



Erasmus+



Extending Opportunities for Cooperation in Education

Riga Technical University coordinates the European and neighbourhood study programmes integration and future development. Riga Technical University, the University of Cyprus, KU Leuven and four main Belorussian universities are collaborating closely in order to create mutually recognised study programs. The project will promote the exchange of ERASMUS+ students and teaching staff between EU and Belarus. This new project is a continuation of the TEMPUS project which was initiated in 2012. Financing is planned by 2018. The goal of the project is to realize the transition of the master's level of education in Belorussia from the 5+1 form to 4+2 on the basis of fully new or changed study programs. That is expected to result in the equal study and mobility opportunities for the young people in Europe. Therefore, four years are foreseen for Bachelor level studies and two years for Master level.

The project strives to promote the organization and planning of new courses, the development of curricula for the newly created, as well as currently changed courses, the development of textbooks and methodological materials, and pilot training of students and teaching staff at the partner universities, including Riga Technical University. One of these training sessions took place from February 6 to 11, 2017 when 15 students from different Belorussian Universities came from the North Sea to the Belgian city Ostend to KU Leuven University.

During their weekly long training session at KU Leuven, students participated in multiple courses such as fuel cells, properties of materials, biofuel, and electromagnetic compatibility with the demonstration of laboratory facilities. This first exchange experience is of high importance not simply in terms of student training but also in enhancing further the co-operation among the academic institutions, faculty, and researchers.

Along with the students training, the project aims to develop new innovative materials for new courses in the field of Applied Physics. In accordance with the scientific field of the Belorussian Universities, textbooks are required for the following courses: Applied Physics, Applied Informatics, Photonics, Functional Nanomaterials, Research towards master thesis. Researchers and faculty members from Riga Technical University have undertaken an initiative to develop three new books in three different areas: Applied Physics, Applied Informatics, and Research towards master thesis. Our University is responsible for the materials in "Applied Informatics" courses. The language of the materials is English. All three books are expected to be ready in soft form this spring downloaded into the ERASMUS+ project web site. This material will be useful for training Latvian students, as well as the students from abroad, in these fields of science. Further, plans have already been set to issue the books in co-operation with RTU Publishing House as a lecture material and for the solution of practical assignments and students' independent work.