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HELLENIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF
THE ALEXANDRIAN CIVILIZATION
[GREECE]

EDICULA Project

Educational Digital Innovative Cultural heritage related Learning Activities

Project Code: 2020-1-EL01-KA203-079108

Intellectual Output: **EDICULA CURRICULA REFORMATION [02]**

Leading Organization: UNIROMA1

Participating Organizations: NTUA, BEZ

Jerusalem; Aug. 31st, 2023

Dear all,

Subject: **EDICULA Project – meeting summary, July 27th, 2023**

A hybrid working meeting, at Sapienza University, Rome and via ZOOM Platform, was held on July 27th, 2023, 09:00-11:00 (Rome) 10:00-12:00 (Jerusalem/Athens).

The meeting aimed to summarize the contribution of Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem (BEZ) to the second output of the EDICULA Project – EDICULA Curricula Reformation [02] that is lead by Sapienza University of Rome (UNIROMA1). Additional topics as listed below were also discussed.

Meeting participants:

UNIROMA1 Prof. Gabriele Favero*; Dr. Laura Medeghini**; Prof. Anna Maria Siani*

BEZ Prof. Mike Turner**; Architect Adi Sela Wiener*

NTUA Antonia Lampropoulou**; Dr. Kyriakos Labropoulos**

* In presence; ** remote participation

Below is a summary of the discussion according to three main topics:

A. Curricula reformation and Matrix of Tuning

Both topics were discussed. Reports on the evaluation of existing and reformed master courses implemented at BEZ were received by Sapienza. BEZ contribution for the Matrix of Tuning, that was compiled by Sapienza to analyze and examine the unification of criteria for existing and proposed courses as a basis for the joint MA, was also received. A preliminary evaluation by Sapienza was conducted, mainly for the core courses rather than the optional ones. The evaluation is integrated into the second intellectual output of the EDICULA Curricula Reformation.

B. Joint Master's Degree

Reaching the final stages of the EDICULA Project, an open discussion on the re-examination of the proposed core courses and optional courses for the transdisciplinary joint degree was held. The discussion revolved over several issues including content, management, and feasibility.

- There is a huge difference when considering a Joint Master's Degree that is run by one university with a collaboration of two other academic institutions, or when it is officially run by all three academic institutions together. Issues as length of the programme, language barriers, host institution and learning tuition will need to be addressed.

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- Based on experiences gained in existing master's programmes in cultural heritage conservation at Sapienza, the tracks are mainly of a fixed path with limited electives. Mobility to other academic institutions may be difficult to administrate. Considering a joint degree, the elective courses will need to be supervised.
- In the case of a full Joint Master's Degree, one semester should be mandatory in each academic institution. Additionally, in each semester one core course will be mandatory, and elective courses should be offered from a wide range of courses at the university.
- Flexibility in learning modules and special courses, including summer campus and workshops for master's degree students as well as young researchers should be offered to increase attractiveness.
- The profile of the student intake will need to be discussed together with the possible options for the students on graduation. What are the learning objectives of a joint programme, and in what fields of activity should we prepare the programme's graduates?
- For instance, in Italy the complete and holistic treatment of material culture is currently discussed. i.e., not just the treatment of the materials but their values and significance of properties; not just the retention of the authenticity of the materials but continuing the craftsmanship.
- In any Joint Master's Degree in cultural heritage conservation, as in other field of knowledge, the question of relevancy and innovation should be significantly examined, aiming to be ahead of time in aspects of science, theory, and approach.

C. EDICULA next steps

An introduction to the continuing initiative of Alliances for Innovation by the EDICULA consortium was given by Antonia Lampropoulou. The main aspects as outlined by Prof. Moropoulou in her email of July 12, 2023¹ were further discussed. All participants expressed their positive attitude towards a continuous collaboration.

- The new proposal will be submitted within Erasmus+ Key action 2 (Cooperation among organizations and institutions), and within Lot 1 – Alliances for Innovation.

Further remarks:

- In the new joint proposal, there will be a need, by each partner, to conduct internal institutional coordination. For example, at Bezalel, a preliminary review will need to be made with the head of the School of Architecture, and the head of the Innovation and Research Authority.

¹ *Alliances for Innovation aim to strengthen Europe's innovation capacity by boosting innovation through cooperation and flow of knowledge among higher education, vocational education and training (both initial and continuous), and the broader socio-economic environment, including research. Alliances for Innovation are meant to have a short- and long-term impact on the wider range of stakeholders involved, at individual, organisational and systemic level. This impact is expected to go beyond the project's lifetime and beyond the organisations involved in the partnerships. It is expected that partnership and activities persist. For that, results/deliverables might not be stand-alone but be linked to/integrated into existing undertakings, schemes, projects, platforms, ventures etc.*



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- The general concept of integrating teaching and learning with research through innovation should be the leading concept. Furthermore, the multidisciplinary approach that is one of the main characteristics of the current EDICULA Project should be continued and strengthened.
- Signing an MoU between the partners needs to be examined, while looking for more partners to join the initiative.

It is important to anchor this new-continuing joint initiative of Alliances for Innovation by EDICULA consortium in the final report of the EDICULA Project, in order to set the ground for the next collaboration.

Summarized by Adi Sela Wiener, Aug. 31st, 2023.

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