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



REPORT ON THE 4TH 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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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	– <i>Oguz Han Engineering and Technology University of Turkmenistan</i>
SEIT	– <i>State Power Engineering Institute of Turkmenistan</i>
AndMI	– <i>Andijan Machine-Building Institute</i>
TSUE	– <i>Tashkent State University of Economics</i>
TUIT	– <i>Tashkent University of Information Technologies named after Muhammad al-Khwarizmi</i>
UPV	– <i>Università degli Studi di Pavia</i>
UL	– <i>University of Luxembourg</i>
UC	– <i>University of Coimbra</i>
MES	– <i>Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i>
MES	– <i>Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic</i>
MES	– <i>Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan</i>
MET	– <i>Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan</i>
MHSSE	– <i>Ministry of Higher and Secondary specialized education of the Republic of Uzbekistan</i>



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INTRODUCTION

The 4th HiEdTec meeting held online due to the COVID-19 Pandemic as replacement of the meeting planned in Coimbra 10th of March 2020 with the following Agenda:

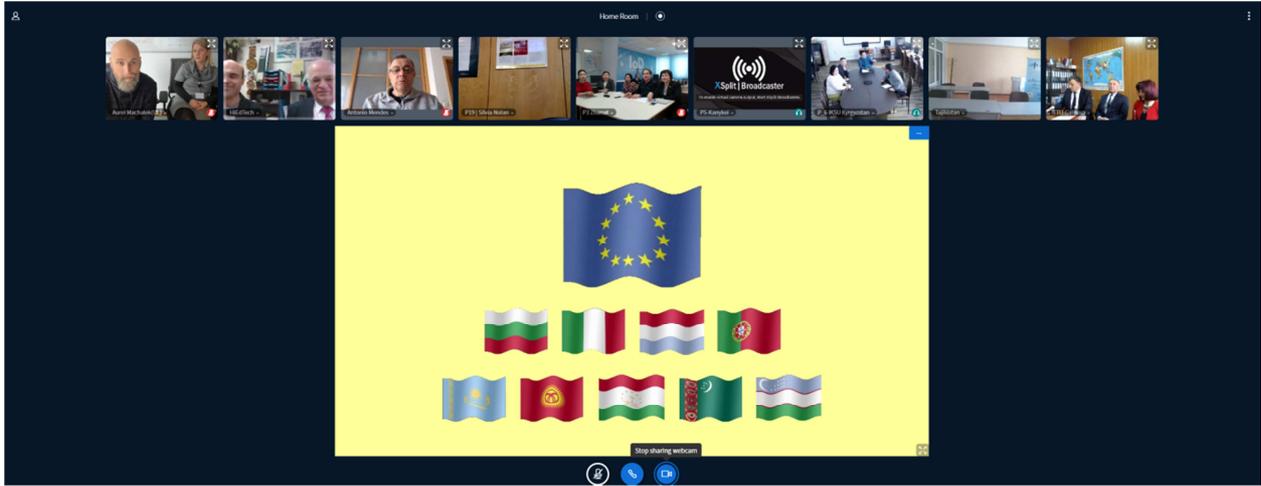
Bulgaria – 11:00 local time, Portugal – 09:00 l.t., Italy and Luxembourg – 10:00 l.t., Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – 14:00 l.t., Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan – 15:00 l.t.

11:00 – 11:10	Opening :-) Speaker: Angel Smrikarov
11:10 – 11:20	730 years since the creation of University of Coimbra Speaker: António José Mendes
11:20 – 11:30	Presenting the internal evaluation report of the progress report Speaker: Stefanie Östlund
11:30 – 11:40	Presenting the external evaluation report of the progress report Speaker: Robert Janz
11:40 – 12:00	Presenting the monitoring results in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan Speakers: Mirlan Chynybaev, Gulnora Anvarova, Sabirjan Yusupov
12:00 – 12:10	WP3: Presenting the Project Office, Centre for Innovative Educational Technologies and 3 Active Learning Classrooms. Speaker: representative of university P8
12:10 – 12:20	WP4: Presenting the training of trainers and lecturers Speaker: representative of university P10
12:20 – 12:30	WP4: Presenting of the training of trainers and lecturers Speaker: Silvia Nolan
12:30 – 12:40	Some new features on the project web site and BigBlueButton installation in Kyrgyzstan Speaker: Tzvetomir Vassilev
12:40 – 13:00	WP7 Project Management & Coordination Financial part - Most often mistakes Speaker: Stoyanka Smrikarova
13:00 – 13:10	Future tasks. What we have to do to the next meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan Speakers: Angel Smrikarov, Tzvetomir Vassilev
13:10 – 13:30	5 rd project meeting plan Speaker: Mirlan Chynybaev



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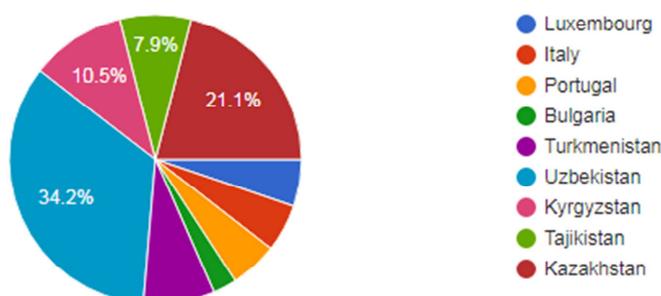
1 HiEdTec 4TH PROJECT MEETING FEEDBACK – COIMBRA, ONLINE

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 39 partners responding and they evaluated the quality of the third HiEdTec online meeting, organized by Coimbra.

The evaluation questions were the following:

1. Which country are you from?

38 responses

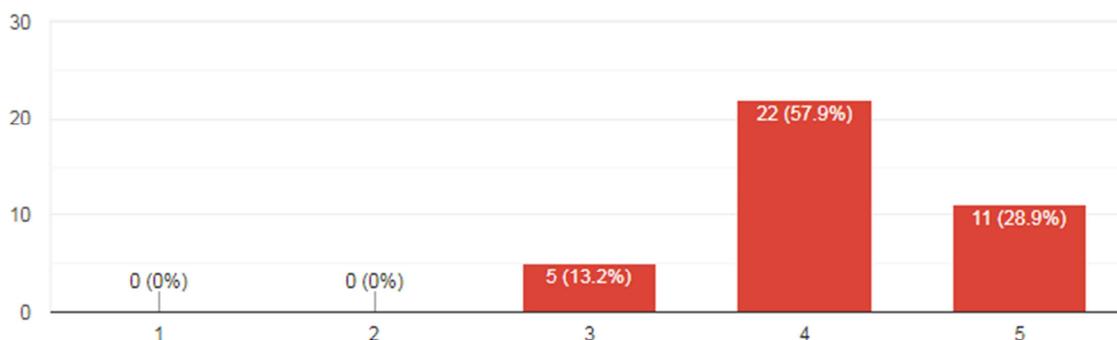


We get 3 more responses than for the previous third meeting evaluation. Partners of the project are getting used to answer questionnaires and validating the quality of the meetings. This is in line with the Project Quality management.



2. 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.

38 responses



- The meeting objectives were clearly communicated in advance of the meeting
- The meeting objectives were met
- Follow-up actions resulted from the meeting
- The meeting validate 28,9% of participants as extremely productive, 57,9% high productive and 13.2% as productive
- Overall there is slightly decreasing satisfaction of responders compare previous meeting in especially in the view that current meeting was online.

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

32 responses

- Sound problems
- Of course, an offline meeting is much more productive than an online meeting, but in a similar situation, this online meeting was useful!
- The goal is clearly set.
- Discussion different questions, future works
- A lot of concerns was discussed and planned
- Considering the situation, all main objectives were met
- We had a chance to discuss all actual issues of the Project.
- Each participant was well prepared.
- We discussed a lot of project questions, such as training course.



- It was really practice for our country partners, Because to use the virtual classroom it is one of the main aim of the project
 - Despite it was online through a video-conferencing system, everything was managed very well
 - Clear agenda, timing of presentation, clear roles and responsibilities.
 - Very productive for an online meeting! All presentation were seen and heard well, we could ask questions!
 - everything was clear and understandable
 - There are so much information
 - There are much useful information
 - Online conference was a good idea.
 - I got necessary information
 - In a short time, everyone briefly and briefly talked about the work done. Future plans were discussed promptly and specifically.
 - The main thing we are all safe from coronavirus
 - All project participants were presented in an expanded composition. The information is presented in full, understandable for study.
 - Taking into consideration the current situation it was one of the most productive and effective tools to compensate all loses regarding communication.
 - In an unusual situation we could evidence how all the people did their best to go on with great engagement!
 - Clarifying current tasks
 - The information provided was helpful
 - It was a good way to give an update on all tasks and future actions. The videoconference system used was well chosen and it has the particularity of being compatible with Moodle in case institutions wish to integrate it in their e-learning activities.
 - the online meeting is not good for practical works
 - This was well-organized online meeting of Erasmus+ ever for me. I enjoyed.
 - The meeting materials were clear and understandable.
 - safe and comfortable, no required expenses and all group members had online access
 - The status was made clear, but not discussions done.
- The meeting was productive and easy for the help of BigBlueButton program. It helped us to save our valuable time. Everything was clear and understandable.



4. 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."

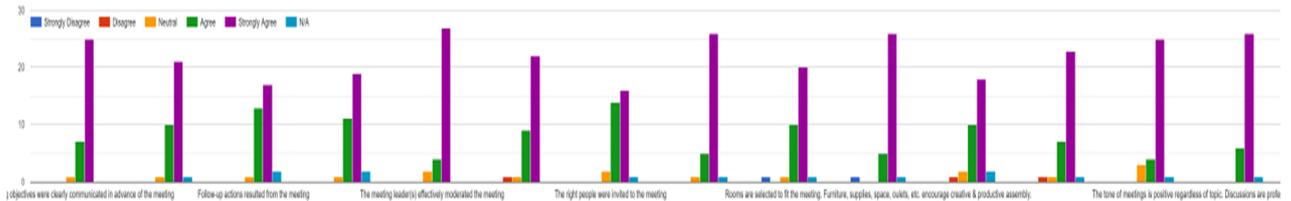
The questions structure and answers:

- The meeting objectives were clearly communicated in advance of the meeting
 - 22 responders from 38 strongly agreed
 - 14 responders agreed
 - 2 responder stayed neutral
- The meeting objectives were met
 - 19 responders from 38 strongly agreed
 - 16 responders agreed
 - 3 responder stayed neutral
- Follow-up actions resulted from the meeting
 - 17 responders from 38 strongly agreed
 - 21 responders agreed
- Owners of follow-up actions were assigned
 - 16 participants from 39 strongly agreed
 - 20 participants agreed
 - 2 responder stayed neutral
 - 1 responders NA
- The meeting leader(s) effectively moderated the meeting
 - 30 responders from 38 strongly agreed
 - 8 responders agreed
- Meeting attendees had an opportunity to participate
 - 21 responders from 38 strongly agreed
 - 13 responders agreed
 - 1 responder stayed neutral
 - 1 responder NA
- The right people were invited to the meeting
 - 22 responders from 38 strongly agreed
 - 13 responders agreed
 - 2 responders stayed neutral
 - 1 responder NA
- Participants know what is expected of them in advanced and are ready to contribute
 - 21 responders from 38 strongly agreed
 - 15 responders agreed
 - 2 responder stayed neutral



- Meeting technologies (computers, projectors, screens, phones) are working and prompted and ready to go. Remote attendees included.
 - 23 responders from 38 strongly agreed
 - 11 responders agreed
 - 4 responder stayed neutral
- Meetings are practical, dynamic and interactive. Participants are involved, excited, empowered and informed
 - 15 responders from 38 strongly agree
 - 21 responders agree
 - 2 responder stayed neutral
- There is a sense of accomplishment and a feeling of progress. People look forward to meetings that assist their work
 - 19 participants from 38 strongly agree
 - 19 participants agree
- The tone of meetings is positive regardless of topic. Discussions are professional, respectful, all opinions valued
 - 18 responders from 33 strongly agreed
 - 20 responders agree

4. 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."



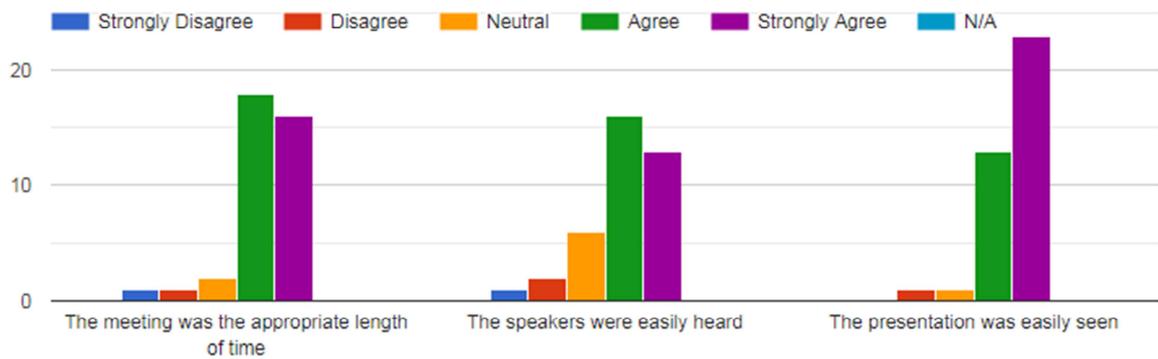
5. We would also like your feedback on the meeting logistics. Please tell us your level of agreement with the following statements using a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 means you strongly disagree and 5 means you strongly agree. If a statement does not apply to the meeting you attended, please select "NA."

The question structure and answers:

- The meeting was the appropriate length of time
 - 16 responders from 38 strongly agree
 - 18 responders agree
 - 2 responder stayed neutral

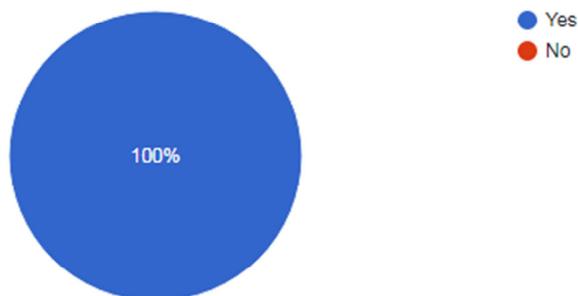


- 1 responder disagree
- 1 responder strongly disagree
- The speakers were easily heard
 - 13 responders from 38 strongly agree
 - 16 responders agree
 - 6 responder stayed neutral
 - 2 responder disagree
 - 1 responder strongly disagree
- The presentation was easily seen
 - 23 responders from 38 strongly agree
 - 1 responder stayed neutral
 - 1 responder disagree



6. Did the meeting start on time?

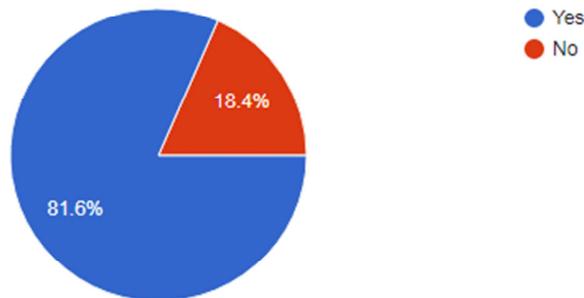
38 responses





7. Did the meeting end on time?

38 responses



8. What did you find most effective about the meeting?

33 responses

- Good organisation and a great effort of all to keep English as the meeting language. This was very positive.
- Consideration of the legal aspects of upcoming project work
- The planning of the next steps
- Easy and all project members availability access to meeting
- Organisation
- Practical issues discussed
- coordination
- Good practice! The coordinator of the project present about the future plane
- Clear purposes and organization
- Blue button app is useful application for the meeting; the whole team could participate in the meeting, which is very good.
- The very strong effort to work together
- Digital technology has once again proven its worth, especially in the context of a pandemic. So we are on the right track.
- To see and hear their colleagues healthy and full strength!
- New technology for online study
- The most effective was that we had a very productive opportunity to consider all relative aspects of the Project.
- The most effective of the meeting was evaluation of the interim results.
- Discussed all relative questions.
- Some ideas for online education
- New method for online study
- Useful information



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- Was on the right time, when everybody hesitating about what is the next important steps are.
- Learning how to use new technology
- Improving our skills
- The most effective part were presentations, because they existed on the screen during the meeting
- Using teleconferencing BBB

9. What did you find least effective about the meeting?

31 responses

- More effective
- Sound problems
- For some partners the connection was not perfect.
- no discussions about problems
- Nothing to account for
- No
- Considering the situation I think the meeting was effective
- Less interactive
- NA
- A few of Central Asian partner couldn't present their presentation. I thin for the reason law speed of Internet
- In a few cases, the presentations were longer than expected
- Inability to say hello to the hand.
- Well it was not in presence, but it was done the maximum possible
- Very little time was devoted to discussions. Some speakers simply provided evidence of implementation, but did not talk about problems and difficulties.
- Without a coffee break
- Of course, it was not as much effective as face-to-face meeting, although the outcomes were really positive enough.
- Almost nothing.
- Was not as effective as a real meeting.
- Online meeting is not effective as face to face meeting we had, where sometimes we could do or discuss some tasks right away during the meeting days
- Communicate with people
- The least effective thing was connection. Some of the partners had some problems with connecting part (voice and vision problems)
- We did not meet in Coimbra



10. Ideas for future meetings, suggestions, comments, etc

25 responses

- Meeting face to face
- This may be a good alternative to real meetings until the COVID-19 epidemic is gone!
- More discussions about problems
- Consider deferring subsequent meetings to a later date depending on the current situation.
- More frequently meetings online
- Thank you!
- Every partner should prepare in advanced
- Let us hope to develop next meeting in normal conditions, anyway technology was successfully exploited
- Not expecting another meeting, regularly organize such online meetings and discussions
- We confirm the idea of Ruse Team about the shift of the next meeting
- group projects
- more concrete tasks for all CA universities
- More frequent meetings would strengthen the cooperation and collaboration.
- To include more participants.
- To add some extra time to cover the missed real meeting.
- Use new information
- Involve most of the project teams at local universities, so everybody could get sense of investment i tasks and discussions
- More opportunities to hear
- Using new technologies
- Hope you are doing well and healthy! Thanks for the Ruse team to organize online meeting. We hope future meetings will also be amazing
- I wish you all good health and will meet in Bishkek
- To figure out how to realize a holographic presence teams. And best of all destroy Covid-19 on Planet Earth and the entire team to meet in Kyrgyzstan.

2 CONCLUSION

Overall, there is very positive feedback from meeting participants, with a high satisfactory score, especially in the condition caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The whole meeting was online without any connection problem. This seems to be a very effective way of communication between project partners.