




Klaipėda University (LT)

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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Description of the organisation

Klaipėda University (KU) is an autonomous state study and science institution of the Lithuanian Republic. Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary activities are a strategic advantage at KU. One area of the University's strategy is determined by establishment of the Integrated Marine Science, Studies and Business Centre. This part of the strategy is oriented towards nature, life, engineering and technological sciences. Another area of the University's strategy is associated with its multidisciplinary balancing, i.e. humanities and social sciences as well as arts. Highlights in these study areas include Lithuanian and Baltic languages and cultures, history and archeology, communications, art criticism, regional studies, religious studies, socio-economic welfare, health studies, childhood pedagogy and psychology, and the art of theater and dance.

KU has more than 4,500 students, 1,200 staff, including 500 professors, associate professors and lecturers studying and working in 4 faculties: (Humanities and Education Sciences; Marine Technology and Natural Sciences; Social Sciences; Health Sciences); 1 study institute (Continuing Studies); 1 scientific research institute (Baltic Region History and Archaeology); 1 academy (Academy of Arts). There are 118 three-cycle study programs providing the student with research-based modern knowledge and technological based on higher university education level and higher education qualification, develops fully educated, responsible, creative and entrepreneurial personality.

KU is a member of European University Association, the Baltic Sea University Association, Association of Baltic Universities, EU Small States' University Association, International Summer Schools, EMUNI Universities, International Informatization Academy, European Association for International Education and other international networks and organizations. KU has signed more than 50 cooperation agreements with foreign universities and cooperates (on the basis of bilateral "Erasmus" agreements) with more than 190 European universities. The University annually carries over 60 international and national research projects, has the scientific and academic partners in Europe and elsewhere in the world, and is also involved in a dozen international funds, programs and networks.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

KU researchers together with national and international partners have many years of experience in the project implementation. The University conducted a number of social-oriented projects, among them social exclusion, education, increasing accessibility, promoting equal opportunities and others. Projects such as "Development of educational techniques in vocational education and training (DETVET)", "National Olweus bullying prevention program in Lithuania", "Development and implementation of competences of the professionals working with the welfare of a child and socially excluded children" and others. Also KU researchers involved in national and international science, research and art projects as well as regional cooperation programs such as the "Interreg", Nordplus Neighbour ", " Erasmus + ", the Baltic Sea region, the South Baltic region and the South Baltic region international cooperation programs.

EU Programme and Project	Year
ES Comenius-C21 „CaMot: Case method of Technology for Practical Use of Training Teachers“	2005-2008
LLP Leonardo Da Vinci Development of educational techniques in vocational education and training (DETVET) LLP-LdV-PRT-2009_LT-0126	2009
LLP Comenius „Network on creativity in pre-school education (CREANET) 510473-LLP-1-2010-IT-COMENIUS-CNW	2010 -2012
South Baltic Programme „Capacity Building“, WTPB 02.04.00-22-017/10-00	2011-2012
INTERREG IV and South Baltic Programme “Coordination and Integration of Higher Education and Labour Market in Baltic Sea Countries Region” WTPB.01.02.00-62-013/10/HS/557	2011-2013
LLP Tempus “Enhanced three-level competency based curricula in Applied Marine Science” Nr. 517271-TEMPUS-1-2011-I-DE-TEMPUS-JPCR	2011 - 2014
LLP Leonardo Da Vinci Development of Programmes for Training of European Level Welding Specialists LLP-LdV-TOI-2010-LT-0085	2012
Euroregion Baltic region project „Stay the Course“: Contracting party - Swedish Institute.	2014

LLP Leonardo Da Vinci "Appearance Matters – optimising the outcomes for vocational guidance counselling and vocational training" 527463-LLP-1-2012-1-UK-LEONARDO-LMP	2012 - 2014
Erasmus+ "INFINITUS - knowlegde sharing in dyslexia teaching" KA204.2014-001	2014-2016
Erasmus+ "INNOVATIVE EUROPEAN STUDIES ON RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS (IESRES)" 2015-1-TR01-KA203-021342	2015-2016
Life Long Learning Programme "Stress on Ships" 539223-LLP-1-2013-1-IT	2014-2016
Erasmus+ "Dental Appearance Matters (DAM)" 2014-1-LT01-KA202-000546	2014-2016
Erasmus+ "When Looks Get in the Way: Optimizing patient outcomes through the train of health care professionals" 2014-1-UK01-KA203-001631	2014-2016
Erasmus+ "Guidelines and Training Programme for Corporate Social responsibility in Tourism Developed by VET and HE providers for micro and small sized enterprises" 2014-1-UK01-KA000-000057	2014-2016
Erasmus+ "Healthcare english language programme" 2014-1-ES01-KA2013-004735	2014-2017
EU Strategy for the Baltic Region "Integrated care for senior citizens around the Baltic Sea (INTEGBALT)" S26	2014-2015
COST "New communities of interpretation: contexts, strategies and processes of religious transformation in late medieval and early modern Europe" ISCH COST Action IS1301	2014-2017
COST "Strengthening Europeans' Capabilities by Establishing the European Literacy Network" ISCH COST Action IS1401	2014-2018
Nordic Council of Ministers "Promotion of Intersectoral Collaboration and Lifelong Learning in Nordic and Baltic Countries by Developing an Innovative Mentoring Training Model NPHZ-2014/10078	2014-2016
Erasmus+ "Improving the initial education of adult immigrants"	2016-2018
INTERREG South Baltic Programme "Capacity building for Strategic Youth Policy and Transnational cooperation (CaSYPot)"	2016-2019

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

In 2009 prof. dr. I. Klaniene and prof. dr. L. Rupšiene participated in the national research "Possible manifestations of discrimination in a comprehensive school" (Ministry of Education and Science, 2009). The survey was conducted in conjunction with scientists of MRU (Lithuania, Vilnius), the applicant – Klaipeda University. In this study, the main objective was to investigate the students' discrimination in mainstream schools. On the basis of the study results 4 publications and 1 monograph "Pupils' equal opportunities and limitations on general education school" (2009). The study results presented in the monograph highlight issues of pupils' discrimination on a variety of attributes (age, sex, social status, disability, etc.). Important to note that this study revealed students' discrimination trends for a variety of signs and reasons for the proposed project relevance of the problem - all groups of pupils need to develop (s) in a safe and inclusive environment.

In 2016 prof. dr. I. Klaniene has been involved in the international project "Modernization of the multicultural education methods in pre-school and pre-primary education" within 2009–2014 European Economic Programme (EEE) financial measure LT08 „EEE scholarship programme“. Project coordinator: State Institutions' Language Centre , Vilnius, Lithuania. Partners: Klaipeda University, Bergen University College, Bergen, Norway, centre of Special Pedagogy and Psychology, Vilnius. The results of the project: Development of the concept of multicultural pre-school education in Lithuania providing the recommendations on the best practices of the development of multicultural pre-school education.

Furthermore, researchers of Faculty of the Humanities and Educational Sciences participated in 2010 – 2014 the scientific programme "Improving the quality of education to human self-realization" (Sub-theme "Social education quality as equal opportunities and social cohesion factor". These studies highlighted the quality of education as a factor of positive socialization. In 2015 – 2020 the group of researchers implement joint long-term scientific programme of Klaipeda University " Socioeducational research on human well-being". The scientific objective of the program is to investigate socioeducational factors of human well-being. The researchers are involved in the section of the social pedagogical prevention of discrimination.

The studies directly or indirectly deal with human well-being, safety, and include related issues: discrimination, equal opportunities for limiting factors, bullying resolution and prevention directions, youth problems in modern society.

Also researchers of Klaipeda University took part in the National Olweus bullying prevention program implemented in Lithuania. The program was conducted with the Olweus International AS (Norway).

Monograph and studies published in 2009-2014 related with project area (sub-area):

1. Klanienė I., Rupšienė, L., Šmitienė, G., Baraldnes, D. „Pupils equal opportunities and limitations at comprehensive school.” (2014)
2. National survey “Development of a long-term conception for analysis of youth-related issues” (2009). (Co-authors L.Rupšienė, I. Klanienė).
3. National scientific research “Manifestations of discrimination at comprehensive schools” (2009) (Co-authors L. Rupšienė, I. Klanienė).

Contributions that can be provided to the project

For the efficient implementation of the project, Klaipeda University will bring following competences:

- experience in developing teaching/learning activities and trainings/seminars through innovative and interactive methods
- experience in creating learning/teaching methodologies and instruments
- experience in implementing a new methodologies for teaching using drama
- experience in implementing a social pedagogical prevention activities

Reasons of involvement in the project

According to the National Study in Lithuania (2014) was identified the need for prevention of discrimination. The study has shown that students of different age groups at school faced to variety of symptoms of discrimination, for example, disability, gender, nationality, social status and so on. One of the most prominent problems - it is a children's social isolation from other groups of children with different characteristics, in particular the financial situation. Qualitative research results have shown that for teachers it is difficult to define the concept of discrimination, according teachers, discrimination related only with derision, but they could not describe other problems of pupils' discrimination, in violation of their rights.

It follows thence that project is suitable with international and Lithuanian national priorities. The long-term violations of child rights will inevitably affect not only young people, but an adult's personality also. The culture of bullying and ignorance of pupils' rights contrary to human rights principles. This project will help to develop non-violent and tolerant environment at schools in Lithuania.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Prof. dr. Ludmila Rupšienė - professor at the Department of Education, research methodology specialist. In her researches, she focuses on people's social welfare education, on risk of social exclusion of the people (migrants with various addictive substances, not attending school, etc.). She is an author of 2 monographs and co-author of over 100 scientific articles and reports in scientific presentations. She was leading KU scientific program "Human welfare Socio - educational studies" for over 10 years and was supervising many doctoral theses (including one already defended a dissertation on child migration). She participates as a leader and participant in national and international projects (ERASMUS KA2 "Improving the initial education of adult immigrants"; ESPAD 2015, "Education organization of the foreigners' children in Lithuanian general education schools" 2005, "Change of school" 2004, etc.).

Prof. dr. Ilona Klanienė. She promotes the ideas of community education, Social pedagogical prevention of discrimination and of social-pedagogical help with a special emphasis on volunteering opportunities when seeking to help risk group children. Another research field is social education of risk group children. She participates in the national research into improvement of educational help and acts as its leader. She disseminates the ideas of social pedagogy and contributes to their practical implementation on different forms: she is a member of the coordinating group of the national Olweus bullying prevention programme in Lithuania and a member of the Director Board of the foundation of the Centre of Spiritual Help to Youth.

Dr. Giedrė Strakšienė (Ph.D in Social Sciences (Education)), research scientist at Klaipėda University, Faculty of Social Science, Social Science Research Center. Academic interest and research areas: the development of communicative competence, integrated learning of subjects including the role of communicative competences in them, various teaching and learning drama methods which are applicable in the development of intercultural communicative competence. She has experience in implementing international projects: "Capacity Building" (WTPB 02.04.00-22-017/10-00); "CaMot: Case method of Technology for Practical Use of Training Teachers"(ES-Comenius-C21), "SkyLight - a Global Science Opera" (2015); "Capacity building for Strategic Youth Policy and Transnational cooperation (CaSYPot)", INTERREG SBP (2016).