[Grant Agreement Number 2016-3686/001-001]

[Project Name and Number: Development and Implementation of Social Dimension Strategies in Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina through Cross-Regional Peer-Learning – 574139-EPP-1-2016-1-AM-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP]

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

AGENDA

Site-visit to Armenian HEIs (AUA & YSAFA)
Date: 10-11 May 2017
Venue: AUA and YSAFA

Visiting partner: UoR – represented by Bridget Middlemas, Professor

Participants from YSAFA:

Mkrtich Ayvazyan – Vice-rector for Education and Science, INCLUSION Managament team member
Ruzanna Minasyan – Head of Teaching and Learning Methodological Unit, INCLUSION managament team member
Yelena Baytalyan – Senior Specialist at Teaching and Learning Methodological Unit, INCLUSION management team member
Yekaterina Kashina – Head of Academic Affairs, INCLUSION working team member
Lusine Shakhazizyan – Specialist at Registrar, INCLUSION working team member
Nune Minasyan – Head of Quality Assurance Center, , INCLUSION working team member
Mariam Hovhannisyan – Specialist ay QA Center, INCLUSION working team member
Stepan Gyulkhasyan – Head of Chair of Design
Hayk Payaslyan – Head of Chaier of Computer Graphics and Fashion Design
Varduhi Torozyan – student
Nana Gasparian – student
Hayk Danielyan – student
Armen Babertsyan – student
Mimi Zarookian – AUA representative
Mariam Galstyan – AUA representative

Brief Summary: *The visit aims at meeting with the representatives from Armenian HEIs by UoR team as part of WP1 implementation to discuss the fact-finding and the results of the surveys conducted by AUA and YSAFA. UoR will have a day visit to AUA on 10th of May to meet the staff, administration and the students of the university and one-day visit to YSAFA – 11th of May 2017 to meet the university staff, administration and students. The universities will also have opportunities to discuss on theavailable and required equipment for the disabled students.*

Day 2: 11.05.2017 **YEREVAN STATE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS (YSAFA)** **Address: Isahakyan 36, Yerevan, Armenia** **Main Building, 2nd floor, Meeting Hall**
OUTLINE: *The aim of the meeting at YSAFA is to present the project goals and objectives and activities focusing on the WP1 implementation and results to be achieved after the completion of the WP. The visit will also enable to discuss the results of the survey conducted among 50 students and 8 staff members from YSAFA and see the gaps and analyses for further developments relating to the underrepresented groups at YSAFA. The meeting will focus on the discussion of the resources and equipment available and requested by the university staff for the underrepresented students.*
REGISTRATION 11:30-12:00
Please read: INCLUSION goals and objectives, WP1 Workplan,

inclusi n

[Grant Agreement Number 2016-3686/001-001]

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

[Project Name and Number: Development and Implementation of Social Dimension Strategies in Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina through Cross-Regional Peer-Learning – 574139-EPP-1-2016-1-AM-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP]

SESSION	TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTED BY:
INTRODUCTION	**12:00-12:30**	Welcome to YSAFA	***Vice-rector for Education and Science***
		Presentation of the Project INCLUSION	***INCLUSION management team***
		Presentation of the aim of the meeting	***UoR staff***
Meeting with Students	**12:30-13:30**	Discusssion on the fact-finding and results of the survey (conducted by students)	***UoR staff, INCLUSION team at YSAFA and Students***
		Sum-up of the discussions and results of student survey	
13:30-14:30 LUNCH			
Meeting with INCLUSION team, faculty and administration	**13:30-15:30**	Discusssion on the fact-finding and results of the survey (conducted by staff)	***UoR staff, INCLUSION team at YSAFA***
		Sum-up of the discussions and results of staff survey	
	15:30-15:45	Discussion on the resources available and needed for the underrepresented groups at the univeristy	
FINAL REMARKS 15:45-16:00 – OVERALL summary of two-day site visit			

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU ALL!!!

ANNEX 2 – Reporting Template for Site Visits (1.4.1.)

PCU where site visit took place	**YSAFA, Yerevan, Armenia**
Name of EU expert(s) conducting the visit	**Bridget Middlemas, University of Roehampton, London**
List of persons met during the site visit	**Participants from YSAFA:** **Mkrtich Ayvazyan – Vice-rector for Education and Science, INCLUSION Management team member** **Ruzanna Minasyan – Head of Teaching and Learning Methodological Unit, INCLUSION management team member** **Yelena Baytalyan – Senior Specialist at Teaching and Learning Methodological Unit, INCLUSION management team member** **Yekaterina Kashina – Head of Academic Affairs, INCLUSION working team member** **Lusine Shakhazizyan – Specialist at Registrar, INCLUSION working team member** **Nune Minasyan – Head of Quality Assurance Center, , INCLUSION working team member** **Mariam Hovhannisyan – Specialist at QA Center, INCLUSION working team member** **Stepan Gyulkhasyan – Head of the Chair of Design** **Hayk Payaslyan – Head of the Chair of Computer Graphics and Fashion Design** **Varduhi Torozyan – student** **Nana Gasparian – student** **Hayk Danielyan – student** **Armen Babertsyan – student** **Mimi Zarookian – AUA representative** **Mariam Galstyan – AUA representative**
Summary of main activities during the site visit	

	During the mission, the following activities were conducted:			
	SESSION	**TIME**	**TOPIC**	**PRESENTED BY:**
	INTRODUCTION	12:00-12:30	Welcome to YSAFA	Vice-rector for Education and Science
			Presentation of the Project INCLUSION	INCLUSION management team
			Presentation of the aim of the meeting	Bridget Middlemas
	Meeting with Students	12:30-13:30	Discussion on the fact-finding and results of the survey (conducted by students)	Bridget Middlemas, INCLUSION team at YSAFA and Students
			Sum-up of the discussions and results of student survey. Identification of any concerns / issues that students would like to raise.	
	13:30-14:30 LUNCH			
	Meeting with INCLUSION team, faculty and administration	13:30-15:30	Discusssion on the fact-finding and results of the survey (conducted by staff)	Bridget Middlemas, INCLUSION team at YSAFA

Main findings and recommendations from the site visit[1]	Please outline relevant findings/recommendations you may have in line with the guidelines elaborated for site visit meetings (ANNEX 1): **A. Findings/recommendations regarding underrepresented groups at the PCU:** • Nearly all of YSAFA's students come from just 2 or 3 schools in Armenia, due to the very specialist nature of the subject area (fine art and design). It would be good to see a wider range of schools / colleges involved in the admissions process, to ensure that more students with an interest in fine art / design are able to apply for places. • It would be good to have regular tutorial times for students, as some students noted that certain faculty were remote, difficult to contact and did not regularly use their email accounts. This aspect of the faculty role could be explored during the INCLUSION project, as better contact from faculty (regarding assignments or exams etc) would be of benefit to all students. • It would be useful to have one or two classrooms that were particularly accessible and well equipped for students, e.g. with full IT facilities and a hearing induction loop for students with impaired hearing. Some of the YSAFA buildings may be unsuitable for lifts / ramps due to their design / age, but a full review of teaching accommodation would be useful during the course of the INCLSUION project, with a view to future planning opportunities. **B. Findings/recommendations regarding roles and strategies of the PCU:** • It will be useful for YSAFA to review their admissions policy, to enable a wider range of students to attend the university. • Perhaps consider the way in which international students are supported in their learning of the Armenian langauge (e.g. provide a subject glossary / definitions of key terms). These issues were discussed at length in the PICASA project, which YSAFA participated in from 2013-2016, perhaps the INCLUSION team can involve these colleagues at some point in their discussions around inclusion / accessibility?

---

[1] This is the very essence of the report and should summarize all main findings in line with the topics identified in Annex 1.

	- A useful discussion took place around the possibility of buying suitable software / equipment for use with under-represented groups, and this will be discussed further at the June meeting at AUA.
	
	C. Findings/recommendations regarding specific measures to support students from underrepresented groups:
	
	- There are several faculty who do not use Powerpoint or any other form of software, but prefer to present verbally. This may disadvantage students who find it hard to take notes in class, or those with impaired hearing. It will also disadvantage any international students who are unfamiliar with the Armenian language. One student noted that "some faculty never give us a handout or do a PowerPoint, so some of us find it very difficult to concentrate for any length of time".
	
	- It will be useful for the university to consider implementing a virtual learning environment, such as WebCT / Blackboard / Moodle, to enable faculty to share handouts / reading lists / other learning resources. Faculty and students will need training and support for this to happen.
	
	- Students noted that some faculty are not willing to give very much advice or support when work is due in for assessment. A virtual learning environment, as noted above, may be a solution to this issue. One student noted that occasionally faculty are quite negative when students request support, and are not very patient when students are experiencing difficulties with their work.
	
	D. Findings/recommendations regarding capacity building/training needs:
	
	- It would be useful for all new faculty (and existing faculty) to undertake some training in *inclusive approaches to learning and teaching,* to ensure that all students have a fair chance of academic success during their time at the university. The INCLUSION project will be able to offer support and advice in this key area.
	
	- Development of IT systems and electronic resources will benefit all students, especially those with a disability and / or international students
	
	E. Findings regarding literature reviews:
	
	- The literature review provided a useful starting point for discussions with the group of students, especially around the topics of:
	
	    ▪ IT / e-learning
	
	    ▪ Learning styles / different ways of learning
	
	    ▪ Admissions procedures and marketing / publicity initiatives
	
	    ▪ Faculty training in inclusive and accessible approaches
	
	    ▪ Accessibility of teaching rooms / accommodation

Follow-up actions for EU experts based on findings and recommendations from the site visit (if any)	- Bridget to bring resources / information to the INCLUSION June AUA event regarding specialist software and equipment (e.g for students with disabilities) - Discuss with INCLUSION colleagues the need for guidelines for inclusive and accessible approaches to learning and teaching - Discuss with INCLUSION colleagues the need for inclusive practices to be fully reflected in institutional quality assurance systems and processes (e.g. on course

	evaluations by students)
Follow-up actions for PCUs based on findings and recommendations from the site visit (if any)	• None at the moment
Other comments (*if any*)	This was a useful and beneficial visit, and provided a good starting point for our INCLUSION discussions.
Attachment to report	PPP with presentation of main results from PCU and student surveys of your twinning partner in line with ANNEX I (GUIDELINES FOR MEETINGS WITH PCU STAFF/STUDENTS DURING SITE VISITS).
Submitted on	5.6.2017 Bridget Middlemas, University of Roehampton