



New Tools for the Integration of Transversal Skills in Modern Teaching Practice



HÁSKÓLINN Á BIFRÖST
BIFRÖST UNIVERSITY



July 1st, 2014 - June 30th, 2015

*Inter-institutional cooperation project supported by a
grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway*

The Project



The project *New Tools For The Integration Of Transversal Skills In Modern Teaching Practice* (TRANSMOD) is promoted by the [University of Craiova](#) (Romania) with the partnership of [Bifrost University](#) (Iceland) and [Nesna University College](#) (Norway) and was underpinned by the need to develop an effective tool for the proper integration of transversal skills in teaching activities. The project aims at providing a suitable context for the fruitful professional training and development of teaching staff.

The project is supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, has a total budget of 44,757 EUR and is developed between [July 1, 2014](#) and [June 30, 2015](#).

The ultimate focus of the project will be to draw up a good practice guide, as an auxiliary tool to the educational curricula in social sciences and humanities, ensuring the integration of personal and transversal skills in teaching, tutoring, coaching and training actions and subsequently developing, fostering and enhancing personal and transversal competences of beneficiary students for a better employability.

The project activities target both direct beneficiaries (the teaching staff who are project members) and indirect beneficiaries (students, who will develop their transversal skills with a view to participating in lifelong learning programmes and bringing a valuable contribution to the community; other teaching staff of the involved HEIs).

The Objectives

The concrete learning outcomes of the project refer to the acquisition of new tools and strategies by the involved teaching staff, so that they may become able to provide proper transversal skills training to students, as well as to the development of the good practice guide, as an auxiliary tool to the educational curricula in social sciences and humanities. The project will generate a number of expected outputs, such as: curricular content review, a model of quantitative analysis by means of questionnaires on the teaching practice in the field of transversal skills, mobility reports, the good practice guide.

TRANSMOD aims at providing a suitable context for the fruitful professional training and development of Romanian teaching staff in terms of modern teaching methods, by harnessing a wide array of innovative inputs from Icelandic and Norwegian universities. The ultimate focus of the project will be to draw up a good practice guide ensuring the integration of personal and transversal skills in teaching, tutoring, coaching and training actions.

The project underpins the following **main objectives**:

- Developing, fostering and enhancing personal and transversal competences for a better employability;
- Increasing the attractiveness and awareness of HEIs regarding the needs of the job market, citizens and society as a whole;
- Drawing up a good practice guide, as an auxiliary tool to the educational curricula in social sciences and humanities, for the effective integration of transversal skills in the teaching practice of project partners;
- Developing and implementing new working strategies and tools for the promotion of transversal skills in formal education.

The Partners

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.



Nesna University College is located in Nesna, a small community with approximately 1,900 inhabitants on the beautiful Atlantic coast of Helgeland, Norway. People from many different cultures make their home here and have contributed to making the town a diverse and multicultural society. Nesna University College has over 1200 full-time and part-time students, and is popular for its friendly atmosphere and the intimate academic relationships developed between students and staff. Traditionally the focus has been in teacher training, but it has expanded along the years, and now Nesna University College provides a variety of academic disciplines such as nursing, ICT, media production, pedagogy, musicology and natural sciences.

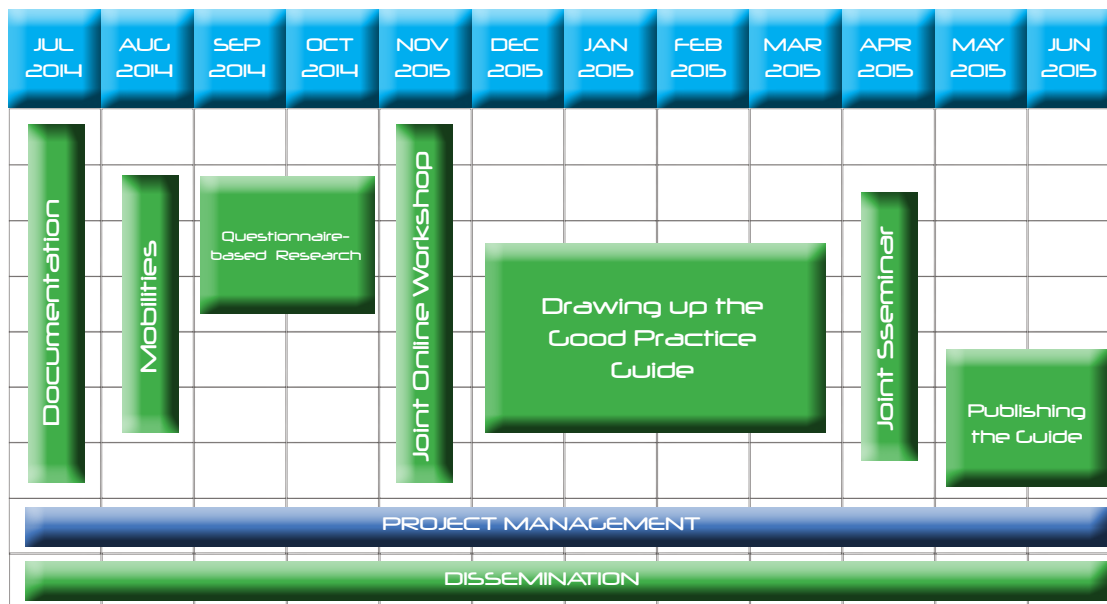
Bifröst University is a leading educational institution in Iceland, with a strong commitment to its students and the community. Bifröst offers its students quality training in business, law, and the social sciences, and prepares them for positions of responsibility and leadership both in Iceland and 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.



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The
Activities



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 more than 30 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 is Director of the Department of International Relations of the University of Craiova, where she has been in charge with a wide array of international projects and cooperation initiatives.



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 specialised journals. She holds the position of Vice Dean for International Relations of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Craiova since 2012. She speaks fluently three foreign languages: English, French and German.



Silviu Lofelman is the Director of the Service of Computers and Communications of the University of Craiova. He has more than 25 years' experience in software programming both with the University of Craiova and other major regional stakeholders, and has been involved as an IT expert in three international research projects with EU and EEA funding.



The Team



Costel Ionașcu is Associate Professor of the University of Craiova, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Department of Economic Statistics and Informatics. He has a PhD degree in Cybernetics and Economic Statistics. His research and teaching activity is highlighted by a significant number of books in accredited publishing houses and scientific articles, as well as by the positions he has held in various national and international research projects. As of 2013, he is Vice-Rector for IT and EU Funds Administration of the University of Craiova. He has good programming knowledge (Visual Basic, Delphi, HTML, FoxPro, Access) and is fluent in English.

Florentina Anghel is an Associate Professor in twentieth-century English and Irish literature, contemporary British and American drama and literary theory at the University of Craiova, Romania. Holder of a Ph.D. in literature (*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce: The Making of the Work of Art), she is the author of books (*Approaches to Twentieth Century British Literature*, *Twentieth Century Irish Fiction*) and articles in her domains of research and areas of teaching.

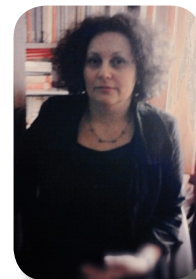


Daniela Dincă is Associate Professor of the Department of Romance and Classical Languages of the Faculty of Letters in the University of Craiova. Her research focuses on contrastive linguistics (French-Romanian), lexical semantics and teaching of French as a foreign language. She has published many books and articles on such topics and has been a member of various other research projects: *Phraseonet*, *Mepriid-Fle*, *Tradspe*, *Fromisem*.



The Team

Mihaela Popescu is a Senior Lecturer in Applied Romance Linguistics, General Linguistics, and Latin Language at the University of Craiova, Romania. She received her PhD in 2006. In her dissertation she carried out a comparative study on the expression of the potential and the irrealis in Latin, French, and Romanian. She is co-organizer of national and international conferences on historical linguistics and lexicology and has edited various collective volumes. In 2013, she published her postdoctoral thesis entitled *The Future and the Conditional in Romance Languages. A Morphosyntactic and Semantic Approach from a Diachronic Perspective*. She also published papers in *Revue de linguistique romane*, *Revue roumaine de linguistique*, and *Zeitschrift für französische Sprach und Literatur*, as well as other international peer-reviewed volumes. Her research interests include historical linguistics (history of Latin language, history of Old French and Old Romanian, grammaticalization) and French borrowings to Romanian.



Oana-Adriana Duță is Junior Lecturer of Linguistics and Translation Studies at the University of Craiova. She holds a PhD in Philology and a PhD in Finance and has published 12 literary and economic translations with prestigious publishing houses in Romania. 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, a scientific secretary of the Interlingua Centre for Modern Languages of the Faculty of Letters, a scientific secretary of the TRADCOMTERM Research Centre of the University of Craiova and an expert of the International Relations Department of the same institution.



The Team



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 excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office™ tools and advanced knowledge of computer graphics programmes (Adobe InDesign, Adobe Illustrator, CorelDraw). She has complete fluency in English and French and a strong sense of team spirit. 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.

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 of the University of Craiova, and is responsible for the implementation of the mobility projects in higher education financed by the EEA Grants. She manages incoming and outgoing student and teacher mobilities, drafts monthly official reports and deals with various other administrative activities. Her good communication skills, her ability to meet deadlines and withstand the pressure of continual workload, along with her knowledge of Microsoft Office tools and command of PC are a valuable asset for the project management team.



Monica Elena Cranta is a graduate of Communication Studies and a PhD student in Philology. 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 with 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).

The Team



Assistant Professor **Patrick Murphy** has his joint degree in law and English and teacher qualifications from the University of Oslo. He has been teaching English for teacher trainees and teachers in further education since 1995, and prior to this has experience from teaching lower secondary school. He has been teaching in the fields of literature, civilization, linguistics and methodology; and has the last years focused primarily on didactics/methods and linguistics. Key words for research focus: multi-modal texts, the extended classroom, location based learning, and cross-curricular activities.

Associate Professor **Anne-Lise Wie** has been teaching Norwegian at Nesna University College since 1997. Her major field is literacy, and she has been doing research in different fields as creative storytelling and creative writing, and teaching in real environments or in a natural learning arena.

Jón Freyr Jóhannsson is an adjunct professor of 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 25 years he has lectured in Bifröst University (full time employment), Reykjavík University (full time employment) and University of Iceland, as well as several other schools at both college and university level. Jón Freyr has written several textbooks for use in computer science courses, system analysis and database management theory, as well as textbooks for IT courses and quality management. Jón Freyr has work experience as an IT manager both at Iceland University hospital and Icelandic State and Municipal Data Centre (no longer existing), as a project manager in several companies, as a consultant in strategy planning, quality management and service management, to name but a few.



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