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Embracing Intercultural Engagement and Cultural Diversity on Campus and Beyond:

FRIENDS Project's Achievements and Impact

FRIENDS Final Dissemination Conference
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The FRIENDS Family

- Academic network of 16 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- 5 Partner Countries from Asia and 4 Programme Countries
- 2 HEIs in Bhutan, 2 HEIs in Cambodia and 2 HEIs in Malaysia
- 3 HEIs from the Philippines and 3 HEIs from Thailand
- 4 HEIs from Central and Eastern Europe.



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FRIENDS Theoretical Background

- **The Internationalisation at Home (IaH) concept**

“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 definition**

“the ability to communicate effectively and appropriately in intercultural situations based on one's intercultural knowledge, skills and attitudes” (Deardoff, 2006, p. 247).

FRIENDS Main 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.



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Intercultural Passport Virtual Module

- Thematic coverage and teaching and learning methodologies
- Intercultural Awareness and Cultural Diversity (IACD) MOOC
- Digital storytelling
- Assessment methods
- Student workload and recognition of learning outcomes.

Intercultural Passport: Achievements as of September 2022

- Over **17 000** students across the 12 Asian HEIs already completed the IACD MOOC
- Over **2300** digital stories crafted at consortium level
- Over **2300** Intercultural Passports awarded across the 12 Asian HEIs in FRIENDS
- Top performers: **Saint Louis University in the Philippines, Philippines; Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation, Malaysia; University of Cebu, Philippines.**



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FRIENDS Teahouses

- Mission, vision, values
- Home Away from Home Programme
- Digital storytelling: mentoring, support, assessment
- Intercultural Passport award
- Intercultural festivals, social gatherings, cultural events
- Management and daily operation.

FRIENDS Teahouses: Achievements as of September 2022 (1)

- Approx. **7000** attendees of the 12 piloting **Intercultural Festivals** organized across the 12 Asian HEIs in FRIENDS
- Over **1000** participants in the **FRIENDS Reunions** events organized across the consortium
- 49 face-to-face and 3 online participants in the **Student Boot Camp** held in Bulgaria in summer 2022
- More than **2000** attendees of the **FRIENDS Caravans** conducted across nearly 70 HEIs **outside the FRIENDS consortium** in the 5 Asian countries.



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FRIENDS Teahouses Achievements as of September 2022 (2)

- **More than 2800 participants in the 5 National Conferences held in Bhutan, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand**
- **Over 4200 students attending the Local Markets for Global Talents Career Fairs with the engagement of nearly 400 employers across the 5 Asian countries**
- **Community development activities in Bhutan: Layap Community**
- **Community development activities in Cambodia: Tnot Commune and Khmer Islam minority.**

FRIENDS Teahouses Achievements as of September 2022 (3)

- **Community development activities in Malaysia:** the Home of Peace Orphanage and the Orang Asli tribe
- **Community development activities in Philippines:** indigenous community of Domolpos, Ati Tribe in the city of Naga and as well children at risk and children in conflict with the law in the Philippines
- **Community development activities in Thailand:** primary school pupils in the Malay Pattani Region; children with disabilities in care home from the tribes La-ear, Hmong, and Karen; children of the Khee Sri Sanga Non Siow village.



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FRIENDS Impact

- Approx. **80%** of IACD MOOC students confirm they acquired new knowledge and skills
- Over **75%** of engaged students claim to be more cognizant of global skills' importance
- Nearly **75%** of engaged students confirmed they feel more confident when interacting with other cultures
- Approx. **70%** of engaged students became more interested and motivated to take part in a mobility abroad
- Approx. **70%** of engaged students more likely to look for a job in an international company.
- FRIENDS towards more **inclusive, digital, greener** higher education across the 5 Asian countries involved.

**Thank you for your time and attention.
Looking forward to making new friends!**

FRIENDS website:
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