




Partner Presentation Form

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Project Number: 2021-1-RO01-KA220-HED-000032108

Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Klaipėda University is a multidisciplinary national and Baltic Sea Region research and studies leader, promoter of cultural heritage, and lifelong learning center integrated with international academic networks. Klaipėda University (KU) is an institution of higher university education in the Western Lithuania Region. It is situated in the urban territory (Klaipėda city) with a population of 650,000. Klaipėda is a city with prospective industrial and business potential as well as a rapidly developing marine metropolis and is located in the region, famous for exclusive cultural heritage, tourism, recreation, and resort facilities.

KU was established in 1991. Its mission is to develop the University of Lithuania as a marine state and up-to-date center of research, arts, and studies in the Baltic Sea Region for the purpose of education and training of highly qualified specialists. Present strategic priorities of the University are the development of rational and sustainable academic structure, the formation of integrated research, study, and business center Marine Valley with its infrastructure comprised of research, education, and social facilities provided by highly qualified human resources.

Academic activities have been organized at three faculties and two research institutes. Environmental, life, health, social, and technology sciences, as well as humanities and arts, have been taught there. Today around 4000 full-time, part-time, and unclassified students are attending lectures at Bachelor, Master, Ph.D., vocational training, and other study programs.

University expands its internationalization by taking part in the main academic networks across the Baltic Sea Region and Europe; it has tied agreement-based cooperation with more than 40 foreign universities. More than 190 partner universities in Europe are Erasmus Programme partners of KU. Additionally, Klaipėda University is a part EU Conexus European University network.

Klaipėda University has 939 paid staff, 320 administration staff, 619 researchers/ learners.

Health sciences as a unique interdisciplinary area of research are consistently and systematically developed at Klaipėda University. The health science concept is based on the traditions of the international scientific community and science policy documents, the provision of which is coherently and conceptually integrated into the socio-cultural and scientific context of Lithuania. Integrated research is organized in context with public health, social welfare, and community sustainable development. Performed and planned research topics of the Faculty of Health Sciences directly correspond to one of the priority topics of the EU strategic program's Horizon 2020: "Health, demographic changes, and welfare" and the EU Baltic Sea Strategy Action Plan aim: "Sustainable and healthy society". Researchers and lecturers of the Faculty are well recognized by international partners as leaders in the application of research evidence into practice and changing approaches in health and social sciences from top-down to more intersectional, interdisciplinary approaches.

The University implements over 100 study programs in all three cycles, providing research and technological innovations-based contemporary knowledge which ensures advanced university education and high professional skills and develops an intelligent, responsible, and creative personality.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

Klaipėda University yearly implements around a hundred European projects of different programmes.

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

The Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences ensures the experience and the professionalism of staff for implementing project outputs. Researchers and teachers from the Faculty of Health Sciences will be responsible for the implementation of the project activities: preparing handbook and interdisciplinary curriculum, disseminating, and administrating the project. The faculty is actively involved in various national and international research and study projects for many years, thus the staff has great experience in international cooperation and collaboration and implementation of the projects. The wide range of Klaipėda University partners gives good opportunities for dissemination of the project and

sustainable usage of the results.

University implemented projects “When looks get in the way” and “Appearance Matters: Tackling the Physical and Psychosocial Consequences of Dissatisfaction with Appearance”.

“When Looks get in the Way: Optimizing patient outcomes through the training of health care professionals”. The aim of the project was to develop an internationally transferable course for higher education about the impact of body image dissatisfaction, supported by a wide range of materials, for students and health professionals. This would enable them to understand and recognize the causes and consequences of disfigurement and/or appearance dissatisfaction in their clients and to appreciate the stigma and/or discrimination faced by these individuals. This expertise improved health care provision for people affected by disfigurement and more general body image dissatisfaction, which in the longer term has the potential to improve associated physical and mental health-related outcomes.

“Appearance Matters: Tackling the Physical and Psychosocial Consequences of Dissatisfaction with Appearance”. The main objective of the project was to coordinate and increase the capacity for research focussing on the prevalence of appearance-related distress

Reasons of involvement in the project

Klaipeda University has a holistic approach towards the human being and seeks to develop physically and mentally healthy personalities. Lecturers from the Department of Public Health not only teaches students, but also disseminate the knowledge to pupils, future students, teacher, public health specialists, and society. We believe that innovative education materials would be beneficial to health education and health literacy of the society.

- Project outcomes will improve practices to cater for the needs of students, academics and professionals to deal with obesity and eating disorders in young people.
- The project may contribute to competitiveness of the university.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Aelita Skarbaliene is a senior researcher and associate professor at Klaipeda University. She specializes in health care quality issues and psychosocial healthcare aspects: leadership, emotional intelligence, verbal, and non-verbal communication, etc. That is both research and teaching interests. Besides teaching in Lithuania, she gives lectures to medical and nursing students in Sweden, Finland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Greece, etc. Aelita has a Ph.D. in Social Sciences and her research have been published in academic peer-review journals and presented at many international conferences. Her experience also includes the development and implementation of training programs aimed to increase competencies to better address psychosocial dimensions of health care problems and enhanced abilities to apply skills for behavioural change communication. Aelita has worked in many national and international projects with a particular focus on psychosocial, health, and education issues. She has great experience in coordinating and managing projects and is currently involved in a few EU projects.