



MID-TERM DISSEMINATION REPORT

Project title	UNICAC 598340-EPP-1-2018-1-ES-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
WP	7 DISSEMINATION
Delivery date	July 2020
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1. INTRODUCTION

With a duration of 3 years (from January 2019 until January 2022) UNICAC project aims to increase the potential for knowledge transfer and international and cross-regional cooperation of HEIs in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China, through a set of capacity building activities for International Relations Offices (IROs) in partner countries High Education Institutions, thus contributing to better international networking, enhancement and better exploitation of their potentials for cooperation in Teaching, Learning and Research (T/L/R) linked to the development of the New Silk Road and improving the conditions of the academic community and society in both regions.

In order to achieve project objectives and contribute to the project sustainability, UNICAC partnership have adopted a **strong dissemination strategy** that has been defined at the beginning of the project and that is being implemented as it was defined within the Dissemination Plan.

INCOMA, as partner in charge of the dissemination of the project, has coordinated the definition and implementation of the Dissemination strategy, supervising partners' efforts to properly communicate and raise awareness about the project. This plan includes foreseen activities but also encourages partners to be proactive in terms of communicating with stakeholders by promoting additional, non-foreseen dissemination actions. This means that partners have promoted the project using their own contacts and dissemination channels (for example, through membership of international / professional networks / organisations during the participation in conferences / meetings and events of third parties, through press releases in the media, academic journals, institutional newsletters).

This report details the main dissemination and communication activities implemented during the first half of UNICAC, namely activities foreseen in the Dissemination Plan and additional actions, including face-to-face and online activities.

It is important to note that the dissemination strategy have been hampered by the global pandemic of COVID-19, which made to stop the normal activity of the Universities and even close their premises for a long time. This situation directly affected the dissemination events expected during the first half of the project. Nevertheless, some partners were able to adapt them to an online format and others will wait after the summer break to adapt to this new and unexpected context.



2. DISSEMINATION TOOLS

Dissemination Plan - As defined in the project proposal, the Consortium defined the project visual identity and templates during the first months of project execution. All the materials were then shared with partners through the project's platform and are included in the Dissemination Plan (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pjc8gYb4m5B0SXOtabPAsQD1x0OmQocK/view?usp=sharing>).

In addition, a summary of project activities was created in order to clarify how to carry out the dissemination activities and which evidence were necessary in each event: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b3N0x7Yq7fPVHdMj65XfFZVgw1ttDUPw/view?usp=sharing>.

Visual Identity and Marketing Materials - In its capacity of project coordination and leader of Dissemination activities, INCOMA was responsible for preparing several templates that are currently being used by the Consortium when preparing documents and other outputs and outcomes within UNICAC.

The created **project templates** (annex 4) include:

- Text (Word) document;
- Presentation (PowerPoint);
- Spreadsheet (Excel);
- Report (similar to the text document but includes a cover);
- Attendance list (to be used in both project meetings and events);
- Certificate (to be used in both project meetings and events);
- Meeting agenda (can also be used/adapted to prepare other events' agenda);
- Meeting minutes (can also be used/adapted to prepare other events' minutes);
- Stakeholders' list (based on text document – landscape);
- Satisfaction questionnaire template;
- Dissemination matrix template (based on text document);
- Press release template (based on text document);

The Dissemination Plan also contains the description of the project visual identity, which includes the **project logo** and the **Erasmus+ logo** and **disclaimer**, as well as recommendations and considerations for their use.

Other marketing materials prepared for UNICAC project are the following:

- Project brochure;
- Poster;

All of them are in English, as the common communication language of the project, and have been also translated to Tajik, Uzbek and Chinese (annex 3).



Website - As foreseen in the Dissemination Plan, UNICAC **website** was created: <http://www.unicac.eu/> (screenshots in Annex 1). The website content mainly focuses on project aims, partners, expected impact, results, products and news or events.

INCOMA is responsible for managing this website, with the support of all partners, which are responsible for producing some contents and translate main parts of the website to their national languages. The website is available in English, Chinese, Tajik and Uzbek, and was launched in February 2019, it had 7256 visits until the 14th of July 2020:

Table 1: number of visits in 2019:

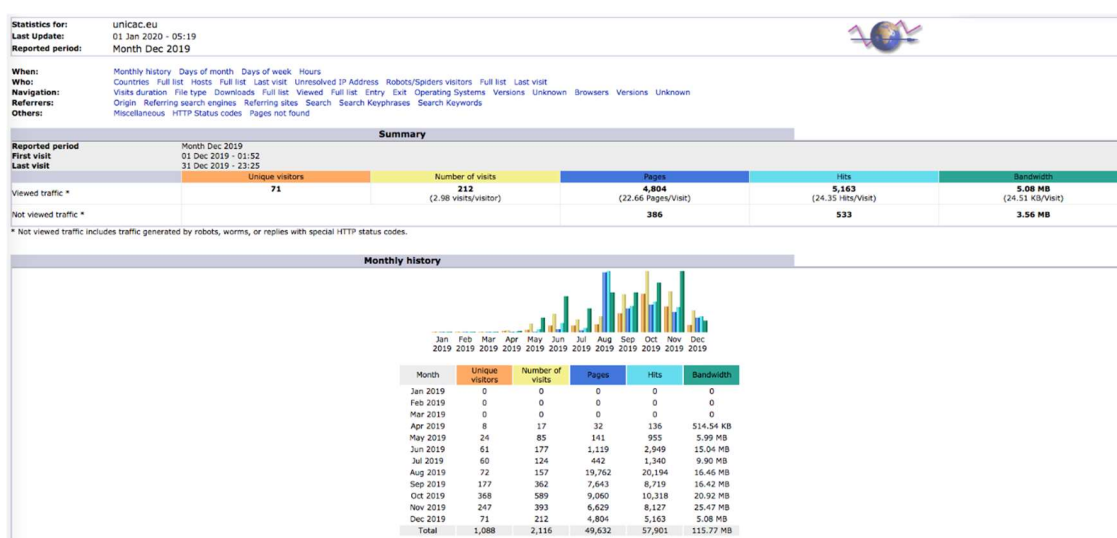
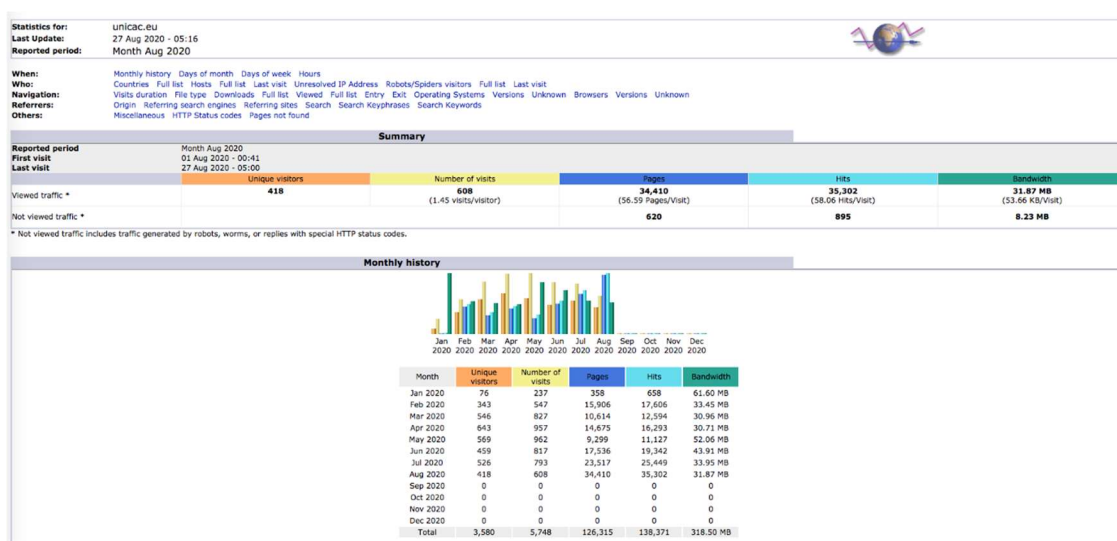


Table 2: number of visits in 2020:





As foreseen in the Dissemination Plan, all partners have included a link of the UNICAC website in their own University's websites, the links are the following:

- US: <http://www.internacional.us.es/proyectos-academicos>
- UNITO: https://www.management.unito.it/do/progetti.pl/Show?_id=2azw
- LAUREA: <https://www.laurea.fi/en/projects/u/unicac---university-cooperation-framework-for-knowledge-transfer-in-central-asia-and-china/>
- TUIT: <https://tuit.uz/en/university-cooperation-framework-for-knowledge-transfer-in-central-asia-and-china-unicac>
- NUUZ: <http://unicac.nuu.uz/>
- KHOGU: <http://www.khogu.tj/index.php/tj/> <http://www.khogu.tj/index.php/tj/foreign/loi-ai-unicac>
- IET: <https://iet.tj/en/unicac/> and <https://iet.tj/tj/category/unicac-habar/>
- XJU: <http://www.xju.edu.cn/#>
- NPU: <https://en.nwpu.edu.cn/index.htm> <http://jidian.nwpu.edu.cn/info/1230/8324.htm>
- NWAUFU: <https://en.nwsuaf.edu.cn/> <https://cmee.nwsuaf.edu.cn/kxyj/hzjl/index.htm>
- INCOMA: <http://www.incoma.net/IncomaPublic/es/zonaPublica/erasmusplus>

Newsletters - As part of UNICAC dissemination strategy, three newsletters were prepared and launched during the project year (Annex 2), they were prepared by INCOMA with the collaboration of all partners. Partners received the newsletter in two different formats: HTML and by email, which allowed them to forward the content to their own contacts. Additionally, the newsletters are available at the UNICAC website (<https://unicac.eu/newsletters/>), and they were sent through Mailchimp to a common distribution list:

- 1st Newsletter: sent 01/10/2019 – 50 opened. Link to Mailchimp: <https://mailchi.mp/002d38c9f703/unicac-news>
- 2nd Newsletter: sent 13/01/2020 – 48 opened. Link to Mailchimp: <https://mailchi.mp/b14f03fd64a1/unicac-news>
- 3rd Newsletter: sent 30/06/2020 – 41 opened. Link to Mailchimp: <https://mailchi.mp/28acf8a510fa/unicac-news>



3. DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

The current section provides information about dissemination activities implemented during the first half of UNICAC, being planned actions and additional dissemination actions put forward by Consortium members. The latter are not included in the proposal but rather the result of partner's own initiatives, which made use of available to spread the project.

Regardless of the type of dissemination or media used, all partners were required to provide some reporting documents in order to validate their actions. These supporting documents are included as annexes to the current report (Annexes 5 and 6).

3.1. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

During the first half of the UNICAC project the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic delayed or hampered the normal development of the planned activities. Therefore, some partners decided to continue its organisation by online means and other decided to postpone them.

3.1.1 WP7.3 INTERNAL INFORMATION WORKSHOPS

31/01/2020 – IET. On January 31, 2020 International relations department of IET TSUC hold round table dedicated to the summary and dissemination of 3 seminars within WP2-Capacity building for IROs' staff: in Khujand on "International cooperation agreement and Funding opportunities", in Tashkent on : "Organisation and Management of IROs" and in Xi'an on "Academic teaching and research cooperation related tools, methodologies and best practices" . There has been shared information about the concept of the project, its goals and objectives. Also was disclosed information about previous seminars hold in Sevilla (Spain), Khujand (Tajikistan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Xian (China).

The event started with greeting of the Vice rector for International relations – Aminov I. Vice rector for Innovation and science, deans of all three faculties and their deputies participated in the event, representatives of international relations departments of regional universities such as Khujand State University, Tajik State University of Law, Business and Politics and Mining – metallurgical Institute of Tajikistan also took part.

Head of IRD of IET TSUC UNICAC institutional coordinator - Mukhtorov S. started the presentation of UNICAC, defining overall goal of the project. He also shared the information received from series of trainings carried in Seville, Khujand, Xi'an and mentioned the importance of internationalization of HEIs. Presentation on how to start internationalization, strategy defining, and internationalizing teaching , learning, research and cultural dimensions at HEIs was properly delivered.

Proceeded the presentation specialist of IRD Yusupov A. with clarifying ways of internationalization of university and pointing out some useful notes from training attended in Tashkent.



Finalized the presentation specialist of IRD Oqilova M. through sharing information about building partnership and networks. She talked of how IET finds partners and maintains relations with them, and also presented the experience of Laurea University shared in training held in Khujand city.

Q&A session was full of interesting discussions and later informal speeches. **A total of 22 participants attended this onsite activity.**

Evidences can be found in Annex 6.

30/06/2020 – KHOGU. The online workshop was held at KhOGU in order to pursue the dissemination action plan and again to spread the information about the results of the project. The seminar was very good and there were discussed many things regarding the project and regarding different topics what have learn during the training modules. In a base of this training theme was discussed how to do the university international corporation better / how to design new projects. The seminar was hosted by the project team of the University and Sayfuloeva and Ghafurova made presentation also Tojigul Mardonova had a speech about how to design projects and how the current projects are going.

The current situation of global pandemic made that the workshop was organised online through Zoom Platform. **A total of 19 participants attended the Workshop.** Workshop evidences can be found in Annex 6.

3.1.2 WP8.1 NATIONAL ROUNDTABLES

26/04/2020 – NWAFU. National Roundtable about “Construction of innovation and entrepreneurship education ecosystem from the perspective of internationalisation”. It was organised online because of the COVID-19 pandemic. **More than 200 participants attended the event** in which the following issues were addressed:

1. Discussion about the “Research on Construction of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education Ecosystem from the Perspective of Internationalization”. Post several questions, such as “Need to change, but how? lacking experience and relevant guidance”, “Learning from others, and which countries we can learn from?”, to track the answer of “Why International Experience Is Critical?”.
2. Talking about these three answers, “(1) The international environment we are facing and coping strategies; (2) The construction of innovation and entrepreneurship education ecosystem; and (3) The curriculum design, teaching methodologies, and methods of assessment”. A lot of universities from EU and international worldwide are taken as examples.
3. Discussed the reform roadmap and internationalization construction system in the last part. Some standard steps or processes are listed as referencing templates, “formative assessment, rubrics, in-class assessment, deep learning and providing feedback” and some experiences are shown by all attendances.

Evidences can be found in Annex 6.



3.2. VOLUNTARY DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

3.2.1. ONLINE DISSEMINATION AND PUBLICATIONS

According to the Dissemination Plan, all partners are committed to post updates and information about the project activities and development in their Universities' websites, social networks, etc.

During the first half of UNICAC, the following posts were shared in the following networks (all supporting documents can be found in Annex 5):

ONLINE ACTIVITY	PARTNER	PLACE	DATE	TARGET GROUP	IMPACT
Article about the KOM in University of Seville webpage.	US	Website	10.04.19	University staff, students, and public	n/a
Meeting with TOCHINA HUB	UNITO	Online (skype)	04.06.20	Tochina hub staff (Francesco Silvestri and Virginia Mariano)	n/a
Post on the UNICAC project and updating on the UNITO dedicated webpage	UNITO	https://www.management.unito.it/do/progetti.pl/S how?_id=2azw	02.07.20	Colleagues, Professors, students, IRO staff of the UNITO central office	n/a
News on the UNICAC project on the SME website	UNITO	https://www.management.unito.it/do/avvisi.pl/Show?_id=63yd	03.07.20	Colleagues, Professors, IRO staff of the UNITO central office	n/a
News: UNICAC have got funding	LAUREA	Laurea's intranet	08.2018	Laurea's staff and students	n/a
News: UNICAC Kick off meeting	LAUREA	Laurea's intranet	04.2019	Laurea's staff	n/a



ONLINE ACTIVITY	PARTNER	PLACE	DATE	TARGET GROUP	IMPACT
Information about project on Laurea's website	LAUREA	www.laurea.fi	Always	All Laurea's stakeholders, public site	n/a
Post updates on UNICAC activities	TUIT	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	19.06.2020	Teachers and students of TUIT, Employees of all enterprises and organizations subordinate to the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications Development	n/a
Virtual meetings of the UNICAC Uzbek team	TUIT & NUUZ	TUIT, NUU Tashkent, Tajikistan	Regularly		n/a
Post updates on UNICAC activities	NUUZ	National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent	Regularly	Followers of nuuz	20
Post updates on UNICAC activities	NUUZ	National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent	Regularly	Members and followers of nuuz	30
Meeting about project result at KhSU	KHOGU	1 st floor "Innovation centre" at KhSU	24.04.2019	Students Teacher staff Administrative	20 people
Dissemination at local website	KHOGU	Khorog	15.06.2019	Academic staff, students and the user of internet	1408 subscribers
Post updates on UNICAC activities	IET	online	Regularly	952 Facebook followers 100 LinkedIn 300 Instagram	952 Facebook followers 100 LinkedIn



ONLINE ACTIVITY	PARTNER	PLACE	DATE	TARGET GROUP	IMPACT
					300 Instagram
Latest Newsletter	IET	online	30.06.2020	Social network followers	952 Facebook followers 100 LinkedIn 350 visitors in www.iet.tj
Post updates on UNICAC activities	NPU	Northw estern Polytech nical Universi ty (NPU, Xi'an, China)	21.12.2019	All teachers and students of the school of Mechanical Engineering	21
Online dissemination in the union laboratory	NPU	(NPU, Xi'an, China)	23.04.2020	Master degree students and teachers in the lab	16
Updates on UNICAC	NWAFU	CMEE, NWAFU	Regularly Posted: 2019-12-25	Members and Followers of CMEE	2000+
Updates on UNICAC	NWAFU	Northw est A&F Universi ty	Regularly Posted: 2019-12-27	Members and Followers of NWAFU	4500+
Updates on UNICAC	NWAFU	CMEE, NWAFU	Regularly Posted: 2020-01-11	Members and Followers of CMEE	2000+
Academic Productivity	NWAFU	Online	26.02.2020	Young scholars; postgraduate students	8 scholars; 18 postgradua ted.
Construction of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education Ecosystem from The Perspective of	XJU	Online	06.03.2020	Young Scholars; postgraduate students	More than 110 students



ONLINE ACTIVITY	PARTNER	PLACE	DATE	TARGET GROUP	IMPACT
Internationalization					
Updates on UNICAC	XJU	Online. XJU Website	01.03.2020	Members and Followers of school of Mechanical Engineering	1800+
Post in social networks	INCOMA	Facebook	27.03.2019	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Facebook	Reach: 945
Article in website	INCOMA	INCOMA web	27.03.2019	Website visitors	22 visits
Post in social networks	INCOMA	Twitter	28.03.2019	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Twitter	786 impressions
Post in social networks	INCOMA	Twitter	23.09.2019	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Twitter	1043 impressions
Article in website	INCOMA	INCOMA web	01.10.2019	Website visitors	19 visits
Post in social network	INCOMA	Twitter	08.10.2019	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Twitter	1013 impressions
in social network	INCOMA	Facebook	07.10.2019	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Facebook	Reach: 372
Post in social network	INCOMA	LinkedIn	08.10.2019	Visitors and followers of INCOMA LinkedIn	107 impressions
Post in social network	INCOMA	Facebook	03.12.2019	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Facebook	Reach: 143
Article in Website	INCOMA	INCOMA web	04.12.2019	Website visitors	16 visits
Post in social network	INCOMA	Facebook	08.01.2020	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Facebook	Reach: 145
Post in social network	INCOMA	Twitter	08.01.2020	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Twitter	1390 impressions
Post in social network	INCOMA	LinkedIn	08.01.2020	Visitors and followers of INCOMA LinkedIn	96 impressions
Post in social network	INCOMA	Facebook	16.01.2020	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Facebook	Reach: 117
Post in social network	INCOMA	Facebook	22.05.2020	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Facebook	Reach: 253
Post in social network	INCOMA	Facebook	19.06.2020	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Facebook	Reach: 150



ONLINE ACTIVITY	PARTNER	PLACE	DATE	TARGET GROUP	IMPACT
Post in social network	INCOMA	LinkedIn	19.06.2020	Visitors and followers of INCOMA LinkedIn	81 impressions
Post in social network	INCOMA	Facebook	29.06.2020	Visitors and followers of INCOMA Facebook	Reach: 150

The online activities carried out during the first half of the project have reached more than 20.000 people at international level.

3.2.2. ONSITE DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

Consortium members also deployed their efforts to present UNICAC during other events or activities of relevance for the project and its main target groups.

As stated previously, in order to be considered valid, Consortium members were required to provide documents and evidences supporting the implementation of dissemination actions, which are included as annexes to the current document.

Additional activities are included in each partner's matrix (Annex 5).

EVENTS:

28.02.2019 – TUIT. Information about the UNICAC project, of the head of the international relations of TUIT J. Abduljalilov. The target group was the Scientific Council of TUIT. A total of 65 participants attended this event.

18.03.2019 – NPU. Introductory seminar. It has been presented by the coordinator at NPU, Shuxia Wang. She shared the project's background, project's main targets, events and tasks. All the cooperated members are introduced. She showed opportunities within UNICAC and gave the brochures to other teachers. The full information about the project details were given.

The chief of the international union lab Pro. Weiping He has participated. After the presentation, they discussed some details and methods about this project and made a plan about what would do in the next few months. A total of 3 participants from the University have participated.

03.04.2019 – TUIT. Dissemination of the project. The event was addressed to the department of Physics of TUIT and members of the Scientific Council of TUIT, 25 people attended this event.

10.04.2020 – NPU. This workshop has been organised by the school of Mechanical Engineering. Students from different schools came to our University to listen the presentation. The teacher from foreign affairs department in NPU introduced the UNICAC, including its background, its goal and its opportunities. After the presentation, the teacher and Professor Shuxia Wang joined Q & A, some students showed interesting about the communicating with other countries, the teacher gave them the brochures about this project. About 30 participants attended this onsite workshop.



11.04.2019 – IET. UNICAC presentation at the IET TSUC IET TSUC. The overall UNICAC has been presented by the institutional coordinator at IET TSUC, Saidqosim Mukhtorov. Project's aims, work packages events and tasks were delivered to the audience. All the consortia members were introduced. The opportunities within UNICAC project were introduced, brochures were distributed. The full information about the project details was given. In the activity NEO of Tajikistan Ms Czarina Nuriddinova has participated. After presentation there was an interesting Q&A session.

It was addressed to Administration and Faculties members and a total of 20 participants attended this event.

06.09.2019 – TUIT. The field-monitoring meeting UNICAC project at TUIT. Some of the participants were teachers and students of TUIT, project members from TUIT and NUUZ, NEO coordinator A.Abdurakhmonova, Vice-Rector of TUIT K.Toshev, Head of the IRD Zh. Abduzhalilov, Project Coordinators A. Yusupov and N. Sadullaeva, Head of the IRD NUUZ S.Sokhibjonov, Project members Zh.Sh. Dzhumabaeva, M.A. Rakhmatullaev, K. Bakhodirov R.Kh. Nasimov V.A.Solieva, Sh.Ismoilov., Gulomov Sh.R., and professors of TUIT and NUUZ.

11.10.2019 – NPU. Open lecture about UNICAC. The lecture was cooperated with foreign affairs department. First, the lecture introduced some details about how to study and exchange abroad. And then the teacher talked about the UNICAC project and showed students how they can benefit from the project. In the end, we gave out the printed brochures and posters. Some students asked questions about the studying and showed interested in this project. After the lecture, a few students left their messages to contact them and some of them knew more about the potential seminar and chance to exchange to other countries. It was addressed to new-arrival students and a total of 30 people participated.

SEPT. 2019 – XJU. Academic Productivity: exchange and present potentialities and goals. Talking about the academic productivity (AP). The head of Office of international cooperation and exchange and 4 scholars took part in the seminar. The concept of AP and the research fields included in AP, and the differences among different researchers; presentation of the UNICAC project. Exchange and present potentials, goals, academic between Scholars and Postgraduate students. Talking about the Bologna Agreement. A total of 5 scholars and about 20 postgraduate students attended this event.

14.10.2019 – UNITO. Seminar on the history of the SME and the UNITO IROs offices (main challenges and constraints). The target group was Colleagues, Professors, IRO staff of the UNITO central office. Prof. O. Calliano, founder of the ERASMUS office at SME (UNITO), Prof. C. Barettoni (former IROs coordinator at SME), Ms. M. Marengo (founder of the UNITO Erasmus office in the '80s). 15 participants attended this event.

21.10.2019 – UNITO. Seminar on the current UNITO IRO offices. The target group was Colleagues, Professors, IRO staff of the UNITO central office. PROF. U. MORELLI (Full Professor of History of



International Relations, Jean Monnet Chair holder), Ms. Alice Traverso Bernini (Director UNITO Erasmus Office). 15 participants attended this event.

10.01.2020 – NUUZ. Internal Seminar training. On the 10th January 2020 at the faculty of foreign philology withing the UNICAC project was held a seminar-training on the theme of Internationalisation as an important and widely discussed phenomenon in higher education. Recent important developments such as liberalisation of the education market have made internationalisation in higher education more complex, bringing new challenges to higher education institutions. At the training was also considered international mobility, which was previously the main activity in responding to internationalisation. Though activities are nowadays expanding to include for example participation in international consortia, setting up branch offices in foreign countries, and setting up joint programmes or degrees. Increasingly, a mix of underlying rationales and activities for internationalisation can be observed.

It was addressed to Dean of Faculty, vice-dean, head of departments, teachers, researchers, students. About 50 participants attended this event.

Almost 300 people have participated in onsite dissemination activities.

3.2.3. OTHERS

10.01.2020 – TUIT. Publication of an article about UNICAC project in a newspaper. Teachers and students of TUIT, Employees of all enterprises and organizations subordinate to the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications Development was the main recipients of this article.

All dissemination evidence can be found in Annex 5.



4. CONCLUSION

This report details the main dissemination and communication activities implemented during the first half of UNICAC. These can be divided into: foreseen (that is, activities included in the initial proposal and in the Dissemination Plan) and additional (that represent the efforts of Consortium members to reach a broader number of stakeholders).

On the other hand, there were two main types of dissemination activities implemented in this period: online (using social networks, such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, and webpages) and face-to-face, where stakeholders had the opportunity to receive information and interact with Consortium members more directly.

At the beginning of project execution, INCOMA prepared a set of project templates and other dissemination materials (such as the project logo, brochure, poster) that all Consortium members used to present the project and communicate with stakeholders. Indeed, it should be pointed out that all institutions deployed all necessary efforts to achieve a relevant number of stakeholders from the different target groups.

This involvement of external actors is essential, as it will allow UNICAC to expand its impact base and, therefore, ensure the compliance of project indicators and, at the same time, contribute to project sustainability by promoting the adoption of UNICAC by non-partner institutions.

Awareness of the UNICAC social media presence was further enriched by partners' own social media presence and, in that sense, their efforts to share news about UNICAC.

Evidences of dissemination activities provided above allow us to conclude that UNICAC is positioning itself to comply the impact indicators defined in the proposal, despite the difficulties found in that sense regarding the COVID-19 and the need to delay the realisation of onsite dissemination activities.

The current impact of the project, taking into account all dissemination activities are as follows:

- Planned activities: 241 participants in onsite and onsite events ;
- Voluntary dissemination activities:
 - o Onsite: almost 300 people reached,
 - o Online: about 20.000 people reached.
- Website visits: 7.256 ;
- Newsletter openings: 139.

Total impact of UNICAC project during the first half: almost 28.000 people reached.

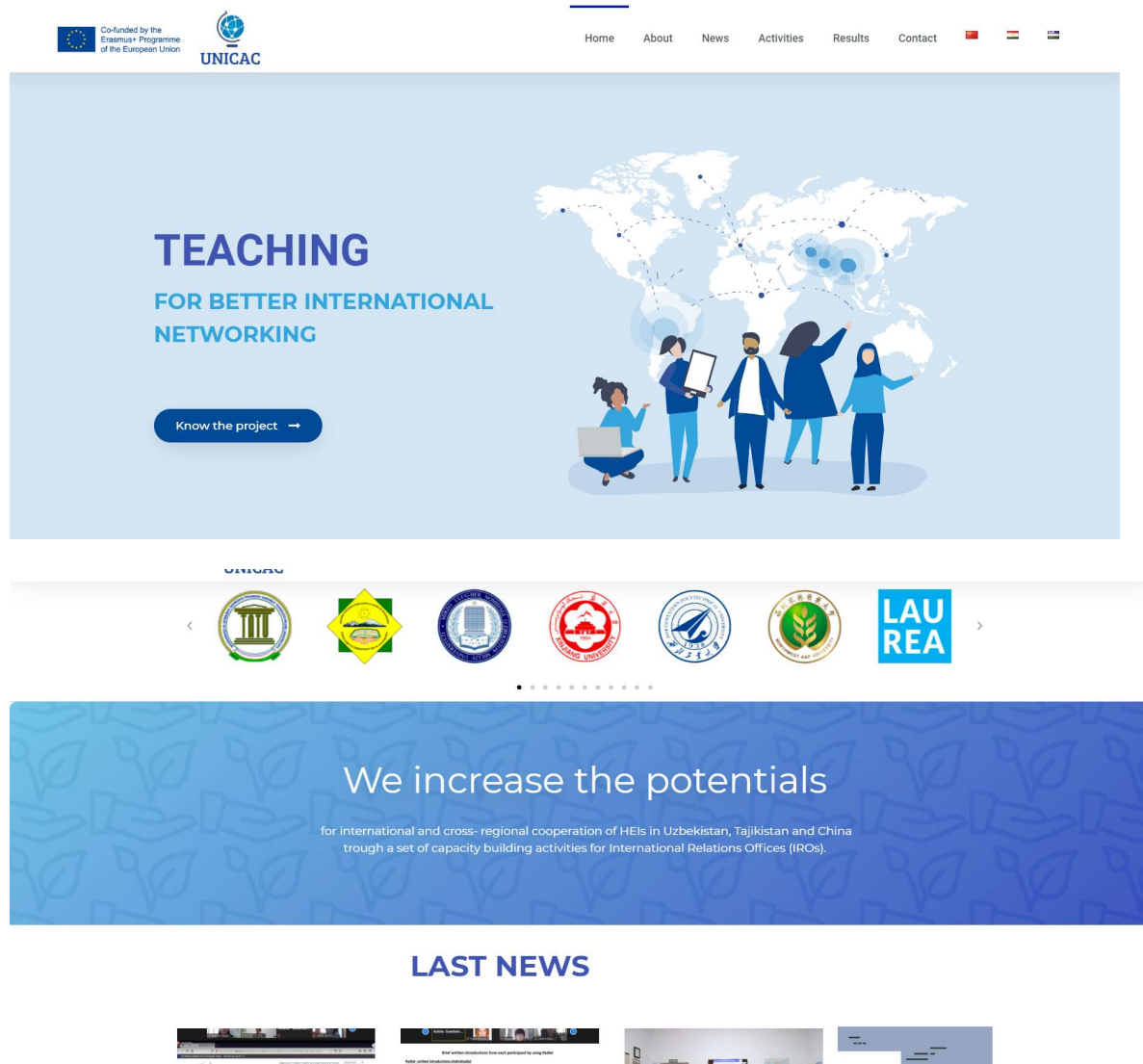


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5. ANNEXES

5.1 Annex 1. Website screenshots





LAST NEWS



UNICAC is unstoppable!

June 29, 2020

Last Tuesday, June the 16th, all UNICAC partners virtually met to share the evolution of the project activities and prepare the Interim Report of the

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The UNICAC partners organised a virtual meeting to prepare seminars about Internationalisation and Research Capacities

June 29, 2020

Last Friday the 26th of June, all project partners met in a Virtual pre-seminar organised by the leader of this activity, LAUREA. This activity was

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UNICAC faces barriers imposed by COVID-19 thanks to NTICs

May 22, 2020

COVID-19 is not just a pandemic but also a challenge that has affected all aspects of our academic life. UNICAC project partners, as all international

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Área de tra

5.2 Annex 2. Newsletters

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15bHTiFcE8HG8T5RHnXXobu5t_LAN4nwD?usp=sharing

1st Newsletter – September 2019



Co-funded by the
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of the European Union



[View this email in your browser](#)



UNICAC: an opportunity for a mutual European – Asiatic learning!



UNICAC project has been launched in January 2019 and will be running till 2022. It is founded under the Erasmus+ programme, and matches the needs of 7 Asian Universities – in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China – to improve Cross- regional and international cooperation of High Education Institutions and the willing of three European Universities – in Finland, Italy and Spain – to learn from the way of working of the Asian colleagues.

The objective is to contribute to develop international cooperation; to enhance strategic, human and infrastructural capacities for the management of International Relations in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China; and to develop a multi-regional network as a platform for the exploitation of synergies in International Relations.

Kick-off meeting in Seville



Last 25th to 26st February 2019, UNICAC partners personally met at the University of Seville facilities. During this time, the representatives of all partner Universities had the opportunity to share different points of view and expectations about this interesting project.

The first day, all partners presented their institutions in order to know each other, the profile of the universities, what they can offer and what they want to achieve being part of the project. The second day of the meeting, partners discussed about the activities to be developed and the working methodologies. Moreover, partners also had the opportunity to discover the ancient city centre of Seville, as well as, to taste the more typical food of Spain and the well-known tapas.

Synergies start!





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Synergies start!



Right after the Kick-off meeting, partners carried out a technical visit at the University of Seville (in Spain) with the objective of having a deeper knowledge of the International Relation Offices management, and directly learn from their European counterparts.

The visit to the International Centre of the University of Seville allowed the participants to meet the staff and ask them about their daily tasks, making a comparison of their structures of international relations and the University of Seville and learning about best practices and how to apply them in their International Centres.

You can now visit the UNICAC webpage!



The UNICAC project webpage is already running! Enter into the website to have a deeper knowledge about the project.

Visit our webpage!



UNICAC 598340-EPP-1-2018-1-ES-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

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2nd Newsletter – January 2020



Co-funded by the
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598340-EPP-1-2018-1-ES-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

University partners travelled to Tashkent to reinforce their capacities in International Cooperation Agreements, Networks and Funding Opportunities



UNICAC partners met in the Institute of Economy and Trade of Tajik State University in Khujand (Tajikistan) to start with the cycle of training foreseen in the UNICAC project, and whose objective is the reinforcement of capacities of the IROs staff. This training took place from 18th to 20th September 2019.

In that sense, this first training was coordinated by LAUREA experts, Arja Majakulma and Minttu Rati, and experts from Uzbek, Tajik and Chinese partner Universities could learn and participate of the contents treated.

All participating institutions presented their own institutions in order to better know their internal structure and organisation. Some of the contents treated during the training days were how to establish the objectives of Internationalisation in Higher Education and case example un Laurea University; they also tackled the topic on how to build partnerships and networks. It was a highly collaborative training, as partner presented some interesting projects to the audience in order to generate synergies between them.

working groups.

Xi'an hosted the UNICAC training about Academic teaching and research cooperation related tools, methodologies and best practices



From 16th to 20th December 2019, the University Cooperation Framework for Knowledge Transfer in Central Asia and China (UNICAC) held the third training module in the School of Mechanical Engineering, North-Western Polytechnical University (NPU). Participants included the University of Seville (US), the Tashkent University of Information Technologies (TUIT), the National University of Uzbekistan (NUUZ), the Khorog State University (KhoGU), Institute of Economy and Trade of Tajik state University (IET TSUC), the Xinjiang University (XJU), the Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), and the Northwest A & F University (NWAFU). Professor Shuxia Wan, the project manager from NU, hosted the training module. The training was coordinated by Inmaculada Vivas and imparted by Miguel Angel Adame, both from University of Seville

During the five days of the training, all universities shared their approaches about the quality teaching. They presented the good practices and policies like joint international degrees and exchange students. One of the experts from US, introduced the good strategies and practical cases in his University like flexible length of schooling, online classes and full credit system. After that, all the members discussed the question about how to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Also, they discussed the academic university rankings.

It was a very enriching experience where all partners had the opportunity of widening their knowledge!

UNICAC partners worked on Organisation and Management of International Relation Offices



Between the 18th and 22nd November 2019, took place in the National University of Uzbekistan, in Tashkent, the training module about the Organisation and Management of International Relation Offices.

This training was conducted by Professor Alicia Centrone, from the University of Torino and UNICAC partners from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China could benefit of the different sessions of the training.

Some of the contents learnt during these working days were the objectives of internationalisation in Higher Education, where issues such as theory and practice of the IROs' organisations, how to build partnerships and networks, or some innovative projects in Uzbekistan as case study.

All these sessions were carried out in a collaborative way thanks to the organisation of round tables and

Next steps!



2020 is an opportunity to continue the path of learning and reinforcing of capacities amongst all UNICAC partners. We wish you all a very peaceful and fruitful 2020!



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3rd Newsletter – June 2020



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598340-EPP-1-2018-1-ES-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

UNICAC FACES BARRIERS IMPOSED BY COVID-19 THANKS TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES



UNICAC project partners, as all international projects, have been touched by the collateral effects of this situation, therefore European and most of the Asian Universities are physically closed, what is more, international travels have been cancelled making impossible the continuation of physical partner meetings, and other project activities.

Nevertheless, a crisis is also an opportunity and the partnership decided to continue with the development of the activities foreseen taking advantages of new technologies and alternative ways of communication. Although partner meeting, onsite seminars, trainings and workshops are very important, they will be postponed until the medical situation will get better. In the meantime, UNICAC continues to carry out most of the foreseen activities thanks to the use of new technologies and collaborative platforms that help us to tackle the current barrier of physical mobility.

UNICAC is unstoppable!



On June the 16th, all UNICAC partners virtually met to share the evolution of the project activities and prepare the Interim Report of the project.

The global pandemic did not stop project partners from sharing their knowledge and continue working on their Strategic Plans of Internationalisation and Cooperation, and benchmarking of internationalisation and cooperation potentials in Teaching, Learning and Research.

In addition, on the 3rd of June, INCOMA prepared and delivered an online workshop in the framework of the project activities about funding opportunities and project preparation. All partners participated in this workshop, in which they had the opportunity to know how to apply for calls in Erasmus+, Horizon 2020 or EuropeAid programs, among others, and learnt how to prepare successful project proposals.

The impact of the COVID 19 on the internationalisation of HEIs in Uzbekistan: between constraints and alternative solutions (within the UNICAC project)

In the space of a few weeks our global interconnected societies have transformed into life in lockdown and with restricted mobility. Every private company, public organisation or educational institution has been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

In the meantime, at the National university of Uzbekistan the project UNICAC continues to carry out most of the foreseen activities thanks to the use of new technologies and collaborative platforms that help us to tackle the current barrier of physical mobility. Some of these activities are the organisation of virtual working groups meetings to analyse and identify best practices in Teaching/Learning/Research in all partner universities; online seminars to prepare the Strategic Plans of Internationalisation in partner countries; or a workshop about funding opportunities and project preparation.

The COVID-19 pandemic period has a big effect on internationalization of HEIs in Uzbekistan in terms of international mobility of staff/student/teachers and their onsite trainings. International universities cannot invite professors from foreign countries because of closed borders. International activities, like conferences, seminars, symposiums have been postponed or cancelled. However, the situation has affected on boosting the distance learning process: many universities have started providing online education, which will enhance new services at HEIs.

As an international network supporting innovation beyond borders, we know that when people work together, extraordinary things can happen. In the past weeks, our colleagues and partners across the network have been banging their virtual heads together to put in place support measures for developing the project and implementing the activities and tasks into reality.

Nilufar Sadullaeva
National university of Uzbekistan

UNICAC is unstoppable!



UNICAC's impact on the Institute of Economy and Trade of Tajik State University of Commerce (IET TSUC)



The IET TSUC intensifies activities within the framework of the UNICAC project. The main goals of the UNICAC aligned with the Strategic missions of the IET TSUC approved for 2020-2025 to promote Internationalization and develop International Cooperation.

We at IET TSUC are working on increasing the impact of the UNICAC results and makes forward steps for the sustainability of the project and maintaining, strengthening inter-institutional cooperation within the consortium. Today we continue working on the implementation workpackages within UNICAC, despite coronavirus pandemic COVID-19.

Face to face series of training and virtual meetings for International relations offices' staff with the Laureia University, the University of Seville and the University of Torino created a good prerequisites for adopting best practices of the EU HEIs in terms of Internationalization. Moreover, at IET TSUC we upgrading the infrastructure of the IRO, and our office was transformed to the videoconference room with specialized videoconference system equipment, mics and screen, new desktop computers.



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It is appropriate to mention that, IET TSUC is working with UNICAC consortia members already. We already have agreed with the Laurea University on collaborating within International Credit Mobility KA107 in the framework of Erasmus, and we have already applied for the call 2019. Also, the IET TSUC is happy to include Laurea University to its Capacity Building project implementing through the Higher Education Development Project of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan. Together with the University of Torino and the University of Seville, the memorandum of understandings and mobility agreements are signed. Agreed to continue collaboration within International Credit Mobility KA107.

The IET TSUC is closely working with Central Asian and Chinese partners. This year together with the National University of Uzbekistan we have applied jointly for the Capacity Building for Higher Education in the framework of the Erasmus. We have agreed on cooperating in science and research. We agree with Tashkent University of Information Technology to cooperate in the direction of building innovative centers. The memorandum of understandings with the National University of Uzbekistan, Khorog State University has been signed as well. The IET TSUC also seeks opportunities to work with NorthWest Agriculture- Forest University within the Chinese research funding opportunities.

Erasmus+ CBHE UNICAC project realization at Tashkent University of Information technologies



UNICAC projects activities were presented at the TUIT Academic Council in May 2019 and received great interest in the development of international relations by the board members. In particular, the Dean of the Faculty of Computer Engineering paid special attention to the development of the Strategic Development of the University's internationalization during the project implementation period. Since then, the department plans to increase the number of foreign students, making special efforts to obtain international accreditation from ABET.

During the UNICAC project, TUIT project participants gain knowledge related to the internationalization of research, teaching and learning through online seminars with Laurea University and the strategic plan for the internationalization of the university from the University of Seville. The project activities and the recommendations of EU partners were brought to the attention of the university administration for taking special measures to internationalize the university in order to achieve ambitious plans of being included in QS and THE ranking.

The impact of UNICAC in KHOGU

The UNICAC project is one of the most important projects of our university. Our university participated in several trainings at partner universities. The main topics of the trainings were the internationalization of the university, the work of international offices, working with students from different countries and how to attract more foreign students, how to prepare a better memorandum or agreement.

In general, all the topics mentioned above are aimed at improving the international offices of partners. Although this is not a novelty for our university, the trainers have proposed many new and interesting ideas that will continue to be used to improve the international ties of our university.

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Each step of the project is presented to the administration, teachers and students, and the highlights of the project are inserted on the university website. Several times the project was presented to the entire university and once was presented to representatives of Erasmus in Tajikistan.



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5.3 Annex 3. Other dissemination materials: poster and brochure

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vEJPebfsGpBGs2IAEBgYYkuATsEejr46?usp=sharing>

5.4 Annex 4. Dissemination templates

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19_RNBTs05gze_bE4JWWVWkz1qiC6PLO5?usp=sharing

5.5 Annex 5. Dissemination matrixes

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UIqy95TZ8NMC-PEfoelvKa-0N-7gdMFz?usp=sharing>

5.6 Annex 6. Supporting document National Roundtables and Internal Information Workshops

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tY07SAiAotb5j1R7Ga2N7yXSbvmTFPl4?usp=sharing>