

MODEST Training on Organization and Management of Doctoral Training and Research Methodology Helsinki/ Hyytiälä, Finland, 27-28 May 2020

During 27-28 May 2020, the Erasmus+ MODEST project training “Organization and Management of Doctoral Training and Research Methodology” took place as the virtual (Zoom) event hosted by the University of Helsinki (UHEL)/ Brunel University London (BUL) team. This event, originally planned as the physical training at the Hyytiälä Forestry Research Station (Finland) was reorganized by UHEL in the virtual domain because the coronavirus situation. In total, more than 160 participants registered, about 130 different persons attended during the first and second days of the training (with the largest number – 83 – during the 1st session). These included international participants - professors, researchers, teachers, PhD students as well as heads, managers, staff of different organizations - from 14 MODEST partners Universities as well as from other 15 interested Universities/ Institutions.

The MODEST training was organized in 5 sessions and included a series of oral presentations including discussions (as time allowed). At start, these covered the Latvian, Polish, UK and Finnish experiences in technology enhanced learning, organization and assessment of PhD students scientific activities, effective supervision of PhD and MSc students remotely, organization and administration of doctoral education, respectively. During the 2nd session, each Armenian, Belarus and Russian partner of the MODEST project shared needs of doctoral students and partner countries to establish Doctoral Training Centers (DTCs) & got take-home-work-assignments to develop drafts on organization and management of DTCs. The 4th session focused on reporting for current status/ progress on developments of the MODEST courses (in total 14) including their descriptions. These courses are arranged into 3 main strands (A – Research, B – Teaching and Learning, C- Collaboration and Communication). During the 3rd and 5th sessions, the UHEL team members also shared UHEL’s experience in the Finnish and Nordic Centers of Excellence, international projects with PhD students’ involvement into training networks, university educational courses at the Hyytiälä Forestry Field Station: advanced approach, teachers’ and students’ perspectives and points of view, gaining transferable skills, studying and researching interactions between forest and atmosphere; and aspects of art-science collaboration in education. At the end of each day of the training, the participants were interviewed anonymously through online questionnaires (by grading usefulness of each presentation delivered, evaluating most/ least important aspects of the sessions, and suggesting possible improvements) to get a feedback on the training.

Materials of the training (slides and video-recordings of oral presentations) will be available at:
<https://www.emodest.eu/index.php/meetings/11-training-on-organization-and-management-of-doctoral-training-and-research-methodology>

The take-home-work-assignments (for each MODEST Armenian, Belarus and Russian University/ partner) were given on developing organization and management of DTCs taking into account own needs and those (if applicable) shared by other participants. During summer 2020, further elaboration will be done through horizontal communication/ exchange of the MODEST colleagues from different Universities involved into the DTCs development.

See more details about the MODEST project events at websites:

Hosted by BUL - <https://www.emodest.eu>

Hosted by PEEEX/ UHEL - <https://www.atm.helsinki.fi/peex/index.php/projects/174-modest-project>