects both in the field of teaching and research on the topic of sustainable mobility from a social sciences perspective.

The implementation of short-term projects is indeed decisive for the success of the European project as it will show that the collaboration between the consortium members is already a reality. Blended Intensive Programs, Summer Schools or COIL projects are therefore particularly important. In the same way, the longer term projects are the confirmation that our consortium is looking and is moving forward to a common future based on close collaborations.

MORNING MEETINGS

FIRST ROUNDTABLE - LEGAL MATTERS

A discussion was initiated on the **legal obstacles** that can be encountered in the creation of joint projects, notably the creation of double degrees, partnerships, university alliances or summer universities.

It was agreed that the different delegations would draw up a **comparative table** to establish the functioning of the different existing university models. The template for this comparative table will be prepared by Ovidius University of Constanta. It would include the duration and organization of studies (bachelor's, master's, doctorate) as well as the different existing degrees and their ECTS credits.

A proposal for short term mobility was discussed. Each university would finance the mobility of its students and this would allow a first mobility in order to reinforce the creation of the ERASMove alliance. This exchange would concern both the students of the partner universities and their teachers. Also the new Erasmus+ program, known as BIP (Blended Intensive Mobility) was mentioned as a possible tool to support short term mobilities.

The discussion then evolved towards the proposal of a **common master** between the different universities, and the possible obstacles, including the accreditation system.

The Greek partners shared their experience of the Multiple Higher Educational Institutions - Masters in Entrepreneurship (MHEI-ME), co-funded by the Erasmus+ Program and also the SUNBEAM project which is a tool for students, researchers, academic and administrative staff from the Western Balkans to visit one of the EU partner universities.

A sharing of educational paths could be a first step towards mobility and the strengthening of the alliance. The use of funding for visiting professors is also an option to consider as a first step towards mobility.

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The major project that emerged from this discussion is **that of an inter-institutional PhD in the field of mobility**. The PhD remains more flexible in terms of legal implementation and would enable a higher level of student mobility. If this system operates, it could then be extended to bachelor and master students. The question of the language of the PhD was however debated since the French delegation put forward the fact that the PhD had to be in French, which could jeopardize the collaboration.

Moreover, a **project of a joint PhD** emerged between Professors Desmichel and Zoubouli, from the University of Clermont Auvergne and the University of Ioannina on the theme of representations of Greece in postcards and sound archives from the 1960s-1970s.

The Greek colleagues mentioned an open call for PhD Candidates providing financial support. The French colleague also added that AUF (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie) could also be asked for financial help.

If the inter-institutional doctorate is not set up directly, **the implementation of a blended intensive program on mobility** was accepted by the different partners to start the collaboration. This would allow, among other things, the implementation of distance learning courses between the different universities, which would entail far fewer legal problems.

As a conclusion, to help visualize more easily the different legal obstacles (in particular the duration of the implementation of projects, the obligations at the state level such as language, credits, etc.), the creation of this common comparative table will allow a **real progress** in order to identify the crucial points to be discussed in order to further the collaboration.

SECOND ROUNDTABLE - HUMAN CAPITAL/MIGRATION

During the discussions on the theme of "migration/human capital", internal and external migration as well as the different factors related to it (studies, family, work...) were evoked. A debate also emerged on issues such as the loss of information once people emigrate. Finally, an exchange took place on the problems linked to the integration of people who immigrate in a new territory.

Overall, three projects emerged.

1) The proposal to join the project on migration of Polyxeni PAGGE (University of Ioannina)

The project of Mrs. PAGGE, the Dean of the school of education is related to the professional integration of migrants in Greek structures.

This project aims at valuing the acquired skills and competences and at evaluating them in order to allow the migrants a better professional integration. Some members of the UCA delegation are interested in this subject, notably the laboratory of CERDI (Centre d'études et de recherches sur le développement international) which also works on international migration issues.

2) Proposal for a master's degree in migration

The project resulting from the roundtable hosted by Professor Athanasios Stavrakoudis consists of an **Erasmus Mundus joint master's degree that would bring together the five universities** (UCA, UOI, OU, HVL, OTH Regensburg).

It would be a **hybrid master** in face-to-face and distance learning where students could choose their specialization and the university in which they want to go. Here are the questions to consider first :

- Objectives and employability

The first aspect underlined was the insertion of students. A Master's degree, yes, but why? What kind of integration afterwards?

Moreover, the attractiveness of the Master's program depends on the legibility of the fields open to it. Thus, it seemed important that the student should be able to choose a specialty, while having a common core

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- Fields of specialization

Topic	University
European and international law	UCA / Western Norway University / Regensburg University
Social Work (Integration agents and social workers)	Constanta / UOI
Arts, Literature, Physiology and History	All members
Economics	Constanta / UCA / UOI / Regensburg
Education	UOI / Constanta

- Format

→ **First year of the master's degree** (S1+ S2) in the country of registration with courses provided by all members (online, hybrid)

→ **Second year of the master's degree** (S3) Mobility according to the specialization desired by the student

→ **End of the second year** (S4) : Internship + Thesis

If the student chooses the specialization proposed by his or her university of registration, the internship must be done in one of the partner countries.

DAY 1

This discussion has brought to light a series of questions that are still open (possibility of financing on line/hybrid courses? Horizon of implementation? Mutualizations?)

Discussions also took place following this proposal, notably on **funding issues**, the **specificities** of this master's offer and how it could be distinguished from others, the accreditation of credits, and the legal aspects for this type of offer. Marie-Elisabeth Baudoin highlighted the importance for the students to **meet together on-site** during the first year of their program.

3) Research project on migrations

Within the second group, a research project on migrations was discussed based on the experience and needs from colleagues at the University of Constanta (Prof. Laura GIURGIU) regarding recent Ukrainian refugees and their integration through market places and social educational measures. Topics related to citizens awareness and acceptance, social work services, legal support, and intercultural skills, and crisis support experiences (psychological, support for trauma...) were also discussed.

The mobilization of various statistical databases and their mapping via digital applications could also give rise to **shared work between different researchers**, or even the organization of summer schools.

The project could be both on research, on capacity building (need for best practices dissemination on the topic of refugees), student mobility and training, short post graduated mobility, joint curriculum in the European context for students and specialists. Several **funding opportunities** or initiatives were identified that could be related to this project, (national funding, EU specific funding for refugees -see Erasmus Mundus) and in particular a Horizon Europe call in 2023 under the Cluster 2 with the open topic "Bridging the migration research to policy gap".

This 2023 call is now closed and selected consortium will be known in July. It could be an opportunity to contact the consortium and learn more on the project activities and partners (and if relevant ask to become an associated partner). The intent is also to share this project idea with all participants of our event to have a EU-wide perspective, and think about a dedicated online platform in different languages.

AFTERNOON MEETINGS

FIRST ROUNDTABLE - HISTORY/ARCHAEOLOGY

The discussion started with the presentation by Christos Stravakos, professor at the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Ioannina, of a project of an **application/software** that would allow visitors of tourist sites to scan different monuments. Once the monument is scanned, a historical presentation would be displayed to allow the development of the knowledge of the different visitors. This application is at the project stage and the different researchers are at the epigraphy level.

Professor Laurent Rieutort of the University of Clermont Auvergne transposed this discussion by presenting the research work carried out within the “Maison des Sciences de l'Homme” on the identification and reconstruction of landscape forms in the mountains, in connection with pastorals mobility, for which the use of a similar application would allow the mobility of knowledge.

These two projects were the starting point for the discussion on the theme of history and archaeology. Mobility in the literal sense was not mentioned in this discussion. Instead, the **mobility of knowledge and ideas was emphasized**.

Professor Maria Zoubouli from the University of Ioannina notably put forward the need to **reconnect with materiality** and the roots in a dematerialized era.

The central point of this discussion was **to establish history through new technologies**.

The question of memory and transmission were notably evoked. The comparison between Greece and France seems to show that in France the past is put forward and more protected from tourism as well as thought with “more affection” according to the terms of professor Zoubouli. A real will to modernize the discipline in order to be able to spread the different knowledge to the students of the universities present as well as to the academics throughout the world was underlined and put forward.

DAY 1

A link with the theme of digital humanities has been established to strengthen the transmission.

Stéphanie Maillot, lecturer at the University of Clermont Auvergne in the Department of History, in agreement with Elias KOULAKIOTIS (Ass. Professor of the Dept. of History & Archeology, Ioannina) and Maria ZOUBOULI (Ass. Professor of the Dept. of Music Studies, Ioannina), is proposing a **workshop**, in the spring of 2024, at the MSH Clermont-Ferrand on the topic : *"Making the history of mobilities in the ancient and medieval worlds: historiographies, methodologies"*.

This meeting, which will bring together medievalists and antiquarians from the five partner universities, aims to reflect on the specificity of sources on mobility in the ancient worlds and the contribution of new technologies. It will also allow the formalization of mobility projects for students and teacher-researchers in the field of the sciences of antiquity.

SECOND ROUNDTABLE - PSYCHOLOGY/WELL-BEING

The proposal of a **Blended Intensive Program** and/or a **summer school** has emerged, with themes such as :

1. Migration
2. Transition in education
3. Epistemology & methodology
4. Crisis & adjustments
5. "Moves" in art

This proposal has been suggested in particular for colleagues from French and Greek universities. It was however mentioned that the offer is **extended** to all interested colleagues. It was agreed to exchange the guidelines and to further discuss these topics in order to establish the organization of these projects.

DAY 1

Possible side research project discussed between Evangelina Karagiannopoulou and Mathieu Leporini on topics related to taking in knowledge from experts, sharing, generalizing experiences and integration processes in the context of crisis.

These issues can be associated to sustainability and environmental challenges (epistemic trust to experts, rise of conspiracy theories in the years of the Covid pandemic and climate change). Mathieu Leporini will inform Evangelina of the results of a submitted Horizon Europe project on higher education and sustainability science where part of the research activities from the 2 expected postdocs could contribute to this topic. Another new postdoc from University of Ioannina could be open on this project (jointly with Dr Panoraia Andriopoulou).

THIRD ROUNDTABLE - DIGITAL HUMANITIES

The University of Clermont Auvergne presented its **Graduate School** and more precisely their **Graduate Track** on the digital revolution through the prism of humanities and social sciences.

They exchanged on practices related to the theme, such as the possibility of using virtual reality in language courses.

The University of Ovidius mentioned its preoccupation with the ethical issues related to digital humanities. The UOI is also involved in issues such as archives, ICT tools for entrepreneurs, doctors, or the possibility of summer schools on ICT.

The University of Clermont Auvergne works on several aspects in their laboratories:

- *How to use social media in order to learn a language*
- *How to use new technology and recreate tools in order to help the teaching training*

Following this, the idea of creating a **shared map emerged**. This would allow us to share our offerings and allow more opportunities in both teaching and research.

The idea of summer schools also emerged. Géraldine Rix Lièvre has already created a **shared space** where all people can share their ideas and proposals.

MORNING MEETINGS

FIRST ROUNDTABLE - ARTS/ARCHITECTURE

A concern was raised around **terminology**. Indeed, the word culture does not mean the same thing in French and in Greek for example. In French it includes all the arts but also history, architecture, literature, etc.; in Greek it is rather the term Politismos which is used.

The members of the group have very quickly wondered about the notion of cultural spaces (in the French sense of the term) for the public. What definition, what spaces, what practices, what link with the society in each country?

In terms of proposal, it is proposed to develop a project around the **E-Co-SPACES cultural spaces** in three sessions in France, Norway and Greece of one week with teachers (possibly students through summer schools or mobilities) with financial support from Erasmus for teaching and training.

In France, this project could be linked to the application of the city of Clermont-Ferrand as European Capital of Culture for 2028. A contact with the mayor of the city could be taken shortly to see if our scientific project could be included in the candidature file and how to include the city and the metropolis in our project.

At the second roundtable on this topic, the group discussed with the help of Esther Solomon as a moderator on a possible **collaborative project** (workshop, summer school and then research project) on "*The role of arts and cultural heritage in social change and sustainable transitions*" which could lead to papers but which also include artistic performances and practices in a specific cultural site (as a "Living Lab/Hub").

SECOND ROUNDTABLE - MULTILINGUAL STRATEGIES

During the roundtable on multilingual strategies, participants discussed the **key role** of this theme in the discussions and the importance of promoting it. However, the complexity of promoting multilingualism in the current context of the omnipresence of English in international partnerships should not be overlooked.

DAY 2

They then evoked various **existing** tools within their respective universities such as investments in humanitarian projects for the Romanian delegation or the concept of "learning in walking" for the French delegation, which consists in making students visit cultural places in the language of their host country.

The university delegations have thus worked together on **promotional tools** within the training programs and also on a potential **COIL** (collaborative online international learning) that could be set up.

However, its implementation can be complex since the uncertainty of student attendance has been underlined. Moreover, if short mobilities are considered in this framework, logistical problems (accommodation, administrative registrations, ...) could also challenge the relevance of this approach.

The different partners therefore agreed that it would be easier in the first instance to consider two options :

1) Internship mobilities

2) **Mobility of teachers** from the universities involved in the project, who are often more flexible and autonomous in their travels compared to student mobility

AFTERNOON MEETINGS

FIRST ROUNDTABLE - TEACHING/LEARNING

Numerous discussions around the theme "teaching/learning" took place during formal and informal exchanges, which continued beyond the round table. The latter led to **bilateral partnership** projects (for example joint supervision of theses, etc.).

The following themes were also mentioned : Learning from abroad or Learning and digital tools - learning from virtual situation (experience - feelings).

The E-Co-SPACES project previously mentioned during the Art/Architecture round table was again discussed during this round table.

SECOND ROUNDTABLE - SOCIAL INCLUSION

Laura Giurgiu, professor at the Faculty of Psychology and social work at Ovidius University of Constanta (Romania) presented a project for refugees/migrants.

They want to fulfill a need: **the creation of a student training** (in a joint curricula).

It would be a **post-graduate program** (in 3 or 6 months) which would allow to put forward the skills of Ukrainians for their integration. Migrants from other countries could also participate in this program.

Here are the steps of the project:

1) Research: gathering data in the field

→ The goal is to identify them and work on trauma resolution

→ They would like to gather the experiences of each country to compare them and work together on the subject.

2) Capacity building

3) Consortium

4) Online platform

→ A project in 5 different languages, that will be for the students.

This project was also mentioned during the roundtable on migration (research programme on migrations).

THIRD ROUNDTABLE - ECONOMY/REGIONAL CULTURE

The discussion with the moderation from Nikolaos Mylonidis focused on issues concerning the link between **culture and economy at the regional level**. It is well documented that culture plays a fundamental role in human life, while making a significant contribution to the economy. As such, the representatives from UCA, UoI and Ovidius University agreed that a fruitful avenue of joint research is the exploration of the **economic effects of social tourism** (as a means of mobility) and the mediating role of regional culture. In this context, a number of issues can be addressed, namely:

- **Social tourism and sustainable development**
- **Social tourism and circular economy**
- **The significance of regional cultural characteristics (e.g. local food systems)**
- **The role of indigenous populations and ethnic minorities**
- **The importance of storytelling as a tool of sharing travel experiences**
- **The impact of blending tourists and locals.**

The group of representatives agreed that the aforementioned (indicative) issues can provide the basis for common (interdisciplinary) projects, for **teaching mobility schemes and inter-cultural experience**. At the longer-run, a number of intensive programs, workshops and summer/winter schools can be initiated.

Marie-Elisabeth Baudoin also briefly presented and **shared a proposal** from two UCA colleagues (Fanny Platelle and Catherine Morgan-Proux) that was already submitted to the ERASMove Consortium on Stories of Mobility and Sustainability. Their project intends to stimulate engagement in the idea of sustainable mobility through storytelling and artistic representation.

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