Experience with the preparation of project proposal within the H-Europe MSCA staff exchanges (ODDEA project).

Overcoming Digital Divide in Europe and Southeast Asia (ODDEA)
HORIZON-MSCA-SE, Project 101086381

CZ-SK Information Day on MSCA Staff Exchanges, Palacky University, Olomouc, 29.3.2023

prof. Ing. Anetta Čaplánová, PhD.
Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave
anetta.caplanova@euba.sk

ODDEA
OVERCOMING DIGITAL DIVIDE
IN EUROPE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

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

Project ODDEA – Overcoming the Digital Divide in Europe and Southeast Asia

Start date: December 1, 2022. Duration: 4 years

Website: www.oddea.org

- The focus of the project is on the **collaboration of academics and doctoral students** with the aim of engaging in research on **the ways to overcome digital divide in Europe and South-East Asia,** exchanging knowledge, ideas, achieving meaningful outputs, and establishing research partnerships in the field of digitalization
- **Mobility is a key component of the project**, strengthening the potential for the development of academic contacts among researchers, interaction between partner institutions, and knowledge transfer.

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Partners

Coordinator:

- The University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia (EUBA)

Partners in Europe:

- University of Science and Technology, Krakow, Poland (AGH)
- Cracow University of Economics, Poland (UEK)
- Széchenyi István University, Győr, Hungary (SIU)
- University of Donja Gorica, Podgorica, Montenegro (UDG)
- Institute of Modern Technologies Montenegro, Podgorica (IMTM)

Partners in Southeast Asia:

- International College, National Institute of Development Administration Bangkok, Thailand (ICO NIDA)
- Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam, Malaysia (UiTM)
- Islamic University of Indonesia, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (UII).

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What makes the ODDEA project innovative?

- Collection of original data on the **state of digitalization in Southeast Asia and Europe**
- Development of a **comparable index of digital economy and society** for selected Southeast Asian countries, the creation of a database
- A significant innovative element is the **set of countries** included in the project (countries from the Southeast Asian region, so far international researchers have not paid significant systematic attention to the process of digitalization in that region)
- **Research collaboration** in the field between European and Southeast Asian researchers.

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The project objectives

- Contribute to **shaping a group of researchers in Europe and the Southeast Asia region who focus on the processes of digitalization** in a consistent, interdisciplinary, and systematic way.
- Identify **similarities and differences in the process of digitalization** between the two regions (Europe vs. South-East Asia)
- Work in **inter-institutional research teams** with a similar research focus, enabling effective knowledge transfer and training in research techniques
- Build the necessary **synergy** to achieve solid research results
- **Dissemination and communication activities** organized during the project will create opportunities for the development of long-term partnerships and strengthening of the cooperation between the academic and non-academic sectors.

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Work packages

Each work package has its own leader responsible for its implementation

Project ODDEA - **6 main work packages**:

1. Analysis of the key factors of the digital divide in the EU and Southeast Asia
2. Analysis of data on the current state of the digital economy
3. Analysis of the causes of observed digital differences in Europe and Southeast Asia
4. Research on the digital divide in selected European and Southeast Asian countries
5. Dissemination and communication
6. Project management

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Key aspects of preparing a successful project proposal

- **Start** preparing the project **as early as possible**
- Thoroughly **study the documents published with the call**
- Create **high quality and balanced consortium**
- Have **clearly defined project goals** that match the expertise of the partners
- Have **a high-quality team of people preparing the project proposal**, divide tasks, allocate sufficient time for finalization (avoid inconsistencies across individual parts)
- Pay attention to the **content and form** (structuring, language, formatting) to make it credible and understandable
- **Do not omit sub-criteria, address all aspects of the proposal and adhere to the sub-criterion heading**
- **Do not exceed** the defined **application scope**
- The project proposal must be **realistic and balanced in terms of planned activities, outputs, and budget**
- Aim to prepare a project proposal that is "**excellent" in terms of all criteria**, proposals of lower quality have little chance of success!

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Proposal preparation

Scientific quality of the proposal (Excellence)

- The **most important part** of the project proposal
- The proposed research **must correspond to the work program of the scheme**
- The **research goals must be clearly and understandably formulated** and described.
- The proposed approach must be **relevant, clearly communicated, the methodology must be clearly and credibly described** and must correspond to the state of knowledge in the relevant area
- **Open access to research results**
- The proposal must be **based on the state of the art** in the given area (including references to selected studies in the given area)
- **Key research questions** must be clearly and credibly specified, it must be explained, **how they will be answered** and **how the project will contribute to advancing the state of the art**

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Impact

- The project will **lead to the expected impacts** specified in the work program of the scheme.
- **Exploitation and dissemination** of project results (including IPR, research data management) are **of high quality** and open access corresponds to FAIR principles
- Communication of project activities and results to **different target groups**
- **Not to confuse dissemination and communication** and related measures
- It should **not be approached as a "mandatory ride"** (i.e. not copying and pasting from other projects, but to take into account the specifics of your project)

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Implementation

- **Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, realistic distribution of resources** (secondments) across individual work packages (based on the work needed)
- Appropriately designed project management, including risk management (address **the conflict resolution/decision-making processes within the consortium, quality management**)
- Credibly demonstrated **complementarity of partner institutions** (**Does the consortium as a whole possess the comprehensive expertise necessary to achieve the project g**oals?)
- Appropriate allocation of tasks and corresponding resources (**Do all partners have appropriate roles reflecting their expertise?)**
- Realistically planned activities (**Gantt chart as a management tool**)
- Pay attention to the description of partner institutions (**the evaluation is based on information provided in the proposal, not on what is generally known or available about partner institutions on the internet)**
- Elaborate **work packages** in adequate detail (**do not confuse deliverables-milestones-outcomes**)

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Budget

- Allow **sufficient time for budget preparation**
- Determine the **capacity of partners to send/receive mobilities, and explain the budget creation rules to them in detail in advance**
- **Standardize the length of secondment mobilities with the research requirements** of each topic and the opportunities for researchers/doctoral students to participate in them
- Plan the **number of secondments/their structure and other activities within work packages** and make sure they are well aligned with their goals
- Determine **the academic calendar** at each institution to be ale **to reflect it in the work plan**
- Take into account **the research needs and building of research capacities** and the needs of research capacities from the perspective of the research topic and individual work packages
- Respect **the limit on mobilities within the same sector**
- Consider creating **a matrix of sending/receiving institutions for clarity and balance.**

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- **Contact:**
- Anetta Čaplánová
- E-mail: anetta.caplanova@euba.sk

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Thank you for your attention!

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