

Learning to Live Together: Modern Perspectives on Transversal Skills in Education for Sustainable and Solidary Development (ElitMod)

Small size bilateral cooperation project supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

July 1st, 2016 - January 31st, 2017

ElitMod



The Project

The project [Learning to Live Together: Modern Perspectives on Transversal Skills in Education for Sustainable and Solidary Development \(ElitMod\)](#) is promoted by the University of Craiova (Romania) with the partnership of Bifrost University (Iceland). The project is supported by an EEA grant (a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), has a total budget of 45,022 EUR and is developed between July 1, 2016 and January 31, 2017.

The project was designed with the main aim of responding a primary need of today's society: how to use education in order to help our students learn to live together in an effective, sustainable and solidary manner. The expected impact, in the short run, is that the members of the target groups involved in the project will become aware of the importance of education for sustainable and solidary development (ESSD) and will be able to question and challenge their own mindset, as well as achieve intercultural enrichment.

Thus, the project will help the students taking part in its activities acquire new understanding that will help them live together in a global world, and will also benefit from exchanges in an international context, while the teachers/researchers answering the questionnaires and taking part in the project conference and the project volume will both enhance their awareness on the topic and also develop their research.

The Objectives



▶ General objective

- Develop joint research and educational activities, in order to ensure education for sustainable and solidary development (ESSD).

▶ Specific objectives

- Explore the current situation with regard to ESSD within the two national academic contexts (RO, IS);
- Study and refine the main objectives of research focused on ESSD;
- Study the possibility of combining humanistic and social approaches in an interdisciplinary research on ESSD;
- Identify new methodologies aiming at raising awareness and mobilizing students in favour of ESSD;
- Assess and analyse the presence of ESSD or possibilities to introduce ESSD in the curriculum of the two universities;
- Develop a competency-based approach on ESSD, starting from a joint list of transversal skills that foster the performance of ESSD;
- Evaluate the ESSD-related skills of students;
- Explore the potential real-life impact of ESSD;
- Explore how ESSD helps shape citizens in the spirit of *living together*.





The Partnership

The University of Craiova and Bifröst University started their cooperation in 2013, with a Mobility project in higher education within the programme Scholarships and Inter-institutional Cooperation in Higher Education financed by the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014. Mobility projects have been operational in the academic years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, to the benefit of students and teaching staff of both universities.

The partnership of the two universities developed in a significant way with the inter-institutional cooperation project **“New Tools For The Integration Of Transversal Skills In Modern Teaching Practice”** (TRANSMOD), supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The project was implemented during July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 and it also involved Nesna University College from Norway. The focus of the project was to develop and implement new teaching strategies and tools for the promotion of transversal skills in formal education.



UNIVERSITY
OF
CRAIOVA



HÁSKÓLINN Á BIFRÖST
BIFRÖST UNIVERSITY



Høgskolen i Nesna





The strong cohesion of the collaboration between the University of Craiova and Bifröst University was a driving force that successfully underpinned the project outcomes, facilitated the achievement of the envisaged outputs, and generated mutual and sustainable enrichment.

Given the successful achievement of the goals proposed by TRANSMOD and the prompt, professional and committed inter-institutional cooperation, the partners agreed to contribute to both the sustainability of their first common project, and the identification and development of new cooperation axes. Therefore, the Romanian and Icelandic partners decided to continue and strengthen this cooperation within a new project dealing with a topic of common interest for both universities, identified pursuant to active exchanges and mutual discussions.

University of Craiova

The University of Craiova is one of the high standing higher education institutions in Romania, fostering the scientific, professional and personal growth of almost 18,000 students, guided by a top flight community of almost 900 academics. Currently, the University of Craiova is a comprehensive structure, including 10 faculties, 3 autonomous academic departments and 41 research centres.

The University of Craiova offers a diverse spectrum of 104 Bachelor's degree programmes in 53 academic fields, 98 Master's degree programmes in 40 areas of study, and doctoral degrees in 26 specialisations. The University of Craiova also offers distance education options, summer courses, post-doctoral studies and a Romanian preparatory year.



Bifröst University

Bifröst University is a leading educational institution in Iceland, with a strong commitment to its students and the community. Bifröst offers its students quality training in business, law, and the social sciences, and prepares them for positions of responsibility and leadership both in Iceland and abroad. The number of students studying at Bifröst has grown rapidly in recent years, and most of them are enrolled in distance learning programmes. Business education and social affairs have been the school's focus from the beginning, and Bifröst has always been progressive and innovative in its educational methods. In recent years, Bifröst has continued to be an “early adopter” among Icelandic universities by reducing class sizes, focusing on practical assignments rather than exams, and increasing the use of computers and online communication in teaching and learning.





The activities

Activity 1: Project Management

This activity ensures the proper and timely development of the project and involves permanent communication between partners and team members, drawing up progress reports, administrative documents, etc. It takes place on an on-going basis throughout the project.

Activity 2: State of the Art Assessment

During this activity, the members of the team reviewed the existing expertise and knowledge on education for sustainable and solidary development (ESSD). This implied research, online meetings between Romanian and Icelandic team members, along with an international online team workshop and a study visit to Iceland.

Activity 3: Development of the Transversal Skills Assessment Tool (TSAT)

The team has envisaged coming up with a list of transversal skills that lead to ESSD, which will provide the basis for creating a relevant assessment tool. The tool will be validated by means of workshops with interdisciplinary groups of approx. 10 students and/or graduates, in both partner universities.



Activity 4: Joint international conference

The project conference is organized on October 25th-26th at the University of Craiova and hosts a wide variety of contributions on the project topic.

Activity 5: Publication of the joint volume

A joint volume in English language will be published in an international publishing house, including the contributions presented in the conference. All related tasks (translation, editing, proofreading, etc.) are supported by the project.

Activity 6: Dissemination

The project, its research topics and its outcomes will be actively disseminated through a range of channels (the project website, dissemination materials, local press, visits to universities in the country). A research assessment review will be published at the end of the project, including basic information thereon, as well as the major results (available online and in hard copy).





The team

Monica Tilea is Associate Professor of Reception Theories, Visual Semiotics and Didactics of Reading at the University of Craiova. She has a Joint PhD of the University of Craiova (philology) and Université d'Artois (compared literature) and a BA in mathematics. Her research has resulted in the publication of 4 books as a single author and a wide array of articles in peer-reviewed journals. She has a solid editorial experience and a long-standing record as a certified teacher trainer with prestigious institutions in Romania and abroad. She has actively managed and promoted a wide range of projects and initiatives of international cooperation, such as *New Tools For The Integration Of Transversal Skills In Modern Teaching Practice (TRANSMOD)* funded by the EEA Grants – project coordinator, *Acteurs du territoire pour une éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale (ACTECIM)*, funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 2 – national coordinator, and the international Erasmus project Intensive Programme under the Lifelong Learning Programme *New tools for non-formal educators working on intercultural learning* (2009-2012) – national coordinator.



Cristiana-Nicola Teodorescu is a Professor at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Craiova and the Director of the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School. Her fields of interest include the analysis of political, teaching and media discourse, as well as communication studies and oral and non-verbal communication to a public audience and at the classroom level. She has authored four books published in prestigious Romanian publishing houses and more than 100 articles in Romania and abroad. As of 1999, she has initiated and managed the *TradComTerm* Research Centre and as of 2011 she is the editor in chief of *Annals of the University of Craiova. Philology. Linguistics*. She is the coordinator of the *Etudes françaises* collection of the Universitaria Publishing House.

Anca Tănăsie is Associate Professor of International Economics, European Economics and European Monetary Integration at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Craiova. She has a PhD in International Economics – Monetary Integration and postdoctoral studies in Monetary Integration. She has participated in international conferences and has published articles and papers in international specialized journals. Her research activity has been recognized through a series of prizes and distinctions awarded to her by renowned national and international institutions (e. g. the JVI Certificate awarded by the Joint Vienna Institute, IMF, National Bank of Austria (2009), the Distinction for Excellency in Academic Teaching Debut, awarded by the Association of the Romanian Economics Faculties (AFER)). She speaks fluently three foreign languages: English, French and German.



Oana-Adriana Duță is Senior Lecturer of Linguistics and Translation Studies at the University of Craiova. She holds a PhD in Philology of the University of Bucharest and a PhD in Finance of the University of Craiova and has published 12 literary and economic translations with prestigious publishing houses in Romania. She has authored two handbooks and a solid number of articles in international and national academic journals. She has a solid theoretical background in teaching methodology and has performed extensive research on foreign languages teaching in national and international projects. Her thorough acquaintance with linguistic policies is underpinned by her experience as an editorial secretary of the internationally refereed *Annals of the University of Craiova. Philology. Linguistics*, as well as by her active involvement in activities of internationalization at the faculty and university level.



Anamaria Preda is an Associate Professor in Romanian Linguistics at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Craiova. She has been involved in a wide range of academic initiatives and has held a number of managing positions at the faculty level. She currently is the Dean of the Faculty of Letters. As a Romanian language teacher, working to develop her students' accurate communication skills, she has always taken an interest in using interactive and audio-visual teaching aids in her classes, as well as fostering team work and cooperation.

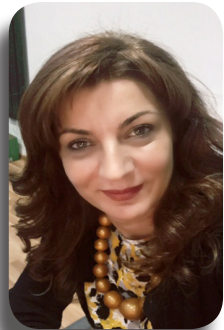


Sorin Cazacu is a Senior Lecturer in British and American literature at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Craiova. He holds a PhD in African-American Literature and has published more than 20 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals. He is currently Head of the Department of British, American and German Studies and has participated in more than 10 international projects and mobilities abroad. His main academic interests are: Victorian literature, African-American literature, creative writing and translation studies.

Alina Resceanu is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of British, American and German Studies, University of Craiova, where she gives courses in General Linguistics, varieties of English, current issues in syntax and Contrastive Grammar. She is a graduate of the Faculty of Letters, University of Craiova and of the MA studies in Formal (Computational) Linguistics at the University of Bucharest. She got her PhD in Theoretical Linguistics at the University of Bucharest with an paper on syntax in the Minimalist approach. She has published two books, many articles and studies and participated at numerous national and international conferences on linguistics. Her main interests are in GB Grammar and Syntax/Semantics Interface.



Daniel Cîrciumaru is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Craiova and the current director of its Department of Finance, Banking and Economic Analysis. He is a specialist in financial analysis, risk management and corporate valuation. He has undertaken various study visits and documentation mobilities abroad and has taken part in a range of international research projects dealing with the development of student training, innovation and future trends in the economic sector.



Raluca Drăcea is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Craiova. Her fields of interest are Public Finance and Tax Finance. She has undertaken documentation traineeships in foreign universities such as the University of Verona, the Tor Vergata University of Rome and Universidade de Coimbra. She has authored several monographs and handbooks and articles in Romanian and foreign international journals. She has participated in international research projects and has received several academic awards.

Cristian Stanciu is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Craiova. He holds lectures on international finance, financial markets and international investments and is a PhD in International Economic Relations. He has authored or co-authored 11 books and 57 articles and has taken part in the implementation team of 14 national projects as a project manager or as a member. He has undertaken documentation mobilities in international universities and was the coordinator of the "International Corporate Finance" course within the "European Management" MBA programme of the MBA School Europa-Institut, Saarland University, Germany.





Anca Gabriela Mic is a graduate of Translation Studies and a doctoral student in Philology. She masters a wide array of strategies and techniques that feature her learning and working style, has advanced knowledge of computer graphics programmes and complete fluency in English and French. In her activity within the Department of International Relations of the University of Craiova, she has had the opportunity to enlarge her views on transversal skills, by becoming acquainted with other cultures and educational styles. Her professional experience is equally enhanced by her participation as a PhD student in a wide range of international projects, such as New Tools For The Integration Of Transversal Skills In Modern Teaching Practice (TRANSMOD) funded by the EEA Grants and Acteurs du territoire pour une éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale (ACTECIM), funded by the Erasmus+ Programme.

Loredana Mateescu is a member of the Department of International Relations of the University of Craiova since November 2012. Here she is in charge with the administration of the Erasmus+ bilateral agreements and is responsible for the implementation of the mobility projects in higher education financed by the EEA Grants. Her good communication skills, her ability to meet deadlines and withstand the pressure of continual workload, along with her participation as an administrative staff in international projects, such as New Tools For The Integration Of Transversal Skills In Modern Teaching Practice (TRANSMOD) funded by the EEA Grants and Acteurs du territoire pour une éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale (ACTECIM), funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, are a valuable asset for the project management team.



Monica Elena Cranta is a graduate of Communication Studies currently working within the Department of International Relations of the University of Craiova where she is in charge of incoming and outgoing students and teaching staff within inter-institutional cooperation). Her capacity to detect and review the implementation of transversal skills has been fostered by her work experience abroad and volunteering activities, as well as by her activity in the international project New Tools For The Integration Of Transversal Skills In Modern Teaching Practice (TRANSMOD) funded by the EEA Grants.

Jón Freyr Jóhannsson is an adjunct professor at Bifröst University. He has got an undergraduate degree in Computer Science, a master's degree in Business and a diploma in Education. During the last 26 years, he lectured at Bifröst University (full time employment), Reykjavik University (full time employment) and University of Iceland as well as at several others schools (both college and university level). Jón Freyr has taught courses on such topics as Mathematics, IT courses of various kinds, Database management theory, SQL, Project management, TQM, Operation Management, Health Informatics, Corporate Finance, e-Commerce and e-Government. He has written several textbooks in computers science, system analysis and database management theory as well as textbooks for IT courses and quality management. He has work experience as an IT-manager both at the Iceland University Hospital and the Icelandic State and Municipal Data Centre (no longer existing), project manager in several companies, as a consultant in strategy planning, quality management and service management, to name but a few.



Kári Joensen is an assistant professor at Bifröst University. He has an MSc degree in Economics from the University of Iceland and a BSc degree in Industrial Engineering from the same university. His research has mostly focused on pricing and markets on a micro level and issues related to econometrics and compilation of official statistics. In studies on consumer goods markets he has focused on the effects of exchange rate changes on prices and the pass-through of costs in general. In statistics he has covered issues concerning problems and improvements in official price statistics and on the availability of data in today's research environment. He has been the Head of the Research Center of Bifröst University as of April 2012 and the Country Vice President for Iceland of the European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB) as of March 2012.

Karl Eiríksson is an international coordinator at Bifröst University, in charge with institutional agreements and cooperation, incoming/outgoing students and staff mobilities. He also coordinates the Erasmus+ and EEA Grants activity. As part of his administrative duties, he is the project manager of the Summer School "Creative Leadership in the 21st century", organized at Bifröst University in Iceland.



