

## Editorial

The holiday season is approaching fast and with it comes also the last newsletter in 2017 where we will provide you with an overview of our activities in the second half of the year and new events coming up.

After several years of cooperating and learning from each other, some of our ongoing projects (OneHealth, VERITAS, GOVERN and ALLED) entered their final phase. We participated in closing conferences where we looked back at the activities and results achieved and discussed sustainability in the future.

Regarding our ongoing projects, we organized workshops on learning outcomes and curriculum development and design thinking for the HERAS project in Kosovo, continued working on guidelines for a National Qualification Framework and a qualification data base in Uzbekistan within the NURSLING project, supported the quality management for AtLETyC project and participated in efforts to set up a Migration Competence Center at an Afghan partner university (PROMIG project). For more information, you can visit the News & Events section at our webpage.

Within the HERAS project (Kosovo) we are happy to announce two open Calls: The HERAS Scholarship Fund invites students, professionals and post-doc researchers from Kosovo who are staff members at Kosovan public universities to apply for a PhD/Post-doc fellowship for (Austrian) universities. The application deadline is 31.1.2018.

The second Call is for scientific networking and project cooperation between researchers from public universities and universities of applied sciences in Austria, in Kosovo and the Western Balkan region with special attention to young and early stage researchers. The application deadline is 28.2.2018. For more information please visit [www.heraskosovo.org](http://www.heraskosovo.org).

The year 2018, WUS Austria is starting actively with kick off meetings for two new projects: InterCap, a project that aims to enhance critical understanding of migration and sustainable development, in the context of SDGs and the project Sport Against Violence and Exclusion / SAVE that will aim at preventing and fighting against racism and violence among youth in sport clubs (in particular grass root sports, amateur and recreational sport). Besides that, beginning of the new year our staff will be busy writing applications for new projects.

We are looking forward to new cooperations in 2018 and wishing you and your families happy holidays.

Enjoy reading,

Nataša Tadić

[natasa.tadic@wus-austria.org](mailto:natasa.tadic@wus-austria.org)

## Thematic Article

### „Is teaching always political? New challenges in higher education“

„Is teaching always political? New challenges in higher education“ was the title of the final conference of the PATTERNS Lectures, a project initiated by ERSTE Foundation and implemented

by WUS Austria. The project runs in a series of rounds for the 4th time and supports the development of new university courses in Central and South East Europe in the fields of art history, cultural theory, and cultural studies. In the final event of the 4th round of PATTERNS, lecturers from different editions came together, discussing freedom of speech in the classroom, the role of university teachers and students as part of civil society, and universities' responsibility for engagement and democracy.

The conference took place on 24 - 25 November 2017, in cooperation with the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, in the beautiful and inspiring setting of the Atelierhaus. The event hosted four panels including vivid discussions and left us with many more questions and some insights into daily practices from the PATTERNS Lectures community.

In the frame of the conference we asked and discussed questions such as: Is teaching always political? Has teaching always been political? What is the responsibility of the lecturer? How to deal with political discussions, with hate speech in the class room? Are there limits of freedom of speech in the classroom? Who should draw them, and where? How do lecturers critically interact with institutions like the university, the state, art and culture? How should students be involved in civil society engagement?

The conference brought inputs from different perspectives and a panel discussion about freedom of speech, civil society engagement and democracy with Boris Buden, Elke Krasny and Hedvig Turai (PATTERNS Lectures Advisors), moderated by Silke Lange. Contributions to panels were made by: Ovidiu Gherasim-Proca, Marina Simić, Ana Kolarić, Izabela Kowalczyk, Nicole Dołowy-Rybińska, Andrea Pócsik, András Müllner, Cristina David, Irfan Hošić, Martin Piaček.

We will be following up on the conference with a publication including selected contributions from the conference. Stay tuned!

More information:

<http://patterns-lectures.erstestiftung.net/>

<http://www.erstestiftung.org/en/event/is-teaching-always-political-new-challenges-in-higher-education/>

## Recent News & Events

11.12.2017

### **HERAS project invited public universities in Kosovo to workshop on design thinking in Prishtina**



*Prishtina.* On 5 and 6 December 2017, **HERAS** invited Wonderwerk from Vienna (<https://www.wonderwerk.at/en/>) to conduct a one day and a half workshop on understanding students' needs with the design thinking method with academic staff of public universities. The public universities in Kosovo aim to position themselves as modern higher education institutions, providing their students not only with state-of-the-art knowledge, but also didactics. For this reason, professors and assistants

from the public universities in Kosovo were brought together to experience a set of measures/methodologies in order to make higher education in Kosovo more student centered. During this workshop, participants got to know the design thinking approach and several design thinking tools which can be helpful for teaching staff in creating and successfully applying student-oriented learning meth [read more](#)

14.11.2017

### **Final conference of Tempus GOVERN**



*Yerevan.* After three-and-a-half years of learning from one another, the Tempus GOVERN project is coming to a close.

The objective of the project was to enable application of the state-of-the-art management system at Armenian HEIs for promoting effective and efficient structural changes in line with Bologna agenda thus enhancing HEIs autonomy and accountability.

[read more](#)

27.10.2017

#### **PROMIG project meeting at Tbilisi State University**



*Tbilisi.* From 25-26 October 2017, a project meeting was held within the scope of the project PROMIG - Promoting Migration Studies in Higher Education. The agenda included a mix of presentations and discussions on outputs and activities in line with the established workplan.

[read more](#)

16.10.2017

#### **AtLETyC - 4th Project Meeting took place in Sarajevo**



Partners from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia and Lithuania came together in Sarajevo to work on the Erasmus+ Project "Athletes Learning Entrepreneurship - a new Type of Dual Career Approach". With this project, the project partners were trying to provide active and retired elite athletes with entrepreneurial skills required to work in a modern, rapidly changing business environment

[read more](#)