



Erasmus+

***Introducing Problem Based Learning in Moldova:
Toward Enhancing Students' Competitiveness
and Employability***

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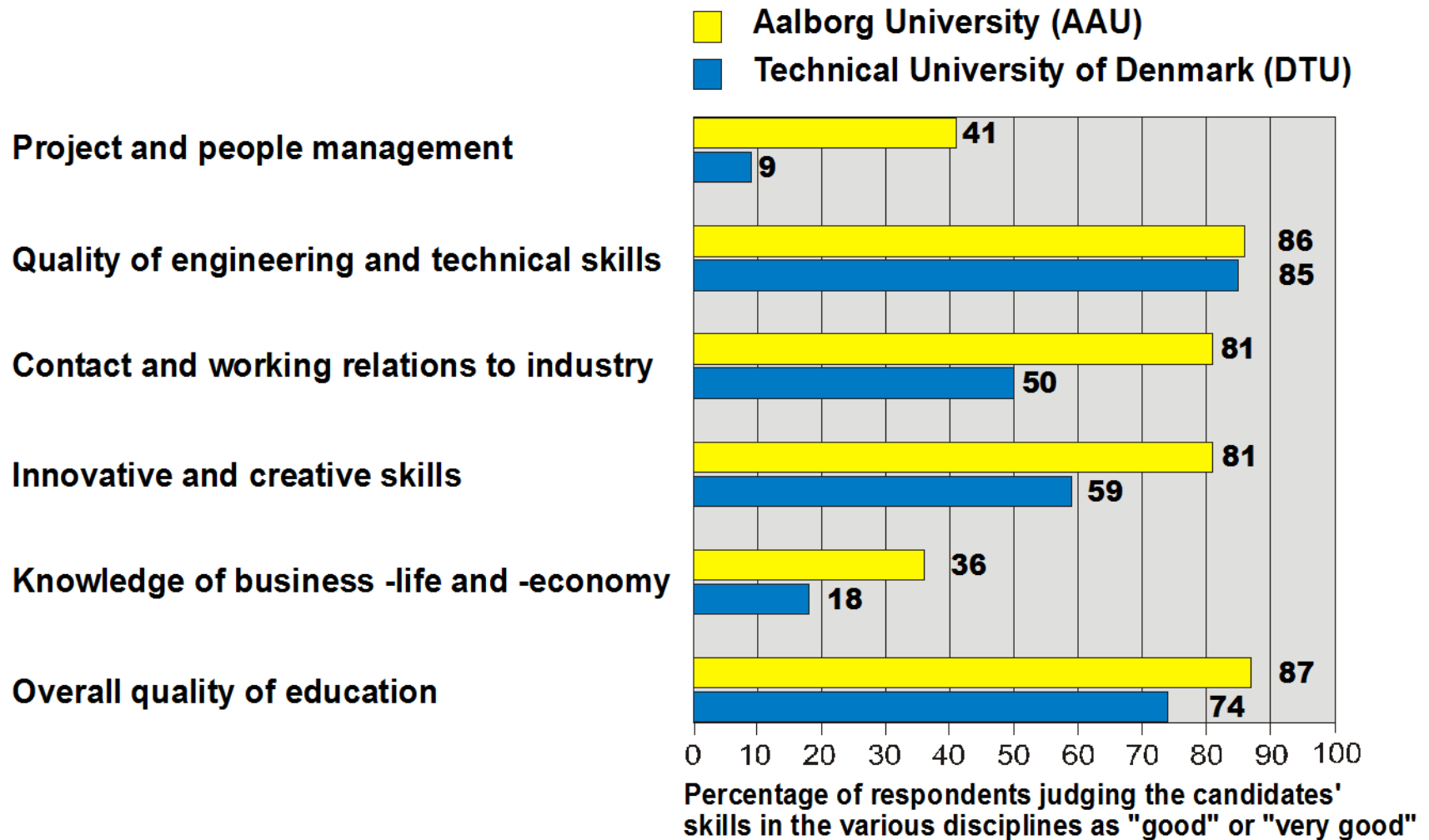


AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

***Tell me and I will forget
Teach me and I may remember
Involve me and I learn***

Benjamin Franklin

PBL reality check



Source: Nyhedsmagasinet Ingeniøren, nr 13, 2004

Outline



- **PBLMD - the Action**
- **Project team**
- **Expected outcomes and outputs**
- **What is student-centered pedagogy**
- **How do we get there?**
- **Governance and project management**
- **Key success factors**
- **Q&A**

PBLMD – the Action

- PBLMD is a national, capacity building project funded with the support of the European Union under Erasmus+ programme.
- Its aim is to improve quality of teaching and learning methodologies and higher education programmes in Moldova while enhancing their relevance for the labour market and disadvantaged groups in the society
- It has a special mobility strand under which bachelor students and academic staff from Moldova will travel to EU project partners for studying and training
- **3 (4) year project**, with starting date: **October 15, 2015**
- Total budget of the Action: **€1,544,760**, of which **€657,275** is for student and academic staff mobility
- www.pblmd.aau.dk
- <https://www.facebook.com/pblmd.erasmusplus/>

PBLMD – the Action

(cont'd)

- **PBLMD project arose from the need to:**
 - Address the problem of students' diminishing competitiveness and decreasing employability rate in Moldova
 - Better integrate disadvantaged students into the teaching and learning environment and process

- **PBLMD was also informed by EUniAM findings, such as:**
 - Need for research-based teaching and learning
 - Need for new teaching and learning methodologies
 - Need for enhanced quality of teaching and learning
 - Need for international exposure of the universities
 - Need to cooperate with the industry

- **PBLMD intends to address these needs by:**
 - Introducing innovative, student-centered teaching and learning methodologies and methods
 - Re-designing 6 study programmes on the basis of these methods at 6 universities.

- **Moldovan partners**
 - **Academy of Economic Sciences of Moldova (Ala Cotelnic)**
 - **State University of Balti "Alecu Russo" (Valentina Pritcan)**
 - **State University of Cahul "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" (Andrei Popa)**
 - **State University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemitanu" (Mihail Gavriliuc)**
 - **State University of Moldova (Angela Niculita)**
 - **Technical University of Moldova (Viorel Bostan)**

PBLMD Team

(cont'd)

➤ EU partners

- **Aalborg University** (Olav J. Sorensen)
- **Royal Institute of Technology** (Olga Kordas)
- **University of Gloucestershire** (Colin Simpson)
- **University of Siegen** (Ralph Dreher)

➤ Associated partners

- **Ministry of Education of Republic of Moldova** (Nadejda Velisco)
- **Moldovan Association of ICT Companies** (Ana Chirita)
- **National Agency for Quality Assurance in Professional Education** (Andrei Chiciuc)
- **National Council of Student Organizations of Moldova** (Alexandru Cauia)
- **Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development** (Julia Iabanji)

Expected outcome and outputs

➤ **Outcomes:**

- **Change extant pedagogical culture and approaches that are teacher-centred and focused on the transmission and recall of knowledge from teacher to individual students**
- **Instill an alternative pedagogical culture that is student-centred**
- **Improve quality of teaching and learning methodologies**
- **Improve higher education programmes and respective curricula**
- **Enhance relevance of study programmes for the labour market**
- **Enhance relevance of study programmes for disadvantaged groups in the society**
- **Offer mobility opportunity for bachelor students and academic staff from Moldova.**

Expected outcome and outputs

(cont'd)

- The main **outputs** of PBLMD project are 6 redesigned - partly or fully – study programs based on Problem Based Learning (PBL) or other new, student-centered methods of teaching and learning:
 - **BSc in Business Administration** (Academy of Economic Business Studies)
 - **BSc in Information Technology** (Technical University of Moldova)
 - **BSc in Law** (State University of Moldova)
 - **BSc in Public Administration** (Balti State University)
 - **BSc in Entrepreneurship and Business Administration** (Cahul State University)
 - **BA in Medicine** (Medical State University).

What is student-centered pedagogy

- **Student-centred learning pedagogy encourages students to work independently and constructively using [academic staff as mentors and supervisors](#).**
- **It is a learning philosophy according to which the learning process is organized in such a way that the students actively engage in [finding problems and answers on their own](#).**
- **PBL is composed of the following five elements:**
 - **[Real-life problems](#)**
 - **[Theory-Practice integration](#)**
 - **[Group-based](#)**
 - **[Project-oriented](#)**
 - **[Independence and Engagement](#)**

How do we get there?

- **6 Task Force Teams**
- **A Task Force Team per study programme:**
 - **Team leader (MD)**
 - **3-5 team members (MD)**
 - **3-4 mentors (EU)**
 - **3-5 advisors (associated members, MD)**
 - **Students**



Governance and project management

➤ Executive Body

- Romeo V. Turcan, Associate Professor, AAU, Denmark (Project Coordinator)
- Larisa Bugaian, Professor, TUM, Moldova (National Coordinator)
- Valeria Gulieva, AAU, Denmark (Project Manager)
- Ina Marianne Svendsen, AAU, Denmark (Financial Controller)

➤ Steering Committee

- Ala Cotelnic, Prime-vice rector for Studies, AESM, Moldova
- Andrei Popa, rector, USC, Moldova
- Angela Niculita, vice rector, MSU, Moldova
- Colin Simpson, Senior Lecturer, UoG, UK
- Mihail Gavriliuc, vice rector, SUMPPh, Moldova
- Olav J. Sorensen, Professor, AAU, Denmark
- Olga Kordas, Senior Researcher, KTH, Sweden
- Ralph Dreher, Professor, USIEGEN, Germany
- Valentina Pritcan, vice rector, USARB, Moldova
- Viorel Bostan, director of Program in Computer Science, TUM, Moldova

➤ Quality auditors

- John Reilly, Professor, Higher Education Consultant, University of Kent, UK
- Olle ten Cate, Professor, Medical Education, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Critical success factors

- A number of critical success factors are identified that are vital for the successful implementation of the PBLMD project, namely:
 - **Vision and Drive** to create a student-centred and research-based teaching and learning environment
 - **Commitment and Willingness** of **rectors and their management teams** of MD partners to change the context, culture and methods of teaching and learning as well as structure and content of study programmes
 - **Commitment and Willingness** of **academic staff** of MD partners to change the culture and methods of teaching and learning as well as structure and content of study programmes
 - **Active Direct Participation** of **businesses** in the development of study programmes and respective curricula, as well as in practice-based teaching and learning
 - **Vision and Drive** to **become internationally competitive universities** and attractive to international students and academic staff
 - **Patience and Hard Work** are virtues everyone involved in the PBLMD project cannot afford not to pursue.

Q&A

