



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

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



**STRATEGY
for UPSCALING and EXTENDING
the PROJECT'S IMPACT
to the NATIONAL LEVEL
in TURKMENISTAN
(DURING the PROJECT LIFETIME
and AFTER)**

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

**With the support of the Erasmus+ programme
of the European Union**

Ashgabat – 2020



Contributing partners:

No	Country	Name of the Institution
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P12	Turkmenistan	Oguz Han Engineering and Technology University of Turkmenistan
P13	Turkmenistan	State Power Engineering Institute of Turkmenistan
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The document was prepared with the support of the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission, Higher education capacity building: 598092-EPP-1-2018-1-BG-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP. It reflects only the views of the authors and the commission cannot be held responsible for any use of the information contained in it.

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Introduction

The **STRATEGIC PLAN** has been developed to ensure the upscale and extension of the HiEdTec project's impact to the national level, to keep solid sustainability both during the project lifetime and after the project. As this is a structural project and it should lead to structural changes in each partner country, the involvement of the Ministries of Education is crucial. That is why, its main purpose is to raise awareness about project activities as well as project outcomes. In order to fully understand this strategy, it is important to have a common understanding of the concept of strengthening and extension of the project's impact to the national level.

The MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF TURKMENISTAN is the central state organization which is carrying out the executive-administrative function in the sphere of education, science and the state control over availability and quality assurance of education, maintenance of a constitutional law on the education for citizens in Turkmenistan, carrying out a state policy in a sphere of education, science, and innovations including:

- Implement the national system of education with constant focus on Improvement of the quality of education;
- Develop and foster implementation of the standards for quality assurance at different levels of education creating conditions for life-long learning;
- Coordinate development, implementation and constant improvement of the program content with consideration of types of knowledge, skills and competences that should be promoted including core skills based on the state standards;
- Coordinate knowledge and learning management of the employees of the education sector with emphasis on constant upgrade of knowledge and skills of the teaching staff;
- Keep up with the innovations in education and their efficient implementation into the education programs.

The Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan is responsible for monitoring all aspects of the project in Turkmenistan, encouraging digitalization of education in the Turkmen partner universities, and replicating the positive result in other universities in the country.

The Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan takes an active part in the development of the following Work Packages:



- WP2: Participate in developing Concepts of adapting the education system to the digital generation in Turkmenistan.
- WP3: Help the Turkmen project partners in the creation of Innovation Technology Centres.
- WP6: Participate in dissemination of the project results in Turkmenistan to other universities and stakeholders. Contribute to extending project impact and sustainability. Adopt normative documents for strengthening the impact of the project
- WP7: Participation in project meetings and sharing the opinion and priorities of the ministry on the discussed topics. Participation in the final dissemination conference.

The Strategic Plan supports the overall utilization of project content and spreading its outcomes at the institutional, national and international level during and after the official end of the project period. It defines the aim of sustainability of all activities, target audience and ways of dissemination and utilization of project.

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The consortium's main aims are to:

- adapt the education system in the Partner countries (PCs) to the digital generation through the introduction and effective implementation of ICT-based innovative educational technologies and didactic models in the teaching process;
- enhance the international dimension of education and training through strengthened links between the EU and PCs universities, exchange of expertise and good practices in the areas of digital pedagogies and Innovative Educational Technology (IET).

Specific project objectives are:

- Development and growth of a Sustainable academic network for sharing experience and exchange of good practices in the field of IET and didactic models. The network will initially comprise of project PC universities, but it will be open for other HEIs in the PCs to join at a later stage. It will continue functioning after the official project end, thus contributing to project impact and sustainability improvement.
- Development of Concepts of adapting the education system to the digital generation considering the specific conditions of each of the PCs. The goal of the Concepts is to adapt the educational system to the digital generation by introducing and implementing effectively IET and



didactic models in the education process, thus providing an opportunity for EVERYBODY to learn at ANY time and at ANY place with the help of ANY lecturer using ANY end device – computer, laptop, tablet, smart phone, etc.

- Creation of IET Centres, active learning classrooms, virtual classrooms. A prerequisite for the development of the Centres is the EU requirement for opening up education through new technologies. The boost of digital technologies in the delivery of high quality teaching suited to the needs of digital learners in the PC institutions requires the opening of suitable learning environments for this purpose, the introduction and piloting of new educational technologies and the training of teaching staff to use them effectively in formal education.
- Development of courses for trainers and lecturers for the acquisition of digital skills and innovative teaching and learning methods, selecting a Learning management system and developing open educational resources and a Cloud-based Virtual Library of the digital educational resources.
- Raising awareness of the need to adapt the education system to the digital generation in the PCs institutions and in society at large. All dissemination activities will be directed towards achieving this goal. Special emphasis will be placed on the successful provision of dissemination activities at national level (within the PCs) in order to reach a wide spectrum of audiences and make sure the impact of the project goes beyond the institutions directly involved in it.

By achieving these objectives (in cooperation with all partner entities), the project will help turn the partner universities into innovative universities and to improve the quality of the trained specialists necessary to perform the Digital Transformation of Industries (Industry 4.0)

The Strategy:

The aim of the Strategy is to ensure the project sustainability through utilization of project results concerning adaptation of the education system in the PCs to the digital generation through the introduction and effective implementation of ICT-based innovative educational technologies and didactic models in the teaching process. It also pays a great attention to the dissemination of good results.

Major implication for the strategy is to pay attention to the planned actions at national level in Turkmenistan in order to ensure that the impact of the project goes beyond the institutions directly involved.



The main Target Groups aimed to access during the project are:

- University governing bodies and national policy-makers in the field of education;
- University lecturers;
- Students in PC HEIs.

At local level – to reach out partner universities and their staff:

- 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.
- University teachers trained in the acquisition of digital skills and learning methods – acting as trainers to the rest of the academic staff.
- University leadership trained in acquisition of digital skills and learning methods to the level to support academic staff – promotion of excellence in teaching and strengthening leadership.

At national level, other institutions will benefit:

- developed National Concepts of adapting the education system to the digital generation. It has to act as driver for improvement of education through assisting in national level organization of workshops for presenting the concepts to PC HEIs.
- staff participating in the workshops for acquisition of digital skills and innovative teaching and learning methods with new opportunities for career-long continuing professional development.
- educational stakeholders participating in the final project conference – supporting efforts to implement project outputs in HEIs on national level.

The Strategy should enable long-term target groups which are:

- University and national policy-makers in the field of Education;
- University academics who are trainers / lecturers / learners;
- Students in PC universities;
- As well as a wide range of users who are interested in all, or some, aspects of raising the quality of education through the introduction and effective use of ICT-based IET&DMs in the teaching process such as Central Asia quality agencies, public authorities responsible for Higher Education in Central Asia universities, etc.

The Strategy should ensure the followings after the project is finished:



- 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 partner country universities and EU country universities. The network will serve as a platform for future collaborative work and will provide opportunities for extending and developing educators' competences through the active exchange of know-how in the field of digital pedagogies.
- The developed concepts, which were agreed with the Ministries of Education in PCs, will be used to develop National concepts of adapting the education system to the digital generation in each partner country by the national policy-makers in the field of Education. The concepts will support the development of national strategies for opening up education or for their improvement in cases such strategies are developed in some of the PCs.
- There will be fully functioning IET centres, active learning classrooms, virtual classroom that will be able to function on their own. The centres, equipped with relevant infrastructure, will create conditions to develop new OERs. All this will continue to be used by all PC universities thus offering continuing opportunities for updating and developing digital learning materials and tools.
- Lecturers from the partner universities will continue to disseminate project results by presenting their achievements at conferences and workshops and in this way they will inspire lecturers from other universities in their countries and their region to implement and use new technologies in their teaching.
- The Cloud-based Virtual Libraries of the digital educational resources will be open to all PC universities, who want to use them, in order to publish new OERs and continue their engagement with digital technologies.
- With the available skilled trainers, who were trained during the project, and the developed Handbook of implementing IET in English and Russian the organization of short courses for the acquisition of digital skills and innovative teaching and learning methods with lecturers from the partner country universities, as well as outside, will continue.
- Students will have access to high quality teaching and learning supporting the use of digital technologies and online delivery suited to the needs of digital learners and fostering progress towards better employability opportunities.



**General Strategic Actions
to ensure the upscale and extension
of the project's impact to the national level in Turkmenistan**

No	Name of the actions
1	Adapting the regulatory framework (standards) of education to digital generation and placing digital education requirements at the center of the modern education process.
3	Cross-institutional collaboration: "Digital education" for sharing international and national best practices.
4	Dissemination of the Handbook of innovative educational technologies
5	Dissemination of the Programme for Adapting Higher Education to the Digital Generation.
6	Dissemination of project results at the national and international levels (national seminars, conferences, exhibitions).
7	Creating centers for innovative educational technologies and active classrooms
8	Institutional and national training courses in the areas of development and application of digital educational technologies.
9	Maintaining the HEIs websites linked to project website, creating and maintaining in working order and filling the Platform for the academic network with content.
10	Organization and holding of conferences, seminars on digitalization of higher and postgraduate education.
11	Improving the virtual learning environment of the university – the e-learning platform.
12	Development and acquisition of digital educational resources, e-courses
13	Cloud-based Virtual Library of the digital educational resources
14	Promoting and multiplying results and best practices of the implementation of innovative educational technologies and didactic models through media, regional and national seminars and conferences, social networks, etc.
15	Ensuring the sustainability and exploitable project results