

Introducing New Teaching and Learning Methods at Universities in Moldova

EU-funded national project will introduce new teaching and learning methods at six universities in Moldova.

PBLMD stands for *“Introducing Problem Based Learning in Moldova: Toward Enhancing Students’ Competitiveness and Employability”*. PBLMD is an EU funded, capacity building project that aims 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 also has a special mobility strand under which bachelor students and academic staff from Moldova will travel to EU project partners for studying and training.

The main outputs of the project are 6 redesigned - partly or fully - study programs based on Problem Based Learning (PBL) or other new methods of teaching and learning. These programmes are: BSc in Business Administration (AESM), BSc in Information Technology (TUM), BSc in Law (MSU), BSc in Public Administration (USARB), BSc in Business Administration (USC), and BA in Medicine (SUMPh).

By introducing new teaching and learning methodologies at these 6 study programmes, the project aims to contribute to a change of extant pedagogical culture and approaches that are teacher-centred and focused on the transmission and recall of knowledge from teacher to individual students towards student-centred learning pedagogy. For example, PBL is a student-centred learning pedagogy that 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 methodology also integrates and supports disadvantaged students who are currently dropout threatened, as well as facilitates attraction and retention of the students from the families with non-academic backgrounds.

PBLMD is a three-year project funded with the support of the European Union under Erasmus+ programme. The total budget of the project is €1,544,760, of which €657,275 is student and academic staff mobility. The project’s starting date is October 15, 2015. A consortium between 4 EU and 6 MD universities and 6 associate partners in Moldova was formed.

EU partners are: Aalborg University (AAU), Denmark; Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden; University of Gloucestershire (UOG), the UK; University of Siegen (USIEGEN), Germany. Moldovan partners are: Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (AESM), Balti State University “Alecu Russo” (USARB), Cahul State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu” (USC), Moldova State University (MSU), State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae

Testemitanu” (SUMPh), Technical University of Moldova (TUM). Associate partners are: Ministry of Education (MoEdu), Moldovan Association of ICT Companies (ATIC), National Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (NAQAA), National Agency for Quality Assurance in Professional Education (ANACIP), National Council of Student Organizations of Moldova (NCSOM), Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development (ODIIM).

AAU is the principal applicant and lead partner of PBLMD project. PBLMD project coordinator is Dr. Romeo V. Turcan, Associate Professor of International Business and Entrepreneurship, AAU. PBLMD national project coordinator is Prof. Larisa Bugaian, Vice-Rector, TUM.

The project has ambitious aims and we call for active participation from students, academic staff, business people, sector NGOs, and other key stakeholders. One of project’s main means of communication is the project Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pblmd.erasmusplus. For more information about PBLMD, please visit the project website: www.pblmd.aau.dk.