Proposal Evaluation Form



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Erasmus+ Programme (ERASMUS+)

Evaluation Summary Report

Call: ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE

Type of action:ERASMUS-LSProposal number:101127683Proposal acronym:DIGITRANS

Duration (months): 36

Proposal title: Digital transformation of HEIs education process in Ukraine and Moldova for sustainable engagement with

enterprises

Activity: ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE-STRAND-2

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total eligible	%	Grant Requested	%
			costs		Requested	
1	RIGAS TEHNISKA UNIVERSITATE	LV	84,069	11.68%	84,069	11.68%
2	UNIVERSITATEA DUNAREA DE JOS DIN GALATI	RO	52,286	7.27%	52,286	7.27%
3	ETHNIKO KAI KAPODISTRIAKO PANEPISTIMIO ATHINON	EL	51,621	7.17%	51,621	7.17%
4	CHERNIHIV POLYTECHNIC NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, CPNU	UA	92,771	12.89%	92,771	12.89%
5	KHARKIV NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE AND HIGHWAY UNIVERSITY	UA	79,727	11.08%	79,727	11.08%
6	LUTSK NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	UA	77,657	10.79%	77,657	10.79%
7	Subsidiary "SNT Ukraine"	UA	29,651	4.12%	29,651	4.12%
8	UNIVERSITATEA TEHNICA A MOLDOVEI	MD	78,134	10.86%	78,134	10.86%
9	UNIVERSITATEA DE STA ALECU RUSSO DIN BALTI	MD	73,780	10.25%	73,780	10.25%
10	UNIVERSITATEA DE STAT B.P.HASDEU DIN CAHUL	MD	72,905	10.13%	72,905	10.13%
11	ICS DRA Draexlmaier Automotive SRL	MD	26,925	3.74%	26,925	3.74%
12	Avtodom Kharkiv Limited Liability Company	UA	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
13	Limited Liability Company Elcars	UA	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
14	Avtoconcept LLC	UA	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
15	PRIVATE JOINT STOCK COMPANY "VOLYN-AVTO"	UA	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
16	INFORMBUSINESS SRL	MD	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
	Total:		719,526		719,526	

Abstract:

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The DIGITRANS project aims to increase graduates' employability, support sustainable growth and jobs at Ukraine and Moldova through implementation the supporting measures:

- Integration of research and training in such a way that students have the opportunity to conduct research at partner universities and enterprises. Introduction integrated thematic complexes that will give students the opportunity to achieve additional learning outcomes.
- -Development of innovative educational programs related to the ecological and energy-efficient mode of electrical engineering, information and computer systems, cybersecurity, automatic control engineering, electrical and electronic equipment, engineering and management in road transport, electro mobiles, automotive manufacturing, as well as necessary competences of transversal skills and entrepreneurship knowledge.
- -Development and implementation in the educational process of Double Diploma programs between European and Ukrainian, Moldavian universities
- -Introduction of innovative practical training schemes closely related to business, e.g., internship, professional courses at enterprises, etc.
- -Digitalization of education with practical training of students in specific programs required by business, e.g. specific software for diagnostics, repair and maintenance of a modern type of transport, etc.
- -Development of virtual and remote practice (labs), e.g. classes for modelling, simulation, building and debugging models, etc.
- -Developing Sharing Remote Experiment Environment as a digital distributed educational infrastructure supporting the Digital Learning Ecosystem.
- -Developing an open interface for interconnection of Digital Learning Ecosystem to the forthcoming Open Universities Platform in Ukraine.
- -Providing an opportunity to academic staff and students fleeing from Ukraine or internally displaced as refugees to be involved in an education process through the Digital Learning Ecosystem of DIGITRANS.

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 85.00 (Threshold: 60)

Criterion 1 - Relevance

Score: **28.00** (Threshold: 15 / 30.00, Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The proposal's purpose is to develop new and transform existing curricula and/or courses in several universities of Ukraine and Moldova, related to automotive industry, in particular electric and hybrid vehicles and infrastructure for them; and to develop the Digital Learning Ecosystem and Sharing Remote Experiment Environment, to help Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons to continue their education.

The specific objectives, such as innovative curricula, development of scientific infrastructure and digital skills, are well designed and clear. These correspond to the European Union action plan and Capacity Building Higher Education (CBHE) priorities of digital transformation and sustainable economic growth and jobs. Several objectives provide clear key performance indicators (e.g. a number of courses to be developed/updated), but some indicators are not measurable or are indirect, for example an entrepreneurial mind-set cannot be well measured by a pitch, given to students. The partnership with enterprises through the development of transversal skills and entrepreneurship knowledge addresses the employability of the graduates in these fields.

Due to considerable transformations of the automotive industry and shift to electric vehicles, these curricula updates are timely and necessary, thus the proposal fits into the Green Deal overarching priority of the EU, and is relevant to achieve this goal.

The EU added value is convincingly argued to be based on previous participation in EU-supported projects, transfer of EU good practices, mutual participation in modernizing higher education, introducing training courses, double degree programs and collaborative network.

The regional priorities related to the war situation and the challenges Ukraine (and partially Moldova) faces considering the refugees, destruction of infrastructure and lack of access to education are well identified.

The innovative elements in the curricula and the collaboration with the economic sector are based on the analysis of the state-of-art and are convincing.

Criterion 2.1 - Quality - Project design and implementation

Score: 23.00 (Threshold: 15 / 30.00, Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The project tackles two main parts that are loosely connected: development of new curricula in automotive industry, and development of the remote digital learning environment

The methodology is sound and well-designed. However, the proposal includes specific needs analysis in the actions to be implemented in the project (WP1), but the needs analysis is expected to be already performed before the proposal submission. The project shows coherence between the needs and capability of each partner involved, the activities and results.

The project activities are based on the necessity of the relevant focus groups. A project manual with objectives, schedules and deliverables, as a basis for joint activities, is a sound idea. The targeted students are selected based on clearly defined criteria. The work plan is realistic, with achievable milestones and well defined deliverables.

The budget is well-balanced among the consortium partners. It is generally efficiently distributed at the WP level as well, except WP3, where the WP leader has a considerable majority of activities, while the budget is more equally balanced among the WP participants. The budget is cost-efficient. Actions, aligned with usual university activities, only request partial funding for specific project participation, which is reasonable.

Risks are well analysed, and cover a broad range, from military operations in Ukraine to new pandemic possibility, to bureaucratic difficulties, and possible lack of language skills. Mitigation measures are adequate, the consortium is prepared to potential adverse situations.

The project describes sufficient means to monitor the quality of execution and results. A Quality Assurance System, with internal and external evaluation mechanisms, will function during the entire duration of the project. The internal monitoring will be ensured through the Project Quality Assurance and Monitoring Team with a representative of each partner institution, which will design a quality assurance plan. Quality procedures, such as evaluation, testing, as well as participants' and stakeholders' feedback are in place.

The project sufficiently contributes to environmental sustainability since one of its goals is to deliver specialists for the industry who have the necessary skills to work on Green Deal in the context of Regional priorities. The project is eco-friendly, in terms of the reduction of unnecessary travel, avoidance of printing, etc.

Criterion 2.2 - Quality - Partnership and cooperation arrangements

Score: **17.00** (Threshold: 10 / 20.00, Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The project management is convincingly described in terms of key actors, structure, timeline, and forms of collaboration. The project coordinator is well-chosen, having a rich experience in leading and coordinating national and international collaborative projects, including the Erasmus program. The gender balance is taken care of in the management.

The consortium is well-balanced, containing equal number of universities from the EU, Ukraine and Moldova, as well as industrial partners from Ukraine and Moldova. Several partners from Ukraine and Moldova are universities from remote areas. There is also a number of associated industrial partners. Partners have expertise in diverse areas of automotive industry, forming a very strong group to tackle the transformation of the automotive curricula.

Collaboration between partners is set up in a fair and efficient manner. Responsibilities are somewhat skewed towards partners from the EU as opposed to the Neighbourhood East countries, the majority of the WPs are led by the EU partners representing less than one-third of all the partners.

The professional expertise of participants in national and international collaborative projects is relevant to the project, the role and tasks assigned are corresponding generally to their background. The partners are committed to the project. The work plan includes clearly defined activities for each partner.

Criterion 3 - Impact

Score: 17.00 (Threshold: 10 / 20.00, Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see the Call document).

The exploitation of the project outputs will be made by each partner. A list of sustainable products is given and the way these will be exploited and by which partner is convincing. The integration of the novel tools into Open University Platforms for Ukraine is foreseen.

The dissemination plan is in place. The informational material, such as the newsletter, as well as the website will be elaborated. Diverse activities are planned, such as the conferences, seminars etc. These activities will be carried out by various partners at various stages of the project, and are appropriate. Target groups are well-defined, and include school pupils, university students, teaching and academic staff, and the stakeholders.

The project impact is identified considering various groups targeted, the main target group being academic and teaching staff at the institutional level as well as at the national level, here Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons being also targeted. In addition, the benefit of the project for the enterprises of high-tech industries in Ukraine and Moldova is emphasized. Both quantitative and qualitative impact is considerable.

A Sustainability Plan is planned to be elaborated. The newly developed courses are expected to be certified within the duration of the project and incorporated on a constant basis into their respective universities. The courses can continue to be delivered without additional financial needs after the end of the project. The long-term sustainability of the developed courses is therefore well-addressed. On the other hand, financial sustainability of the SREE platform and the Digital Learning Ecosystem are unclear, since these platforms will have to be maintained. A bilateral agreement between partners aiming to sustain the project beyond its lifetime is indicated as a measure of attracting investments for financial sustainability. However, potential investors are not indicated.

Scope of the proposal

Status: Yes

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)

Not provided

Feedback EU Delegation Consultation

In addition, and in line with the provisions of the Programme Guide, the Evaluation Committee has also consulted the EU Delegations in the third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ programme. On the basis of the information provided by the EU Delegation(s), the Evaluation Committee confirms that the project can be implemented as foreseen in the proposal.

Comments on the budget

 ${\it External Financial Audit, not applicable for Lump Sum (II) grants.}$



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