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Introduction to FRIENDS: Furthering International Relations Capacities and Intercultural Engagement to Nurture Campus Diversity and to Support Internationalisation at Home

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Presentation outline

1. FRIENDS fast facts
2. Project participants
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4. FRIENDS rationale
5. Project key outputs and outcomes.



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FRIENDS fast facts

- Erasmus+ programme for Capacity Building in Higher Education
- FRIENDS: *Furthering International Relations Capacities and Intercultural Engagement to Nurture Campus Diversity and to Support Internationalisation at Home*
- Project number 598652-EPP-1-2018-1-BG-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
- Project eligibility period: 2018 - 2021
- Project duration: 36 months
- 4 Programme Country HEIs from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Turkey
- 12 Partner Country HEIs from Asia, namely 2 BT, 2 KH, 2 MY, 3 PH, 3 TH
- Approved project funding: 999 626,00 EUR.



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FRIENDS project participants

- **Bulgaria:** Varna University of Management
- **Hungary:** Budapest Metropolitan University
- **Poland:** Silesian University of Technology
- **Turkey:** Istanbul Aydin University
- **Bhutan:** Royal Thimphu College and Royal Institute of Management
- **Cambodia:** Svay Rieng University and Dewey International University
- **Malaysia:** Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation and Berjaya University College
- **Philippines:** Saint Louis University, University of Cebu and Cebu Technological University
- **Thailand:** Prince of Songkla University, Payap University and Mahasarakham University.



FRIENDS background

The concept of internationalisation at home (IaH)

- *“The purposeful integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for all students within domestic learning environments” (Beelen & Jones, 2015, p. 12)*

Intercultural competence

- *„the ability to communicate effectively and appropriately in intercultural situations based on one’s intercultural knowledge, skills and attitudes“ (Deardorff, 2006, p. 247).*



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FRIENDS rationale

FRIENDS overall objective: *to strengthen the involved Asian universities' internationalisation capabilities and to develop their students' global competence through the purposeful integration of intercultural dimensions into the universities' formal and informal curriculum*

Key problems addressed through FRIENDS:

1. Extremely low student mobility figures across the Asian universities involved
2. Lack of intercultural education to build students' global competence across the consortium
3. Insufficient institutional soft infrastructure to assist international students and campus diversity.



FRIENDS key outputs and outcomes

- **Institutional IaH Infographic Reports (WP1):** by April 2019
- **IaH Action Plans (WP2):** by November 2019
- **Intercultural Passport virtual module** comprising IACD MOOC and a digital storytelling segment (WP3): by July 2020
- **FRIENDS Teahouses** incl. the Home Away from Home programme (WP4): by February 2021
- **FRIENDS promotional and exploitation initiatives** incl. FRIENDS Reunions, FRIENDS Caravans, IaH National Conferences, Local Markets for Global Talents Career Fairs, Local Community Development Plans (WP6&7): by 2021.



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Thank you.

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