

Annex N:3

SCHE in Europe and the US: Addressing Social and Economic Needs

What is our project for?

PARTNERS:

EUROPE:

- International University College , Dobrich, Bulgaria
- National Innovation and Expertise Centre for Lifelong Learning (LEIDO), Amsterdam, The Netherlands

USA:

- University of Toledo, Ohio, USA
- Owens Community College, Ohio, USA

The project focuses on short-cycle higher education (SCHE) in Europe and the United States and its contribution to social economic development at the regional, state and international levels.

The project aims at stimulating discussions and exchange of experience and best practices in three critical policy areas concerning SCHE: recognition and quality assurance of SCHE programmes and degrees, interface between SCHE institutions and industry, and the role of SCHE in lifelong learning and life-wide learning systems.

Additionally, the project objectives is to foster forum of international exchange of ideas through the or-

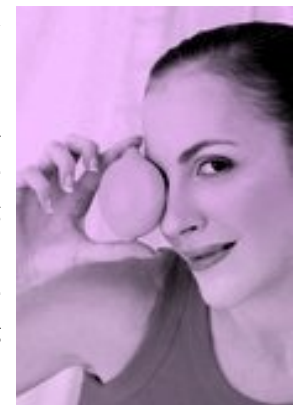
ganization of three international conferences, each focusing on the following SCHE issues:

Bulgaria: Recognition and Quality Assurance of Short-Cycle Higher Education Programmes: Aligning Educational Systems;

Netherlands: Short-Cycle Higher Education and Lifelong Learning Systems;

USA: Strategic Approaches of Short-Cycle Higher Education to Addressing Economic and Social Development.

The project partners are a group of institutions from USA and Europe offering SCHE programmes.



Fruitful lemons of SCHE around the world

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Why did we get started with our project?

The recognized and growing role of SCHE programmes in preparing people for dynamic labour markets and knowledge based economies has attracted tremendous attention throughout Europe and the United States over the past decades.

SCHE programmes are different

but have one important feature in common: training human capital for professional occupation, their links to the labour market which are strong and deep.

As a result, SCHE institutions are more and more appealed to be locally responsive and to

serve as key agents of change in their regions and beyond. Thus, their role in the social and economic and development of their region, state, or if we just say the world , is crucial.

This is why we are now here...



Competitive but together...

International University College, Bulgaria



The International University College (IUC) is a modern Business Higher School providing high quality of study programmes and professional trainings. The College is widely known for its rich experience of researches and developed modern educational systems in the field of tourism, economics and business.

The IUC project team focuses on the study of short-cycle higher education degree programs (SCHE) in Europe and the United States, and on the

role of short cycle education in addressing social and economic needs.

The project manager is Assoc. Prof. Todor Radev - rector and founder of International University College in 1992. He teaches subjects in the field of applied economics and HR management while also performing research and academic activities in Bulgarian, German, English, French, Russian and Polish. Prof. Radev holds a Ph.D. in Economics and M.Sc. In Political Economics from the St. Petersburg

University in Russia and the Bulgarian Academy of Science. Additionally, the rector of IUC has many years of experience as manager and supervisor of International projects, implemented within European Programmes such as Phare, Leonardo da Vinci, World Bank, Cross border cooperation programme Bulgaria-Romania 2007-2013 and other European Operational Programmes carried out in Bulgaria.

“Our main goal is to provide high-quality education for managers, including language skills, business-oriented thinking and behaviour, and abilities to make managerial decisions”
Assoc. Prof. Todor Radev

LEIDO, the Netherlands



LEIDO (National Innovation and Expertise for Lifelong Learning) is the organization involved in the implementation of newly—introduced Associate degree in the Netherlands.

LEIDO is also a network organization, active in a large range of research and expertise fields of Higher Education, lifelong learning in Europe.

LEIDO project team focuses on the study of short-cycle higher education programmes in Europe and the United States and the connection with Lifelong Learning Systems.

Hans Daale has been the Chairman of LEIDO since 1999. He has been working in different management positions in higher education since 1989 after a career

as lecturer and councilor in general education: founder in 1989 of a College for part-time higher education, as part of the University for Applied sciences in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands . Today, Hans Daale is manager of the LICA (Dutch Expertise and Information Centre for Higher Professional Education) and researcher in national surveys.

Challenging society’s mind through SCHE...



How to manage myself in today's society?

Although long overdue, any comparative analysis of SCHE in Europe and the United States is bound to face an important number of challenges posed by the historical development of SCHE.

We are all together with the main purpose to increase

society’s understanding of the strong contribution of SCHE in lifelong and lifewide learning systems of education which underline the knowledge based societies across Europe and the United States.

In this context, the dynamic structural dialogue at international level is crucial and is

the unique pathway to the development and introduction of internationally compatible SCHE programmes which will bolster college level credibility and assist in the establishment of credit transfer systems between the secondary and higher education as a basis for SCHE development.

University of Toledo, USA

The University of Toledo in Ohio, is the lead partner in the project on the American side. The university has strong commitment to the study of higher education policy and the promotion of strategic partnerships with neighbouring two-year and four-year institutions of higher education in the larger Northwest Ohio region and the state as a whole.

The University of Toledo team

focuses on the study of short-cycle higher education programmes in Europe and the United States and the strategic approaches of SCHE to addressing economic and social development.

Asst. Prof. Snejana Slantcheva-Durst, is the project manager on the US side. She received her doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration and Policy from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Throughout her career she has had extensive experience as a policy analyst and researcher where she has conducted, lead and participated in numerous national and international projects on higher education degree recognition and introduction, quality assurance systems, the academic profession and private higher education.



Short-Cycle Higher Education is our strongest umbrella in the rain of dynamic economies ...

Owens Community College, USA

Owens Community College is a comprehensive community college, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Founded in 1965, Owens offers an affordable, quality education to those who are seeking an associated degree level, continuing education courses and professional development.

The project team of Owens Community College is partnering with the University of Toledo on the study of short-cycle higher education programmes in Europe and the United States and the strategic approaches of SCHE to addressing economic and social development.

Gretchen Carroll, J.D., M.B.A., is the Owens Community College Coordinator of the Atlantis

Project and is a Professor of Business and Leadership Studies at Owens Community College. She is an Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) internationally recognized scholar in international business education and is a co-director of the Center for International Business Education and Research at Michigan State University.



"We believe that our goals reflect an innovative approach to addressing critical issues of SCHE across Europe and US"
Project team

Insight our project approach...

We believe that our goals and planned activities reflect an innovative strategic approach to addressing critical issues of SCHE across Europe and US. Our efforts to collect, synthesize and document best practices amongst different partnering institutions from coun-

tries across the Atlantic and offer a comparative analysis of issues in important policy areas is one valuable element of this innovative strategic approach.

Our crucial aim is to bring together members of the national and international aca-

demic community and policymakers to share practices and ideas on strengthening SCHE is also part of our strategy.

We believe multinational dialogue and exchange of ideas is the best way to promote SCHE worldwide.



What's next...?

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, BULGARIA

Denitsa Yordanova,
International Projects coordinator
International University College,
3, Bulgaria Str , 9300 Dobrich, Bulgaria
tel. 00359 52 620 871
Fax 00359 58 605 760
Mobile 00359 885 398 600
atlantis.conference@abv.bg

Beth Scheufler, Grant Coordinator
University of Toledo, Ohio, USA
Judith Herb College of Education
2801 W. Bancroft St.
Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390
419.530.2461 Phone
419.530.4912 Fax
elizabeth.scheufler@utoledo.edu

The present conference is the first of three conferences scheduled within the project implementation.

The scope of the first conference in Golden Sands, Bulgaria, is the recognition and accreditation of SCHE programs and the alignment of educational systems to facilitate student exchange and meet global workforce needs.

Inside the joint project the partners organize two more international conferences designed to build bridges and strategic alliances between 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education in the US and Europe.

The second conference in Toledo, Ohio, highlights the role of SCHE in regional economic development.



Recognition and Accreditation of Short-Cycle Higher Education Programmes in Europe and the United States: Aligning Educational Systems

Institutional contacts:

International University College
Todor Radev, Assoc. Prof., Ph.D
Project director - EU team
00359 58 655 620
icollege@mail.bg

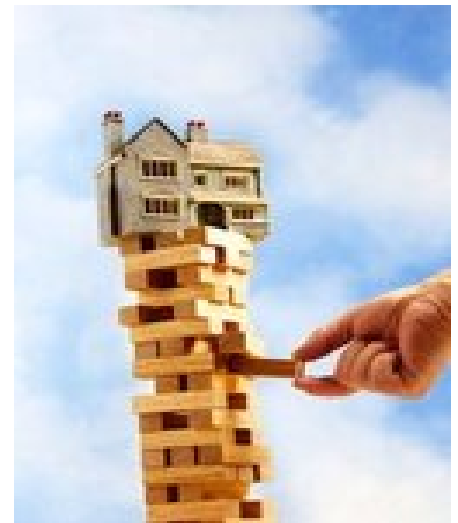
University of Toledo
Snejana Slantcheva-Durst, Asst. Prof.
Project Director- US team
419.530.5673 Phone
snejana.slantchevadurst@utoledo.edu

David Meabon, Assoc. Prof.
419.530.2666 Phone
david.meabon@utoledo.edu

Institutional contacts:

Owens Community College
Gretchen Carroll, Prof.
Owens Community College Toledo, Ohio,
USA
Oregon Rd.
P.O. Box 10,000
Toledo, OH 43699
567-661-7234 Phone

LEIDO
Hans Daale, Chair
Verversstraat 153
1011 HZ Amsterdam, the Netherlands
0031 20 6248675
info@leido.nl



***Building strong bridges of cooperation
and commitment in short-cycle higher
education across Europe and the United
States***