

MEDIA RELEASE

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TITLE: **Kick-Off Meeting for the Multiple Higher Educational Institutions – Masters in Entrepreneurship (MHEI-ME) on-line programme.**



Photo caption: Representatives of the HEI consortium at the Kick-Off Meeting held at the offices of Advenio eAcademy in Ta'Xbiex on the 9-10 November 2017. From left to right:- Prof. Jenny Pange on behalf of University of Ioannina; Ing David Dingli – Director, Advenio eAcademy; Prof. Radovan Madlenak, University of Zilina; Mr. Kurt Tabone, Courses Co-ordinator, Advenio eAcademy, Mr. Stephen P. D'Alessandro Executive Director, Advenio eAcademy; Dr. Gyorgy Neszmelyi on behalf of Szent Istvan University and Advenio eAcademy, Ms. Aldorfainé Czabadai Lilla Mária on behalf of Svent Istvan University; Prof. Olena Cherniavska and Ms. Yuliia Perehuda on behalf of Poltava University of Economics and Trade.

Earlier this month a consortium of six European higher educational institutions, met in Malta to finalise arrangements to launch an innovative on-line programme which is certified by the National Commission for Further & Higher Education in Malta, the NCFHE, and is co-funded by Erasmus+.

This Meeting was the culmination of more than three years of collaborative efforts between six European higher educational institutions, HEIs to develop an eighteen month on-line 90 ECTS Credits Level 7 Masters programme accredited by the NCFHE in Malta for recognition of the degree internationally. The programme was initiated and is led by Advenio eAcademy, the Malta based higher educational institution which pioneered certified on-line programmes. The MHEI-ME programme was established through the participation of another five European HEIs including:- the University of Ioannina – Greece, Szent Istvan University – Hungary, University of Bari Aldo Moro - Italy, University of Zilina - Slovakia, and Poltava University of Economics & Trade - Ukraine.

Representatives of the HEIs were in Malta for a Kick-Off meeting on the 9-10 November 2017 to finalise arrangements for its international launch. Advenio eAcademy was represented by the Directors, Mr. Stephen P. D'Alessandro, Ing. David J. Dingli, and Dr. Gyorgy Neszmelyi and Mr. Kurt Tabone, Courses Co-ordinator. The University of Ioannina – Greece was represented by Prof Jenny Pange, Szent Istvan University – Hungary was represented by Dr. Gyorgy Neszmelyi and Ms. Aldorfainé Czabadai Lilla Mária, the University of Bari Aldo Moro – Italy was represented by Prof. Mario Carassi, who could not travel to Malta due to last minute developments, yet, was able to participate in the sessions via video-conference link. The University of Zilina – Slovakia was represented by Prof. Radovan Madlenak, and Poltava University of Economics & Trade - Ukraine was represented by Prof. Olena Cherniavska and Ms. Yuliia Perehuda.

In his introduction to the meeting Mr. Stephen D'Alessandro, Executive Director of Advenio eAcademy, spoke about the shared objectives of the consortium to develop and enhance best practices in on-line graduate education. He stressed the importance for the meeting to fine tune the design of the MHEI-ME as a holistic on-line programme, delivered in English. The structure agreed upon integrated six foundation subjects and three specialist subjects, an internship module and a business plan module. He spoke about the development efforts to date in creating a combination of self-learning and collaborative learning activities. The Kick-Off Meeting needed to review the course deliverables in the line with the needs of the targeted student audience - international graduate entrepreneurs who require post graduate education which will give them a competitive advantage in leading their SME organisations.

The Kick-Off Meeting Working Session (I) provided an opportunity to discuss the detailed arrangements to be made to the operation of the Erasmus+ Funds on the basis of the Erasmus+ Grant Agreement entered into by Advenio eAcademy on behalf of all the partner HEIs.

The second session provided an overview to Internal Quality Assurance process being finalised and the NCFHE External Quality Audit (EQA) process which was being carried out to ensure that the programme met the quality standards set in the certification process. In this context the meeting discussed the elearning platform and the deliverables required.

Kick-Off Meeting Working Session (III) focused on a discussion of Subject Module Content – Foundation Subjects. This discussion sought to identify areas in which the various subject module content could reinforce each other, or where subject content could be better covered in one subject module rather than another.

Kick-Off Meeting Working Session (IV) provided for ad hoc inter HEI partner one-to-one meetings and discussions to allow for more detailed discussions of subject content and deliverables.

On the second day, the Kick-Off Meeting Working Session (V) focused on a discussion of Subject Module Content – Specialist Subjects followed by a discussion of Subject Module content for the Internship & Research Project. Assignment and evaluation formats, including examination formats, and student supervision were discussed. A demo of the elearning platform upgrades was provided with participants getting first hand knowledge of the platform development required prior to the launch of the programme.

Kick-Off Meeting Working Session (VI) focused on developing Action plans – scheduling of course deliverables to ensure that course content was available for the scheduled NCFHE EQA. The MHEI-ME is an Erasmus+ co-funded project reflecting the EU recognition of the initiative. Discussions focused on arrangements necessary to provide for granting of scholarships to students on the first intake commencing in April 2018 as per Erasmus+ agreement.

Kick-Off Meeting Working Session (VII) provided for Ad hoc inter partner one-to-one meetings and discussions and these focused on the particular elements the different partner HEIs required follow-up

In wrapping up the Meeting, Mr. D'Alessandro thanked participants for their support and collaboration throughout the project, and particularly during the intensive Kick-Off Meeting sessions which served to cement the network and dove-tail individual efforts into a coordinated joint effort to develop and deliver a unique quality on-line Level 7 certified course that adds value to entrepreneurs.

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