



InnoCENS Newsletter 2017-1

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• Newsletter introduction

The InnoCENS project is a joint project on capacity building in higher education, funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The project consortium consists of 19 partners, with Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Sweden as grant holder and coordinating institution.

The main objective of the project is to introduce innovation and entrepreneurship in engineering education at partner universities to support socio-economic development.

The project aims to increase the awareness of importance of innovation and entrepreneurship for economic growth, introduce innovation pedagogy and establish university innovation centers to support commercialization of research results and new business ideas.

In addition to strengthening innovation education at higher education institutions, the project also attempts to influence government policy and decision-making in order to create favourable innovation environment in partner countries.

This newsletter is published to inform staff and students at partner organizations, as well as stakeholders and the general public on InnoCENS project activities, progresses and results. It will be published twice a year, normally in June/July and December/January.

More project information can be found at the project's web site: <http://gidec.abe.kth.se/InnoCENS/>.

• Project consortium

InnoCENS project consortium consists of 19 partners, which are listed below including the *local coordinators*.

Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, Sweden
Huaan Fan

Turku University of Applied Sciences (TUAS), Finland
Tarja Åberg

Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV), Spain
Luis Angel Ruiz and Israel Griol Barres

National Polytechnic University of Armenia (NPUA)
Ruben Aghgashyan

National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia (NUACA). *Varazdat Hovhannisyan*

Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia (MoES)
Robert Suqiasyan

Scientific Educational Reforms Foundation (SERF)
Yerevan, Armenia. *Aram Stepanyan*

Yerevan Telecommunication Research Institute (YeTRI)
Yerevan, Armenia. *Mher Markosyan*

Georgian Technical University (GTU), Tbilisi
Otar Zumberidze

Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University (BSU), Georgia
Gaioz Partskhaladze

Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (MES)
Tea Tarielashvili

SMART Consulting, Tbilisi, Georgia
George Dzidziguri

Belarusian State University (BSU), Minsk
Sergey Hvesenya

Brest State Technical University (BrSTU), Belarus
Vladimir Golovko

Ministry of Education of Belarus, Minsk
Sergei Kasperovich

Almaty University of Power Engineering & Telecommunications, Kazakhstan. *Madina Alyarova*

Taraz State University, Kazakhstan. *Elmira Faizova*

Bologna Process and Academic Mobility Center (BPAMC), Astana, Kazakhstan. *Amantay Nurmagambetov*

ND & Co, Ltd, Almaty, Kazakhstan. *Nurlan Jiyenbayev*.

• Project kick-off in Yerevan

The project kick-off meeting took place on 18-21 December 2016 at National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia (NUACA). All project partners have sent representatives to the kick-off meeting.



The meeting started with the project opening ceremony, which was attended by Mr Gagik Galstyan, rector of NUACA, Vice-rector Professor Varges Yedoyan, Ms Lana Karlova from National Erasmus+ Office in Armenia and InnoCENS partner representatives.

After the opening ceremony, the kick-off meeting had the following main activities:

- review of project design by the Project coordinator
- review of main work packages by key project members
- planning of project activities in 2017
- meeting on financial management and reporting
- meeting on project management at partner countries
- visit to scientific laboratories at NPUA and NUACA.

• Training of trainers on entrepreneurship

This training course was given by the IDEAS Institute of Polytechnical University of Valencia (UPV) from March 26 to April 8, 2107. 24 partner country staff, who will be future trainers at home, have attended the training course.



The training has covered wide-range topics such as:

- founders' dreams
- The lean startups
- business models and business plan
- team building
- market segmentation and customers development
- finance, fundraising
- branding
- internationalization

Participants also made study visits to two incubators (UPV, *Plug'N'Play*). The training ended with a pitch competition.

• Study visit on Swedish innovation systems

This study visit was organized by Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, Sweden, in the period of June 1-10, 2017. 25 staff members from Finland, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia and Kazakhstan participated in the event.

The participants attended lectures by representatives from KTH, Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova) and County Administrative Board of Stockholm.



To get first-hand experiences on the Swedish innovation systems, participants visited several Swedish institutions:

- KTH Innovation
- SUP46
- Kista Science City
- Uppsala Innovation Center
- SSE Business Lab.

The study visit also had a half-day workshop on course syllabus and half-day project management meeting at KTH.

• Forthcoming events

- Sept 10-13,2017 Annual meeting of Project Management Board (PMB), Turku, Finland
- First meeting of International Advisory Board (IAB), Turku, Finland
- Sept 11-20,2017 Innovation pedagogy workshop, Finland
- Nov 27 – Dec 2 Workshop on innovation competence assessment, Minsk, Belarus.