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F R I E N D S

## ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME, KEY ACTION 2

### CAPACITY BUILDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

#### **Furthering International Relations Capacities and Intercultural Engagement to Nurture Campus Diversity and to Support Internationalisation at Home (FRIENDS)**

### YEAR 3 PROGRESS REPORT

The Year 3 activity summary and financial report benchmarks the project progress made during the third year of FRIENDS implementation, namely in the period of 1 November 2020 – 14 November 2021, towards the achievement of the 5 project specific objectives. In the processes of contributing to these objectives' completion, several milestones have been identified, which mark significant developments and key momentums in the project. The current report explores and outlines the progress made concerning each of the major project milestones. In addition, the report provides information on upcoming activities to be completed for the purposes of the project milestones' achievement. Last but not least, the report includes information on the estimated costs incurred and expected to be declared in the project for activities carried out in the period of 15 November 2018 – 14 November 2021, e.g. during the first, second and third project years.

In November 2020, a request for amendment to the Grant Agreement concerning the project eligibility period was submitted to EACEA by the Project Coordinator. In view of the COVID-19 impact on project, the consortium applied for a permission to prolong the period of project implementation by 12 additional months. In August 2021, EACEA granted formal approval and signed an Amendment to the Grant Agreement thus officially extending the project lifetime until 14 November 2022.

#### **1. Year 3 activity summary: milestones of achievement of project objectives**

**Specific Objective 1:** To outline Partner Country Higher Education Institutions' (PC HEIs') internationalisation landscapes and to identify levels of integration of international and intercultural dimensions into PC HEIs' formal and informal curriculum.

**Status: objective achieved**

WP	Milestone achievements	Milestone (Planned completion date)	Date of actual completion	Indicators	Short description of the activities carried out until 14.11.2021
1	Data collected at 12 PC HEIs	31-03-2019	30-04-2019	12 IaH self-evaluation questionnaires filled in and submitted	<b>Completed activity</b> The IaH Self-Evaluation Tool was developed by PrC HEIs based on the IAU 5 <sup>th</sup> Global Survey on Internationalisation of Higher Education. The tool was used by the 12 PC HEIs for the purposes of data collection on IaH at institutional level.
1	Institutional IaH Infographic Reports	14-04-2019	14-05-2019	12 institutional infographic reports produced	<b>Completed activity</b> The data on IaH collected by the 12 PC HEIs was collated and converted into infographic reports summarizing the most important conclusions made on the IaH implementation status quo at project initial stage. The 12 Institutional Infographic Reports are published on the project website.

**Specific Objective 2:** To improve PC HEIs' capabilities for internationalisation through staff trainings and by translating general awareness of the IaH concept into streamlined institutional policies and actions embedded in IaH Action Plans.

**Status: objective achieved**

WP	Activities	Milestone (Planned completion date)	Date of actual completion	Indicators	Short description of the activities carried out until 14.11.2021
2	Development and endorsement of Institutional IaH Action Plans to embed the results of the public consultations conducted at institutional level through the round-	14.11.2019	05.02.2020	12 institutional IaH Action Plans adopted	<b>Completed activity</b> The 12 Institutional IaH Action Plans aim to identify the main goals, measures and activities PC HEIs in FRIENDS are planning to undertake at

	tables and other IaH awareness raising activities				institutional level during the remaining project lifetime to ensure that general awareness of IaH translates into institutional policies and streamlined actions that are also an integral part of the universities' internationalisation and strategic development strategies.
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**Specific Objective 3:** To build students' intercultural knowledge and sensitivity to cultural diversity through the introduction of the Intercultural Passport virtual module into PC HEIs' formal curriculum.

**Status: objective achieved**

WP	Activities	Milestone (Planned completion date)	Date of actual completion	Indicators	Short description of the activities carried out until 14.11.2021
3	Design and development of the IACD MOOC Core Components	14.04.2020	20.03.2020	6-week long MOOC content developed	<b><u>Completed activity</u></b> The IACD MOOC core components comprise the course content. The IACD MOOC designed by experts from the European partner universities consists of 18 units initially delivered in the course of 6 consecutive weeks as clarified in the course syllabus published on the project website in mid-January 2020. The IACD MOOC units consist of video-recorded materials (lectures, presentations, interviews), assignments in the form of quizzes or open questions as well as recommended additional resources.
3	IACD MOOC initial run	14.06.2020	29.05.2020	At least	<b><u>Completed activity</u></b>

				1200 students registered during the IACD MOOC run; at least 15% of them or 180 to complete the IACD MOOC during its initial run	The MOOC was launched on 06.04.2020. In the course of its initial run, over 7000 MOOC learners from the 12 PC HEIs had registered compared to the 1200 initially planned registered learners. As of 29.05.2020, 4519 out of the 7712 registered learners completed successfully the IACD MOOC compared to the originally planned 180. A 59% success rate indicator compared to the 15% originally planned was achieved despite the much higher number of registered MOOC learners. Based on the conducted survey, over 75% of all students who completed successfully the MOOC at its piloting phase were satisfied with the online course.
3	Organization and facilitation of 12 digital storytelling contest	14.06.2020	31.07.2020	At least 180 relevant digital stories developed across the 12 PC HEIs; at least; 36 winners (3 per PC HEI) selected	<b><u>Completed activity</u></b> In total, 230 digital stories were produced by students from the 12 PC HEIs, who took part in the 12 institutional digital storytelling contests at the Intercultural Passport virtual module's piloting stage. The assessment of the 230 collected digital stories was conducted at institutional level by the 12 PC HEIs IROs between May and July 2020. As a result, each of 12 PC HEIs selected the 3 best digital stories submitted at institutional level (in

					case of the 3 Philippine HEIs 4 student winners were selected). The authors of the 39 winning digital stories were awarded with access to international mobility to VUM, Bulgaria and received the opportunity to join the Student Boot Camp (del. 4.1.). The unified selection criteria included creativity and originality, impact and content of the storytelling, editing and cinematography, as well as structure and navigation.
3	Intercultural Passport award	14.07.2020	31.07.2020	At least 180 PC HEI students to meet the minimum requirements and obtain the Intercultural Passport certificate thus receiving 4 ECTS.	<b>Completed activity</b> The piloting award of the Intercultural Passport certificates took place in the course of June and July 2020. The Intercultural Passport virtual module and the same named certificate were created to build PC HEIs students' intercultural competence and to enable them to cross more easily cultural borders and to live and work in multicultural environments. The piloting award was subject to successful completion of the IACD MOOC and the submission of a relevant digital story evidencing student's intercultural and/or international prior experiential learning. The successful completion of the Intercultural Passport

					virtual module corresponds to 4 ECTS to be recognized by the PC HEIs in line with their internal credit recognition procedures. As of 31.07.2020, in total 230 PC HEIs students obtained the Intercultural Passport certificate.
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**Specific Objective 4:** To transform PC HEIs' International Relations Offices (IROs) into vibrant multicultural focal points through the establishment of FRIENDS Teahouses and the induction of Home away from Home Programme for integrated international student care.

**Status: objective not achieved yet**

WP	Activities	Milestone (Planned completion date)	Date of actual completion	Indicators	Short description of the activities carried out until 14.11.2021; upcoming activities
4	Organization and facilitation of Student Boot Camp	14.09.2020	TBA	At least 36 PC HEI students trained to run the FRIENDS Teahouses	<b><u>Partially completed activity</u></b> In light of COVID-19 impact, the FRIENDS partners decided to postpone for 2021 the Student Boot Camp originally planned to take place at VUM in Bulgaria in the summer of 2020. Simultaneously, the FRIENDS partners agreed to organize and facilitate an online introduction to the future face-to-face training event in the period of September – October 2020 to allow students to benefit and take the best from both types of mobility and to ensure activities linked to the forthcoming launch and initial operation of the

					<p>FRIENDS Teahouses are not hindered.</p> <p>The online introduction to the postponed physical student mobility to VUM was conducted by experts and lecturers from the four European partner universities in FRIENDS who provided online trainings dedicated to some of the key themes included in the Student Boot Camp's agenda. Each of the four online mini modules had a duration of 8 teaching hours delivered via zoom in the course of three days in the period of 29 September - 30 October 2020. The online mini modules were attended by the 12 Asian FRIENDS universities digital storytelling contests' student winners. As a result of the new knowledge and skills acquired, the students are expected to have become well equipped to engage proactively in the FRIENDS Teahouses' initial set-up activities and operation.</p> <p>Furthermore, in the course of summer 2022, P1 is expected to host a physical mobility component of the Student Boot Camp provided international travels bans will be released by that time. During the Student Boot Camp in Bulgaria, selected PC HEIs</p>
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					students will not only study additional modules such as Intercultural Awareness and Cultural Diversity, Creativity and Innovation, and Event Management but will also benefit from such key advantages of the physical mobility as cultural immersion, intercultural interaction and various transversal skills' acquisition.
4	Home away from Home Programme development and adoption	14.01.2021	14.05.2021	1 document of approx. 5 p. adopted at consortium level and adapted and introduced at institutional levels	<b><u>Completed activity</u></b> The Home Away from Home Programme was designed to meet the needs of international students and students with diverse cultural background studying at the 12 PC HEIs. The Programme offers an integrated model for student care and support, in order to co-create a study experience that is welcoming, friendly and supportive for international students, as detailed in this document. This model has been formulated following the discussions and brainstorming sessions organized during the Home Away From Home Virtual Tea Party held on 8 October 2020, which engaged 49 staff and executive members from across the FRIENDS consortium. The guidelines for international student care and support

					outlined in this document were endorsed and further adjusted by each of the 12 Asian HEIs involved to reflect their local context and specific needs.
4	Establishment of FRIENDS Teahouses to operate as multicultural social hubs at the 12 PC HEIs	14.01.2021	16.11.2020	12 FRIENDS Teahouses established and embedded in the PC HEIs' organizational charts	<b>Completed activity</b> The 12 FRIENDS Teahouses across the 12 PC HEIs involved in the project were established in the course of Year 2. While venue allocation and equipment purchase had been completed by early May 2020, the institutionalisation of these newly created units and their integration into 12 PC HEIs' organizational charts were formalized and finalized by mid-November 2020. The 12 FRIENDS Teahouses were created to function as student social hubs and aim to animate the 12 Asian universities' campus life and cultural agenda and to evolve into lively multicultural spaces.
4	FRIENDS International and Intercultural Festivals	14.02.2021	18.09.2021	12 events organized; at least 200 internal and external stakeholders attended each event	<b>Completed activity</b> Each of the 12 PC HEIs organized and held a festival event to mark the formal launch of the institutional FRIENDS Teahouse. The aim of the FRIENDS International and Intercultural Festivals (1 per PC HEI) was to celebrate cultural diversity, to spread the word about key project results, and to promote the FRIENDS project's

					values of tolerance, multiculturalism, mutual understanding and peace. Each of 12 events were conducted either online or face-to-face depending on the COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time and were attended in average by over 200 participants, incl. PC HEIs academic community members and local communities' representatives. The 12 festival events received extensive coverage on campus and in local media as part of the PC HEIs' efforts to promote the FRIENDS project results and key messages.
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**Specific Objective 5:** To promote virtual mobility and campus diversity across the 5 PC as key tools for students' global competence development.

**Status:** objective not achieved yet

WP	Activities	Milestone (Planned completion date)	Date of actual completion	Indicators	Short description of the activities carried out until 14.11.2021; upcoming activities
6	Organization of FRIENDS Caravans to promote the Intercultural Passport virtual module across the 5 PC	14.01.2021	TBA	At least 1300 students of at least 42 PC HEIs outside the FRIENDS consortium reached across the 5 PC	<b>Ongoing activity</b> To promote the Intercultural Passport virtual module, FRIENDS HEIs in each of the 5 Asian countries involved in FRIENDS have united efforts and are organizing and running the so-called FRIENDS Caravan campaigns (1 per PC). Project teams in Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines and

					Thailand are expected to visit at least 10 non-FRIENDS PC HEIs in their respective countries with the aim to meet and interact first hand with prospective Intercultural Passport applicants who are students enrolled in PC HEIs outside the consortium. In Bhutan, P5 and P6 will visit at least 2 other HEIs. Tentative agenda of the 42 half-day events includes an interactive Intercultural Passport presentation, Q&S sessions, and inspirational talks from FRIEND PC HEIs students who are already successful and proud holders of the Intercultural Passport. In total, at least 300 students will be reached through each of the 4 FRIENDS Caravan campaigns in Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. In addition, at least 100 students outside the FRIENDS consortium will be reached in Bhutan or 1300 in total on consortium level.
6	Organization of FRIENDS National Conferences on IaH (1 per PC)	14.05.2021	TBA	5 1-day conferences organized; each attended by at least 50 participants	<b><u>Ongoing activity</u></b> Through the 5 FRIENDS National Conferences on IaH (1 per PC) that are jointly organized by the respective PC HEIs in the project, the consortium members are expected to reach out to higher education policy makers, practitioners

					and peers at other PC HEIs. Topics presented and discussed on professional level at the 5 conferences include but are not limited to IaH strengths and benefits from both students and universities' perspectives, cultural diversity in academia as a driver for personal and institutional growth, promotion of intercultural awareness and tolerance in the society, etc. Each of the 5 National Conferences is to be attended by at least 50 participants or 250 in total across the consortium. The national conferences are conducted face-to-face or online depending on the COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time.
6	Career Fair Local Markets for Global Talents	14.08.2021	TBA	11 career fairs organized across the 5 PC; at least 30 employers representing local, national or multinational companies and at least 200 students to attend each of 11 events.	<b><u>Ongoing activity</u></b> To promote and stimulate exploitation of the improved global skills and intercultural competence of their students, the 12 PC HEIs are organizing 1-day Career Fairs entitled Local Markets for Global Talents. In Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, each of the 10 PC HEIs is holding its own career fair, and the 2 PC HEIs in Bhutan will jointly organize one. At least 30 employers will contribute and present at each of the 11 fairs. Apart from employers

					boot stands' exhibition, the career fairs' agendas include but are not limited to recruiting companies' presentations, speed dating sessions with potential students' employees, networking and brokerage events. The 11 career fairs are to be conducted face-to-face or online depending on the COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time.
6	Development and adoption of Community Development Plans at institutional level to engage with local communities	14.09.2021	TBA	12 Community Development Plans adopted	<b><u>Ongoing activity</u></b> As part of the efforts to stimulate intercultural dialogue across campus and in the local communities, the 12 PC HEIs are engaging closely with at least one local cultural, ethnic, religious or social minority group. To ensure this is executed in a streamlined and efficient manner, each of the 12 established FRIENDS Teahouses are expected to adopt at least 1 local cultural minority and to support it and its young members by engaging with them in a number of cultural and education activities. This sort of community development initiatives is being navigated through Community Development Plans each of the 12 PC HEIs is drafting and should validate towards the end of the project.

7	Organization of project final event entitled HE Globalisation: Final International Conference	15.10.2021	TBA	1-day event, at least 100 attendees	Upcoming activity
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## 2. Year 3 financial report

### Summary of the estimated costs claimed for the period of 15.11.2018 – 14.11.2021 based on the project evidence provided to VUM as of 15.12.2021



Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices  
Capacity Building in the field of higher education

#### ANNEX VI - FINAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Project Number	598652-EPP-1-2018-1-BG-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	Co-financing (for information only)	13 078,78
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Budget Headings	1. Grant Awarded (in EUR)	2. Budget Spent (in EUR)
1. Staff Costs	368 651,00	191 946,00
2. Travel Costs	200 315,00	73 200,00
3. Costs of Stay	261 360,00	77 160,00
4. Equipment Costs	132 000,00	111 506,15
5. Subcontracting Costs	37 300,00	12 130,59
6. Exceptional Costs	0,00	0,00
<b>Total Grant requested from the European Union</b>	<b>999 626,00</b>	<b>465 942,74</b>

#### DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRANT BY ORGANISATION (in EUR)

Partner N°	Name of Partner	Country	Role Code	Programme Country / Partner Country	1. Staff Costs	2. Travel Costs	3. Costs of Stay	4. Equipment Costs	5. Subcontracting Costs	6. Exceptional Costs	Total (in EUR)
P1	Vishe Uchilishte po Menidzhmant	Bulgaria	Coord	Programme Countries	35 512,00	9 995,00	7 800,00	-	8 135,85	-	61 442,85
P2	Budapesti Metropolitan Egyetem	Hungary	Partner	Programme Countries	9 199,00	6 550,00	4 800,00	-	-	-	20 549,00
P3	Politechnika Slaska	Poland	Partner	Programme Countries	12 765,00	6 550,00	4 800,00	-	249,00	-	24 364,00
P4	Istanbul Aydin Universitesi Vakti	Turkey	Partner	Programme Countries	9 714,00	6 000,00	3 360,00	-	-	-	19 074,00
P5	Royal Thimphu College	Bhutan	Partner	Partner Countries	6 322,00	3 080,00	4 800,00	21 954,37	-	-	36 156,37
P6	Royal Institute of Management	Bhutan	Partner	Partner Countries	3 420,00	3 080,00	4 800,00	-	1 006,66	-	12 306,66
P7	Svay Rieng University	Cambodia	Partner	Partner Countries	7 520,00	3 550,00	3 120,00	21 454,29	-	-	35 644,29
P8	Dewey International University	Cambodia	Partner	Partner Countries	5 634,00	1 910,00	4 800,00	-	-	-	12 344,00
P9	Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation	Malaysia	Partner	Partner Countries	10 663,00	3 550,00	3 120,00	18 896,48	903,90	-	37 133,38
P10	Berjaya Higher Education SDN. BHD.	Malaysia	Partner	Partner Countries	10 697,00	5 050,00	3 720,00	-	-	-	19 467,00
P11	Saint Louis College, Incorporated	Philippines	Partner	Partner Countries	10 229,00	6 130,00	6 120,00	-	-	-	22 479,00
P12	University of Cebu, Inc.	Philippines	Partner	Partner Countries	11 196,00	4 630,00	5 520,00	19 459,50	875,26	-	41 680,76
P13	Cebu Technological University ARGADCEBU CAMPUS	Philippines	Partner	Partner Countries	3 036,00	4 270,00	4 560,00	-	-	-	11 866,00
P14	Prince of Songkla University	Thailand	Partner	Partner Countries	26 372,00	2 825,00	5 280,00	10 964,85	-	-	45 441,85
P15	Payap University	Thailand	Partner	Partner Countries	23 952,00	3 290,00	6 000,00	10 553,02	959,92	-	44 754,94
P16	Maharakham University	Thailand	Partner	Partner Countries	5 715,00	2 740,00	4 560,00	8 223,64	-	-	21 238,64

### 3. Year 4 consolidated work plan

Activities as indicated in the LGM		M37	M38	M39	M40	M41	M42	M43	M44	M45	M46	M47	M48
		15.11. 21- 14.12. 21	15.12. 21- 14.01. 22	15.01. 22- 14.02. 22	15.02. 22- 14.03. 22	15.03. 22- 14.04. 22	15.04. 22- 14.05. 22	15.05. 22- 14.06. 22	15.06. 22- 14.07. 22	15.07. 22- 14.08. 22	15.08. 22- 14.09. 22	15.09. 22- 14.10. 22	15.10. 22- 14.11. 22
<b>4.</b>	<b>FRIENDS Teahouses: Setup and Piloting</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	=X	=X	X	X	X
4.1.	Student Boot Camp								!				
4.2.	Home away from Home Staff Retreat						!						
<b>5.</b>	<b>Quality Assurance and Quality Control</b>	=X											
5.2.	Milestones Achievement Reports											!	
5.5.	Final Card Report Days									!			
5.6.	Final Internal Evaluation Report											!	
5.7.	External Evaluation Report											!	
<b>6.</b>	<b>FRIENDS beyond FRIENDS</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6.1.	FRIENDS Caravans			!									
6.2.	FRIENDS National Conferences on IaH						!						
6.3.	Career Fairs Local Markets for Global Talents									!			
6.4.	Community Development Plans												!
<b>7.</b>	<b>FRIENDS Dissemination</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7.4.	FRIENDS Reunions						!						
7.5.	FRIENDS Newsletters				!								!
7.6.	Project Promotional Materials											!	!
7.7.	Higher Education Globalisation Final International Conference											!	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Project Management</b>	=X											
8.6.	4 <sup>th</sup> Partner Meeting						!						
8.7.	Project Sustainability Roadmap and 5 <sup>th</sup> Partner Meeting								!				
8.8.	Final Report Draft and Final Partner Meeting												!
8.9.	SC Online Meetings Minutes					!				!		!	

= stands for Programme Countries

**X** stands for Partner Countries

! stands for Planned deadline of completion