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European Commission
TEMPUS

NEW MASTERS
PROGRAMME
ON LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SCIENCE

(NMPLIS)

5 January 2009 – 15 January 2012

Project contractor: Alan Hopkinson
Project coordinator: Tigran Zargaryan

URL: www.flib.sci.am/eng/Tempus

Project background: During an earlier TEMPUS project 'Building Digital Educational Services and Content Creation Centre in Yerevan State University library', it transpired that the main impediment to modernization of libraries was the modernization of library training. The outcome of educational reforms in Armenia, Georgia and Uzbekistan greatly depends on the curricula being taught in the Universities, which is still inappropriate for 'Library and Information Science' studies. The subject is not in demand amongst high school graduates, and those who do undertake bachelors courses are not satisfied: moreover most of the graduates do not get appropriate jobs. There are several problems in teaching library, information and archives courses that are common to the three countries: (a) after the collapse of the Soviet Union, librarianship was not a priority of the governments; (b) courses are focused on often outdated techniques and technical processes, undervaluing the need for the wider knowledge of social processes, science, and technology, etc, required to enable library, archive and information services to respond to contemporary demands; (c) courses have not yet fully incorporated the new areas of the disciplines that are common in Western Europe; (d) there is a shortage of modern LIS and archive teaching materials (electronic resources, sample PC applications); (e) pedagogical skills of the LIS and archive teachers and trainers tend to be didactic; (f) familiarity with quality standards is low; (g) these factors contribute to low levels of interest from potential students; (h) there is a shortage of relevant materials in the national languages; (i) no programmes offer lifelong learning or support career advancement for the existing large LIS workforce.

Clearly the introduction of the curricula for Library, Information and Archives Studies oriented to the EU experience is the only solution to make this profession prestigious and to attract talented and motivated students.

Main Features of the Project:

- Library and information and archives studies will be taught as a professional masters, enabling students with degrees in other subject specialisms to train to work in the field
- Modernization and development of these curricula will benefit university administration, research and teaching as well as civil society as the students trained will be able to work in public libraries as well as academic and special
- Staff from Armenia, Georgia and Uzbekistan will attend regular courses at EU Universities and staff from the EU Universities will teach masters courses in the partner countries' universities.
- Library and Archive students will undergo placements in EU universities.
- A modern classroom will provide state-of-the-art equipment and servers will host course materials in virtual learning environments and institutional repositories.

Long-term perspectives:

- Through the development of core skills, competencies and abilities of staff, the project will transform the partner country LIS faculties into first class learning centres and a sustainable source of further development of human capacity for the global labour market.
- By encouraging interest from commerce, the project's legacy will be to generate additional financial income streams to support the development of new academic programmes.
- Through the Virtual Learning Environment platform, established in partner country LIS faculties, the project will serve the needs of students from other Universities and other lifelong learners.
- The project will share courses between partner country LIS faculties, thereby saving financial and human resources.

Partners

Middlesex University (London)
(Grant Contractor)

University of Parma (Parma, Italy)

Rēzekne Higher Education Institution
(Rēzekne, Latvia)

The Robert Gordon University
(Aberdeen, Scotland)

University of Barcelona (Barcelona, Spain)

International Scientific Educational Centre of the National Academy of Sciences (Yerevan, Armenia)

Fundamental Scientific Library of the National Academy of Sciences (Yerevan, Armenia)

Ilia Chavchavadze State University
(Tbilisi, Georgia)

Georgian Library Association (Georgia)

Tashkent Institute of Culture (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)

Tashkent University of Information Technologies (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)

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Useful links

European Commission: Education and Training

http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.htm

Tempus: supports the modernisation of higher education and creates an area of co-operation in countries surrounding the EU. Established in 1990 after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the scheme now covers 27 countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc70_en.htm

Erasmus Mundus: is a worldwide cooperation and mobility programme that aims to enhance quality in higher education and promote intercultural understanding.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc72_en.htm

Previous TEMPUS Project: the website of the earlier project referred to which led to this is available at <http://www.lr.mdx.ac.uk/tempus/armenia>