

**EURASIA - EUROPEAN STUDIES REVITALIZED ACROSS ASIAN UNIVERSITIES**

**Project ID: 585968-EPP-1-2017-1-BG-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP**



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**WORKPACKAGE 2 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**  
**DELIVERABLE 2.4 INTER-UNIVERSITY COURSE “THE ECONOMIC AND**  
**POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA: THE PERSPECTIVES OF**  
**DIPLOMACY AND ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL TIES”**

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## Document Control

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<b>2</b>	01.10.2019	UniCt + SU + JU+ partners	Revised draft
<b>3</b>	20.11.2019	SU + UniCt + JU + partner notes	Finalised draft
<b>4</b>	21.06.2021	Sofia University + TLC + UVSQ + JU	Final draft with consolidated modules

## The EURASIA Consortium

- Partner 1 Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (SU) - Bulgaria
- Partner 2 Jagiellonian University (JU) – Poland
- Partner 3 University of Catania (UNICT) – Italy
- Partner 4 O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) - India
- Partner 5 Symbiosis Law School, Pune (SLSP) (Constituent of Symbiosis International University) - India
- Partner 6 Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (GDUFS) - China
- Partner 7 Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) - China
- Partner 8 The Languages Company (TLC) - UK
- Partner 9 University of Versailles St-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ)



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## Project Summary

The overall objective of the EURASIA project is to introduce high quality European Studies programs in universities in India and China and to enhance the visibility of EU-related topics through the creation of professional academic networks. The project aims to bring positive and long-term impact to higher education institutions in India and China through concerted and focused capacity-building for faculty and staff. EURASIA is a unique initiative with a significant potential to strengthen the international cooperation and dialogue between the European partners and the higher education institutions in India and China.

## Project Objectives

The EURASIA project aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To contribute to capacity building in India and China in the field of European studies that can effectively enhance the EU-India and EU-China cooperation and dialogue as articulated in the 2016 EU Global Strategy in a Globalizing World.
2. To respond to partner institutions' needs for new education and training modules in European studies and to improve already established BA and MA level programs in EU related subjects.
3. To strengthen the internationalization of education in the participating universities through the establishment of new networks of researchers and faculty in the field of EU studies.
4. To encourage intercultural communication between countries and regions.
5. To improve competences and capacity of partner universities to deliver quality undergraduate and graduate level education in EU studies.
6. To provide faculty and young researchers in partner universities in India and China with innovative opportunities for training, mobility and learning exchange.

EURASIA is a 3-year project, implemented from 15 Oct. 2017 to 15 Oct. 2020.

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## Document description

This document contains the outline of the Inter-university course “The Economic and Political Dialogue between Europe and Asia: The Perspectives of Diplomacy and Academic and Cultural Ties” as part of WP 2. The course is a demonstration of the co-creation undertaken by the EURASIA consortium which involves academics from both programme and partner countries’ universities.

## Task description

In addition to the 3 modules, the consortium has undertaken the task to develop and implement an inter-university course on “The Economic and Political Dialogue between Europe and Asia: The Perspectives of Diplomacy and Academic and Cultural Ties”, involving faculty and selected MA/PhD students from the member HEIs in CH and IN. The course will serve as a platform for elaborating teaching and research materials, ideas for classroom discussions and extracurricular activities that will be a product of the EURASIA team and will benefit HEIs in both program and partner countries. The course is envisaged to be offered online and to be finalized with a 5 days summer school for doctoral students and young faculty in the 3<sup>rd</sup> project year in Bulgaria allowing a face-to-face exchange between consortium academics and the participants as one of the end activities of the project.

### Objectives

- Introduce innovative pedagogical methodology, driven by both digital technology and inter-institutional cooperation and co-creation
- Create a model program for faculty training and teaching EU Studies in CH and IN, supported with a rich database of adaptable pedagogical resources that can easily feed into a wide array of EU Studies courses
- Integrate innovative teaching and learning methods into the design of the modules and courses developed under EURASIA (using ICT, problem and project-based learning, peer learning, experiential learning, etc.)
- Harness the shared expertise of the program HEIs in BG, IT, PL and complement it with input from the partner countries in order to contextualize the delivered modules, courses and learning materials, and adjust these to local students’ needs
- Foster the active engagement of students in the design and validation of the new curricula and programs through various channels for feedback and evaluation
- Empower the academic staff from the Indian and Chinese institutions to plan and implement the above



## SECTION I: Background and context

### Objectives

The following **sub-objectives** with a specific focus on Deliverable 2.4 Inter-university course “The Economic and Political Dialogue between Europe and Asia: The Perspectives of Diplomacy and Academic and Cultural Ties” derived from the WP2 objectives as well as the global project aims are detailed with the active participation of all partners as follows:

- Enhance the peer-to-peer support and collaboration between the programme and the partner country HEIs to deliver a comprehensive inter-university course on The Economic and Political Dialogue between Europe and Asia: The Perspectives of Diplomacy and Academic and Cultural Ties
- Support the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of higher education in the Partner Countries by introducing collaboratively EU-related topics to wider cohorts of students as part of a flexible modular comprehensive course
- Improve the level of competences and skills in HEIs by developing new and innovative education programmes based on participatory methodologies and techniques related to museum and cultural heritage pedagogies
- Introduce a student-centred approach by studying the needs of students, their interest thus raising their motivation to take up courses related to EU topics
- Improve the quality of higher education and enhance its relevance to the labour market and society as a whole
- Promote a strong quality-oriented approach and a sustainable dialogue with the respective stakeholders so that the designed new courses and curricula have an integral link with the labour market and will thus ensure a higher level of student employability
- Make it possible to enhance the development of empathy, cross-cultural competence and in-depth understanding of the specific role of the EU as a global actor as well as an awareness of the social and political relations between Asian countries and the EU.

### Context

The development of the inter-university course is closely related to the previous WP 2 deliverables, namely, the elaboration of the three training modules and naturally builds up on them.

It should also be seen as the culmination of the capacity building activities resulting in a truly collaborative effort to present and deliver a joint module dwelling deeper on the Economic and Political Dialogue between Europe and Asia: The Perspectives of Diplomacy and Academic and Cultural Ties.

The development of new courses and updating existing curricula undertaken by the EURASIA partners is characterized by the following features:



- access to complementary knowledge, expertise and skills is provided
- quality products with a high level of comparability, compatibility and exchange in program and partner HEIs
- established networks that can easily feed into new international cooperation for research and mobility in and beyond EU
- pooled resources from all countries involved in the project
- shared expertise and infrastructure
- on-site and online venues for the promotion of centers of excellence in learning and teaching EU Studies
- increased visibility of Europe in third countries and vice versa.

A specific EURASIA methodology has been developed. In the first place, it is focused on enhancing internationalization and improvement of curricula and use of ICT ensured by the intensive contacts among academics and administrative staff from all the participating HEIs. Next, the capacity building action is ensured throughout the project through establishing teaching collaborations and inter-institutional mobility. Finally, the project results comprise a significant number of newly developed courses in all partner countries' universities and a much smaller number of updated ones, a series of extracurricular activities targeting students at the three levels of HE and young faculty– open events and lectures and summer schools.

EURASIA is about a strategy for program development, which reinforces the link between quality assurance in teaching/learning, internationalization and institutional leadership.

The two Indian universities have entered the project with their Law Schools which opens opportunities for a specialization in EU Law and bearing in mind that the knowledge and understanding of the EU is rather low and not covered in Indian HE there is the need for more general courses to set a reliable and solid background for specialization in EU law and studies.

The two Chinese partners are both highly reputable universities of foreign studies and their constituents which are directly involved in EURASIA have a background in language and culture learning. EURASIA gives them an opportunity to incorporate new courses and update the existing ones by highlighting the focus on the EU and overcoming the trend of including EU studies under the field of Regional studies, which does not correspond to the current situation of EU-China relations and the EU role as a global actor.

The EU institutions which are part of the project all have extensive experience and expertise in delivering training in different aspects of EU Studies – from EU law to EU policies including language polices, multiculturalism and cultural diplomacy. In fact, Sofia University, University of Catania and the Jagiellonian University provide specialised training in EU Studies to BA and MA students. These institutions dispose of the necessary academic and research excellence and have huge experience in applying learning-by-doing, student-centred techniques in EU Studies.

In this context, the main driver behind the EURASIA project is the established complementarity of expertise across the consortium. On the one hand, the programme country universities are well established as institutions providing high quality education and research in European Studies. On the other, the four partner country universities have both expertise and well-defined capacity building needs in this field.



## SECTION II: Planning and implementing the inter-university course

The expertise of the universities in Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, France as well as the Languages Company from the UK is pulled together to prepare and deliver a teacher training module for partner country faculty based on their strong points, existing competences as well as needs and gaps identified during the preparation phase of the project under WP1. It reflects the breaking down of the suggested thematic modules based on the comparison between the stated teaching and research capacity building needs and gaps by partner country HEIs and the offer of expertise by the programme country institutions done as a result of the work under WP1.

The constituent parts of the inter-university course were initially discussed and negotiated during the three long-term training sessions in Catania (October 2018), in Sofia (December 2018) and in Krakow (January-February 2019). They are developed in a way which is complementary to the three training modules elaborated under WP 2 and to particular courses at each partner university.

The course was finalized during the two summer schools delivered at the end of the EURASIA project – the Summer School for young faculty and PhD students organised by UVSQ (14-19 June 2021) and the summer school on “EU-China Relations” organised and delivered jointly by GDUFS and Sofia University (5-9 July 2021).

Originally, it was planned to incorporate online learning tools to deliver the course and discuss and finalise it in a face-to-face format during the Versailles summer school. However, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the partners to do all the work in a distance mode.

The inter-university course comprises three distinct modules:

1. Content input on the theme of Economic and Political Dialogue between Europe and Asia: The Perspectives of Diplomacy and Academic and Cultural Ties in the form of online lectures coupled with the available relevant online courses developed under WP 4.
2. Input on methodology training including a videoed session of applying one of the suggested approaches with EU Studies students at Sofia University in their course on European Identity
3. Specialised input from the three thematic modules developed at each partner university

### **Module “Content input on Economic and Political Dialogue between Europe and Asia: The Perspectives of Diplomacy and Academic and Cultural Ties”**

- The EU Economy and India and China – lecturer Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krassen Stanchev, Sofia University, Bulgaria
- Bulgaria and China trade and investment relationship – Dr. Teodora Peneva, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Bulgaria
- EU Trade and Investment in a Historic and Contemporary Perspective – online course developed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krassen Stanchev, Sofia University, Bulgaria





- The Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU – lecturer Prof. Dr. Ingrid Shikova, Sofia University, Bulgaria
- The EU Political System – an online course developed by Prof. Dr. Francesca Longo and Dr. Iole Fontana, University of Catania, Italy
- The EU and International Security – lecturer Prof. Dr. Plamen Pantev, Sofia University, Bulgaria
- Challenges and Opportunities in China-EU Relations – lecturer Mr. Angel Orbetsov (Ambassador to PR of China 2003-2008, Director of the “Asia, Australia and Oceania” Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2008-2019), Bulgaria
- External relations of the EU – an online course developed by Prof. Dr. Francesca Longo, Prof. Dr. Daniela Irrera and Dr. Iole Fontana, University of Catania, Italy
- Multilingualism and EU Language Policy – lecturer Dr. Lid King, TLC, UK
- EU Language Policies – an online course developed by Dr. Lid King, TLC, UK

### **Module “Input on methodology training”**

- Implementation of the method, description of an accredited program – lecturer Prof. Dr. Gilles Ruet, UVSQ, France
- Employability of diplomas, general presentation and continuing education as a factor of employability – lecturer Mourad Attarca, UVSQ, France
- Oxford debate as a tool in teaching European Studies – lecturer Dr. Natasza Styczynska, Jagiellonian University, Poland
- European museums reflecting social change. How to teach students about Europe in museums? – lecturer Łucja Piekarska-Duraj, Jagiellonian University, Poland
- Oxford Debate – a videoed implementation of the simulation game with EU Studies Students from Sofia University, Bulgaria.

The video lectures are freely available from the EURASIA website accessible after registration and a password (<https://eurasiaproject.eu/on-line-courses/inter%e2%80%90university-course-the-economic-and-political-dialogue-between-europe-and-asia-%d1%82he-perspectives-of-diplomacy-and-academic-and-cultural-ties/>). To obtain the password, any interested academic should send an email to [admin@eurasiaproject.eu](mailto:admin@eurasiaproject.eu) or [sueurasia@gmail.com](mailto:sueurasia@gmail.com).

Short video introductions about the online courses incorporated in this module can be found here (free access - no password required):

- EU Trade and Investment in a Historic and Contemporary Perspective - <https://eurasiaproject.eu/eu-trade-and-investment-in-historic-and-contemporary-perspective/>
- The EU Political System - <https://eurasiaproject.eu/the-eu-political-system/>
- External relations of the EU - <https://eurasiaproject.eu/external-relations-of-the-eu/>



- EU Language Policies - <https://eurasiaproject.eu/eu-language-policies/>

### **Complementary (optional) module from the partner-country HEIs**

Essential Reading for European Studies – teacher Assoc. Prof. Dr. LAI Suetyi, GDUFS

Innovation and Competiton, Law and Policy, from Perspective of EU and China – teacher Prof. Yao Qi, BFSU

The Evolution of the European Integration – teacher Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kalyani Unkule, JGU

Principles and Foundations of EU Law – teachers Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aparajita Mohanty, SLS Pune

The EU and Food - teacher Assoc. Prof. Dr. LAI Suetyi, GDUFS

European Union Public Diplomacy – teacher Asst. Prof. ZAHNG Jiachen, BFSU

What is Europe? – teacher Assoc. Prof. Dr. Priya Kanungo, JGU

Law and Diplomacy: India and EU Perspectives – teacher Prof. Kshitij Naikade, SLS Pune

External Relations of the EU - teacher Assoc. Prof. Dr. LAI Suetyi, GDUFS

Big Data and Digital Media Reform in EU and India - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suruchi Mazumdar (Assistant Dean), JGU

EU India Free Trade Agreement - Prof. Abhijit Vasmatkar, Dr. Neha Bobde, Prof. Lasya Vyakaranam, SLS Pune