



UniWELIS




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

Supporting internationalisation of HE through professionalising services for mobile academic staff

Successful integration of international academics is a key element in building truly international HE institutions. Incoming PhD students and academics receiving high-quality assistance before, during and even after their stay can enjoy the full benefits of their mobility and contribute better to the work and life of the departments and research teams they join. HE institutions able to provide such support can be more successful in attracting and retaining talents.

How to engage with us:

- **Mobile academics:** Share your feedback on academic mobility experience with us via a dedicated survey planned for spring 2021
- **Higher education professionals:** Tell us about your training needs and challenges in a series of interviews with HE staff planned for spring 2021
- **Higher education institutions:** Test our model welcome service framework and explore the training programme for HE support and management staff
- **Various higher education stakeholders:** Join us at various events to learn more about our key findings and recommendations



Over the past decade many universities in the Central-Eastern and South-Eastern European (CESE) region have made great progress in developing welcome services and professional capacities to support mobility of (under) graduate students. Services to support international inbound PhD students and academics coming for their mid-term or long-term mobility have not developed at the same speed, nor to the same extent. Along with a growing ambition of HE institutions in the CESE region to make their teaching and research more international, there comes a need for a more strategic approach to enhancing institutional welcoming culture and further professionalisation of services for this target group.

The EU funded Erasmus+ project UniWELIS

will create practical tools to facilitate such development reflecting the specific HE institutional realities in the target region whilst deploying synergies with other already existing support services provided at institutional, local or national level (e.g. the EURAXESS network, Migration information centres, etc.).



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Main outcomes and activities:

Who are the project partners?

In this project, six partners from five countries are joining their forces to work together, among them three universities, two mobility funding agencies and a European-level federation of national organisations supporting HE internationalisation.

Project timeframe:
 November 2020 – June 2023


 SAIA, n. o., Slovak Academic Information Agency, Slovakia
www.saia.sk


 Academic Cooperation Association, Belgium
<https://aca-secretariat.be>


 Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, Poland
<https://nawa.gov.pl/en/>


 Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, Bulgaria
www.uni-sofia.bg


 Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
<http://www.uniba.sk>


 University of Nis, Serbia
www.ni.ac.rs

01. Identified obstacles to incoming academic staff mobility and understanding of the institutional gaps for more welcoming services

- In-depth analysis of the existing barriers and specific needs of incoming PhD students and academics
- Comprehensive analysis of the existing national and institutional mobility related barriers faced by local HEIs
- Identification of training needs of higher education support and management staff
- Key findings and recommendations to institutional leaders and policy makers
- Desk research
- Open survey for international PhD students and academics
- Interviews with higher education administrative and managerial staff in 10 countries in the CESE region

02. A strategic model welcome service framework, good practices and online planning tool

- A flexible mix of recommended services and activities for HEIs for advancing tailor-made institutional strategies towards international PhDs and academic staff
- A user-friendly online app enabling interactive work with the framework
- A collection of good practices across Europe
- Pilot testing of the framework

03. A comprehensive training programme including an online version

- Proposed measures and activities transformed into a comprehensive training programme for support and management staff at HEIs
- Online training course for support and management staff of HEIs with a free access to the training materials
- International pilot training for staff from the project consortium members

04. Workshops and conference

- National workshops for HE staff and key stakeholders in Bulgaria, Poland and Serbia
- An international conference in Slovakia for HEIs across the CESE region and the European level actors active in promoting the internationalisation of higher education.

