



ERACON 2011
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TODOR KABLESHKOV UNIVERSITY OF TRANSPORT



ERASMUS PROGRAM AS A FACTOR FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND METHODOLOGY IMPROVEMENT

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Overview



- Introduction
- Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices:
 - teachers' experience
 - students' demands
 - Erasmus days
- Centralized Erasmus activities
- Conclusions

Introduction



Erasmus programme is a promoter of innovative practices related to:

- curriculum development
- methodology improvement

- **Teachers' experience** accumulated through Erasmus mobility on subjects contents and methods of training

- **Former Erasmus students' demands** for changes and social activities

- **Centralized activities** for creative potential development:
 - intensive programmes
 - curriculum development projects
 - Erasmus Mundus programme, Atlantis, etc.

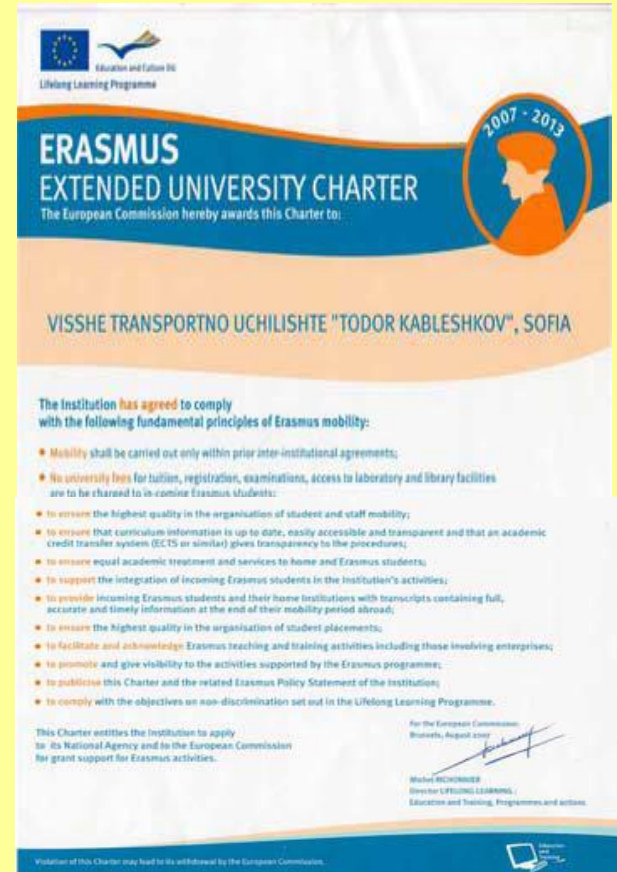
Based on the case study at the University of Transport (Sofia)

Introduction



Erasmus programme at University of Transport (Sofia)

- Since the academic year 2006/2007
- Extended Erasmus Charter 2007
- Interinstitutional agreements
 - 38 partners
 - 20 universities
 - 15 countries
- Capacity of outgoing mobilities:
 - 14 students
 - 25 teachers for teaching
 - 15 staff representatives for training



Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices



Teachers' Experience

- Curriculum development through:
 - changing topics in syllabi (admissible 20%)
 - new teaching contents (in lectures and seminars)
 - interdisciplinary approach

- Erasmus activities for knowledge and skills transfer:
 - personal meetings
 - participation in discussions on curricula and teaching
 - exchange of books, scripts of lectures, curricula, syllabi, lectures, descriptions of laboratory exercises, teaching materials
 - attendance at lectures and other educational events

Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices



Teachers' Experience

- Methodology development by :
 - interactive teaching
 - open discussions
 - “position exchanging” (students as presenters)
 - e-learning

- Synergy of teaching and research:
 - thematic seminars
 - student sessions/conferences
 - workshops

Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices



Teachers' Experience: *Soil Mechanics and Foundation* Students' Seminar

Leader: Assoc. Prof. Chavdar Kolev

Erasmus teaching mobilities:

- University of Pardubice, Czech Republic (2009/2010)
- Technical University of Iasi, Romania (2010/2011)



Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices



Teachers' Experience: *Highways in Bulgaria and Europe* Students' Seminar

Leader: Assoc. Prof. Valentin Nikolov

Erasmus teaching mobilities:

- Technical University of Graz,
Austria (2009/2010)

Presentations: former Erasmus students in Germany, Italy, Portugal

21 December 2010



Guest: Mr Rossen Plevneliev
Minister of Regional Development
and Public Works

Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices



Teachers' Experience: *Level-Crossings Safety in Bulgaria* Students' Seminar

Leader: Assoc. Prof. Chavdar Kolev

Erasmus teaching mobilities:

- University of Pardubice, Czech Republic (2009/2010)
- Technical University of Iasi, Romania (2010/2011)



Presentations: Martin Ruman,
Incoming Erasmus student, University of Pardubice (Czech Republic)

Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices



Teachers' Experience: *Center for Business Planning and Management*

Promoter: Dept. of Economics and Accountancy in Transport

Teaching mobilities:

- University of Business Administration, Gdynia (Poland)
- Warsaw University of Technology, International University of Logistics and Transport, Wroclaw (Poland)
- University of Zilina (Slovakia)
- University of Maritime Studies and Transport (Slovenia)
- University of Pardubice (Czech Republic)



Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices

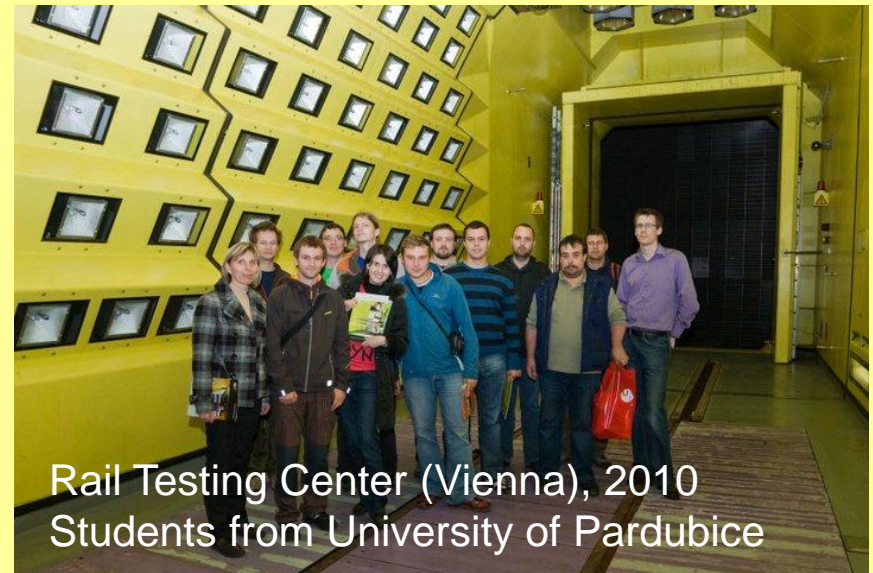


Teachers' Experience: *Practical Training*

- internships
- short visits
- “out-of-lecture-hall” classes
- “field” training



Journey with a steam engine (Sofia), 2011
Students from University of Transport



Rail Testing Center (Vienna), 2010
Students from University of Pardubice

Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices



Former Erasmus Students Demands

- Students demands for curriculum innovations:
 - including new modules & topics in teaching contents
 - increasing the number of optional subjects
 - using new methods: presentations, tests, students presentations, visits to sites related to the courses studied

- Students' initiatives for social activities:
 - clubs of interests
 - Manager Club
 - Erasmus student organization – Erasmus Student Network
 - participation in EU initiatives
 - groups and pages in Facebook



Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices



Former Erasmus Students Demands: *We, the Students* Presentation

Organizer: Manager Club aiming at acquainting students with the possibilities for their professional development at the University of Transport and the EU

Presenters: former Erasmus students in Poland and Czech Republic

Participants: an incoming Erasmus student from Czech Republic and former Erasmus students



Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices



Former Erasmus Students Demands: *Participation in EU Projects and Events*

Former Erasmus student
Gabriela Tsekova:

- European Year of Volunteering 2011, Back to School Initiative
- Project on Youth Mobility, invited to visit the European Parliament by Bulgarian members of EU



Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices



Former Erasmus Students Demands: Facebook

The screenshot shows a Facebook group page for "ERASMUS at Todor Kableshkov University of Transport". The page is viewed in a Windows Internet Explorer browser. The group has 71 members and is an open group. The main content area displays several posts:

- A post by Gabriela Tsekova titled "Home - RIFLE Project" with a link to www.rifle-project.eu. It includes a photo of a building and text in Bulgarian: "10/04/2011: experiences of international and Erasmus students at universities and business schools. Rankings, jobs, languages. Globalse your CV with Agora."
- A post by Anna Dzhaleva-Chonkova titled "Student reviews of universities and business schools - Agora" with a link to www.agora.com. It includes a photo of a book cover and text in Bulgarian: "10/04/2011: experiences of international and Erasmus students at universities and business schools. Rankings, jobs, languages. Globalse your CV with Agora."
- A post by Gabriela Tsekova titled "Student reviews of universities and business schools - Agora" with a link to www.agora.com. It includes a photo of a book cover and text in Bulgarian: "10/04/2011: experiences of international and Erasmus students at universities and business schools. Rankings, jobs, languages. Globalse your CV with Agora."

The right sidebar shows a list of documents, including "ERASMUS Student Charter" and "My Erasmus Story". The bottom of the page shows the Windows taskbar with the Start button, Internet Explorer, and other open applications.

Contribution of Erasmus programme to developing innovative practices



Erasmus Days at University of Transport

- Accompanying event of the International Conferences TRANSPORT 2008, 2009
- International Days 2010
- Days of Academic Cooperation in SEE 2010



Centralized Erasmus activities



Curriculum development projects

- Participation in four proposals:
 - two in the field of transport sciences
 - two in teaching fundamental sciences at universities

Intensive programs

- Participation in two proposals:
 - one in the field of transport sciences
 - one in the field of economics (tourism)

Projects with partners from outside the EU

- Participation in one proposal for Erasmus Mundus
- Participation in data acquisition accomplished by the Atlantis project Tunrail (<http://www.tunrail.info>)
- Possibilities to develop Erasmus Mundus project under the Association of Russian and Bulgarian Universities and Business Representatives established on 14 April 2011

Centralized Erasmus activities



Partner in RiFLE project under LLP/Erasmus



Rail Freight and Logistics
Curriculum Development
<http://www.rifle-project.eu/>

The objective of the RiFLE project is to develop **Rail Freight and Logistics Curriculum** for a complete cycle of study by using an innovative multidisciplinary approach, equipped with curriculum modelling tools. The Master Courses will be delivered in English by the participating institutions as separate but shared programmes in their universities.

Centralized Erasmus activities



Partner in RiFLE project under LLP/Erasmus

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the RiFLE project website. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://www.rifle-project.eu/index.php/home.htm'. The website features a header with the RiFLE logo (a stylized 'R' and 'F' in a diamond shape) and the tagline 'Your track to success!'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Workflow, News, Publications, and Contacts. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a 'News' section with two articles: 'The RiFLE team will meet in Rome' (dated 2011-03-16 05:39) and '20th INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE TRANSPORT 2011' (dated 2011-02-10 19:27). The right column contains a 'Summary' section with the text: 'RiFLE is a new CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT project funded under the ERASMUS Programme of the European Commission. This project began on 1 October 2010 and will run for three years.' Below the summary is a 'Project Objectives' section with two paragraphs of text. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including Internet Explorer, Microsoft Office, Athens_presentation, Erasmus_VTU_2011, and Erasmus. The system tray shows the date and time as 02:16.

Centralized Erasmus activities



Partner in RiFLE project under LLP/Erasmus



- The approach is to analyze, enhance and adapt existing courses already offered by the Universities of the participating institutions within a modern rail freight and logistics environment
- The innovative idea of this project is that the courses will be compatible to allow for students to do some of their modules at one of the other universities. It will also explore the possibility of a joint programme and degree
- The project is coordinated by University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK), represented by NewRail at Mechanical and Systems Engineering
- Partners are:
 - La Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
 - Todor Kableshkov University of Transport (Bulgaria)
 - University of Applied Science in Ingolstadt (Germany)

Centralized Erasmus activities



Partner in RiFLE project under LLP/Erasmus



Invitation for events, organized by the University of
Transport:

- Workshop under the project:

Educational programs for rail freight and logistics

within the Programme of the ***20th International Scientific Conference Transport 2011***, Sofia,
4-5 November 2011, <http://www.vtu.bg/conference>

- ***International Days***, Sofia, 2-3 November 2011

Conclusions



- ✓ Erasmus programme has great potential for curriculum development and methodology improvement
- ✓ Erasmus programme is an effective way to spread “good practices” at universities
- ✓ Erasmus programme contributes to personal development of all participants:
 - students
 - teachers
 - non-teaching academic staff
- ✓ Erasmus programme is of great importance for:
 - harmonization of higher education systems in the EU countries
 - creation of the European area of higher education
 - implementation of requirements for mobility of people
 - achievement of the objectives set in Lisbon strategy and the EU policy

Thanks



Thank you for your attention!

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