



RE+ Ready for BUSiness - REBUS

Integrating and validating practical entrepreneurship skills in engineering and ICT studies

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WELCOME TO THE FIFTH REBUS PROJECT NEWSLETTER

We are happy to announce that the fifth Rebus Project Newsletter is now available! In this issue, you will find all recent updates about our project "RE+ Ready for BUSiness - REBUS; Integrating and validating practical entrepreneurship skills in engineering and ICT studies"!

REBUS project partners have had many activities and results in last six months. Click below to find more information regarding the project's progress, the fifth Steering Committee Meeting in Podgorica and sixth Steering Committee Meeting in Tirana, the main outcomes and project activities during last six months.

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THE SIXTH REBUS PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The sixth REBUS project Steering Committee meeting was hosted by European University of Tirana (EUT), in Tirana Albania during April 11-13, back to back to the International Conference “Albanian Studies Days 2019” and during the same week when EUT organized also International Fair.



SC meeting actually started with the study visit to Kruje on Thursday April 11, aiming to get familiar with the examples of developed private businesses (best entrepreneurship examples), so as specific cultural heritage of the hosting institution country. Two partners also participated in the International Fair for Cooperation and Exchange on April 10.



On Friday April 12 meeting started with the panel with the stakeholders, where the participants also included relevant representatives of the businesses and education, so as of the Albanian National Erasmus+ Office. The meeting was opened by Ermira Qosja and Ketrina Cabiri Mijo from EUT, after that REBUS project was briefly introduced by the project coordinator. Another presentation was given by Tim Scholze, who introduced the participants with the Level 5 competence validation system used in REBUS, so as the main reasons for targeting today competencies and not only knowledge. After that detailed discussion was developed, with participation of the most present stakeholders, most comments confirmed that the selection of REBUS objectives was made well and contributes to the better employability and self-employability of the graduates.

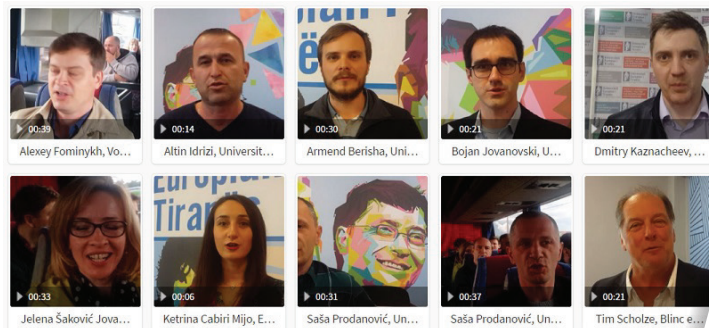
After that the targeted SC meeting started with the meeting agenda review and adoption. Branko Vucijak who was chairing the meeting reminded that the project entered into its last implementation period of half a year at maximum, and that the primary focus of the meeting will be on remaining tasks and eventual remaining challenges for successful completion of the project. The agenda was reviewing progress and incoming activities and still needed deliverables to be completed, discussed were work package by work package, led by respective representatives of the WP leaders.



One more time special attention was paid to ensuring the sustainability of the REBUS project results. The introduced blended learning approach continues being practiced at partners. Project case studies, as well as the e-learning approach, were very successful and as a consequence more entrepreneurship topics are and will be gradually introduced in order to keep the learning experience high for the students. Partners also draw the conclusion from their implementation of the REBUS programme, that they will use more e-learning in future learning programmes.



During the whole meeting it was stressed by several partners that they really enjoyed the project implementation and that they would very gladly participate in its continuation, if such proposal would be submitted. Some of the partners expressed also their willingness to write such application, if being supported by more experienced partners.



The same day, at evening session from 18 till 20 h REBUS partners participated in the international Conference "Albanian Studies Days 2019" panel named "The Knowledge Society: Diagnostics And Prognoses". One of the panelists was Tim Scholze, who presented the key concept targeted with the REBUS implementation at partner HEIs, with a presentation name "From Knowledge to Competences. Blended learning to support Competence Oriented Learning and Validation (in HE)". This presentation was very well accepted, both by other panelists and by the wide audience (the room was completely full during the panel).

On Saturday April 13 parallel sessions of the Conference were organized, with 5-8 paper per each of the sessions lasting 90 minutes. REBUS project was very well presented, five new papers were submitted to the conference by the REBUS project partners and presentations were delivered at special session noted with REBUS logo.



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NEW GENERATION OF REBUS STUDENTS

During autumn of 2018 new generation of REBUS students at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of University of Sarajevo started their development of entrepreneurial competencies, including blended learning with mentoring provided and developing own project. The process resulted with joint presentations and discussion over presented projects aiming development of new businesses in early March 2019.



Students practically used gained knowledge and skills in design thinking and project management, using project management tools, value analyses for innovation, desirability, feasibility and viability (economy) of ideas, where working in groups enabled also teamwork and communication competencies development..

The remaining task is supervised self and peer assessment of the targeted general entrepreneurship competency, resulting with provision of the individual Level5 certificates for students.

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LECTURING IN LILLE

REBUS project resulted with introducing new topics and courses into the curricula of partnering universities, some of them became attractive even outside of the REBUS partnership.



Prof. Vucijak from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of University of Sarajevo participated in the Teaching mobility within the Erasmus+ programme, visiting Université Catholique de Lille, France, where he lectured the course on Introduction to entrepreneurship and innovations management, which actually present teaching and exercise materials produced for the REBUS project. Students were from different countries, including Finland, Georgia, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Venezuela.

Students worked in multicultural groups on developing new business ideas and on innovations in higher education and validation and certification, showing high level of interest and very positive attitude to these topics.

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VISIT TO UES

In Early April 2019 students from Mechanical Engineering Faculty of University of Sarajevo, participating in the REBUS project, have visited their colleagues from University of East Sarajevo. Main aim of the visit was to make direct contacts that would contribute to the formerly established contacts over REBUS software platform, but also to discuss potential joint activities and project ideas. It was also a chance for the professors to exchange ideas and also hear students' proposals for improved competence building at students, advanced teaching tools to use in order to get highest level of entrepreneurship competencies at the graduates achieved.



At the same time meeting was also providing good environment to test achieved communication competencies at the students, so as their networking and teamwork competencies, targeted during the REBUS project implementation.

Visit passed in excellent cooperation atmosphere, students have shown results of the REBUS training programme and enjoyed the time spent together that passed very quickly. Next meetings and visits to both of the universities are agreed too.

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REBUS PROJECT

IS PRESENTED ON THE MONTENEGRIN PORTAL "NAUCNE NOVOSTI"

Rebus project is presented on the Montenegrin portal "Naucne novosti" (eng. "Science news"). Student of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Filip Pizurica who passed Rebus training course gave small interview about their experience on Rebus project. He also spoke about training course in Palermo and other benefits of their participation on Rebus project.



Detailed information you can find on following link:
<https://naucnenovosti.me/palermo-pretvaranje-ideja-u-akciju/>

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REBUS TEAM OF SIBSUTIS

REPORTED TO THE NOVOSIBIRSK CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

On the 11th of December, 2018, a seminar “Professional training of IT-specialists in the field of digital economics of Russia” was held at the Novosibirsk City Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The seminar was attended by representatives of the municipal administration, small, middle and large-sized business, members of the academic community of HEIs and colleges.

Various approaches to train specialists at higher and secondary educational institutions, which are able to understand multiple aspects of the digital economics, were suggested during the discussion.

On behalf of the Siberian State University of Telecommunications and Information Sciences Boris Kruk, Ekaterina Meteleva, Dmitry Kaznacheev and Sofya Plakidina presented a paper on “Forming of Entrepreneurial Competences of SibSUTIS Students within the framework of the European Erasmus+ Project «REBUS»”. They reported on the designing of the course “Digital Entrepreneurship” at SibSUTIS.

Of particular interest to the participants was the technology of self-assessment of entrepreneurial competence level through the LEVEL5 Validation System developed by the REBUS project.

The participants of the seminar highly valued the course “Digital Entrepreneurship”, noting its utility in forming specialists for digital economics. The University was encouraged to continue the designing and implementation of similar courses in order to develop entrepreneurial competences among students.



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REBUS GOES TO BERLIN

For nearly a decade the world of eLearning meets in Berlin in the first weeks of December. The Online EDUCA Berlin (OEB) is one of the largest fairs for technology supported learning.

This year REBUS was presented in the framework of the REVEAL network stand organised by blinc together with the German Institute of Adult Education.

For three days there have been intensive talks, explanations and discussions.

International experts, especially from international universities and HE institutes highlighted the innovative training approach and the competence oriented learning and validation within REBUS.

There have been a number of serious contacts and requests for collaboration and networking.



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THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES:

REBUS PROJECT AND CONFERENCE ON MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS (COMETA)

During November 27-30 REBUS project partner Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of East Sarajevo, organized its fourth International Conference named "Conference on Mechanical Engineering Technologies and Applications" or COMETA 2018, which main task is increasing the competitiveness of the economy in the region. Conference aims to contribute to the implementation of new technologies in production processes through the implementation of better cooperation between research institutions and businesses and facilitate the application of research results displayed by papers which will be published during the Conference.

Conference Proceedings included even 112 papers of authors coming from 12 different countries. Six of these papers were submitted by representatives of REBUS project partners, and there were discussed at the sessions moderated by the REBUS project coordinator prof. Vučijak, together with other papers having similar focus. After the sessions additional Workshop: REBUS - Development of Entrepreneurial Competencies in the Higher Education was organized and also moderated by prof. Vučijak, with representatives of both HEIs and businesses.

During the workshop key messages of the REBUS project were disseminated, participants were introduced with the achieved results, but also discussed still unresolved issues like tools for building students' attitude as one of the competence axes, or introducing topics considered as not being engineering ones (as example communication skills) into the curricula of engineering and ICT studies. New ideas were discussed and high level of consensus was achieved that the REBUS project focuses to really existing gaps in graduates' competencies.

Since the Conference had quite a large number of participants, this was also a good opportunity to organize a National info day – for this purpose special stand was made, with two students providing information on the REBUS project and also delivering promotional gadgets (notes, pencils, leaflets). They were supported by prof. Orašanin from Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of East Sarajevo and with prof. Vučijak for provision of more detailed information on the REBUS project, in combination with the formerly mentioned workshop results of these dissemination activities were fully adequate.



THE FIFTH REBUS PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

AND FOLLOW UP MEETING, PODGORICA

The fifth REBUS project Steering Committee meeting was hosted by University of Montenegro in Podgorica, during November 7-9. Back to back, the follow up event was organized, aiming to evaluate results of piloting activities implemented and lessons learnt in the national implementations of REBUS: highlights, implementation challenges and future perspectives. Partners' feedback was assessed and joint evaluation on key aspects of the REBUS programme was made, relating to its content (is it adequate, useful, complete), methodology (what worked well, what didn't, what could partners learn from each other), project prepared online resources (have they been used and at what extent, what still needs to be done), so as on sustainability (REBUS integration at partner universities).



The Steering Committee meeting started immediately after follow up event ended, main target was to clarify all remaining tasks and to mitigate or minimize eventual risks. Students' visit to EU universities, implemented during September 2018 with visits to Essen, Graz and Palermo, were evaluated and found to be highlights of the programme, with very high results and with boosting students' enthusiasm. Nevertheless, it would be hard to achieve sustainability of post-project implementation of similar visits, so alternative modes for joint work of students from different universities, developing thus their intercultural competencies and upgrading their attitude and commitment, will be addressed.

Work Package leaders also presented clear instructions for all partners on remaining tasks and individual responsibilities till the end of the project, underlining tasks in next 3-4 months. Next Steering Committee meeting was agreed to be organized in Tirana, in April 2018 (date still to be decided, to avoid several holiday periods in partner countries during April or eventually May), back-to-back with the International Conference hosted by European University of Tirana, where REBUS will have own presentation too.



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SELF ASSESSMENT

PROCESS AND LEVEL 5 CERTIFICATES FOR 13 STUDENTS OF UET

On November 21, at the premises of #InnovationLab of the @European University of Tirana participants of the #Graz study trip finalized their self assessment process of competences developed during the study trip, earlier this September. The Innovation Lab is established under the Rebus project, funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the EU and its main purpose is to be used by the students for their innovative ideas. 13 students of UET who visited FH Joanneum in Graz will receive their certificates from Level 5.



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GOING TO GERMANY

IN SEEK OF CREATIVITY

Vuzovsky Vestnik, the Russian federal newspaper on higher education (online and printed publication) has published a report on study visit of Volga Tech Masters' degree students to University of Duisburg-Essen within the Rebus project (No. 18 (305), September 16-30, 2018).

The text entitled "Going to Germany in seek of creativity" reflects upon students' impressions on their first international mobility and intercultural experience.

Students tell about innovative training approaches within the Rebus project, and their intensions to implement new ideas in their academic and future professional careers.



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