

ISSUE

02

JUNE 2020



BRUSOV INTERNATIONAL



READ IN THIS ISSUE

- International projects
- BSU in the context of the fight against the Pandemic
- Coursera for Campus program
- King Sejong Institute Yerevan
- Success stories and Interviews

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS IMPEMETED IN BRUSOV STATE UNIVERSITY

In 2019, Brusov State University (BSU) continued the implementation of capacity building programs funded by international grants. As a result of the 2019 Erasmus + "Capacity Building in Higher Education" Key Action 2 call proposals, BSU is involved in two new international programs: "Development of a flexible, innovative and practical framework for Work-based Learning in higher education of Armenia and Russia" (FLEXWBL) and "Reforming doctoral education in Armenia in line with needs of academia, industry and current EU practices" (ARMDOCT): Moreover, "Laboratory of Approximation of Armenian Legislation to the EU (LegAL) project is financed within the framework of "Erasmus +" "Jean Monnet Module" programs. In general, 7 international programs are currently being implemented at the university.



FLEXWBL PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING

On December 16-19, 2019 the kick-off meeting of Erasmus+ “Development of a flexible, innovative and practical framework for Work-based Learning in higher education of Armenia and Russia” (**FLEXWBL**) international project took place at National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia and Brusov State University. The aim of the project is to form a platform for work-based learning in the national higher education systems of Armenia and Russia. The meeting was of introductory purpose, the project mission, goals, work packages, expected results, the roles and functions of partner universities were presented.



The meeting was attended by the representatives of the University of Liepaja (Latvia), Don State Technical University (Russia), Perm State University (Russia), Russian Federal State Budgetary Educational Organization of Additional Professional Education Advanced Training Institute of Managerial Workers and Specialists Federal Service for Hydro-meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, as well as Armenian representatives of Brusov State University, Gavar State University, and National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia.



FLEXWBL Project

➤ *Duration* 3 years

➤ *Grant* 823.495 €

➤ *Coordinator*

*Liepaja University
/Latvia/*

➤ *Partners*

- 2 EU Higher Education Institutions
- 3 Armenian Higher Education Institutions
- 3 Russian Higher Education Institutions
- 1 Russian Research Institute

BSU WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS OF REFORMING DOCTORAL EDUCATION IN ARMENIA

Erasmus + “Reforming Doctoral Education in Armenia in Line with Needs of Academia, Industry and Current EU Practices” **ARMDOCT** project was launched on 4-5 February 2020.

Brusov State University is a member of the **ARMDOCT** project consortium and will coordinate second workpackage aimed at improving the doctoral education system in Armenia.



The coordinator of **ARMDOCT** project in BSU is Kristina Tsaturyan, Head of External Affairs and International Cooperation Department at BSU. During the meeting at Eurasian International University she presented the planned actions and expectations of the projects' second workpackage to be implemented within a year.

The **ARMDOCT** project addresses an urgent need in Reforming Doctoral Education in Armenia in line with the Salzburg Principles with the emphasis on policy, legal framework (including by-laws) and institutional procedures supporting integrative and internationally-oriented doctoral studies involving universities, research institutions and industry.

The program aims at promoting close cooperation between universities, research institutions and industry, aimed at the internationalization of doctoral education and better integration to the European Higher Education and European Research Areas.



REFORM

loading...

ARMDOCT Project

➤ *Duration* 3 years

➤ *Grant* 966.177 €

➤ *Coordinator*

Eurasia International
University
(Republic of Armenia)

➤ *Partners*

- 4 EU Higher Education Institutions
- 8 Armenian Higher Education Institutions
- 2 Armenian Research Institutions
- The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia

➤ *Links*

<http://www.armdoct.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/armdoct>

BSU continues the integration and cooperation expansion process to higher education areas in different regions

In 2019, 26 and in 2020, 10 cooperation agreements have been already signed, in particular:

- *“Erasmus+” Inter-institutional and Grant agreements (Europe)*
 - *(Jean Monnet Module Erasmus+) (Europe)*
- *Grant agreement with the University of Essex /Creative Spark/ (Great Britain)*
- *Agreements with Herzen Russian State Pedagogical University and Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences (Russia)*
- *2 agreements with Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) (China)*

IMPLEMENTATION OF “JEAN MONNET MODULE” PROJECT



Brusov State University continues the implementation of “Jean Monnet Module” 3-year project (2017-2020) within the frames of EU “Erasmus Mundus” program, which is coordinated by UNESCO Chair on Human Rights, Democracy and Political Science of BSU.

In 2019 “Laboratory of Approximation of Armenian Legislation to the EU Acquis” (**LegAL**) (2019-2022) is funded within the frames of EU Erasmus + “Jean Monnet Module” program. **LegAL** was created as a hub of knowledge on EU Law and methodology of approximation of domestic legal orders to the EU acquis. Within the frames of this module will be implemented Legal Approximation Laboratory (LegAL) course, annual summer school, annual workshops on methodology of legal approximation for practitioners involved in the processes of law and policy-making and implementation of approximated legislation, as well as research project on the topic of “Europeanization of Armenian Legal orders: Challenges and Perspectives”. The project coordinator is Dr. Anna Khvorostiankina, Associate Professor of Law, UNESCO Chair on Human Rights, Democracy and Political Science of BSU.

On 15 October, 2019 Opening Ceremony organized within the newly funded Jean Monnet Module “Legal Approximation Laboratory (LegAL)” took place at Brusov State University. The aim of the ceremony was to highlight the importance of legal approximation processes in the context of EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) agreement, to present the new Jean Monnet Module to potential stakeholders and welcome the first cohort of students.



INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY AND JOINT PROGRAMES OF BSU

In 2019, within the frames of “Erasmus+” EU International Credit Mobility Inter-Institutional agreements, 12 students and in 2020, 9 students from Brusov State University had a chance to study one semester in partner universities, and 3 foreign students at BSU. In 2019, 16 administrative and teaching staff was given the opportunity to undergo professional trainings, deliver lectures and exchange their experience. In the frames of the same program, 9 academic or teaching staff taught or was trained from partner universities.

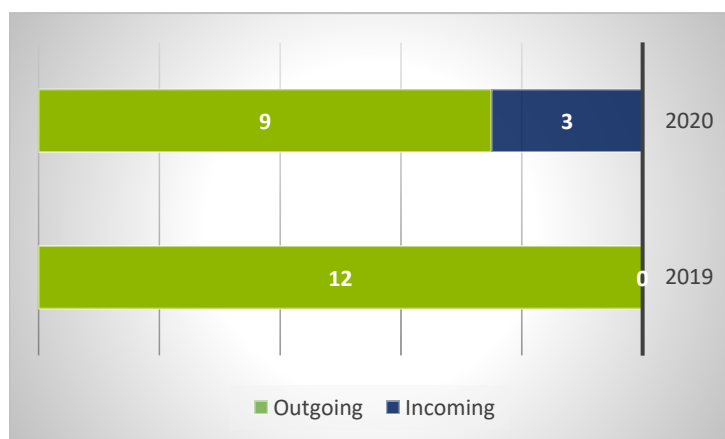


Fig.1. “Erasmus+” International credit mobility of students

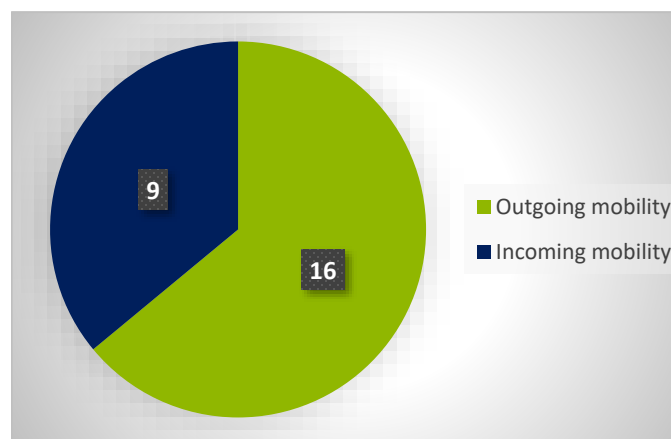


Fig.2.” Erasmus+” International mobility of staff

In collaboration with the **University of Paris-Sorbonne IV (France)** 1 Master student and 3 Ph.D students are currently studying at the **University of Paris-Sorbonne IV** in the field of "Comparative Literature" and "Publishing".

In 2019, 1 Ph.D student studied in **Martin-Luther-University of Halle-Wittenberg (German)** in “Political Science” joint doctoral program.

Within the frames of CIS Network University, 1 student studies in the **Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (PUDH)** in a joint master’s program with a specialization in “Intercultural communication in Tourism”

BSU IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

DISTANCE LEARNING AND INTERNATIONALIZATION



Starting from March 16, 2020 Brusov State University has started to organize the study process remotely, using the opportunities provided by the information and communication technologies.

The materials of lectures and practical work are sent to the students' e-mail addresses on daily basis, and the teaching staff provides feedback by conducting online lectures and exams.

To ensure the effective distance learning of students and for providing them with the necessary literature, the Library of BSU works

uninterruptedly, presenting students with the open sources of literature available online.

The new situation in terms of internationalization, e.g.: the cooperation with the network of partner universities, with many scientific, cultural centers and foundations has made it more urgent and coordinated; students and staff have the opportunity to develop their personal skills, participate in distance learning courses, internships, webinars, and to apply the gained knowledge globally by communicating and learning from the industry leaders.

The distance learning once again underlined the need for a large international partnership network and the need for active collaboration with them, thanks to which our students were able to use the of their time by obtaining new skills.

- Students regularly receive scholarship and professional internship offers, and also they have the opportunity to continue their studies in a number of foreign universities
- Students have the opportunity to participate in the "Big Idea Challenge" competition by passing a series of webinars
- Students were introduced to the Coursera for Campus program, which is an unprecedented opportunity to get acquainted with the programs and courses offered by the world's leading universities through distance learning and to become a participant in it.
- Together with Erasmus + partners, a series of free webinars were organized entitled "Transition from face-to-face teaching to online education" which were presented for the academic staff of the university.

FULL ACCESS TO COURSERA FOR CAMPUS PROGRAM

coursera for Campus

The Center of Interdisciplinary Studies of Brusov State University has created new opportunities for online teaching and learning for BSU students and staff. As part of the Coursera initiative in response to COID-19, the University has been given full access to the **Coursera for Campus** program.

Since April 2020, the University has access to more than 3,800 free courses and 400 specializations provided by **Coursera's** partners. This access is available until July 31, 2020. Students who will be enrolled in courses until July 31 are required to complete the courses until September 30, 2020.



Brusov State University has a new achievement. After huge efforts, one of the most famous Korean schools, **King Sejong Institute** is finally in Armenia, at Brusov State University. This means that everyone, regardless of their age, can study advanced Korean without studying at university.

At **King Sejong Institute** one can study:

- Korean language
- Korean Culture
- Korean national sport- taekwondo

The classes will be conducted by the native speakers and by Armenian specialists who know Korean and were trained in Korea. At the end of the classes, **King Sejong Institute's** relevant graduation certificates will be awarded. Those who study at **King Sejong Institute** will have the opportunity to participate in various events, competitions, receive many gifts and why not, in case of opportunity they can continue their education in Korea.



King Sejong Institute Yerevan

ԱՐԴԵՆ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻՄ

ՄԵՋՈՆԴ ՀԱՊԻՄՆԴ

ՄԵՋ ՄՈՏ ԿԱՐՈՂ ԵՔ ՍՈՎՈՐԵԼ

안녕 (Hello)

안녕하십니까
잘 지내세요? (How are you?)

ԿՈՐԵՆԵՐԵՆ
ՍԿՍԵՍՎՆԵՐԻ ՀԱՄԱՐ

ԸՆԹԵՐՏԱՆՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ, ԼՍՈՒԱԿԱՆ ՎԱՐժՈՒԹՅՈՒՆՆԵՐ
ԲԱՆԱԿՈՐ ԽՈՍՔ ԳՐԱԿՈՐ ԽՈՍՔ

ԿՈՐԵԱԿԱՆ
ՄՇԱԿՈՒՅԹ

Կ-ԲՈՅ, Կ-ՐՈՍՏԱՆ, ԿՈՐԵԱԿԱՆ ՄՇԱԿՈՒՅԹ,
ԿՈՐԵԱԿԱՆ ԽՈՒՍՏՈՒՅԹ

ԹԱԵԶՎՈՆԴՈ

ՖԻԶԻԿԱԿԱՆ ԵՎ ՀՈԳԵՎՈՐ ԱՌՈՐՁՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

✓ Մեզ մոտ չկա տարիքային սահմանափակում

✓ Հնարավորություն կունենաք մասնակցել տարբեր միջոցառումների և ուսումը շարունակել Կորեայում

✓ Դասերը անցկացվելու են Կորեայում վերապատրաստված հայ մասնագետների կողմից

King Sejong Institute Yerevan

Թումանյան 42
Ծաղկաբույսի պետական համալսարան

SUCCESS STORIES

SUCCESS STORY OF DIANA PAPOYAN



*Our first hero of “Success stories” series is **Diana Papoyan**, who is Ph.D student of South-West University “Neofit Rilski” (Bulgaria) and came to motherland within the frames of “The program between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on cooperation in the field of Education and Science”, to participate in the three-month specialization scholarship program and to collect materials for her scientific work.*

*- **Diana**, how did you apply for the scholarship program and how did you choose the country?*

- Being an Armenian historian living in Bulgaria, I have always been interested in the Armenian Question and its study. My scientific research is related to the Armenian Question in the context of Russian policy. Armenia was irreplaceable for me, as I lack the necessary resources in Bulgaria. It is very difficult for a researcher to work there on such a topic, so it can be said that visiting Armenia was a must for me.

*- **What did give you the three-month specialization scholarship program at BSU?***

- First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the entire staff of the university, both administrative and teaching staff, who have supported me fully since the first day I was here. I should mention that BSU has a very rich library and archive resources. The materials provided by the BSU library and the “Brusov Scientific Center” added the literature list of my research, especially the collection of “Армянский вестник” magazine published in the early twentieth century, which is considered a rare publication and is available in very few libraries.

*- **What advice would you give to your friends in Bulgaria who would like to do research in Armenia?***

- I would like to say that at the Neofit Rilski University in Blagoevgrad, where I study, I have many colleagues who are interested in Armenia and its history. I would definitely recommend them to visit the really rich library and archive of BSU, where they can get a lot of information for their research, as well as they will meet specialist who are ready to support them.

SUCCESS STORY OF HAYK HAMBARDZUMYAN

Hayk Hambardzumyan is our next hero of “Success stories” series. He is a lecturer at the Chair of English Communication and Translation of Brusov State University.

- Hayk, at which university did your teaching mobility program take place?

- The mobility program provided one week of experience and teaching at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (Romania).

- How would you describe your experience there? Is it easy to be a guest at a foreign university and, moreover, to teach foreign students?

- Of course, it is not easy, but in Lucian Blaga University I was able to quickly adapt to the work rhythm of the university. It should be noted that I was supported by the administrative and teaching staff of the university, they were always available, providing the necessary information and introducing the structure of the university, which allowed me to pursue my goals without any obstacle, that is: to conduct lectures in the field of translation and to evaluate their results. At the same time, of course, there were other goals: getting to know my Romanian colleagues and exchanging knowledge and experience. As part of the mobility program, I gave a general eight-hour lecture dedicated to the study of translation technology and implementation of applied and interdisciplinary research in the field of translation.



- How would you rate your experience? What did it give to you personally and to the university?

- I can't help mentioning that I was able to achieve my goals successfully. Part of my teaching mobility program was a workshop on the topic of academic mobility and international relations, which I attended in Romania. It was a great platform to share my experiences and impressions of mobility with students. In general, this program provided an opportunity to expand cooperation with my Romanian colleagues, and there is no doubt that the experience strengthened the cooperation between Brusov State University, and Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu.



SUCCESS STORY OF MARY GHUKASYAN

The series of "Success Stories" referred to Armenian students studying abroad, as well as to our foreign students hosted in Armenia in the format of "5 questions about studying abroad and not only", through which students talked about their foreign experience and their ways of resisting the COVID-19 Pandemic.

And so, our first hero is Mary Ghukasyan, a master student of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Service of BSU. She is currently studying in a joint master's program at the People's Friendship University of Russia (РГУДН) in the field of "Intercultural Communication in Tourism".

1. How did you decide to study abroad? What was the main reason for that decision?

At first, I did not imagine that I could continue my studies abroad, but when I got the opportunity to study at the the People's Friendship University of Russia (РГУДН), I immediately agreed. The university is known for its multicultural orientation, as it has a high status in the list of world's universities, and studying at a

university with such a ranking is a great honor for any student. Of course, there were much simpler reasons, such as the prospect of getting a job, the opportunity to get acquainted with a new culture, new methods of training as well as to get acquainted with a new country, and of course the most important thing is to become more self-confident person.

2 What do you most like/dislike in abroad?

Most of all, I liked the intercultural environment created by studying together, doing group work, visiting places with cultural values, and finally living under the same roof. People are open-minded here, and I like it. All necessary conditions are created here for getting rid of complexes, as there is no critical way of thinking typical to Armenians. And finally, there is a lot of progress in the field of information and education. Almost all classrooms are equipped with the best technology, which allows teaching to be more visual and, of course, easier. There are some organizational and technical shortcomings in the university concerning to the timetable and the online platform where homework is implemented and evaluated.

3. What benefits did studying abroad give you? What impressions would you highlight?

While studying abroad, first of all I made friends from different countries. I got acquainted with new cultures, their peculiarities and similarities. Of course, I gained new knowledge, got acquainted with new teaching methods. Throughout my studies, I learned how to apply the specialized subjects and not only learn theoretical part. As the most memorable day, I can definitely mention my first day at the university, when entering the classroom, I immediately met representatives from so many different countries. At first they were so cold, but only a few weeks were enough, and everyone became warm and friendly. The other memorable day is connected with the Bolshoi Theater. Being in that huge building for the first time, I felt the strength and the importance of culture with my whole body, and the most pleasant thing was that I enjoyed that miracle with my foreign classmates who have already become familiar.

4. Have you gained the proper support in the host country, and what kind of support do you lack the most?

I did not need much support, and all the responsibilities that the country carries for implementing the study of foreigners, have been fully fulfilled.

5. What facing the COVID-19 in a host country has taught you?

This period of self-isolation was quite difficult. Besides the generally accepted rules, the dormitory as well added some restrictions, thus minimizing contact with the outside world. In fact, it was quite difficult to spend the spring days sitting in the room, while you are in a foreign country, where there are still so many beautiful places to visit. But, of course, this epidemic gave a chance to understand that life itself is unpredictable, that you have to appreciate all the opportunities that it gave you, because before you can blink, it will take away the advantages that seem you would have forever. Living in a foreign country, I began to appreciate the importance of human being even more. Fortunately, my roommates are very positive and kind people who make me forget about lockdown and longing with their warmth. And what concerns to the courses on the online platform, a lot of work has been done so that the quality of education does not suffer from it and this situation is used more rationally. So, although the pandemic itself was chaotic in a negative sense, the latter's influence also had a positive outcome.



SUCCESS STORY OF ELENA CALVETE KASSIOUA

Elena Calvete Kassioua is our next participant in the series of "5 questions about studying abroad and not only", who arrived in Armenia from the University of Granada, Spain, within the framework of the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Program, and one semester she will study at Brusov State university. She was destined to spend the difficult period of the COVID-19 Pandemic in a foreign country, which, according to Elena, has already become familiar to her.



1. How did you choose to study in Armenia? What was the main reason?

The main reason was academic viability. Before, I knew absolutely nothing about Armenia before coming.

2. What do you like the most/the least about Armenia?

What I like most is how good the people are, the history behind their landscape in their nature and people's desire to enjoy their lives, they are always ready to go out and celebrate. It is very difficult to say what I dislike, because this is a country that has given me a lot. Perhaps some things are different from my country, but that does not make me dislike them, just because they're new to me. I don't like the fact that salaries are very low here, for example, in the case of teachers. I think they need to make more money because education is important for every society.

3. What is the general perception of Armenia in your home country? Are those perceptions correct in your opinion now, after living in Armenia for months?

In general, Armenia is not very popular in Spain or at least for the people around me. The first thing you usually think about is that it is a poor country with conflicts and where you would not go for pleasure. But through social network, I have received a lot of messages that it is an incredible country, and my friends would also like to visit. It turned out that my friends also bought their air tickets and wanted to come to Armenia, but their flights were canceled because of coronavirus. I usually don't want to think badly about any country, I would like to travel around the world. From the very first day, I was very excited to learn more about Armenia. I am still here and I am already thinking about when my next visit will be. I really love Armenia.

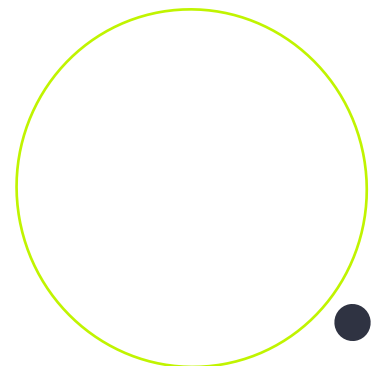


4. Have you gained the proper support in Armenia, and the kind of support you lack the most?

What I always say is that in Armenia I feel at home, never before in another country I have been treated so well. People without even asking wanted to help me, even without knowing me. I have felt very sheltered and very loved. Maybe I would like to meet some Spanish people, because we always miss our country and our people.

5. What facing the COVID-19 in a host country has taught you?

During the coronavirus, Armenia showed me the great heart of its people. Both my university and my friends have always been interested in my health, except that it was impossible to leave the house and communicate. I have felt very accompanied and supported by people whom I hardly knew.





SUCCESS STORY OF HRANUSH KHACHATRYAN

Hranush Khachatryan is our next participant in the series of "5 questions about studying abroad and not only". She studies at the University of Verona in Italy for one semester within the Erasmus + International Credit Mobility Program. However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, she had to return to Armenia after just one month, and now she is studying remotely.

1. How did you decide to study abroad? What was the main reason?

I have always wanted to study abroad. My love for Italy and Italian became the main reason for my decision.

2. What do you most like/dislike in abroad?

I like the new environment, the local people, their warmth and openness. I don't like the initial period, when you are unaware of many things, you try to adapt, to get on track. I find it difficult to adapt to the climate, especially in summer, when the air is humid, and I don't like their fruits which look delicious and juicy only from the first glance. The fruits of our Armenia are different with a taste, smell; there is a lot of sun in it.

3. What benefits did studying abroad give you? What impressions would you highlight?

At first, studying abroad gives huge opportunity to share experiences. You make new friends, you communicate with native speakers.

4. Have you received the necessary support in the host country, and what kind of support do you need the most?

From the very first day I was in the center of attention, all my requests were answered with great pleasure. I think the only support is the feeling of being in safe hands. Being independent, knowing well that in any case there are people that you can count on and ask for help.

5. What facing the COVID-19 in a host country has taught you?

Being in a foreign country during the COVID-19 was a big challenge for all of us. At first we didn't believe and didn't assess the situation correctly. Then, when we were in the red zone, the same conversations were constantly going on, though it wasn't that easy but we were trying to keep the inner calm. I remember the phrase "Can I be Corona?" became an integral part of our fears and daily conversations, when there was a cough or a symptom reminiscent of a disease. I am very glad that, despite everything, our lessons continue in a normal way.

