

# TOOLKIT WP1 REPORT

Toolkit National Workshop:  
Colombo, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# PLAN OF THE PRESENTATION



- PART 1 – TOOLKIT Project and Report's aims
- PART 2 – Methodology
- PART 3 – The Report's Contents
- PART 4 – Higher Education System
- PART 5 – Internationalization Policies and Strategies
- PART 6 – Mobility and International Projects
- PART 7 – Sri Lanka HEIs: Challenges and Needs
- PART 8 – Conclusions





## PART 1 – TOOLKIT Project and Report's aims

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



## PART 1 –TOOLKIT Project's aims



TOOLKIT is a multi-country Erasmus+ CBHE Project involving European, Myanmar, Laotian and Sri Lankan HEIs. Its main aim is supporting the enhancement and modernization of the internationalization strategies pursued by Asian universities, especially in building up an “Asian way” to internationalization.

The framing of more advanced and internationalized HEIs, in each of the Asian Countries involved, may contribute to amplify the cooperation on regional and global level, creating wealth and wellbeing.

This will happen through a mutual exchange of expertise, practices and models of internationalization, between Asia and Europe.



## PART 1 –TOOLKIT Report's aims



Gather all relevant information about the current status of:

- Asian partner HEIs international strategies
- Mobility schemes
- Educational projects
- Fund and grants availability





## PART 2 – Methodology

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



## PART 2 –Methodology



This study was performed in three stages:

- **FIRST STAGE:** Collection and analysis of relevant documents produced both by Ministries and by International Organisations
- **SECOND STAGE:** Analysis of the information collected from the Asian partner Universities through a survey that was independently answered by each of them
- **THIRD STAGE:** Questionnaires sent to different target groups:
  - Asian HEIs external to the project Consortium (sample of 12 HEIs)
  - Professors (sample of 70 professors)
  - Students (sample of 208 students)





## PART 3 – Report's Contents

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union





## PART 3 – Report's contents



The Report can be found at this [link](#)

The Report is divided in 3 main sections dedicated to the Internationalization in the HE of the three project Asian partner Countries:

- Laos
- Myanmar
- Sri Lanka



## PART 3 – Report's contents



For each of the three Countries the following areas have been analysed:

- Higher Education System
- Internationalization Policies and Strategies
- Mobility and International Projects
- Challenges and needs

This work can be useful to overcome the present fragmentation of information on HE systems in the three Countries

HEIs in each country can use the results to present their systems to international partners





## PART 4 – Higher Education System

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



## PART 4 – Higher Education System



Documents produced by Ministries and International Organizations have been used to collect data on the Higher Education System of each partner Country. In this **first stage** the analysis focused mainly on:

- Number of Higher Education Institutions
- Ministries of reference
- University governance structures and bodies
- Vision, Mission and Strategic plans



## PART 4 – Higher Education System



This work can be useful

- to identify common challenges
- to set guidelines for the development of strategies in HEIs
- to design common training paths for partners' staff
- to set common understanding of the main issues and challenges faced by partner HEIs





## PART 5 – Internationalization Policies and strategies

## PART 5 – Internationalization Policies & Strategies



The evidence collected in the **second stage** through the surveys distributed to Asian partner HEIs showed that raising the international outlook of the countries' HEIs is an issue of utmost importance

For this reason Asian Partners HEIs are starting to include internationalization actions in their strategic plans. Foreseen actions are:

- Set up and implementation of International Relation Offices
- Creation of student's service centres in all HEIs
- Promotion of human resources development to meet regional and international education standards
- Improvement of learning quality
- Increase in internal and external cooperation





## PART 6 – Mobility and International Projects

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union





## PART 6 – Mobility and International Projects



The analysis focused on the number of mobility schemes and international projects currently in place. Data have been collected through the surveys distributed to Asian Partner HEIs and the questionnaires answered by the target groups during **the second and third stage** of the analysis.

Among the investigated aspects:

- Offices/human resources in charge of the management of such projects and mobility schemes
- Services offered to exchange students and staff
- International academic offer
- Source of funding
- Credit transfer system



## PART 6 – Mobility and International Projects



The data will be used to

- Design training schemes in mobility management
- Support in designing IRO's services
- Support in developing mobility schemes





## PART 7 – Sri Lanka HEIs: Challenges and Needs

# PART 7 – Sri Lanka HEIs: Challenges and Needs



## 1. Financial regulations and limited funding.

- Universities financial regulations often incompatible with project management regulations and granting bodies
- Inefficient process of negotiating and approving MoUs due to excessive bureaucracy
- Limited scholarships to promote international opportunities

## 2. Lack of dedicated facilities.

- Lack of integrated systems, information and up-to-date databases,
- Difficulty in engaging professors and students in mobility schemes due to the poor quality of students' services
- language issues and difficulties offering cross-faculty courses

## 3. Lack of dedicated staff for International Relations Offices

- deficiencies in the management of the offices and related activities

## 4. Lack of a policy for credit transfer and recognition of activities carried out abroad

- no well-established National policy for credit transfer and joint degree programmes is currently in place



## Students' survey results

1. Lack of information about international opportunities
2. Lack of information about credit transfer
3. Expected benefits:
  - Opportunity to have an international exposure
  - to improve language competences and communication skills
  - to experience a personal development
4. Main issues:
  - Funding
  - procedures (visa, obtaining documents).
5. Actions to improve internationalization:
  - increasing the number of mobility programmes and of funding schemes
  - sharing information on mobility opportunities
  - raising awareness of the importance of internationalization among students through seminars and other awareness programmes

## Professors' survey results

1. Importance of mobility programs for students:
  - Exposure to socio-economic and technical developments
  - Exposure to different teaching methods
  - Exposure to different working ethics
  - Employability
2. Importance of mobility programs for academic staff:
  - Sharing knowledge, improving research capacities and teaching abilities
  - Build professional and research networks
  - to improve collaborations
3. Participation in projects is considered good way to enhance internationalization of the University



## PART 8 – Conclusions

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



## PART 8 - Conclusions



Questionnaires' analysis and specific focus groups helped in identifying training needs, which have been used to design next steps of the project

- Modernizing International Strategies
- Project management
- Mobility schemes and management





## Common constraints

- Lack of university autonomy
- Lack of ICT infrastructures
- Weak data management with limited file-sharing and websites
- Low level of competences in English as a foreign language and in ICT skills for teaching, research and administration
- Low levels of staffing in IROs



**Thank you for your attention!**

Contacts

TOOLKIT COORDINATION TEAM

E-mail address: [toolkit@unibo.it](mailto:toolkit@unibo.it)

Project website: <https://site.unibo.it/toolkit/en>

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

