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)

15th WEBINAR
2nd March 2022

MINUTES

Venue: online session via Zoom
Attendees: Representatives of the FRIENDS project partners

1. This webinar was mainly focused on planning of the next partner meeting in Thailand and the resumption of face-to-face classes across the countries in the consortium. The latter allows for execution of some of the planned FRIENDS activities at least in a hybrid mode if not completely in-person.

2. Mike Meallem from Payap University gave an update on the Covid-19 restrictions in Thailand and how the meeting planning is being made. Currently no quarantine is necessary. Mike gave elaboration on Test and Go progarmme, visas, hotels and transportation (with directions how to reach Payap University). Mike also put aside time for Q and A from partners. Important note was that the Thai New Year falls on 13-15 of April and no emails will be answered during this time.

3. Christina Armutlieva took over from Mike explaining the agenda of the partner meeting in Thailand and giving more details (each university should have 2 participants).
Another subject that was touched upon was the student bootcamp with the EU authorization received for shorter programme but with more students (4 weeks + 2 days for travel, number of participants: 4 or 5 from each HEI). During the online webinar partners discussed the dates when the bootcamp could be

organized. Between 30 may - 26 June and 6 June - 3 July, a vote between the webinar attendees showed that the second options suits the majority of HEIs.

Christina Armutlieva emphasized that new selections needs to be conducted and VUM will provide visa for bootcampers. The visa type that is need is visa type C, which is usually obtained via online application and no personal travel is required.

The agenda of the bootcamp will include modules to be organized by the European partners. To answer a question from SLU, Christina explained that graduate, undergaduate and PhD students are allowed to participate, but all students must retain their student status until at least of the end of the FRIENDS project. Further into the meeting, Covid-19 restrictions and entry requirements were discussed.

Aside from the partner meeting in Thailand and the organization of the student bootcamp, IACD MOOC was discussed with emphasis made on the need to pick up the numbers of students who complete it.