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



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

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Project Coordinator: ANGEL KANCHEV UNIVERSITY OF RUSE

Contributors: P11, P12, P13, P23

**Activities for building
sustainable academic network
for sharing experience
and exchange of good practices
in the field of innovative educational technologies
and didactic models.
Measures for its expansion and sustainability
after project completion.
(Turkmenistan)**

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THE SUSTAINABLE ACADEMIC NETWORK

The Sustainable academic network for sharing experience and exchange of good practices in the field of IET&DMs will be open for everyone who wants to join. This will be possible for both Central Asian and EU partner countries' higher educational institutions. The network will serve as a platform for future collaborative work and provide opportunities for extending and developing educators' competences through active exchange of know-how in the field of digital pedagogies and didactic models.

The network's initial goal is to comprise of project PC universities, at a later stage to give an access for other HEIs in the PCs. To continue activities after the official project end, thus contributing to project impact and sustainability improvement.

First and foremost, it is proposed to organize works in accordance with the implementation of the Concept of Development of the Digital Education System in Turkmenistan and HiEdTec project's aims and objectives.

Development of the digital education system envisages foundation and dissemination of technological innovations, acceleration of technological development of higher educational institutions, as well as creation of the necessary electronic database and its access to the Internet.

The aim of the Academic network is to ensure the project sustainability through utilization of project results concerning adaptation of the education system to the digital generation through introduction and effective implementation of ICT-based innovative educational technologies and didactic models.

At the present time, all three Partner Universities from Turkmenistan have successfully launched their official web-sites:

- International University for the Humanities and Development: iuhd.edu.tm
- Oguz Han Engineering and Technology University of Turkmenistan: www.etut.edu.tm
- State Power Engineering Institute of Turkmenistan: www.tdei.edu.tm



All the official web-sites of the Partner Universities from Turkmenistan have the direct links to HiEdTec Project.

However, activities in maintaining the HEIs websites linked to project website, creating and maintaining in working order and filling the Platform for the academic network with content should be accelerated.

This initial stage ensures to all academic staff and students of HEIs from Turkmenistan to gain access to:

- Project's site, and to have opportunities in being aware of requirements of the digital transformation of education;
- consortium's developed Concepts of adapting the educational system to the digital generation,
- considering the specific conditions of each of the partner countries, virtual library, handbooks of innovative educational technologies,
- online courses, exchanging good practices not only with national, but also with international partners.

One of the main goals planned to achieve is to provide access to all university governing bodies and national policy-makers in the field of education. Partner HEIs will be involved in all project activities aimed to adapt the education system in their countries to the digital generation through introducing and effective use of ICT-based IET&TMs in the teaching process. Among the key priorities: at national level, all HEIs will benefit from participating in the workshops for acquisition of digital skills and innovative teaching and learning methods with new opportunities for career-long continuing professional development. The academic network should enable long-term target groups with a wide range of opportunities in raising quality in education.

In the national level, specific features in term of building sustainable academic network for sharing experience and exchange of good practices in the field of innovative educational technologies and didactic models are to be considered. Therefore, it is important to conduct works according to the implementation of the Concept of Development of the Digital Education System



in Turkmenistan. Collaborative work on the establishment of an innovative information center and educational portal under the guidance of the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan should be organized. Thus, creating a single educational network among HEIs; ensuring access to e-learning resources and services that form the basis of digital education to everyone.

It is important to organize works with the heads of the secondary schools of the provinces on the management of the Digital Environment in accordance with the Digital Education Improvement Plan. Works will be also organized on order to introduce and improve the Digital Education System in the secondary vocational schools and HEIs of the provinces, to provide to prepare e-learning resources for the courses, to organize advanced training courses on advanced methods of distance learning. By inviting students from the schools of the provinces, it is possible to organize special presentations on the implementation and management of the Digital Education System, the study of the developed world experience in this field and the positive impact of the study of modern digital systems. Moreover, regularly organization of the online meetings, educational seminars with the participation of teachers to study the best practices for the introduction and continuous improvement of the "Digital Education System" among higher education institutions are among priorities.

Regarding the international cooperation concrete measures should be considered in terms of exchanging good practices with all HIEs of the European and Central Asian countries. Furthermore, through these activities a special attention should be attached to organization of constant seminars for the dissemination of good practices; improving quality of education through the activation of the use of information and telecommunication technologies based on the HiEdTec Project's work packages. Particular attention should be paid to the further development of the website system of HEIs on the basis of the general requirements for their content and technological basis. In accordance with the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan the ways of ensuring the interaction of education participants online should be outlined. Sharing experience and exchange of good practices in the field of innovative educational technologies and didactic models on the national level through conducting online



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conferences and meetings on the constant basis with all HEIs of Turkmenistan, which will solidly strengthen the HiEdTec Project's sustainability after its official completion.

Obviously, it is essential to implement HiEdTec Project's goals and objectives in compliance with the Concept of Development of the Digital Education System in Turkmenistan. The goal is that through the outcomes of the Project and state Concept, all education institutions will be provided with high-speed networks. A single digital information and educational environment of Turkmenistan will be created with the use of "cloud" technologies, and the system of distance learning will be developed. Due to the Action Plan for the implementation of the Concept of Development of the Digital Education System in Turkmenistan, a single e-learning portal will be created, to which all HEIs of the country will be connected. In this regard, with the help of the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan measures should be taken in the integration of the HiEdTec Project's good practices into a single educational network in order to develop the digital education system. While the international collaboration within the framework of HiEdTec should constantly be of great of importance.