



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Erasmus+ : Higher Education - International Capacity Building

Brussels,
EACEA.A4/EVC/en/ sv(2019)2454290

To the attention of: Mr CASTRO ZUZUARREGUI PELAYO,
Head of the EU Delegation in Costa Rica
Mr HOORNAERT CHRIS,
Head of the EU Delegation in Panama
Mr BELL KENNETH,
Head of the EU Delegation in Nicaragua
Mr GATTO STEFANO,
Head of the EU Delegation in Guatemala
Mr BASSOLS ANDREU,
Head of the EU Delegation in El Salvador
Mr PALMERO ALESSANDRO,
Head of the EU Delegation in Honduras

Subject: Erasmus+ Capacity Building for Higher Education (CBHE)

Harmonization and Innovation in Central American Higher Education Curricula: Enhancing and Implementing the Regional Quality Framework (HICA) (561531-EPP-1-2015-1-ES-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP)

Dear Ambassadors,

In the framework of the **Erasmus+ Capacity Building for Higher Education action (CBHE)**, we are very pleased to share with you the promising results achieved by the CBHE project "***Harmonization and Innovation in Central American Higher Education Curricula: Enhancing and Implementing the Regional Quality Framework (HICA)***", that was implemented in Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras from 15/10/2015 to 14/10/2018.

This **Structural Project**¹ (the first one implemented in Latin America) aimed at supporting reform, innovation and harmonisation of the higher education curricula in

¹ The CBHE action distinguishes two types of projects: "Joint Projects" that aim at having an impact on the Higher Education Institutions, and "Structural Projects" that aim to have an impact on the Higher Education system and must therefore include the mandatory participation of the relevant National Authorities in the Partner countries concerned.

Central America. Its main outcome has been the **development of a Central American Qualifications Framework for Higher Education ("MCESCA")** that should contribute to the transparency, relevance and compatibility of each higher education cycle in the countries concerned.

The project coordinated by the Universidad of Barcelona was implemented by a wide consortium composed of 34 partners including Higher Education Institutions, Ministries of Education, University Associations and regional organisations from the above mentioned countries.


You will find in annex a short description of the project, its main outputs and the contact details of the coordinator and the project partners in your country.

Given the remarkable results achieved by the project and the active contribution of the National Authorities to these results, we believe it could be an example of good practice and an excellent reference for showcasing the added value of Erasmus+ and more generally of the EU support to (higher) education in your country.

I take this opportunity to remind you that under the following link, your colleagues will be able to find information and support material on Erasmus+ and the international dimension of its higher education actions that was specially prepared by our Agency for the attention of the EU Delegations: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about-eacea/presenting-and-promoting-erasmus-plus-guidance-and-promotion-materials-for-eu-delegations-0_en

Do not hesitate to contact my colleague Eva Valle Casanova (Eva.VALLE-CASANOVA@ec.europa.eu) who has been in charge of monitoring the HICA project should you need further information or assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Ralf RAHDERS
Head of Unit

Cc: Altagracia Cuevas, Project Coordinator (hica.project@ub.edu)

ANNEX

ERASMUS+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)

Harmonization and Innovation in Central American Higher Education Curricula: Enhancing and Implementing the Regional Quality Framework (HICA)

561531-EPP-1-2015-1-ES-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP

Aim of the project:

HICA, driven by university associations, universities and ministries in six Central American (CA) countries, intended to support the reform, innovation and harmonisation of Higher Education curricula by developing a **Central American Qualifications Framework for Higher Education** ("MCESCA"). This Qualifications Framework defines what a student should know, understand and be able to do after each Higher Education cycle.

Main outcomes and impact achieved:

- Thanks to the **development of a MESCA**, the project has defined learning outcomes for pre-bachelor and short-cycle programmes.
- The Central American Qualifications Framework has been the object of a ***pilot in Central American Partner Universities***, with the aim of revising and reforming the learning programmes selected by each University, and of defining workload based learning outcomes aligned with the MCESCA.
- The pilot outcomes and the MCESCA itself were **promoted widely** to regional and national political bodies, employers and accreditation agencies.

Overall, the **impact achieved** by the project could be very significant in the region:

- The revised academic programmes have **brought together public authorities, students and teaching staff** and led to the implementation of curricular reforms.
- Central American universities have **networked and reinforced their regional cooperation capacity**.
- National associations and the Ministries of Education will benefit from a **regionally agreed tool** they can use for **quality assurance and teaching reforms** for their own systems as well as for the recognition of studies abroad.
- The **European partners** have benefitted from discussions on qualification frameworks in a Central American context that will provide them with an **important mirror for similar reforms** in the context of the Bologna Process.

Partners involved:

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA (Coordinator)	Spain	hica.project@ub.edu
---	-------	--

ASOCIACION OBSERVATORIO DE LAS RELACIONES UNION EUROPEA AMERICA LATINA (UE/AL)	Spain	rtorrent@ub.edu
ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA	Italy	rettore@unibo.it
ASOCIACION OBSERVATORIO DE LAS RELACIONES UNION EUROPEA AMERICA LATINA (UE/AL)	Spain	rtorrent@ub.edu
ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DE L'UNIVERSITE	Belgium	info@eua.be
STIFTUNG ZUR FORDERUNG DER HOCHSCHULREKTORENKONFERENZ	Germany	dilba@hrk.de
TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE BRANDENBURG	Germany	vpl@fh-brandenburg.de
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK - NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, CORK	Ireland	p.giller@ucc.ie
CONSEJO CENTROAMERICANO DE ACREDITACION DE LA EDUCACION SUPERIOR (CCA)	Costa Rica	lea_cruz2001@upnfm.edu.hn
INSTITUTO TECNOLOGICO DE COSTA RICA	Costa Rica	jucalvo@itcr.ac.cr
MINISTERIO DE EDUCACION PUBLICA	Costa Rica	sonia.mora.escalante@mep.go.cr
UNIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA	Costa Rica	hjensenp@gmail.com
UNIVERSIDAD ESTATAL A DISTANCIA UNED	Costa Rica	rectoria@uned.ac.cr
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL	Costa Rica	secva@una.ac.cr
UNIVERSIDAD TECNICA NACIONAL	Costa Rica	mprieto@utn.ac.cr www.utn.ac.cr
MINISTERIO DE EDUCACIÓN	El Salvador	carlos.canjura@mined.gob.sv
UNIVERSIDAD DE EL SALVADOR	El Salvador	rectoria@ues.edu.sv
UNIVERSIDAD DON BOSCO	El Salvador	hflores@udb.edu.sv
CONSEJO SUPERIOR UNIVERSITARIO CENTROAMERICANO	Guatemala	afuentes@csuca.org

MINISTERIO DE EDUCACION	Guatemala	caragon@mineduc.gob.gt
UNIVERSIDAD SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA	Guatemala	rector@usac.edu.gt
SECRETARIA DE ESTADO EN EL DESPACHO DE EDUCACION	Honduras	moescoto@uc.cl
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTONOMA DE HONDURAS	Honduras	rectoria@unah.edu.hn
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE AGRICULTURA	Honduras	rectoriaumag@gmail.com
UNIVERSIDAD PEDAGOGICA NACIONAL FRANCISCO MORAZAN	Honduras	dmarin@upnfm.edu.hn
CONSEJO NACIONAL DE UNIVERSIDADES	Nicaragua	telemaco@ibw.com.ni
MINISTERIO DE EDUCACION - REPUBLICA DE NICARAGUA	Nicaragua	raudezm@mined.gob.ni
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AGRARIA	Nicaragua	rectoria@una.edu.ni
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTONOMA DE NICARAGUA, LEON	Nicaragua	rectoria@ac.unanleon.edu.ni
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTONOMA DE NICARAGUA MANAGUA	Nicaragua	rectoria@unan.edu.ni
CONSEJO DE RECTORES DE LAS UNIVERSIDADES OFICIALES Y PARTICULARES DE PANAMA	Panama	consejo@cwpanama.net
MINISTERIO DE EDUCACION	Panama	marcela.paredes@meduca.gob.pa
UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE CHIRIQUI	Panama	rectoria@unachi.ac.pa
UNIVERSIDAD DE PANAMA	Panama	viodegarcia@yahoo.com
UNIVERSIDAD ESPECIALIZADA DE LAS AMERICAS	Panama	rectoria@udelas.ac.pa

Project Material on the Erasmus+ Dissemination Platform:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/>

(Indicate the project number 561531 in the "Search" box)

Project website: <http://hica.csuca.org>