


Vilnius University

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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Vilnius University - the largest Lithuanian scientific institution, has deservedly earned the status of a leader in science and research. European university traditions, academic freedom and diversity of opinions, the ability to deal with new challenges in the constantly changing world, and social responsibility are the fundamental values of the University. Established in 1579, the University comprises 13 faculties, 1 institute, 2 university hospitals, the oldest library in Lithuania with a modern Science Communication and Information Centre, the Astronomical Observatory, the Botanical Garden, and the Church of St. Johns. The student body of the University includes ~21,000 students. Year after year listed by QS World University Rankings among the top four per cent of the best universities in the world, Vilnius University attracts the best and most talented secondary school graduates of the country. The studies that are offered by the University are based on international-level research. The university's staff is involved in many national and international initiatives that are geared towards implementation of Bologna process and meet the objectives of Europe 2020 strategy, while quality issues of various activities are in the forefront of the institution's strategy. VU academic and administrative capacities to implement mobility projects are built on the rich experience obtained from the long-lasting participation in European mobility programs since 1999 in Socrates (later LLP- Erasmus), Erasmus Mundus (2009-2017). Over 160 bilateral cooperation agreements and 836 Erasmus+ cooperation agreements have been signed to enhance academic exchange and international collaboration and partnership in research and education. Mobility for study period counts >700 incoming and >600 outgoing students every year at Vilnius University. Every academic year academic and non-academic units of Vilnius University host more than 100 academic and administrative staff from partner institutions and send the same number of staff members for teaching and training to European and non-European universities. Active and qualitative participation in Erasmus Mundus Action2 enabled VU to extend international academic cooperation beyond the EU and to continue it under the Erasmus + ICM program. Vilnius University has appropriate infrastructure (dormitories for the international students, 2 libraries, computer classes, well-equipped classes and laboratories for studies, premises for extracurricular activities) to host international students and staff. The qualified personnel: IRO staff, international coordinators in the faculties, academic counselors on site and mentors for the international students are dealing with various academic and practical issues of incoming and outgoing student/ staff mobility and organization of their mobility. Increasing number of degree programs in English enables Vilnius university to offer studies almost in all study fields. In 2019 ARQUS European University Alliance, the one of the founders of which is VU, has been given EC funding under the call of European Universities. The Alliance has been working as a shared laboratory for experimentation and innovative actions in inclusive teaching and learning methodologies, new forms of mobility (blended and virtual), staff development, deeper societal, cultural and civic engagement. Through international engagement, Vilnius University enhances the accumulation of the comprehensive knowledge for high quality education, spreading internationalization within the University and seeks to strengthen the University's academic reputation.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

Programme or initiative	Reference number	Beneficiary Organisation	Title of the Project
European Universities	612247-EPP-1-2019-1-ES-EPPKA2-EUR-UNIV	Granada University	ARQUS European University Alliance
Erasmus+/Capacity Building	598915-EPP-1-2018-1-SE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	Uppsala University	Euro-Asia Collaboration for Enhancing STEM Education,
Erasmus+/Capacity Building	598861-EPP-1-2018-1-IT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	University of Bologna	Designing and managing international relations, educational projects and mobility schemes in Asian Universities
Erasmus+/Capacity Building	585820-EPP-1-2017-1-IT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	University of Siena	Joint Enterprise University Learning (JEUL)
Erasmus+/Capacity Building	585583-EPP-1-2017-1-IL-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	Ben Gurion University of the Negev	Developing Modernized Curricula on Immigrants' Lives in Israel (DEMO)
Erasmus+/Capacity Building	574064-EPP-1-2016-1-LT-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP	Vilnius University	Structuring cooperation in doctoral research, transferable skills training, and academic writing instruction in Ukraine's regions
Erasmus + /Knowledge Alliances	612364-EPP-1-2019-1-LT-EPPKA2-KA	Vilnius University	SHOUT - Social Sciences and Humanities in Intersectoral Outreach for better education and sustainable innovations,
Erasmus + /Knowledge Alliances	600926-EPP-1-2018-1-DE-EPPKA2-KA	Universität Duisburg-Essen	CIM - Promoting Creativity and Innovation Management in an innovative blended learning and validation programme at the interface between higher education (HE) and business
Erasmus + /Knowledge Alliances	612561-EPP-1-2019-1-IT-EPPKA2-KA	Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche	Data Literacy at the interface of higher education and business
Erasmus +/Strategic Partnership	2018-1-LT01-KA203-047044	Vilnius University	BlockChain: Network Online Education for Interdisciplinary European Competence Transfer,
Erasmus +/Strategic Partnership	2019-1-LT01-KA203-060767	Vilnius University	Future Teachers Education: Computational Thinking and STEAM,

Erasmus +/Strategic Partnership	2019-1-UK01-KA203-062148	Birmingham City University	Enabling Mental Health Benefits: resilience, achievement, competencies and engagement in improved higher education policy and practice for student wellbeing
Erasmus +/Strategic Partnership	2019-1-IT02-KA203-063157 2019-1-IT02-KA203-063157	Università degli Studi dell'Aquila	Didactic QUALity Assessment for Innovation of Teaching and Learning Improvement (QUALITI),
Erasmus +/Strategic Partnership	2019-1-BE02-KA203-060347	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	UNiversity STAFF for Refugees
Jean Monnet	587498-EPP-1-2017-1-IS-EPPJMO-NETWORK	Vilnius University	Navigating the Storm: The Challenges of Small States in Europe,
Jean Monnet	587704-EPP-1-2017-1-DE-EPPJMO-NETWORK	Vilnius University	Enhancing Visibility of the Academic Dialogue on EU-Turkey Cooperation (VIADUCT)

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

Staff members of the Faculty of Philology, Vilnius University, coordinate/d and have been involved in the following projects:

- OPTIMALE (Optimising Professional Translator Training in a Multilingual Europe: Subtitles and Language Learning), (504737-LLP-1-2009-1-FI-KA2-KA2NW).
- KoGloss: Glossaries of Constructions for Learners of Languages for Specific Purposes in German, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, (511437-LLP-1-2010-1-DE-KA2-KA2MP)
- "Problem-based CLIL Teaching and Learning through Another than English Language" (Problemorientierter Soft CLIL Ansatz für nichtenglischen FS-Unterricht, (2018-1-SK01-KA201-046316)).
- "Academic Writing in the Baltic States: Rhetorical Structures through Culture(s) and Languages", No. EMP475.
- "Lithuania Here and There: Language, Research, Culture, Society", (VP1-2.2-ŠMM-08-V-02-005).
- PASTILLE (European Arts and Traditions in Italian Language Learning), (2019-1-PL01-KA203-065078).
- "TEchnology-Mediated PLurilingual Activities for (Language) Teacher Education", (2020-1-IT02-KA201-079553).
- "Promoting Easy-to-Read Language for Social Inclusion", (2020-1-LV01-KA204-077527).
- "THINK4JOBS" (Critical Thinking for Successful Jobs), (2020-1-EL01-KA203-078797).

Contributions that can be provided to the project

Alongside other activities, the Institute of Foreign Languages of the Faculty of Philology of VU (<https://www.flf.vu.lt/en/institutes>) provides compulsory foreign language courses for specific purposes to all the other departments and research centers of the university. To ensure high quality studies, teachers at the Institute carry out research in the fields of innovative language teaching methods, educology and linguistics, and integrate the theoretical fundamentals, the latest achievements in these fields, as well as the results of their research into the study process. Aiming at achieving high quality in language learning and in compliance with the latest initiatives promoting innovative, inclusive and multilingual teaching methods as well as of language teachers professional development, the Institute focuses on analysing learners' needs and adjusting teaching and learning styles to them, which presupposes the effective use of modern, digital, technologies. Harmonisation of the achievement of specific competence level, based on the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (also regarding the most recent RELANG initiative) across the European tertiary education area is viewed as one of the es-

sential issues in the current revision of language curricula across the university faculties.

Teacher training is another important area of the institute's activities. The Institute of Foreign Languages participates in the administration of minor pedagogical / teacher-training programmes to the students of philology and linguistics, who are willing to work as foreign language teachers in the future, by delivering courses on foreign language teaching didactics and intercultural communication. Vilnius University is an accredited institution in Lithuania which has the right to provide teacher-training/ qualification courses to teachers of the Republic of Lithuania, in the framework of which the Institute of Foreign Languages offers different tailor-made teacher-training / qualification courses to foreign language teachers of the Republic of Lithuania. As an institutional member of Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania (LKPA) the institute organises seminars and national and international conferences and projects for language teachers. Thus, having such experience in the area of teacher-training as well as maintaining close contacts with language teachers of Lithuania the Institute of Foreign Languages of Vilnius University has great capacity and can contribute a lot by disseminating the materials developed during the project to the students – future foreign language teachers as well as teachers of different languages.

Thus, project participants' multidimensional expertise leads to the assumption of their suitability to perform tasks and design outcomes envisaged in the project.

Reasons of involvement in the project

There are a number of reasons for the participants of Vilnius University to be involved in the project:

1. As an active member of EHEA, Vilnius University encourages its members of the academic community to participate in the process of sharing knowledge and gaining expertise internationally wide.
2. The project's ambition to encompass 18 European languages for designing a Database of On-line Language Learning Sources draws attention to the less-widely spoken languages such as Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian and provides an opportunity to use them not only for general but specific purposes as well.
3. The project participants' expertise in teaching English for Specific Purposes for a number of years serves as an educational background for participation in such a project.
4. Participation in an international project leads to further cooperation ties and networking, as well as providing a chance to share best practice and learn from the experiences of colleagues from other countries.
5. The abundance of existing digital language teaching/learning sources needs to be reviewed and systemized, which is what the QUILL project is going to do.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Loreta Chodzkienė graduated from Vilnius University in English Philology, did her internship at the University of Kent (UK), obtained a CELTA diploma at SIH, defended her PhD "EU Pedagogues' Intercultural Communicative Competence and Its Developmental Socio-educational Factors" (Social Sciences).

In 2017, she won a grant for a teaching visit at Gunma University (Japan). Currently L. Chodzkienė has been running the courses on Communication across Cultures, Academic Writing and Intercultural Internship at the Faculty of Philology, Vilnius University. She focuses her research on language and culture relationship, methodology of foreign language teaching, including distance and hybrid teaching, also investigates the factors contributing to the development of a person's Intercultural Communicative Competence, analyses International (incoming) students' perspectives on the Lithuanian socio-cultural realia and conducts seminars for Lithuanian investors on intercultural issues.

L. Chodzkienė designed a study book on "What Should Every Student Know about Intercultural Communication?", made presentations on her research findings at more than 25 international scientific conferences and published 14 scientific articles, among them "Diversity in the Learning Experience in (Higher) Education (DIV.ED Guide book." ISBN 978-3-9503905-0-6 (co-author of the 6 ECTS Module and DIV.ED e-version) <https://www.iku.at/zentrum-fuer-fernstudien/ueber-uns/kooperationen/forschungskooperationen/dived/>.

L. Chodzkienė participated in number of projects run by the Ministry of Education and Research (Lithuania), British Council, ECML, EC, and coordinated the following projects:

Socrates Lingua 1 project "Open to Every Citizen" (117083-cp-1-2004-1-LT-LINGUA-L1; 2004-2007); - "European Label" award;

Erasmus IP "Modernising Europe by Innovating Teacher Training (MEITT)" (2009-2010);

ESF project "Development of Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) in Education" (VP1-2. 2-ŠMM-05-K-02-011; 2011-2013).

Prof. Dr. Julija Korostenskiene is an experienced linguist and language educator with teaching experience both in Europe and the United States of America. Throughout her teaching career, Prof. Korostenskiene has focused on teaching English-related courses in multicultural environments. She has developed a methodology for teaching English for Science to Vilnius University staff and is author of an innovative course Language in Leadership. Among her scholarly interests are translation issues, teaching didactics as well as assimilative practices in minority languages. Her recent project-relevant publications include 1) Korostenskiene, J. In press / 2020. The hit or miss guesswork or figuring the deictic centre of the Russian patronymic. In: Yearbook of the German Cognitive Linguistic Association, 8, 99-118. De Gruyter Mouton; 2) Korostenskiene J., Belovodskaja, A. In press / 2020. Pragmatics of address forms among Russian speakers in Lithuania: reconstructing the speech profile of social media audiences. Studies of Transition States and Societies, Vol. 12 or 13; 3) Korostenskiene, J., Bikeliene, L. In press / 2020. Teaching Professional writing: bringing innovation through tradition and corpora. To appear in: Proceedings of the 24th International Conference: Contemporary Issues of Germanic Philology and Language Teaching Methods, Brest State A.S. Pushkin University, Belarus; 4) Korostenskiene, J. & Pakrosnyte, M. Analysis of humour in TV series Friends and its translation into Lithuanian. In Sustainable Multilingualism: Conference Proceedings of 4th Biennial International Conference, Kaunas: Vytautas Magnus University: 155-179.

8, ISBN 978-9955-568-73-5 (co-author); Learning Languages for Mobility and Social Integration: DILS Grundtvig Learning Partnership. IN Languages for Work and Life: A challenge for teachers and Learners. 2011. ISBN 978-9955-880-80-6; „Diversity in the Learning Experience in (Higher) Education (DIV.ED Guide book.”ISBN 978-3-9503905-0-6 (co-author of the 6 ECTS Module and DIV.ED e-version) <https://www.jku.at/zentrum-fuer-fernstudien/ueberuns/kooperationen/forschungskooperationen/dived/>; On Specific Expertise in ESP Teaching: “can-do” and “should-do” framework . ICT for Language Learning, conference proceedings, pp.291-295, ed. by Pixel, Libreriauniversitaria.it.edizioni, 2017; NELLIP Guidelines in Quality in Language projects (<http://nellip.pixel-online.org>)
Olga Medvedeva is a member of the scientific committee of the “Innovation in Language Learning International Conference” <https://conference.pixel-online.net/ICT4LL/scientific.php>

Dr Olga Medvedeva is an experienced teacher and teacher trainer (EUROLTA master teacher trainer since 2012); she worked as a project manager with over 20 international projects. Her professional research interests include foreign language didactics, applied linguistics, international / intercultural communication, teacher training, ICT in language learning/teaching, teaching languages for specific purposes. **Project-relevant publications:** ODLAC Tutors Guide (Open Development of Language Competencies (ODLAC)-225219-CP-1-AT-MINERVA-MPP, 2008, ISBN 978-9955-568-73-5 (co-author); Learning Languages for Mobility and Social Integration: DILS Grundtvig Learning Partnership. IN Languages for Work and Life: A challenge for teachers and Learners. 2011. ISBN 978-9955-880-80-6; “Diversity in the Learning Experience in (Higher) Education (DIV.ED Guide book.”ISBN 978-3-9503905-0-6 (co-author of the 6 ECTS Module and DIV.ED e-version) <https://www.jku.at/zentrum-fuer-fernstudien/ueberuns/kooperationen/forschungskooperationen/dived/>; On Specific Expertise in ESP Teaching: “can-do” and “should-do” framework . ICT for Language Learning, conference proceedings, pp.291-295, ed. by Pixel, Libreriauniversitaria.it.edizioni, 2017; NELLIP Guidelines in Quality in Language projects (<http://nellip.pixel-online.org>)
Olga Medvedeva is a member of the scientific committee of the “Innovation in Language Learning International Conference” <https://conference.pixel-online.net/ICT4LL/scientific.php>

Lecturer Hannah Shipman has been teaching English as a Foreign Language since 2001 in the Czech Republic, Estonia, and Lithuania. She has worked as a lecturer at VU for the last 11 years, primarily focusing on teaching English Lexis and the History of British Culture. She has extensive experience of teaching business English in-company and has seen first-hand the need for fluent English for international communication in a wide range of fields, including IT, recruitment, banking, internal audit, pharmaceuticals, retail, marketing, law, etc. Hannah frequently participates in professional development activities and has a keen interest in ed-tech tools and digital technologies for teachers and learners. She has delivered a number of seminars at VU and to local teaching organisations on topics of interest, such as exploiting course books, the lexical approach, tech tools for teachers, etc. She also has a wealth of experience of oral and written assessment of international exams, as well as ensuring that the quality standards of the British Council, are met and maintained. She has participated in some RELANG seminars on ‘Constructing Valid Language Tests Based on the CEFR’ and ‘Developments in the Lithuanian Foreign Language Testing System’ with the Lithuanian National Examinations Centre and the ECML. She is currently involved in project 09.2.1-ESFA-V-706-02-0001 “Development of the General Education Research, Assessment and Monitoring System: Assessment of Pupils' Achievements” at The National Education Agency.