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**Modernisation of Higher Education in
Central Asia through New
Technologies (HiEdTec)**



REPORT ON THE 1ST PROJECT MEETING

**Project: Modernisation of Higher Education in Central Asia through New
Technologies (HiEdTec)**

Project No: 598092-EPP-1-2018-1-BG-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP

Project Coordinator: ANGEL KANCHEV UNIVERSITY OF RUSE



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Main authors

AUREL MACHALEK – UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG
STEFANIE OESTLUND – UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG
LATIF LADID – UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG

Contributing persons

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List of Abbreviations & meanings

HiEdTec	– <i>Modernisation of Higher Education in Central Asia through New Technologies</i>
QA	– <i>Quality assurance</i>
MG	– <i>Management Group</i>
EB	– <i>Evaluation Board</i>
WP	– <i>Work Package</i>
WP LT	– <i>WP Leading Team</i>
MP	– <i>Management Plan</i>
UR	– <i>University of Ruse Angel Kanchev</i>
ATU	– <i>Almaty Technological University</i>
InEU	– <i>Innovative University of Eurasia</i>
AIU	– <i>Ala-Too International University</i>
IKSU	– <i>Issyk Kul State University named after K. Tynystanov</i>
KSTU	– <i>Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov</i>
KhoSU	– <i>Khorog State University named after M. Nazarshoev</i>
TTU	– <i>Tajik technical University named after academician M. Osimi</i>
TUT	– <i>Technological University of Tajikistan</i>
IUHD	– <i>International University for the Humanities and Development</i>



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- TITU – *Oguz Han Engineering and Technology University of Turkmenistan*
- SEIT – *State Power Engineering Institute of Turkmenistan*
- AndMI – *Andijan Machine-Building Institute*
- TSUE – *Tashkent State University of Economics*
- TUIT – *Tashkent University of Information Technologies named after Muhammad al-Khwarizmi*
- UPV – *Università degli Studi di Pavia*
- UL – *University of Luxembourg*
- UC – *University of Coimbra*
- MES – *Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan*
- MES – *Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic*
- MES – *Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan*
- MET – *Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan*
- MHSSE – *Ministry of Higher and Secondary specialized education of the Republic of Uzbekistan*



1 INTRODUCTION

The 1st HiEdTec meeting held in Ruse, Bulgaria from 12th of March to 15th of March with following Agenda:

12 March Tuesday	09:00 – 09:15	Hall 2Г.204 SIEMENS Registration of the participants in the meeting
	09:15 – 09:30	WELCOME
	09:30 – 09:45	OPENING CEREMONY Speaker: Prof. DSc HRISTO BELOEV, Rector of the University of Ruse Mr. STRAHIL KARAPCHANSKI Deputy Mayor of Ruse
	09:45 – 10:15	Brief introduction of participants Speakers: each participant
	10:15 – 10:30	Presenting the University of Ruse Speaker: Prof. Tzvetomir Vassilev
	10:30 – 11:00	Presenting the Universities P2, P3, P4 Speakers: representatives of universities
	11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break - foyer
	11:30 – 12:30	Presenting the Universities P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10 Speakers: representatives of universities
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break - foyer
	13:30 – 15:00	Presenting the Universities P11, P12, P13, P14, P15, P16, P17, P18, P19 Speakers: representatives of universities
	15:00 – 15:30	RULES MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE PARTNER AGREEMENTS Speaker: Assoc. Prof. Stoyanka Smrikarova
	15:30 – 15:45	Photo of the Project Meeting participants in front of the main building of the University
	15:45 – 16:45	Visit of the University of Ruse Visit to the Museum of the University
	16:45 – 17:00	Closing time
	19:00	Joint dinner, Restaurant “Amphibia” 2 Doctor Mustakov Square



13 March Wednesday	09:30 – 10:00	Project aims and objectives Speaker: Prof. Tzvetomir Vassilev
	10:00 – 10:15	The educational system and the digital generation Speaker: Prof. Angel Smrikarov
	10:15 – 11:00	Innovative educational technologies in England and China Speaker: Prof. Angel Smrikarov
	11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break - foyer
	11:30 – 11:45	WP1 Cooperation for sharing experience and exchange of good practices in the field of innovative educational technologies and didactic models T1. Studying the knowledge and experience of the EU partners in the implementation of innovative educational technologies and didactic models in the process of teaching and learning in higher education. Compiling a list of good practice examples. Plan, activities Speaker: MSc Stefanie Östlund
	11:45 – 12:15	WP1-T1 – Discussion Discussion leaders: MSc Stefanie Östlund & Assoc. Prof. Tsvetelina Harakchiyska
	12:15 – 12:30	WP1-T1 – Summing up around the activity
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break - foyer
	13:30 – 14:00	T2. Developing a Google forms survey for getting feedback on the level of implementation of digital tools in the higher educational institutions in the partner countries. Analysing the results. Generating “Recommendations for Adapting the Central Asian HE System to the Needs of the Digital Learners”. Plan, activities Speaker: MSc Stefanie Östlund
	14:00 – 14:15	WP1-T2 – Discussion Discussion leaders: MSc Stefanie Östlund & Assoc. Prof. Tsvetelina Harakchiyska
	14:15 – 15:15	WP1-T2 – Working in groups (in partner countries)
	15:15 – 16:00	WP1-T2 – Presenting results of group discussions
	16:00 – 16:15	WP1-T2 – Summing up around the activity
	16:15 – 16:30	Closing time



14 March Thursday	9:30 – 10:00	<p>WP2 Development of Concepts of adapting the education system to the digital generation</p> <p>T1. Developing Concepts of adapting the education system to the digital Generation, considering the specific conditions of each of the countries – agreed with the Ministries of Education. Plan, activities Speaker: Prof. Marco Porta</p>
	10:00 – 10:30	<p>WP2-T1 – Concept of adaptation of the higher education system to the digital generation of the University of Ruse Speaker: Prof. Angel Smrikarov</p>
	10:30 – 10:45	<p>WP2-T1 – Discussion Discussion leaders: Prof. Marco Porta & Prof. Angel Smrikarov</p>
	10:45 – 11:00	<p>WP2- T1 – Summing up around the activity</p>
	11:00 – 11:30	<p>Coffee Break - foyer</p>
	11:30 – 11:45	<p>WP5 Quality Assurance (QA) Plan</p> <p>T1. Developing internal evaluation procedures and Quality Assurance Plan. Speaker: MSc Stefanie Östlund</p>
	11:45 – 12:15	<p>WP5-T1 – Discussion Discussion leaders: MSc Stefanie Östlund & Prof. Tzvetomir Vassilev</p>
	12:15 – 12:30	<p>WP5-T1 – Summing up around the activity</p>
	12:30 – 13:30	<p>Lunch Break - foyer</p>
	13:30 – 14:00	<p>WP6 Dissemination & Exploitation of Project results</p> <p>T1. Preparing a Dissemination and Exploitation Plan. Speaker: Prof. Tzvetomir Vassilev</p>
	14:00 – 14:30	<p>First results Speaker: Prof. Angel Smrikarov</p>
	14:30 – 14:45	<p>T1 – Discussion Discussion leaders: Prof. Angel Smrikarov & Prof. Tzvetomir Vassilev</p>
	14:45 – 15:00	<p>T2. Project website Speaker: Dr. Yordan Kalmukov</p>
	15:00 – 15:15	<p>T2. HiEdTec group in Facebook Speaker: Prof. Angel Smrikarov</p>
	15:15 –	<p>Closing time</p>



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	15:30	
	19:30	Joint dinner, Mehana "Chiflika" Otec Paisii Str 2

15 March Friday	09:30 – 10:30	WP7 Project Management & Coordination Administrative and financial management rules Speaker: Assoc. Prof. Stoyanka Smrikarova
	10:30 – 11:00	WP7 – Discussion Discussion leader: Assoc. Prof. Stoyanka Smrikarova
	11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break - foyer
	11:30 – 12:00	Centre for innovative educational technologies in University of Ruse Speaker: Prof. Angel Smrikarov
	12:00 – 12:15	The classrooms of the future Speaker: Prof. Angel Smrikarov
	12:15 – 12:30	Discussion Discussion leader: Prof. Angel Smrikarov
	12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break - foyer
	13:30 – 14:00	What we have to do to the next meeting in Kazakhstan Speaker: Assoc. Prof. Stoyanka Smrikarova
	14:00 – 14:15	2 nd project meeting plan Speaker: Prof. Angel Smrikarov Speaker: MSc Lyazzat Uvakassova
	14:15 – 14:45	Final discussion Speaker: Prof. Angel Smrikarov
	14:45 – 15:00	Closing time



2 HiEdTec 1ST PROJECT MEETING FEEDBACK – RUSE, BULGARIA

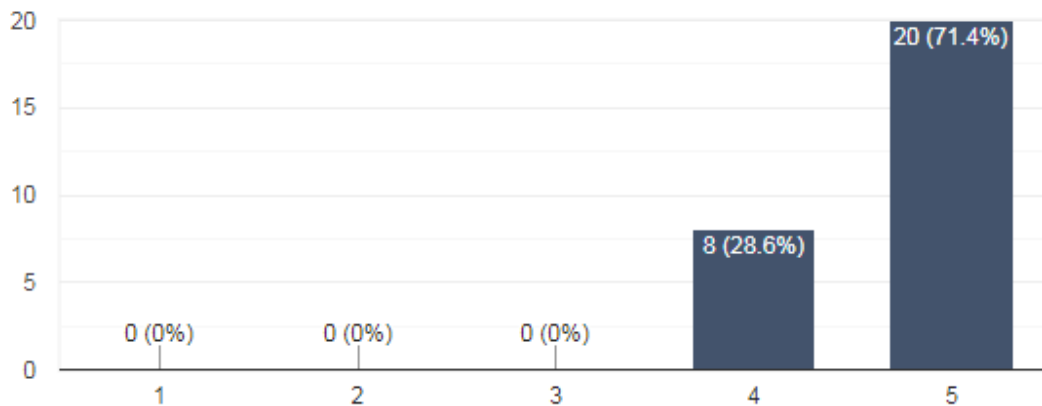
Based on consortium agreement, University of Luxembourg created a questionnaire to get feedback from all participating partners. This work is related to the projects' Internal Evaluation System and Quality and Assurance Plan (D5.1). There were 28 partners responding and they evaluated the quality of the first HiEdTec meeting in Ruse, Bulgaria.

The evaluation questions were the following:

1.

Overall, please tell us how productive the meeting was using a 1 to 5 scale where 1 means not at all productive and 5 means extremely productive.

28 responses





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2.

Please tell us why you feel that way about how productive the meeting was.

16 responses

I got a good experience from experienced persons.

Because of new ideas

Twenty out of the twenty four project partners are partners I've never worked with before. Making acquaintances in real life and discussing the project progress, the current problems and how to solve them and what has to be done in the following months was very useful.

We could find answer to all our questions on WP, financial management etc.

The information provides was clear. The amount and quality of information was good.

Kick off meeting met its goals, because project objectives and work packages were discussed in details. Responsibilities of each partner were clarified and tasks, to be completed by the second meeting, were underlined. Presentations were explained both in English and in Russian.

Everything was well organized. All main points of the project were discussed in detail, so as to make it clear how to proceed

Good organization

Everything was explained

Because I met with my colleagues and we became friend. I had understood clearer the object of project.

Everything was foreseen and managed well

Useful information about new technologies used in higher education

Kick-off meetings are one of the most important moments in projects because they help to clarify the objectives, tasks and responsible people. This meeting was particularly important due to the number of partner institutions and government representatives involved, thus fostering cooperation, involvement and commitment.

The productivity of the meeting was first the using of the new technology in high levels of education and continuous improving of the knowledge of teachers

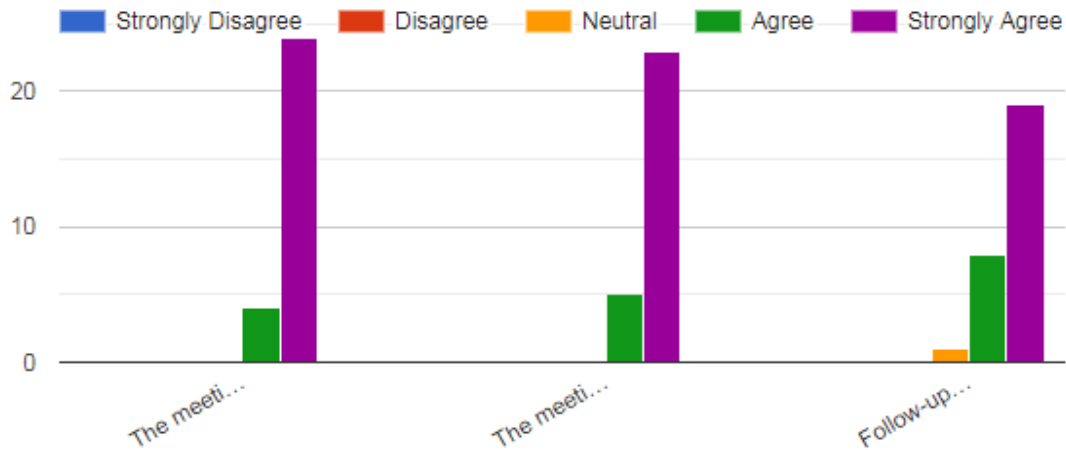
Throughout participating in first kick off meeting i have only positive impression

We received insufficient information about partners in the use of innovative educational technologies. The presentation prevail



3.

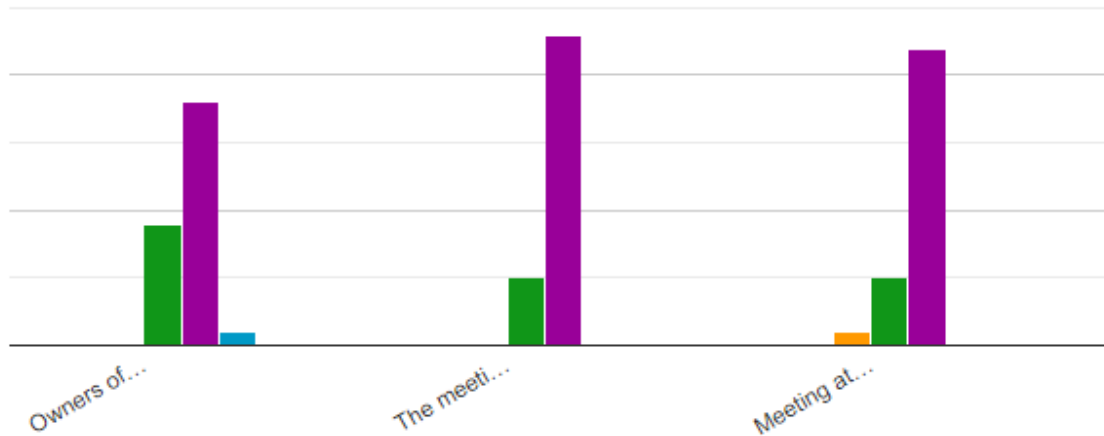
Now we have a few questions about the meeting content and its organization. Please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements about the meeting using a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means you strongly disagree and 5 means you strongly agree. If a statement does not apply to the meeting you attended, please select "NA."



- The meeting objectives were clearly communicated in advance of the meeting
- The meeting objectives were met
- Follow-up actions resulted from the meeting

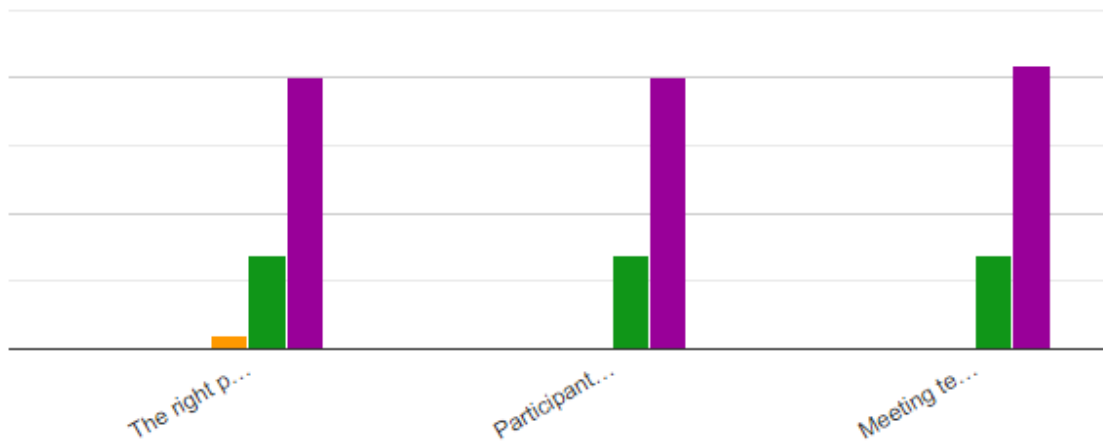


4.



- Owners of follow-up actions were assigned
- The meeting leader(s) effectively moderated the meeting
- Meeting attendees had an opportunity to participate

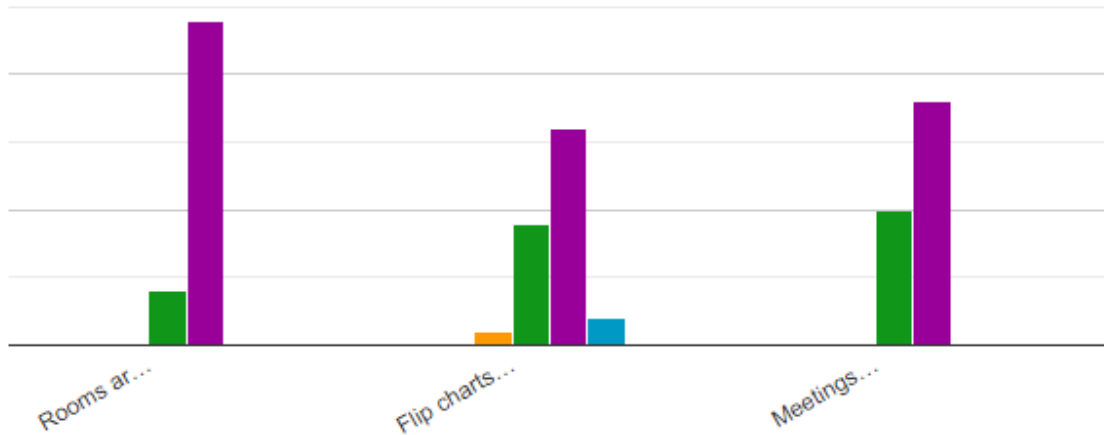
5.



- The right people were invited to the meeting
- Participants know what is expected of the in advance and are ready to contribute
- Meeting technology; (computers, projectors, screens, phones) is working and prompted and ready to go. Remote attendees included

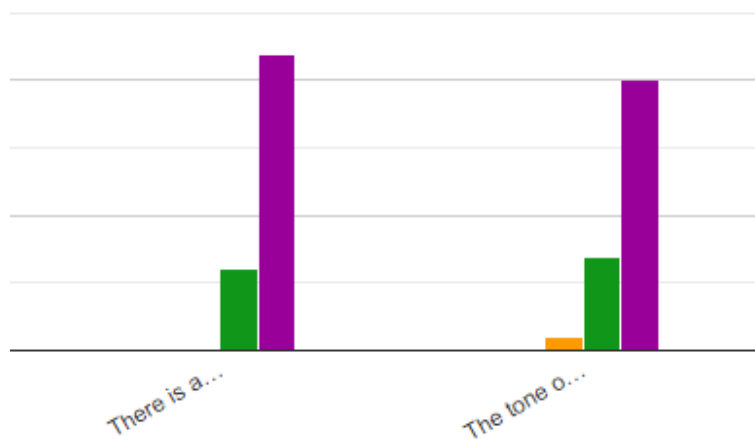


6.



- Rooms are selected to fit the meeting. Furniture supplies, space, outlets etc. encourage creative & productive assembly
- Flip charts, markers, supplies or technology for group memory are ample for any length meeting
- Meetings are practical dynamic and interactive. Participants are involved, excited, empowered and informed

7.



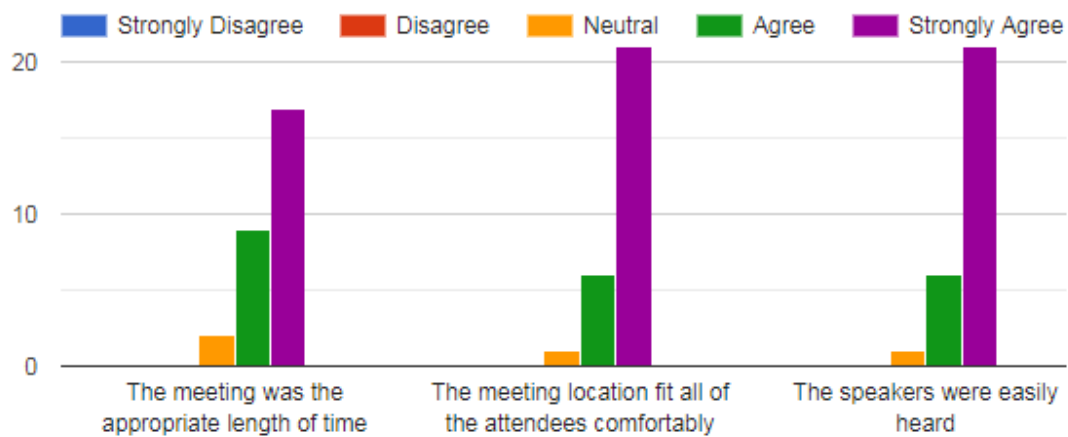
- There is a sense of accomplishment and feeling of progress. People look forward the meetings that assist their work



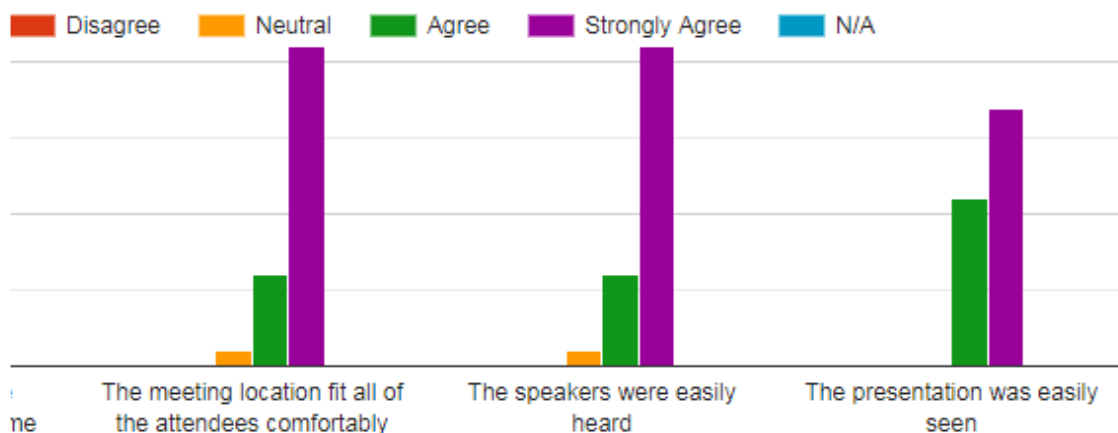
- The tone of meetings is positive regardless of topic. Discussions are professional, respectful all opinions valued

8.

We would also like your feedback on the meeting logistics. Please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements using a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means you strongly disagree and 5 means you strongly agree. If a statement does not apply to the meeting you attended, please select "NA."



9.





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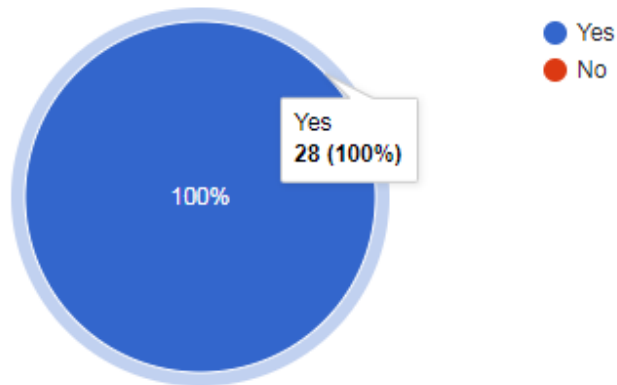
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10.

Did the meeting start on time?

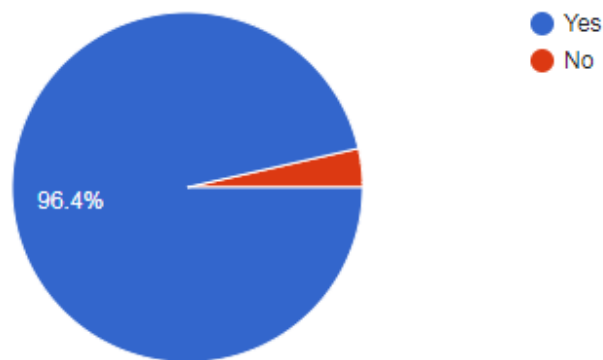
28 responses



11.

Did the meeting end on time?

28 responses



12.



What did you find most effective about the meeting?

23 responses

The Presentation by Angel Smrikarov

communication

Explanations and answers were concrete.

New ideas

Translations on both English and Russian languages.

The meeting agenda was very detailed and it was discussed with and distributed among the project partners in advance. It was followed closely which resulted in a well-timed and productive meeting.

Networking

Management of the project, strong team of programme countries, way of presentation, use of innovative technologies

Presentations and speakers

The presentations were clear and the presenters did a good job of delivering the message.

Project responsibilities are divided reasonably and equally. Every knew what his/her duty was.

Overall organization and collaborative environment

Work with work packages, experience of partners from other universities

It has been masterly managed!

Everything

There were a lot of information and the lecturer had motivated us that to use the new technology in our education process

Communication and management

Using high tech for presentations about high tech

The entire organization of the meeting made it effective and was decisive in achieving all the goals.

The main goals were reached

The most effective that I have found it was the organization discussions and we have enjoyed the meeting

Efficient organization of work groups work packages

13.

What did you find least effective about the meeting?

16 responses

n/a



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Partners made more presentation out of requirement border.

Innovative approaching to the education

Too much Russian in presentations and discussions that was not understood by EU partners

Meals

Translation could be made simultaneous (headphones) to use time more efficiently.

No idea.

Some minor "language issues" (a few talks in Russian only, without translations - however regarding non-important details, I suppose)

-

A detail, some monitor less effective for light reflectance

Group works

Some presentations and participations were only in Russian, which made it difficult for EU partners to keep up with all discussions.

Everything was ok.

The meeting didn't have any negative side

University Presentation

14.

Ideas for future meetings, suggestions, comments, etc

19 responses

I hope we will also do what Mr. Smrikorov and Tanya did.

Keep in touch

I was fully delighted with the meeting.

n/a

Presentations and especially discussions in English

Thank you very much. The first meeting was organized in a high level.

In general meeting was very successfull.

Lunch could be improved

An exemplary and real time distance learning class should be presented in the class.

Everything was organized at a high level

Effort to maintain this level of organization

Thank you

I would like to tell that our money was not enough. We spent also our own money.

More team building, communication and networking opportunities

The meeting was really well organized

Presentations should be made (spoken) in English.

More time for discussion

Learn more and see practical experience in the digital transformation of partner universities.



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3 CONCLUSION

Overall, there is very positive feedback from meeting participants, with a high satisfactory score. Anyway, there are some valid suggestions to enhance next project meetings such:

- Presentations in English language
- Some team building activities
- More time for discussion
- Translations with use of headphones, in time translations
- More group works
- See more practical experiences in the digital transformation from partners.