



TEMPUS PROJECT- 517200-1-2011-1-BE-TEMPUS-SMGR

A REPORT REGARDING THE RETRAINING WEEK IN PORTUGAL

Period: from November 10th to November 16th

Location: Porto, Vila do Conde

Campuses: ESE, ISEP, ISCAP, ESEIG

Purpose: retraining within the Tempus-ECBAC project

Domains:

- ⌘ International cooperation
- ⌘ Quality assurance
- ⌘ Student services
- ⌘ IT service

Retraining team:

1. Aleksandra Boričić (The School of Higher Technical Professional Education Niš – international cooperation)
2. Sanja Kovačević (College of Professional Studies for Pre-School Teachers Pirot – international cooperation)
3. Nikola Stolić (College of Agriculture and Food Technology Prokuplje – quality assurance)
4. Djordje Miltenović (College of Textiles Leskovac – quality assurance)
5. Milan Sretenović (College of Health Studies in Čuprija – student services)
6. Zoran Vasić (Preschool Teacher Training College Kruševac – student services)

- 7.Mladen Nikolić (Chemical Technology College of Professional Studies in Kruševac – IT service)
- 8.Goran Petković (College of Applied Professional Studies in Vranje – IT service)
- 9.Dragica Jovanović (Railway College of Applied Studies in Belgrade – IT service)
- 10.Ljubica Diković (College of Business and Technical Studies in Užice – international cooperation)
11. Igor Fürstner (College of Applied Technical Studies in Subotica – student service)

The representatives of the eleven aforementioned colleges participating in the Tempus-ECBAC project departed for Portugal on Sunday, November 10th at 6.15 hours from Belgrade airport, on which they landed again the following Saturday, November 16th at 19:30 hours.

The retraining was organised within the period of five weekdays, from Monday, November 11th to Friday, November 16th 2013.

DAY ONE

On the first day the members of the Serbian delegation started with their joint retraining in Porto, in the Central Services building located within the ESE campus (Escola Superior de Educação) of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto. The programme of the first day lasted from 9 o'clock in the morning to 16.30 in the afternoon.

The members of the Serbian team were welcomed by the hosts Monica Vieira and Cristina Pinto da Silva. Ms Monica introduced us to the retraining agenda and started immediately with the first item of the programme.

Namely, Ms Pinto da Silva presented us briefly with the history of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto and its development from seven separate colleges to the Polytechnic Institute which encompasses various study programmes including accounting and administration, engineering, allied health sciences, music and performing arts, hotel and industrial management, technology, etc. The focus of this presentation was placed on those services and functions which these schools have in common, i.e. on that which makes them a single institute. Among other things, these schools share the common care of students (SAS), the IPP solidarity organisation, various students services, ombudsman, academic portal, Employment Opportunities Website, OTIC (Knowledge and Information Transfer Office), library, etc.

After the introductory presentation the delegation visited the Central Services offices.

In the afternoon part of the programme the delegation visited the campus ISCAP. We were welcomed by professor Alexandra Albuquerque who introduced us briefly to the structure, functions and study programmes within this campus. Special attention was drawn by the presentation of COMAP (Committee for International Students) which was given by Silvio Almeida and Jorge Campos. COMAP is a student voluntary organisation which was created with the idea to form an active international student community by offering the help and friendship to the incoming students, primarily within the Erasmus mobility programme. The principles on which they base their activity are wellbeing, integrity, tolerance, respect, honesty, fair dealing, imagination and, naturally, fun. This organisation takes care of the accommodation of the incoming students, they organise events (Erasmus Paintball Day, Orientation Week, karaoke, yoga, fitness), as well as excursions and trips. They also provide discounts by offering the incoming students the COMAP cards, etc. At the end of the presentation we had the opportunity to see the promotional film produced by the volunteers of COMAP.

After this inspiring presentation Ms Luciana Oliveira and Ms Célia Tavares presented e-learning and b-learning projects at ISCAP. Namely, for the purposes of electronic and blended learning at ISCAP they propose several e-learning platforms, i.e. virtual learning environment systems. Among other things, we have been told about WebCT, Moodle, GoAnimate, Matakiva, Prezi and the like. However, there are still few of those who even within ISCAP use all these softwares and platforms.

After the last presentation of the day the delegation visited the campus ISCAP where we had the opportunity to attend a managerial simulation class, as well as to visit the language room which is equipped with the necessary equipment for simultaneous and consecutive translation, as well as with text processing softwares, subtitling softwares, etc.

DAY TWO

Ms Carla Carneiro and Ms Joana Rocha began the second day by presenting us the function and role of the International Relations Office within the ESE campus, as well as within the Polytechnic Institute of Porto. They placed the focus on international cooperation within Leonardo da Vinci programme which is a part of the European Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP). This programme offers the opportunity to vocational colleges to cooperate with partners all over Europe, to exchange positive experience and improve the skills of their own staff. They also mentioned soft skills courses which encompass communication fostering, language skills, personal traits, optimism, openmindedness, friendly attitude, etc.

Ms Filipa Heitor, a coordinator psychologist who works with the students at the ESE campus, presented us with Student Guidance and Counselling Service, as well as with

the Employment Opportunities Website where the students can search for data which can help them find an employment.

Ms Susana Faria and Ms Olivia Pinto from SAS (Serviços de Acção Social) presented us with the function and role of student services, as well as with the student accommodation, scholarship procedures, how they offer help to those who are in the state of emergency, etc.

In the afternoon part of the programme the delegation visited the campus ISEP, where we were greeted by Ms Alexandra Trincão. Bearing in mind that it is an Engineering college, this school has an incredible 94% of employability, but they also have evening classes for working students. Professor Benedita Malheiro presented the European Project Semester. During the spring semester students propose multidisciplinary projects. A team of professors is there to offer support and their role is purely advisory. At the end of the presentation we have been shown a video-clip of a project development from an idea to its realisation. The next presentation dealt with the Praxis Project at ISEP and it was presented to us by professor Nuno Escudeiro. Students, companies and HE institutions are said to be the pillars of this project.

Professor Eduarda Ferreira presented the so-called CDIO Initiative which is an innovative educational framework for producing the next generation of engineers. CONCEIVE-DESIGN-INNOVATE-OPERATE is a framework and a motto of this initiative. In the entire world, as well as in ISEP, the CDIO framework has been adopted as a basis for curricular planning and outcome-based assessment. This concept was developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The CDIO syllabus is comprised of four parts: technical knowledge and reasoning, personal and professional skills, interpersonal skills and CDIO framework (CONCEIVE-DESIGN-INNOVATE-OPERATE).

The second working day ended at 16.30 with a visit to the Robotic Lab at ISEP where the delegation was met by professor Eduardo Silva.

DAY THREE

The third day was dedicated to cultural activities within which the delegation visited the city of Guimarães, the cradle of Portugal and the European Capital of Culture in 2012 whose old city core has been a World Heritage Site under the protection of UNESCO since 2001.

DAY FOUR

On the fourth day the delegation headed towards Vila do Conde, a town at the Atlantic coast where the campus ESEIG is located. There we have visited the new Student Hall which offers students fantastic conditions for life and work during the studies. We have also visited the historical centre of Vila do Conde where with each step one can see the influence of the Ancient Romans, feel the spirit of the former naval power and stand witness to the influence of modern times and the 21st century.

At the campus ESEIG the team was welcomed by professor Gisela Soares. During our first presentation of the day Ms Milena Carvalho introduced us to the campus ESEIG and their International Relations Office. This presentation was followed by professor Gisela Soares and Ms Anabela Leitão's lecture on quality assurance procedures at this campus.

Professors Mário Pinto, Filomena Soares and Inês Braga presented us with multidisciplinary units as an approach to the improvement of academic success. This approach offers the possibility for cooperation among different scientific disciplines with the aim of bringing students closer to those scientific disciplines which they find less attractive (mathematics, physics, chemistry) by correlating the said disciplines with something which students find appealing (the Internet, the context of video-clips, video-games, mind games, linguistic context, etc.).

After this presentation professor Gisela Soares took us on a tour around the campus where the students of Hotel Management prepared a refreshment. The delegation was moved by the attention of the student who arranged red, blue and white meringue into a Serbian flag.

The day ended in the tour of a majestic auditorium which also functions as a theatrical stage, considering the fact that one wall of the auditorium can be opened to face the school yard, thus creating the impression of a theatre.

DAY FIVE

On the fifth day we were welcomed again at the campus ESE where Mr. Rafael Pedrosa gave us presentation on OTIC-Knowledge and Information Transfer Office which represents a sort of a link between the academic world and the world of industry and business. This office has been founded on four basic strategic points: entrepreneurship, projects, patent protection and licencing. They also deal with both supply and demand. They visit the industry to inquire about their needs and offer the school services, knowledge and skills as a possible means of reaching the desired goal. Furthermore, we have also been introduced to the so-called Urban Concept. Namely, they have developed a project at the Polytechnic Institute in which students also take part. The aim of the project is outsourcing and mediation.

Professors Paulo Ávila and João Silva presented another Tempus project (SpinOff Project) which is currently in a full swing at the Polytechnic Institute in Porto.

In the afternoon part of the day the members of the retraining team were divided into working groups. The week was concluded with an analysis of the content which the delegation members had the opportunity to see and hear during the retraining week. The analysis served to point out both positive impressions as well as the issues which need further introspection and scrutiny.