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Mainstreaming the FRIENDS Intercultural Passport virtual module

Prince of Songkla University, Thailand

Prince of Songkla University (PSU) is committed to contribute to the successful completion of project goals outlined in the FRIENDS Project description document submitted as part of the EACEA project application process. Accordingly, concrete steps have been taken to mainstream the Intercultural Passport (IP) virtual module, as detailed below.

1. MOOC integration into the curriculum

The FRIENDS IACD MOOC is integrated into PSU's official curriculum in Academic Year 2022, in the form of the course GE 071-002 การตระหนักรู้และความหลากหลายทางวัฒนธรรม ("Intercultural Awareness and Cultural Diversity"). This Gen-ed course contributes the equivalent of 4 ECTS to participating undergraduates of any discipline. A total of 37% of the 45-hour course is spent on IACD MOOC completion and additional lectures (17 hrs). The remaining 63%, or 28 hrs., is devoted to MOOC-related active learning: case studies, class discussions and assignments (including 7 hrs. spent on the digital storytelling component of the Intercultural Passport module). Course evaluation on the 100-point scale assigns 20 pts to the MOOC exam, 30 pts. to the digital storytelling component, 30 pts. to a required presentation on topics of cultural diversity, and 20 pts. to class activity and discussion participation. Participants who successfully complete both the MOOC and the digital storytelling component are awarded the Intercultural Passport certificate, with all the benefits that it entails. MOOC and digital storytelling completions might also be included in other PSU courses and campuses to streamline further integration into the curriculum.

2. FRIENDS Teahouse results exploitation

To facilitate the exploitation of FRIENDS Teahouse results and activities, Intercultural Passport-related activities are being integrated into the FRIENDS Teahouse event calendar wherever feasible. An example of this is the PSU Camp themed learning SCG, BCG, and intercultural experience in the UNESCO Biosphere reserve held in Chiang Mai Province by FRIENDS Teahouse students with the supervision of the PSU International Affairs Office. The 5-day event (4-8 May 2022) provided students opportunities to witness Sustainable Development Goals and BCG economy model in action, while an internationalization component was provided through MOOC completion, digital storytelling workshop activities, and cultural excursion. Participants successfully completing both the MOOC and the digital storytelling component were awarded the Intercultural Passport certificate. The resulting positive response to this activity suggests that Teahouse activities may be a prime venue for mainstreaming the IP beyond project completion.

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