



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Project: Boosting the telecommunications engineer profile to meet modern society and industry needs [BENEFIT]

Project ID: 585716-EPP-1-2017-1-AT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Work Package 6: Dissemination and exploitation of project outcomes

Title: D6.6 Establishment of agreements for future double degrees, student mobility beyond the project duration

Lead Organization: UL

Participating Organization: UNI-KLU, FERIT, UBL, UNSA, UNTZ, UB, UNI, UNS, ENT, BICOM, BIT, CISCO, NiCAT, RT-RK

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Deliverable data	Work Package and Outcome ref. no.	WP6 D6.6
	Title	Establishment of agreements for future double degrees, student mobility beyond the project duration
	Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching material <input type="checkbox"/> Event <input type="checkbox"/> Learning material <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report <input type="checkbox"/> Training material <input type="checkbox"/> Service / Product
	Description	The document provides: i) Bilateral agreements ii) Erasmus+ agreements iii) Other agreements
	Date	14.10.2020
	Language	English
Target groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teaching staff <input type="checkbox"/> Students <input type="checkbox"/> Trainees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical staff <input type="checkbox"/> Librarians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry partners, WB Higher education authorities	
Dissemination level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department/Faculty <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International	
Lead Organization	UL	
Participating Organization	UNI-KLU, FERIT, UBL, UNSA, UNTZ, UB, UNI, UNS, ENT, BICOM, BIT, CISCO, NiCAT, RT-RK	
Task	Establishment of agreements for future double degrees, student mobility beyond the project duration	

Revision History				
Version	Date	Author(s)	Organization(s)	Brief description of change
1	14/09/2020	M. Zajc	UL	Super draft
2	7/10/2020	A. Tonello, E. Schneider	KLU	Additions
3	8/10/2020	S. Rimac-Drlje	FERIT	Additions
4	9/10/2020	M. Zajc, U. Burnik, N. Suljanović, A. Mujčić	UL, UNTZ	Corrections and additions
5	12/10/2020	M. Koprivica, A. Nešković, Z. Babić	UB, UBL	Additions
6	12/10/2020	M. Zajc	UL	Editing
7	14/10/2020	S. Rimac-Drlje	FERIT	Release 1
8	15/10/2020	M. Sečujski	UNS	Reviewing
9	21/10/2020	D. Huljenić	ENT	QB evaluation
10	6/11/2020	S. Rimac-Drlje	FERIT	Release 2 (for web)
11	22/01/2021		Sinonim d.o.o.	Proofreading

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1. Introduction

Establishment of long-term connections between the project partners is one of the objectives of the capacity building BENEFIT project. During the project duration partners gained knowledge of capacities of the involved partners so that further collaboration in the academic field could be implemented. These long-term partnerships were established with several bilateral agreements between partners for educational collaboration beyond the project duration.

2. Objectives of the Deliverable

This deliverable summarizes some relevant initiatives in the domain of partnerships for future cooperation in education that will result in better student mobility, staff mobility as well as collaboration in the development of new study programs and enhancement of the existing study programs.

3. Summary of created partnerships

This chapter provides a summary of created partnerships between the BENEFIT project partner institutions during the project duration. In Section 3.1, bilateral agreements for cooperation in teaching and research are collected.

3.1 Bilateral agreements for cooperation in teaching and research

Several bilateral agreements have been established to enhance and formalise cooperation in both the field of teaching and research:

- Bilateral agreement between the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) and the University of Tuzla (B&H), dated 8/8/2019
- Bilateral agreement between the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) and the University of Sarajevo (B&H), dated 21/5/2019
- Bilateral agreement between the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) and the University of Belgrade (Serbia), dated 11/12/2019
- Bilateral agreement between the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) and the University of Novi Sad (Serbia), dated 27/11/2019
- Bilateral agreement between the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Electrical Engineering (Slovenia) and the University of Tuzla, Faculty of Electrical Engineering (B&H), dated 12/10/2020
- Bilateral agreement between the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology Osijek and University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Technical Sciences, dated 19/07/2017
- Bilateral agreement between the University of Osijek (Croatia) and the University of Tuzla (B&H), dated 1/6/2017

3.2 Erasmus+ agreements

The BENEFIT project implemented several student and teaching staff exchange and visits. In order to establish a long term connections and to increase student and staff mobilities among the partners, the following ERASMUS+ agreements have been made:

- ERASMUS+ mobility agreement between the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) – Faculty of Technical Sciences and the University of Ljubljana – Faculty of Electrical Engineering (Slovenia), dated 7/7/2017
- ERASMUS+ mobility agreement between the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) – Faculty of Technical Sciences and the University of Osijek – Faculty of Electrical Engineering (Croatia), dated 5/7/2017
- ERASMUS+ mobility agreement between the J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek and the University of Ljubljana dated 18/4/2019
- ERASMUS+ mobility agreement between the J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek and the University of Sarajevo dated 7/11/2017
- ERASMUS+ mobility agreement between the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) and the University of Belgrade (Serbia), dated 11/12/2018

3.3 Possible future academic collaboration generated through joint industry-academia laboratories and cooperation agreements with industry established in the framework of BENEFIT

Six novel thematic joint industry-academia laboratories have been established by the BENEFIT (see D3.2 for more details) that increase the potential for cooperation through trainings and internships such as project work, development challenges, hackatons and team competitions specifically designed for the laboratory theme.

- Cooperation Agreement between Cisco Srbija and University of Belgrade - School of Electrical Engineering on the establishment and exploitation of a joint university-industry laboratory “Networks and IoT Lab“, located at the University of Belgrade in Belgrade - School of Electrical Engineering, Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 73, Belgrade, Serbia. Dated 05/03/2020.
- Cooperation agreement between the University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and ALFANUM Ltd Novi Sad, dated October 09/10/2020. The subject of this Agreement is the establishment and exploitation of a joint university-industry laboratory, which will serve as place for fostering research, work on joint university-industry projects, training students and upgrading the capacity of teaching staff.
- Cooperation agreement between the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Tuzla (B&H) and BICOM d.o.o, dated 27/3/ 2020. The aim of this Agreement is to establish scientific and technical cooperation between the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Bicom as specified in the current BENEFIT project. The subject of this

Agreement is the establishment and exploitation of a joint university-industry laboratory, which will serve as place for fostering research, work on joint university-industry projects, training students and upgrading the capacity of teaching staff.

Furthermore, the cooperation between industry and academia in the framework of WP4 has resulted in agreements for student trainings:

- Memorandum of understanding between Ericsson Nikola Tesla d.d. and the academic partners of the BENEFIT project with the purpose to promote cooperation in academic education and research as well as prepare students for their first jobs in industry through joint research activity, participation of students in workshops organised by ENT and student visits at ENT.
- Cisco Networking Academy Instructor Training Center Membership Agreement between Cisco Systems, Inc. and School of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade (UB-ETF), on enabling UB-ETF to offer instructor courses provided by Cisco as part of the Cisco Networking Academy program, dated 25/01/2018.
- Cisco Networking Academy Support Center Membership Agreement between Cisco Systems, Inc. and School of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade (UB-ETF), on enabling UB-ETF to offer support and training to Cisco Academies as part of the Cisco Networking Academy program, dated 25/01/2018.
- Huawei Authorized Information and Network Academy Agreement between Huawei Technologies and School of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade (UB-ETF), on establishing UB-ETF as academy for the standard training programs for students, dated 19/06/2020.

4. Conclusions

The BENEFIT project facilitated creation of a network between the involved institution. Moreover, contacts were created beyond individual Telecommunications and ICT departments. Bilateral agreements as well as Erasmus+ agreements are open also for other departments at the partnering universities.

Several collaborations for academic staff exchange are already made, however implementation is delayed due to the pandemic situation. We can already report active cooperation of academics as external evaluators and members of PhD and master committees. In addition to implemented mobilities and new Erasmus+ agreements, it is important to observe that several students continued their studies at partnering institutions as full-time PhD and Masters students based on networking at the BENEFIT events.

In summary, we can conclude that the BENEFIT has set a solid foundation for long term cooperation in educational activities. The existing and newly developed contacts resulted in better understanding of academic programs and potentials for future collaboration in development of new study programs as well as enhancement of the existing study programs.

References

D3.2. [Creation of six joint university-company labs ruled by an agreement](#). Erasmus+ KA2 BENEFIT Project Deliverable, 2020