
Application for a workshop at the EDEN annual conference in Dublin, 2011

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STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION MODERNISATION, INTERNATIONALISATION AND OPENNESS BY SUPPORTING TEACHER VIRTUAL MOBILITY

The workshop contributes to the European discussion on modernisation of higher education (HE) via enhancing virtual mobility (VM) among academic staff. Though a number of EU projects have addressed VM needs and developed the tools to implement VM research, teaching practices and teaching virtual communities, VM still brings numerous problems and questions that arise at HE institutions and to individual learners. The benefits and impact of teacher VM on modernisation of HE has not been explored and estimated in the global view. The discussion is repeatedly addressed on:

- What is the common understanding of VM on European, national and institutional levels?
- How teacher VM is beneficial for modernisation, internationalisation and openness of HE institutions? What impact of teacher VM has for students, teachers themselves and HE institutions?
- What are the barriers and problem areas that need to be addressed to exploit VM practices in European HE institutions?

The workshop focuses on defining the current VM practices in Europe. It aims to provoke an international discussion on what still needs to be done at institutional and policy levels to support and mainstream current VM practices.

THE SUGGESTED SCHEDULE OF THE WORKSHOP (1,5 HOUR).

1. **Introduction to the workshop.** (5 min) Airina Volungevičienė, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania (CV attached in Annex 1).
2. **Presentations (40 min):**
 - a. Virtual mobility in HE seen from a European perspective drawing on the experience of successful projects . Patricia De Smet, European Commission, DG Education and Culture.
 - b. Defining and strengthening VM through practice, methodological guidelines and quality assurance. Wim Van Petegem, University of Leuven. (CV attached in annex 2)
 - c. Teacher VM impact for students, teachers and modernisation of HE institutions. Airina Volungevičienė, Margarita Teresevičienė, Vytautas Magnus University.
 - d. Teacher VM barriers and problem areas. Aquilino A.Juan, University of Oviedo. (CV attached in Annex 3).
3. **Splitting into Group work moderated by three presenters (30 min group work, groups rotating).** Each group investigates one of the above mentioned problem:
 - a. **Group 1. Teacher VM impact for students and modernisation of HE institutions.** The group will discuss what are benefits of teacher VM for students, teachers themselves and HE institutions in terms of internationalisation, modernisation and openness. **Group work outcome** – the list of benefits/ impact indicators that teacher VM brings for students, teachers themselves and HE institutions.
 - b. **Group 2. Teacher VM barriers and problem areas.** The group identifies the list of problem areas and limitations that sustain HE institutions from application of VM in practice. **Group work outcome** – the list of barriers and problem areas with the action items identified to solve these problems .
 - c. **Group 3. Defining VM through practice, methodological guidelines and quality assurance.** The group identifies the structure of guidelines that HE institutions need to implement teacher VM in practice. **Group work outcome** – the list of methodological guidelines structure for HE institutions to implement teacher VM and action items identified with the focus how HE institutions need to be supported in this initiative.
4. The discussions result in a **short presentation one by the group moderators** and **conclusion to the workshop** (15 min). **The gain for the participants of the workshop** consists of practical aspects, as well as theoretical discussion, collecting in one place examples from EU level, experiences and prospects for VM development.