

**Template for beneficiaries for 2018 Annual Report to feature Erasmus+ good practice projects**

Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals KA107

Sector: Higher Education student and staff mobility within programme and partner countries

Project Reference Number	2016-2-MT01-KA107-026796
Name of Sending Organisation (Applicant organisation)	Malta College of Arts Science and Technology (MCAST)
Website of Sending Organisation (Applicant organisation)	<a href="http://www.mcast.edu.mt/">http://www.mcast.edu.mt/</a>
Start and end date of project	01.02.2017 – 31.05.2018
Hosting Organisation/s	Univerzitet u Nisu - Serbia
Website/s of Hosting Organisation/s	<a href="http://www.ni.ac.yu">http://www.ni.ac.yu</a>
Countries represented in the project (apart from Malta)	Serbia

### **Objectives of the project**

This project was between two partner institutions: MCAST, Malta & University of Nis, Serbia. The project entailed engineering training and knowledge sharing in the field of Mechatronics and fiber-optic technology.

As part of the project, 4 lecturers from each institution attended 1 week technical training at the other institution. Additionally, 1 Doctor/Professor from each institution delivered teaching/training to students and staff at the other institution during a 1 week visit.

The set goals for the Project were achieved and the project was a success.

In line with the project application, the partner institutions worked to:

- 1 Improve on their internationalisation strategy by continuing to develop strong connections with other European colleges in a focused number of countries or regions;
- 2 Increase the strategic partnerships with colleges and Universities in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean area. Since the University of Nis is based in Serbia this is directly relevant for the MCAST internationalisation priorities of extending contacts in the east of Europe;
- 3 Provide continuous professional development for the staff in relation to Mechatronic systems. This is key to the college's success and is fundamental in improving the overall vocational education and training delivered to students;
- 4 Encourage staff training that provides the necessary skills for staff to work in a multicultural environment;
- 5 Encourage and support staff from other colleges to visit each other institution, to mingle and exchange best practices.

The project results show that the objectives set at application stage were achieved. Details follow:

1 & 2 - Both the MCAST and the University of Nis have utilised this project to initiate and build up on their collaboration and cooperation. Both institutions have given access to each other's network and therefore both institutions have expanded their contacts internationally. The outcome of this project was so successful that the MCAST has successfully applied for a new KA107 project with the University of Nis but also to include a new international partner, the University of Belgrade, Serbia. Both participating institutions benefited greatly in the technical areas undertaken through the project.

3 - Continuous professional development. Both institutions gained a lot at technical level from the project.

The 4 MCAST staff who visited the University of Nis, were trained on Mechatronic systems and projects. It was a first-time training for the engineers sent to Nis since little or no expertise of complete system project

planning, design and implementation existed at MCAST. The multi-skilled group (IT/Mechanical Engineering/Electronics Engineering) praised the project for the training received. A dissemination report of the training received can be found here: <http://www.mcast.edu.mt/225>

Subsequently, 4 lecturing staff from the University of Nis, came to Malta to train on the practical aspect of Fiber-Optic Technology that is nowadays used widely in various technical fields, from mechatronic systems communications and control to electronic communications systems. The staff from the University of Nis were trained by MCAST experts in the special fiber-optics laboratory located at MCAST. The visiting staff commented very favourably on the training received.

Also, one Doctor/Professor from each institution delivered teaching/training to students and staff at the other institution.

4. Training for staff to work in a multi-cultural environment. The project provided a unique opportunity for staff from both institutions to work together. This provided a multi-cultural environment that benefited all

personnel involved. English language was used throughout the project.

5. Encourage and support staff from other colleges to visit each other institution, to mingle and exchange best practices - The mobilities related to this project offered a unique opportunity for the

participants to visit a foreign institution and observe and share best work-practices that would benefit their learning & knowledge and eventually their student teaching methodology.

Long-term benefits:

This mobility project has helped the University of Niš in its strategy of internationalization in many aspects:

it will speed up the development of new courses in English, improve the International relations services, etc.

The project also improved the technical know-how at the University. The project also increased the international visibility of the University of Niš .

Similarly, the project enabled MCAST to extend its collaboration with EU partner countries, in this case with a focus on the training of engineering staff members. The aim is to improve the teaching and international perspective within MCAST and the different engineering faculties at the University of Niš.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this project are the students in Malta & Serbia as new technical know-how has now been attained at the project partner.

#### **Target group**

Staff members of both institutions.

#### **Short description of beneficiary institution**

Established in 2001, the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology is the country's leading vocational education and training institution. Through the three Colleges, namely Foundation, Technical and University Colleges and six Institutes in Malta and the Gozo Campus, MCAST offers 180 full-time and over 300 part-time vocational courses ranging from certificates to Master degrees (MQF Level 1 to Level 7).

The six MCAST Institutes namely the Institute of Applied Sciences, the Institute for the Creative Arts, the Institute of Engineering and Transport, the Institute of Business Management and Commerce, the Institute of Community Services, the Institute of Information and Communication Technology and the Gozo Campus provide all the technical and professional expertise towards the delivery of the programmes at MCAST and maintain the aim of driving forward all the areas of study under their respective responsibility. This corporate structure enables each College to create focused strategies that address the specific needs of students at each level while maintaining a healthy dialogue with all interested stakeholders in order to provide the best programmes for the needs of the local economy and society.

MCAST's relationship with industry stimulates the College's success – its programmes are flexible, relevant and responsive to the aspirations of the students and to the needs of industries which are constantly evolving to meet the challenges of a changing global economy. The College supports small and medium-sized enterprises through a multidisciplinary approach that encompasses work-based learning through the Apprenticeships Programme, the various entrepreneurship initiatives and through MG2i (MCAST commercial arm) services whereby it provides training courses tailor-made to their needs. The College is focusing on increasing the portfolio of MG2i by developing new programmes in Life Long Learning, accrediting new programmes at different levels including Masters and introducing more professional development programmes. It is working on the internationalization of MG2i through the Training and Professional Development Programmes and joint-venture opportunities in different vocational areas.

### **Summary of results and impact**

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### **Any Tools/Products Developed**

<u>Specific theme</u>
<u>Testimonials/positive comments from participants in final report</u>

Together with this template, please include at least 2 good photographs