WHAT HAS THE PROJECT ACHIEVED?

The TEMPUS project has achieved some of the fundamental outcomes envisaged and is still in progress to attain the remaining ones which will build up on the achievements. In the thorough needs analysis of the regions of Grodno and Polotsk in Belarus and Kharkiv, Kiev, and Uzhgorod in Ukraine, it has been concluded that possibilities of mutually beneficial collaboration in knowledge exchange by both universities and enterprises are underestimated. The current work on the project allows for boosting more effective cooperation between universities and enterprises through attracting and stimulating students to actively participate in the project and in relations between their universities and business in the respective regions.

WHAT DO WE BRING TO STUDENTS?

We shall challenge our students to fuel their creativity and stretch their ingenuity outside of the classroom. We are sure most of them will take it to heart, developing innovations in a number of areas.

The Project team will develop a platform of open innovations within the INNOVATION LABORATORY at each of the 5 partner universities in Belarus and Ukraine. It will become a center for student innovation ideas as a «mixing bowl» where students, staff, and business partners will mix ideas from many disciplines to create new and useful realities. The laboratory will attract students and stimulate their creativity and active sharing of business solutions and innovative ideas many of which will be used by enterprises. This will also increase employment potential of those students who will offer their ideas to the database on the platform which will form an ideas market.

We have talented students who are motivated, practice-driven, with bright ideas therefore we – an international team of the Project, expect to have a massive feedback from students.

HOW ARE STUDENTS ENGAGED IN THE PROJECT?

To reach the stimulation of students and enhance their active enterprise education the project envisages several study visits to the EU partners in Estonia and the UK. Three students chosen at each of the partner Universities in Belarus and Ukraine spent two weeks at Tallinn University of Technology in October 2013 where they have a rich programme of learning the Estonian University’s experience in attracting students’ ideas and promoting students’ active participation in the university-enterprise relations. Belarusian and Ukrainian students were largely impressed by the learnt experience and are ready to develop innovative and enterprising behaviour through the application of knowledge in resolving problems that are relevant to enterprises. The 5 Universities will help them to realise this through changes in the curriculum and wide use of the INNOVATION LABORATORY in the classroom and outside.

What was the study visit to Tallinn like? Was it successful? Was it useful? What were the impressions of the students about their visit, the events they attended, the atmosphere at Tallinn University of Technology?

STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR STUDY VISIT TO ESTONIA

We experienced something different and saw how building entrepreneurship skills works.

The first days we arrived in Estonia we took part in an international event called Garage48 in Pärnu, Estonia. This event was really event in which I had ever taken part. I had an opportunity to choose the idea which I liked and worked out in a small but international team the ways to realise that idea. I gained experience in communication, working in a team with people from different countries, preparing a presentation and presenting my idea in such a way that investors could trust in it and in myself. The greatest thing was that we had a chance to do something cool during 48 hours. Valeria Dadeka, Polotsk State University, Belarus

From Intercultural Communication to Internationalised business ideas.

Garage48 as you have already understood was a 48-hour event aimed to show that business means a positive attitude, creative team and
It was more the process and atmosphere created by the organizers which mattered.

There are many activities for start-ups, but none gives so much practical and theoretical skills as Garage48 gave us. It was not so much about the completed projects, as it was about the process and atmosphere created by the organizers. First, people share ideas, choose their field and role in a team. When people gathered together they could walk around the hall and get acquainted with the ideas from the people who invented them. After that there was a short-time presentation of those ideas: a presenter stood in the center of the hall and talked about his or her idea for no more than 90 seconds. Alongside went key points written on a piece of paper - so that the words could implant the idea in the audience's heads.

After teams were formed by free joining on the part of the audience to the owners' ideas. If the owner of the idea did not have enough people in his/her team he or she was advised to join another team. That was a natural way of eliminating unpopular start-ups. Then teams started working. Vadim Griaznov, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Developing Marketing researcher skills was great in an international environment of a team.

Estonia is some steps ahead of us in innovations, business education and entrepreneurship

I learnt a lot through this joint work. For example, how to conduct a market research, analyse the market and, last but not least, I have acquired skills to work in a team. Svitlana Slava, Uzhgorod National University, Ukraine.

Margett from Estonia was a charming person who made our application look tasty, left me impressed by her skills. She is a very creative girl who always wanted to improve her work, so she did not even sleep too much in the nights during the G48 event. Eriki and Ali, our developers, were responsible for magic, so they made our kitchen work! And in general, the whole work of the team looked like real magic to me. Yauheniya Yarmolinskaya, Grodno State University, Belarus.

Our team was called «Crappy gifts». The idea was about creating a site that would attract people who have unnecessary gifts but want to share them with those who may need them. At the end we presented a web site where one can share gifts for free. The process of working on the idea and presentation and the result were all amazing. The team consisting of 9 people was indeed international:

- project managers - Piret-Klea Vellester and Kristiina Kerge
- marketing gurus - Kristiina Kerge, Svitlana Slava and Svjatoslav Rakovich
- designers - Mariana Povidaichyk and Konstantin Burmahin
- developers - Asse Sauga, Loviise Liia Paas, Valeria Dadeka

Elena Solonitskaya, Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute, Ukraine.
The international experience gained in Pärnu was enriched in the events arranged for our students at Tallinn University of Technology. Internship at Tallinn University of Technology became a great opportunity for me to improve my knowledge of business planning, entrepreneurship and marketing. I gained advanced experiences of TUT about realisation of innovations and about managing innovative processes. The quality of studying was amazing. The professors were very qualified in entrepreneurship, so they were confident in the information that they provided us with. They taught us how to produce business ideas and develop them. The programme on the whole was interesting and breathtaking.

The University boasts of its amazing library. TUT has many zones for students where they can relax or do some group work. I liked the fact that all the University buildings, including dormitories, are situated close to each other on one big campus where the most distant place is in 10 minutes’ stroll from the main building.

All of the visitors on this study trip to Estonia were impressed by MEKTORY (abbreviation which means “modern Estonian knowledge transfer organization for you”) and the business incubator. There we got to know different start-up projects and companies which all demonstrated close ties between business and the University. Oleh Tkachev, Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute

ENTRUM – the starting point in creating generation with enterprising mindset
Youth Entrepreneurship Ideas Contest and Development Programme ENTRUM started in 2010 in Estonia. It builds on the concept of an ideal of personality with enterprising mindset and 4-steps methodology acknowledged by several international awards. No business is possible without creative passion that motivates people to dream big, think smart, act wisely, take risks, care about others, be responsible and most importantly, be happy! Its slogan is more than impressive: BE THE MASTER OF YOURSELF!

Could the visiting students from Belarus and Ukraine become masters of their selves in Estonia? The answer is “yes, they could”. They got involved and through that involvement they became motivated and active through the impressions they had. One of the events that impressed me most during our stay in Estonia, was a mini-training at an educational program led by the Entrum Group. Entrum mission is to educate a new generation of initiative and enterprising young people. There was a performer who showed us how they work with young people all across Estonia as well as internationally. Although the meeting lasted more than 2 hours, nobody got bored because instruction was genuinely combined with lively discussion, exercises, games and even dancing. All these measures were designed to create a vibrant spirit of the audience, it was in the air around us, people remained active and eager to create new ideas, ready for new challenges. Entrum supports the idea that in order to achieve great success, you need to leave your comfort zone. How to do it? The best way to get into an environment where something new happens to you all the time and therefore will expand your comfort zone is to adapt to these new circumstances and events. Entrum creates such environment and this is all Entrum which integrates active youth.

Daria Lobovich, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

What I learnt was how through trial and error and embarrassment to communicate effectively and freely, how to see opportunities, grow up our ideas, value yourself, find your place in a team, through trial and error too, and how to work as a single team consisting of different personalities. I am full of energy after the study visit to Estonia and ready to act. Kiryll Krivitsky, Polotsk State University.
WHAT IS NOW?

Now the students are back in their studies at their home Universities. However the reflections on the visit have freshened their emotions all received in Pärnu and Tallinn. They are impressed and full of energy. They are now motivated to design and develop their most brave ideas and offer them to the open innovation platform at the INNOVATION LABORATORY.

At present another group of students from the five partner Universities in Belarus and Ukraine are almost ready to take part in their study visit to Bradford University – a lead partner in the United Kingdom. No one doubts the experience of the students will be positive and they will be no less impressed. We as a managing board of the international TEMPUS project regret that only a limited number of Belarusian and Ukrainian students had and will have a chance to get in touch with different educational cultures and be able to live through different positive experiences in innovations. However we are seeking ways to involve other students at the partner Universities in enterprise education, to give them an opportunity to express themselves through offering their ideas and solutions. Soon after the visit to Bradford University two new modules will be introduced into the existing curriculum at the partner Universities in Belarus and Ukraine, namely “Creative Thinking” and “Innovation Management”. We are sure they both will contribute to the development of students’ entrepreneurial skills, create an atmosphere of creativity for students and stimulate students’ active participation in ideas market establishment on the e-resource of INNOLAB. This will lead to the experimentation which is indeed the last phase of the TEMPUS project. The experimentation will be undertaken to learn from a pilot of innovation laboratories with students and academics at the Belarusian and Ukrainian partner Universities. The experiment will involve a minimum of 40 students at each of the five Universities. This will ensure a broad range of problem solving activities, interaction between students, staff, and enterprises in the five regions in Belarus and Ukraine using the ideas market platform. The experimental part will ensure systematic data capture and conduct of detailed analysis to evaluate the results, all done to generate breakthrough concepts and make value for enterprises and society at large. For more information and participation you may contact the people at your local University or a partner University in a different country:

You can also visit the official site of the project: http://www.innolabs.org/ The site is trilingual so that one can read it and contribute either in English, Ukrainian, or Belarusian.