

Online steering committee meeting

June 25, 2018

Decision summary of the minutes

Attended (through videoconferencing) by:

- Jun Zhao, the project coordinator (Uni Bremen)
- Igor Novopashenny, the project manager (Uni Bremen)
- Eduard Podgaisky, RSHMU
- Nina Pkharkova, SFU
- Natalia lurkova, GAGU
- Pawan Kumar Joshi, JNU
- Prakash Tiwari, KU
- Om Katel, RUB
- Kalev Sepp, EMU
- Jürgen Breuste, PLUS
- Anton Shkaruba, Erda RTE

Items discussed:

1. Staff time and staff costs in India

Pawan Kumar Joshi and Prakash Tiwari explained that a faculty member in Indian universities is not allowed to be paid any extra by the university or from elsewhere, with very few exceptions, such as honoraria for works of arts or letters. In the context of the Erasmus+ action it means that university professors and other faculty cannot charge their staff time to the project; likewise, PhD students cannot be hired under the university regulation

Agreed: to note the situation with staff cost payments in India and that staff costs can be paid to the academic staff only as honoraria (to compensate their work on selected deliverables), and to externally hired experts through freelance contracts in order to help with technical and development tasks.

2. SUNRAISE conference – 2019

Eduard Podgaisky, Nina Pakharkova and Natalia lurkova suggested options for hosting the SUNRAISE-2019 conference (planned in Russia) at one of their universities. The proposals of Natalia lurkova to hold the 2019 conference at GAGU appeared the most attractive one, as the focus on transboundary regions under the global change fits particularly well the scope of the project, and because this transboundary dimension is also extremely important for Altai region hosting the conference.

Agreed: to hold the SUNRAISE 2019 conference in Gorno-Altai, Russia on November 26-28, 2019; the preliminary topic is *Transboundary Regions under the Global Change - challenges and development trajectories*.

3. SUNRAISE e-courses following up the end-user survey

Igor Novopashenny and Anton Shkaruba reported on the outcomes of end-user surveys and suggested the list of courses to develop and enhance, based on discussions with PC university partners and taking into account their capacity to develop and deliver such courses, and taking into account the support that can be provided by EU partners; Jürgen Breuste further suggested to

address the need for better expertise in mountain urbanisation through the development of a course on mountain urbanisation (including e-learning) by PLUS and with subsequent piloting of such a course at one of PC universities.

Agreed: To accept the proposals negotiated by Uni Bremen, Anton Shkaruba and PC universities (see the Annex for the list); to note that a module addressing urbanisation in mountains will be developed and piloted by PLUS with support from and in a contact with other partners.

4. ICT training in Tartu

Igor Novopashenny and Anton Shkaruba reported on an identified (through the end-user survey) need to enhance the expertise of academic faculty and technical staff at PC institutions in producing and using e-learning products; Kalev Sepp suggested to hold a training event at EMU in Tartu arguing that EMU has excellent facilities conforming to the highest level of ICT, and also holds excellent expertise in these issues.

Agreed: To hold an ICT training and co-development workshop at EMU in Tartu on May 20-24, 2019 with an involvement of ICT experts from all the EU partners, and with inviting the representatives of all the PC partners to come with their course proposals and materials that can be jointly developed during the ICT training and workshop. To note that this can be done in cooperation with another Erasmus+ CBHE action co-ordinated by EMU (INTENSE).

5. Configuration of SUNRAISER e-learning platform

Eduard Podgaisky and Anton Shkaruba reported the results of discussions with SUNRAISE partners as regards the optimal configuration of SUNRAISER in terms of access to and hosting of e-learning materials. While all the Russian partners and RUB have Moodle-based e-learning systems, Indian partners do not have any. In addition, Russian HEIs are in general very sceptical about storing their e-learning contents in any e-learning systems except their own. It was suggested by Russian partners (and supported by others, as the solution is in line with the SUNRAISER concept and is based on existing working arrangements) that SUNRAISE website aggregates information on all the e-learning contents developed by partners, and also contains syllabi of all the SUNRAISE courses as well as links to e-learning stored either in e-learning systems of RSHMU, SFU, GAGU, RUB, and in the dedicated SUNRAISE e-learning site maintained by SFU (in case of Indian partners and learning contents of SUNRAISE training events, such as summer schools).

Agreed: To aggregate on the SUNRAISE website information on all the e-learning contents developed by partners, together with syllabi of all the SUNRAISE courses as well as links to e-learning stored either in e-learning systems of RSHMU, SFU, GAGU, RUB, and in the dedicated SUNRAISE e-learning site maintained by SFU (in case of Indian partners and learning contents of SUNRAISE training events, such as summer schools).

6. Proposals for the establishment of stakeholder-academia sector collaborative platforms

Natalia Lurkova and Anton Shkaruba have reported the outcomes of discussions with SUNRAISE praxis partners as regards the establishment of sectoral collaborative partners over the Arctic and mountain regions in Russia and the Himalayans in India and Bhutan. The most obvious solutions were to set up "mountain" platforms based on SUNRAISE NGO partners (CHEA in India and ASP in Russia). Eduard Podgaisky shared that due to a lot of attention to the Arctic in Russia from the highest policy floors, there are dozens of organisations, networks and all sorts of platforms exploring stakeholder-academia cooperation of the Arctic in Russia; while none is explicitly concerned with sustainability, it can be worthwhile to approach one of the existing organisational structures with

proposals to enhance the sustainability dimension of their operations, especially where interactions between stakeholders and HEIs are concerned. This way SUNRAISE will benefit from existing and well run communication arrangements, and it will reach broader stakeholder circles.

Agreed: To task CHEA and ASP with the development of paperwork necessary for the establishment of mountain platforms in Russia and over the Himalayan, so the platforms will be launched early in 2019, first in a form of an agreement between an NGO and a SUNRAISE HEI partners, and announced on dedicated stakeholder-academia workshops or using other appropriate communication tools. RSHMU is tasked with approaching a suitable organisation structure dealing with the Arctic (such as the Centre for the Development of the Arctic) and negotiating the terms of the agreement in line with SUNRAISE objectives.

7. Equipment purchases

Eduard Podgaisky, Nina Pkharkova, Natalia Iurkova, Pawan Kumar Joshi, Prakash Tiwari and Om Katel presented their requests to amend the lists of equipment submitted with the SUNRAISE application. The requests were seconded by Igor Novopashenny, who on behalf of the coordinator had carefully examined and discussed the requests in preparation to this on-line meeting. Anton Shkaruba has confirmed that the requests are conform with capacity and training needs as they were identified in end-user surveys, and are needed to support teaching and learning under proposed courses.

Agreed: To accept all the requests to modify the lists of equipment (see the Annex).

8. Arrangements for external quality assurance and peer-review of curriculum outcomes

Jun Zhao and Pawan Kumar Joshi reported that an external QA and peer review might be needed by the middle of the project to ensure the quality of SUNRAISE deliverables. An independent external QA officer should be hired to oversee this, and the officer or independent reviewer (on the suggestion of the QA officer) shall provide peer-review to curriculum development products.

Agreed: To entitle the coordinator to hire a QA officer by May 2019 and to negotiate with the QA officer the procedure for reviewing curriculum outcomes (i.e. whether this will be done by the Officer within the same contract, or someone else shall be additionally hired).

9. Proposals for SUNRAISE dissemination and exploitation strategy

Jun Zhao and Igor Novopashenny have presented and explained the SUNRAISE dissemination and exploitation strategy.

Agreed: To approve the presented SUNRAISE dissemination and exploitation strategy for use.

10. Proposals for SUNRAISE QA plan

Jun Zhao and Igor Novopashenny have presented and explained the SUNRAISE SUNRAISE QA plan.

Agreed: To approve the presented SUNRAISE SUNRAISE QA plan for use.

Agreed and accepted anonymously by all the meeting participants on June 25, 2018

Minute taker – Igor Novopashenny