



Report on sustainability and spin-offs of the EURASIA project

Document description

The document elaborates on the sustainability and the spin-off effects of the EURASIA project which ensure that its outputs will continue after the end of the project.

The project **sustainability** is ensured by the successful accreditation of 53 courses as part of official study programs at the partner HEIs to be offered in 18 different BA and MA programs in partner-country universities. The wide offer of EU-related courses and the accreditation of cross-curricular courses ensures sustainability as the closure of any of the programmes does not constitute a risk. The courses have been validated and accredited in line with the Bologna process and the local regulations. The result is:

- 42 courses worth 2 ECTS each
- 1 course worth 3 ECTS
- 10 courses worth 4 ECTS each
- 27 BA courses
- 16 MA courses
- 10 MA/BA courses
- 16 core curricular/compulsory courses
- 37 curricular elective courses some of which are part of a specialized course offer with EU profile

The 56 trained lecturers and course developers are committed to delivering and refining the courses in ES in cooperation with program countries in the future and they are supported by the university leadership (as stated in the provided video testimonies by lecturers, deans and vice-deans of the partner HEIs).

The extensive involvement of young faculty and PhDs in training activities and other events is another important pillar of the project sustainability. Among the trained academics 22 are junior faculty developing courses in tandem with more experienced lecturers (JGU - 5, BFSU - 3, GDUFS - 2, SLSP - 12). 71 young academics and PhD and MA students participated actively in the 2 summer schools (06-07/2021) – see the Factsheets on D6.7.1 and 6.7.2 – Summer schools for training PhD students and young faculty. Undergraduate and postgraduate students, faculty members and research scholars attended the EURASIA Distinguished Speaker Programme (11-12/2020) organised by SLSP as an internationalisation at home activity.

The cascading training organised by SLSP on 11/11/2019 during which 45 academics from all constituents of Symbiosis International (Deemed) University were trained sets an example of multiplying the capacity building training received by its staff members.

Forms of targeted sustainability specific to the partner-country HEIs

These forms of sustainability are specific to the partner internationalisation strategy and vision of development:

JGU

- Broadening the scope of engaging students and academic staff in the theme of European Studies across the university, leading to an enhance inter-faculty cooperation due to the preparation and accreditation of 10 cross-curricular courses in European Studies open to BA and MA students at JGU.
- Accrediting a new Master-level programme - LLM in European Law as a result of the project. The programme envisages that selected students will pursue the second semester in Sofia University.

SLSP

- 17 courses at SLSP - one core curricular course and a separate basket of electives – are offered to two BA 5-year programmes in Legal Studies - BA LLB (Hons) and BBA LLB (Hons.)
- Development of an MA specialization in EU Legal Studies (11 courses); inclusion of niche courses in Law in Bachelor programs (17 courses); consolidated, enhanced certification programme with the new courses; strengthening of inter-faculty ties through the cascade training (11/2019).
- Centre-staging the field of European Studies through the annual SYMROLIC conferences organised by SLPS which included a special EURASIA strand in 2018, 2019 and 2021. The latest 2021 edition of the Symrolic was attended by delegates from 9 different countries (India, United States of America, Italy, Germany, Bulgaria, Poland, Ireland, South Africa and Greece). The audience included policy makers, faculty members, industry experts, lawyers, Judges, Ph.D. Scholars and students of Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes. It had total attendance of 800 approximately thus leading to an enhanced interest in EU Integration, rule of law, intergovernmentalism on the local and national level.

GDUFS

- Strengthening of the fixed MA in EU Studies with 2 updated and 3 new core courses.

- 2 BA courses at GDUFS are accredited as cross-curricular BA courses and offered to students of different academic subjects. This has led to the enhanced visibility of the Centre of European Studies at GDUFS among other constituents of the university.

BFSU

- 4 BA majors in European Languages and Cultures (Bulgarian, Greek, Danish and Dutch) were enriched with core curricular courses in European Studies.
- The inter-faculty cooperation between SELC (the main BFSU partner in this project) and the Law & Business Schools grew by the consolidating of the 2 BA minor programmes (Languages and Law and Languages and Business) with 3 updated and 1 new core curricular courses in European Studies.
- The 8 accredited courses are now regarded as a model for course-development at BFSU.
- The participation in the project and using the EURASIA online courses and the online video-lectures (subtitled in Chinese) serves as an inspiration model for the BFSU academics to develop ICT-based and online resources to enrich the learning materials they dispose of.

Bilateral agreements

There 6 bilateral agreements on university-level signed between partners. Despite the pandemic preventing the negotiations for inter-regional and more bilateral agreements between the partner and programme country HEIs, the partners are committed to renewing their efforts in this direction.

BFSU

- MoU with Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria -signed on 08.09.2015
- Started a double degree programme in Intercultural communication and translation with Chinese in two versions – 2 semesters for specialists and 4 semesters for non-specialists – accredited on 29.05.2019 – containing EU-related topics, EU terminology courses
- MoU with the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland – signed on 29.06.2015
- Plans to sign further agreements and to implement a double programme with the Jagiellonian University – a double degree on Central and Eastern European Studies with the Jagiellonian university, Poland, is under development

GDUFS

- Agreement for cooperation with Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria - signed on 14.04.2021

SLSP

- MoU with Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria -signed on 12.06.2019
- MoU with the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland – signed on 10.09.2018

Started preparing a MoU with University of Catania, Italy but the negotiations stalled due to the pandemic. Planned to reopen them.

Plans about signing MoUs with BFSU, GDUFS and JGU but due to the pandemic these have not been realized so far.

JGU

- MoU with Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria -signed on 29.01.2018

Further spin-offs of EURASIA

Joint research has started and will continue at least a year after the end of the project, which supports research-based teaching on the themes:

- Future of European Studies in Asia
- Attitudes to and perceptions of online learning; application of Q-methodology and research;
- Researching the experience of assessing PhD education in a comparative respect

New joint initiatives:

- A new project devoted to the need for economic incentives, legal reforms and technological transformation for ensuring Energy Justice – India-EU perspectives (funded by the EU India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative 2020 – 2022) with SLSP and Sofia University as partners.
- BFSU started 2 new joint MA programmes with SU in intercultural communication and translations (accredited in 2019) aimed at becoming part of the EMT (European Masters of Translation) Network.
- GDUFS initiated the Campus EURO-ASIA project which is based on experience of EURASIA and is approved and supported by the China Scholarship Council (CSC) and jointly planned and implemented by GDUFS. This has led to signing an agreement (on 14.04.2021) on exchanging PhD students and planning and implementing joint education and research activities with the coordinator - Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria.

Innovative EURASIA Nanodegree Program

The Consolidated module offer - EURASIA Nanodegree Programme ensures sustainability in the offer and use of the EURASIA online courses, appropriate for a wider educational context. The nanodegree program provides recognition of credits at 3 levels leading to a Joint Certificate issued by the project EU partners. The 3 level-nanodegree programme comprises individual courses leading to a course digital badge, 3 nanodegrees in European Studies each leading to a digital badge and a EURASIA certificate digital badge. The nanodegree programme is in line with the latest research and EU-level initiatives connected with micro credentials as a flexible open form of certifying specific skills relevant to one's personal academic interests or with the needs of the labour market. The EURASIA Nanodegree Programme will be administered through the EURASIA website - <https://eurasiaproject.eu/nanodegree-courses/>. The platform allows further enrichment of the courses and nanodegrees offer according to the latest developments in the field of study and the requirements of the labour market. The EURASIA nanodegree in European Studies is the first of its kind in the field of European Studies. The consortium is committed to maintain the system as part of their digitalization and modernization action plans and enrich it in time according to identified future needs.