

# **Fifth Study Visit (inclusive of Project Meetings) cum Consortium Meeting organized by Banasthali Vidhyapit, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India under the 21<sup>st</sup> Teach Skills (TS) Erasmus+ Project**

**Day, date & venue: 25<sup>th</sup> at Marigold Hotel, Jaipur & 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Banasthali Vidhyapit, Jaipur**

**Organizing body: Banasthali Vidhyapit, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India**

Name & Designation of the Faculty who attended the fifth Study visit

1. Dr. Aparajita Mohanty, Associate Professor, SLS Pune
2. Prof. Dr. Bindu Ronald, Professor, SLS Pune
3. Dr. Ujwal Nandekar, Assistant Professor, SLS Pune

## **Background**

Symbiosis International (Deemed University) (SIU), SLS Pune is the recipient of an impressive number of Erasmus+ Projects co-funded by European Union. One of the projects is the Erasmus+ CBHE Project “**Teacher training with specialization on life and information technology skills**” (21<sup>st</sup> Teach Skills / 21<sup>st</sup> TS) which aims to finally disseminate 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills that are key for leaving an impact on the education system of the country.

This project is a multi-country consortium with 9 partner universities from India, Greece, Lithuania, Luxembourg, China, Cambodia who will be the torchbearers of change in their respective countries. University of Ioannina, Greece is the overall coordinator for the project.

Partner Institutions:

1. University of Ioannina, Greece
2. Klaipeda University, Lithuania
3. Novel Group Sari, Luxemburg
4. Banasthali Vidyapith, India
5. Symbiosis International (Deemed University) (to be executed by Symbiosis Law School Pune)
6. Southwest University, China
7. Shenzhen Polytechnic, China
8. Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia
9. National University of Battambang, Cambodia

Challenges, such as the rapid technological advancements and new patterns of work have created a number of demands on education, making the inculcation of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills a necessity. Those skills need to be integrated in the teacher educational programs in order for the teachers to be effective in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

21<sup>st</sup> century skills include skills such as critical thinking skills, creativity, collaborative problem-solving skills, global awareness, lateral thinking, self-initiative, self-direction, adaptability, metacognitive skills,

empathy, employability skills such as Digital Quotient, cross cultural competencies which are essential for the modern education system for inclusive development and to promote a shared prosperous future.

The educational programme developed under the project focusses on the most important transversal skills that need to be acquired such as critical thinking, problem-solving and collaborative working, with a pedagogy and assessment focused on input and role learning. Thus, the skills that teachers and educators will need to acquire is: be able to align technologies with content and pedagogy, align instructions with standards that embody 21st century knowledge and skills, use a range of strategies to reach diverse students and create an environment to support differentiated teaching and learning, use a variety of assessment strategies to evaluate student performance and act as mentors and peer coaches with fellow educators.

Earlier under the said project, there have been four study trips (inclusive of project meetings) one in Greece, Ioannina, 2nd in India organized by SLS Pune, SIU and 3<sup>rd</sup> organized by RUPP, Cambodia, 4<sup>th</sup> Study trip (including the project meetings) was organized by Southwest University, Chongqing, China and fifth Study Visit (inclusive of Project Meetings) cum Consortium Meeting organized by Banasthali Vidhyapit, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

SIU, through its constituent SLS Pune has been the key partner in the project. SLS Pune in furtherance to the objectives of the project created the syllabi and content for the Module 1 on Critical Thinking Skills and Collaborative Problem-Solving Skills under the project. The project from SLS Pune is led by Dr. Shashikala Gurple, who has been the expert contributor to all the milestones in the project, and thus is the key person required for all meetings and study trips under the project. STLRC, especially Dr. Sophia Gaikwad has supported SLS Pune in preparation of the contents for the Module 1. The other members who accompanied in the previous study trips at Ioannina, Cambodia, and China, have also contributed in carrying out the project continuously at SLS Pune. The representation of some of the key members at the 5<sup>th</sup> Study Visit at Jaipur was essential as this was the last physical meeting under the project and important discussions on closure of the project were going to be deliberated.

### **Brief Summary of the Visit**

This 5<sup>th</sup> study visit included the review of the final submission of reports and monitoring on the outcomes of the project. The visit also entailed cultural exchanges between the delegates of the partner countries. Further the deliverables under the project especially module (1 to 4) development and delivery of content, MOOCs development, strategy to deliver etc. were discussed and aligned during the two days of the study trip.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Study visit was organized by Dr. Ajay Surana, Dean, Education Department, Banasthali Vidhyapit, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

### **Outcomes Achieved**

The organizers Banasthali Vidhyapit, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India facilitated various discussions, project meetings and capacity building workshops etc. The outcomes achieved were as follows:

- (i) To check the final deliverables of the project including modules and e-toolbox developed by each partner institution
- (ii) To check the delivery of content created through online and offline platform
- (iii) To submit the final reports from the responsible partner universities

### **Benefits expected from the study visit to SLS Pune**

The 5<sup>th</sup> study trip provided an opportunity to gear up to the challenges for delivery of the content and bring home the best practices in the field of education. This worked in our favor as India moves towards the National Education Policy, 2020 implementation, which also requires Universities in India to adopt 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in teaching and learning.

The participants who visited Jaipur during the 5<sup>th</sup> Study Visit are professors/teachers/administrator who in the process have acquired these 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, and will further implement them while teaching students in the University, and also train other teachers within the University.

## **Summary of Events**

### **Day 1- November 25, 2023- Saturday**

- Welcoming of the partners by Dr. Ajay Surana and Team. Welcome speech delivered by Dr. Ajay Surana, the Dr. Katerina Plakitsi appreciated the efforts of Banasthali Vidhyapit and welcomed all the participants.
- Dr. Marios addressed the consortium and requested the partner universities to update the completion status on the deliverables. Dr. Marios further discussed the technical issues with the platform which Novel group is working to resolve.
- WP 1, WP 2, WP 3 WP 4 discussed by the consortium partners, status of accreditation status is provided by Symbiosis representatives.
- WP 5, WP 6 & WP 7 competition status provided by the NSG and requested partner Universities for dissemination material for website.
- Dr. MArios and Dr. Katerina commented on the project outcomes and how it can be connected to the project reform description which can be delivered/ offered for future projects. Project consortium appreciated the efforts.
- The project will unveil the new avenues for resolving issues related to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teach Skills in future course.
- The consortium further discussed about the money which was not spent by the Chinese partners. The consortium discussed pointed out various possibilities to spend the amount by Chinese partners visiting Asian or European countries.
- A group photograph following with regular lunch.

#### Lunch

- The consortium discussed multiple options for encouraging Internationalization.

Discussion on the Utilization of funds on travel that is unspent by the Chinese partners since they could not participate in the first 2 visits due to COVID restrictions and the 5<sup>th</sup> visit due to non- grant of Visa to India. The discussions were around the following:

Possibility of visit and activities by Chinese University participants to EU

- Possibility of the Chinese team to Visit European Universities, and different countries of the European Union
- The visit to EU could include Visits: Luxembourg University, Trier University, Liege or Brussels Universities even visiting Paris too as well as the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice, in Luxembourg, Strasbourg & Brussels
- Organize networking events, Visit to Sorbonne University in Paris, Consortium meetings with one representative with one of the partners who have covered their budget from the travel category and all the Chinese participants
- Any amendment to the Transportation and other organizational cost to be advised by the EU Commission (3000 euro is the fund for transportation )

Possibility of visit and activities by Chinese University participants to Cambodia:

- NUBB, Participating some classes, Visit at the University, Chamber of Commerce, Deliver lectures, Visit Siem Reap, Networking events, One representative from each University , 21st TS laboratory, Visits at public and private schools, Joined lectures etc.
- Or join forces NUBB-UBB, Joined lectures with the Chinese partners, Visit another University

Possibility of visit and activities by Chinese University participants to Ioannina:

- Athens (Acropolis visit, EKPA, Metsoveio, parliament), Joined meetings with the admins, Participating in running projects in mountains and rivers, Take a boat ride with the boat of @fise group lab, Cooking pies as an exchange of culture

Possibility of visit and activities by Chinese University participants to Lithuania:

- University visit, Train the trainer on very special pedagogical techniques, Baltic countries cultures, joined lectures, Networking, Pedagogical exchanges, Visit of schools, Chamber of commerce, Educational representatives etc.
- Invitations to Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurple & Dr. Katerina Plakitsi as keynote speakers, press conference, Co-organization of all partners of the consortium, Open conference days about 21st TS with Chinese partners, Participatory design of the future proposal submissions, Chinese embassy involvement (reception) (For each option) Or Hybrid Conferences taking place simultaneously at different countries about the 21st TS

### 125<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of BV

Banasthali Vidyapith (Banasthali University) is a university located in the Tonk district of the Rajasthan State in India. It is a deemed university offering programs at the secondary, senior secondary, undergraduate, and postgraduate degree levels. It was on October 6, 1935 that Smt. Ratan Shastri and Pandit Hiralal Shastri founded Banasthali to fill up the vacuum caused by the sudden death of their highly talented and promising daughter Shantabai. 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 was the 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the founder of Banasthali University and the participants joined in the celebrations that was organised at the university on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023.

## **Day 2- November 26, 2023- Sunday**

- International Conference cum Networking Event on 21st Century Skills for Teachers  
Inaugural Session – 10:30 -11:40
- 12.00 PM to 1.30 PM - Parallel Technical Session of Conference
- 1.30 PM to 2.15 PM - Networking Lunch (Room No. 138)
- 2.30 PM to 3:30 PM - Campus Visit (Bioscience and Biotechnology, Education Department, Robotics Department, AI & Innovation Department etc.)
- 3:40 PM to 4.15 PM - Horse Riding Show by Students: Horse Riding: Horse Riding is a regular activity for the students in the campus. It is taught to all the interested students in the Vidyapith. Our riders participate in National Equestrian Competitions also. The riders of Banasthali have had been the silver medalists in 50 k.m. international endurance run competition.
- 4.15 PM Cultural Program - Cultural performances from the students like singing, dancing etc. representing the heritage culture of India.

## **Reflections**

SCES (SLS Pune, SIU) being the partner university facilitated and fulfilled the various deliverables under the project. With the help of this project and the study trips involved SCES (SLS Pune, SIU) learned the best practices to address and bridge the identified gaps and challenges in education in India that are mentioned specifically in 1d point above.

The 5<sup>th</sup> study trip provided an opportunity to gear up to the educational challenges and bring home the best practices in the field of education especially in regard to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. It also provided opportunity for integration and synergy between modules, standardization of structure and best practices.

The consortium further discussed about the money which was not spent by the Chinese partners. The consortium discussed pointed out various possibilities to spend the amount by Chinese partners visiting Asian or European countries.

## **Way forward (road map forward)?**

21TS consortium has delivered the final content online through MOOCs and will offer offline educational programme as the capacity building as already prepared the Asian partners to deliver the educational programme planned and developed under the project. Through dissemination it is estimated that at least 50000 participants will benefit as the project is sustainable. The project website provides a link to the learning environment (platform) and the courses offered in the different HEIs. Further, bilateral MoUs to be pursued with all partner institutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Teach Skill Project.

## Photographs



21<sup>st</sup> Teach Skills Consortium at Marigold Hotel, Jaipur, India during 5<sup>th</sup> Study Visit



**SIU Representatives – Prod. Dr. Bindu Ronald, Prof. Dr. Aparajita Mohnaty & Dr. Ujwal Nandekar at Marigold Hotel, Jaipur, India during 5<sup>th</sup> Study Visit**



**SIU/ SCES/ SLS Pune Team, 5<sup>th</sup> Study Visit at Marigold Hotel, Jaipur, India  
Prof. Dr. Bindu Ronald, Dr. Aparajita Mohanty & Dr. Ujwal Nandekar**



**International Conference cum Networking Event on 21st Century Skills for Teachers**



**Cultural performance by the students during 5<sup>th</sup> Study Visit**



**21<sup>st</sup> Teach Skills Consortium at Cultural Department at Banasthali Vidyapith, Jaipur during 5<sup>th</sup> Study Visit**