A European University in the making: Achievements and Challenges
Annual Closing Conference
1 July 2020
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to a new kind of transnational cooperation

- Management
- Coordination and internal communication
- Quality Assurance

Isabella Baer-Eiselt, WP 1 leader, LRUniv
Challenges ahead

1. Re-structuration of governance and management system for strengthened research dimension
2. Sustainability
   1. Future European Funding
   2. Economic Model
   3. Quality Assurance System
   4. Accreditation an economic model of joint programmes/joint degrees
   5. Legal entity
3. Stakeholder involvement
   1. Public policy impact, innovation partnerships, smart specialisation
   2. Associated partnership
   3. External Advisory Board
EU-CONSEXUS opens up opportunities to a new kind of learning and teaching

Ana de Luis, WP 2 leader, UCV

• University-to school
• Joint educational programmes
• Life-long training
Milestones

Decision on
2 Minors
2 Joint Master’s
1 PhD programme’s’
duration and titles

11 2019

Legal framework
overview

Common Vocabulary

School Contest proposal

03 2020
Skills map questionnaire
Joint MSc in Marine Biotechnology syllabus (draft)

07 2020
Minor’s catalogue

06 2020
School contest announcement

10 2020
Skills map >> development of academic offers

03 2021
Skills map >> development of academic offers

04 2021
School contest winners

09 2021
Start of joint Master’s and joint Ph.D. programmes

09 2021
Lifelong Learning specialisation courses

04 2022
School contest winners 2021/2022

‘University to School’ Programme

Offers for vocational training centres

01 2021
Minor’s programmes: 1st intake

01 2021
Charter and code of automatic mutual recognition

09 2020
Erasmus Mundus application for joint MSc in Blue Biotechnology
Challenges ahead

EXTERNAL

1. National legislation: differences in admission, fees, student numbers, economic support, teaching language, graduation requirements

2. Timely accreditation of joint MSc and Ph.D. programmes (to start marketing in spring 2021, classes – in autumn 2021)

3. COVID-19: impact on physical workshops, potential impact on students’ application and admission for joint degree programmes

INTERNAL

1. Economic model to implement joint study programmes and student mobility (external funding)

2. Urgent need of virtual teaching/learning platform

3. Innovation in teaching and developing study programmes

4. Transnational coordination and work overload.
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to a new kind of mobility

Maja Kolega, WP 3 leader, UNIZD

- Physical, blended virtual mobility
- Job shadowing
- European student card
Milestones for Mobility

- **Erasmus+ Inter-institutional agreements signed**: 10 2019
- **Mobility Office members**: 09 2019
- **Increase the mobility quota for 10%**: 02 2020
- **Mobility procedures and courses in foreign languages**: 12 2019
- **Job-shadowing scheme call for applications**: 06 2020
- **EU-CONEXUS common procedures**: 09 2020
- **EU-CONEXUS student card Application for Erasmus+ funds**: 01 2021
- **Common mobility software**: 02 2021
- **EU-CONEXUS Mobility Information Package**: 09 2021
- **Platform for EU-CONEXUS Buddy system**: 09 2021
- **Automatic mutual recognition**: 07 2022
Challenges

1. COVID-19 epidemic and virtual mobility
2. Different dates of the beginning of the semesters among the partners
3. Applying as EU-CONEXUS alliance for the Erasmus+ funds (especially for the KA107 funds – mobility with the partner countries)
4. Implementation of the EU-CONEXUS Student Card in coordination with other European Universities
5. Automatic mutual recognition
EU-CONECUS opens up opportunities to do research differently

Eleni Miliou, WP 4 leader, AUA

- Joint Research Institutes
- Joint standard operating procedures
- Joint projects
- Accreditation
Milestones for Research

- **Set up of Joint Research Steering Committee**
  - 09 2019

- **Scientific Mapping**
  - 04 2020

- **Project Development Fund**
  - 03 2020

- **Joint Research Institutes Configuration**
  - 09 2020

- **Call for Researchers Mobility**
  - 07 2020

- **JSOPs**
  - 11 2020

- **Multilingual Laboratory Manuals (MLMs)**
  - 02 2021

- **Accreditation certificates**
  - 06 2021

- **Report on students and researchers mobility**
  - 07 2022

- **Living Labs**
  - 09 2021

- **Review on Applications of Joint Research Projects**
  - 12 2021
Vision and challenges

VISION
To establish Joint Research Infrastructures in the context of the European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability EU-CONEXUS

CHALLENGES
1. Create a common strategic research agenda: “EU-CONEXUS - Joint Research Area”
2. Submit joint research proposals and conduct collective research
3. Share resources and set Joint Standard Operating Procedures (JSOPs)
4. Promote the mobility of researchers and students
5. Co-operate with the private sector in an open innovation ecosystem (Living Labs)
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to innovation and doing business

Cezar Vladut, WP 5 leader, UTCB

- University-industry platform
- Mentoring system
- Skills-map
PCRU - Milestones

Mentoring platform: in development
University industry platform: needs defined

Skills map:
- First version of the mentoring platform: 09 2020
- University-Industry and Mentoring platforms: 02 2021

Mentoring platform:
- 06 2020

University - Industry platform:
- 05.07.2020 waiting for JobTeaser offer

Skills map:
- 01.09.2020 deadline for submission the questionnaire
- 15.09.2020 results of interpretation
- 20.09.2020 final results

Mentoring platform:
- 19.06.2020 in developing
- 15.09.2020 first version of the platform
The global pandemic came as a major change in society, finding us in a position from which nothing was predictable. In addition to the sentimental side of the moment of concern for both ourselves and loved ones, changing the workflow required little time to adjust, which resulted in a few delays.

Remote work and meetings that did not always gather members from each partner, resulted in ideas that were formed after some directions were established, leading to changes and additional meetings for new decisions.

Many activities are dependent on multiple WPs which causes decisions to be taken late.
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to a transnational campus life

Slaven Zjalic, WP 6 leader, UNIZD

- Cultural events
- Sport events
- Student engagement
- Buddy system
Milestones or how to run

- Set up governance structures: 09 2019
- 1st EU CONEXUS Festival – postponed due to COVID-19: 03 2020
- Culture promotion online: Long history of say hello and welcome film: 06 2020
- Sport challenge on line: 10 2020
- Culture and Sport committees established: 10 2019
- Student board established: 05 2020
- 2nd EU CONEXUS Festival – Klaipeda: 09 2021
- 3rd EU CONEXUS Festival – La Rochelle: 06 2022
- Summer schools: 06 2021
Challenges: *Welcome to the new normal*

1. COVID-19 pandemic strongly influenced activities of WP6
2. Design of virtual and online events as main communication tools
3. Large involvement of students
4. The Student Board has been successfully established and a buddy system is being prepared.
5. Summer and winter schools, alumni networks are in preparation and in design, because now all projects have become the art of the possible.
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to a “smarter” campus

Jean-Christophe Burie, WP 7 leader, LRUniv

- Harmonisation of Information System
- Virtual Campus
- Virtual learning environment
- Virtual library
- Multilingual services
Milestones

- **Set up of the WP7 team**: 09 2019
- **Start of working groups**: 12 2020
- **Inventory of Digital Environment**: 11 2019
- **Action plan To build the Smart Campus**: 09 2020
- **Common Authentication process**: 11 2020
- **Virtual Library**: 04 2021
- **Virtual Desktop**: 07 2021
- **Beginning of Virtual campus and educational resources**: 01 2021
- **- LMS Platform**
- **- Tools for virtual courses**
- **Harmonisation of information system**: 12 2021
- **Multilingual services**: 09 2021
- **Student Profiling system**: 08 2022
Challenges

1. Heterogeneity of the Information systems, Digital Services and Digital Equipment of each partner
2. Human resources dedicated to the project for analysing, develop and manage the proposed solutions
3. Where to host the Eu-Conexus digital services
4. Language issue to of technical experts (waste time)
EU-CONEXUS opens up opportunities to be visible and stay visionary

Inga Petrauskiene, WP 8 leader, KU

- Communication and Dissemination Strategy
- Website and Social Networks
- Information Package
- Sustainability and Funding Strategy
Community engagement, new identity and image materials creation and communication for all priority audiences (university community, local and national government, general population).

Continuing general communication and focused campaigns to attract new students and social partners (foundations).

Continuing general communication and focused campaigns to attract social partners (foundations), to ensure support from local, national governments and EU institutions.
Challenges

1. To achieve ultimate EU-CONEXUS communication goal: to represent the first worldwide choice for experts in urban/coastal/smart/sustainability issues as well as become the first choice for students/PhD students interested in the same topics.

2. Sustainability and Funding strategy – agreement on a concept for the structural development of EU-CONEXUS