



Lifelong Learning Programme



Education and Culture



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



ERASMUS INTENSIVE PROGRAMME SUMMER SCHOOL

*Transparency, Democracy and
Global Governance.
A European Perspective*

*West University Of Timisoara, Romania
18-28 of July 2010*

Transparency, Democracy and Global Governance. A European perspective

Erasmus IP, Timisoara, 18-28.07.2010

Coordinator institutions: West University of Timisoara,

Project coordinator: Delia Virga (prof. assoc. Ph.D.)

West University of Timisoara (Romania) was organized in the period 18-28 July 2010 the Erasmus Intensive Summer Course on *Transparency, Democracy and Global Governance* in partnership with Christelijke Hogeschool Ede (Netherlands), Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Istanbul University (Turkey), Karoli Gaspar University Budapest (Hungary) and Padua University (Italy)

Summary

The IP "Transparency, Democracy and Global Governance. A European Perspective" aims at fostering the European transnational exchange of knowledge, competence learning and curricular development through an exploratory, innovative and multidisciplinary approach of the issues involved by the topic of emerging global governance in connection with democracy building in Europe and requirements for public transparency. The IP gathers together a team of 23 lecturers and 47 students from 5 European countries and 6 universities. Due to its multidisciplinary nature, the IP involves lecturers and students that are part of established educational programs and will benefit from a wide range of topics open for dialogue and debate from within fields like politics, international relations, inter-cultural studies, communication, journalism, media, organizational psychology, sociology, IT and business studies. The IP is framed as a summer-school that involves various activities from courses, key-speakers' sessions, professional debates, interactive activities, e-learning, competence building on the contemporary approach on global governance and democracy building in connection with the requirements for transparency. The expected outputs are targeted towards building a research consortium of universities that will build exploratory research on the topic and will implement joint educational programs, curricular development and enforcement of the knowledge based society through multiplying of expertise, publications, improving educational tools, extending the European partnership and generating best practices tools.

Description

The 2010 IP edition confronted a provocative topic and aimed to continue the enthusiasm and the work built on the previous years achievements but also to introduce new challenges and ideas. The topic of the 2010 summer course was mainly focused on transparency, democracy and global governance as key elements that fruitfully emerge in our contemporary world and on the ways Europe is reshaping its self-image and position within the world when addressing such developments. The 21st century is provoking for us all through dynamism, fast change and radical innovation. We are all living now in a knowledge based society and therefore we must confront through understanding and debate the ideas that scrutinize our lives. The 2010 summer course gathered together an interdisciplinary community of students and specialists willing to tackle the complicate network of ideas and facts that shape the current realities. The specialized interaction

on an open floor generated tangible benefits to all participants involved in this project and showed that all participants strongly believe in constructive democratic dialogue, in sharing and understanding and trust and that each constructive endeavor is a valuable part of the continuous learning process. The strength of the particular learning environment within the summer-course came from the specific extra-curricular and interdisciplinary nature of the activities that provided the specialists the effective opportunity to share knowledge and insights that are not part of the regular curricular programs. The program of the summer-course included a wide variety of courses, workshops, professional debates and forms of implementation for various interactive teaching and learning methods that covered a generous plethora of actual and vivid problems existing or emerging in our contemporary world.

Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project are: 2nd and 3rd year's students of the participating institutions; teachers and researchers of the participating institutions, experts. The indirect beneficiaries of the IP was partner universities through creation of a research consortium and curricular development through insertion of an emerging and challenging topic in regular programs of study. In terms of seniority, 8 senior professors, 9 intermediate professors and 6 junior professors participated in the IP.

Recognition

Through a mutual agreement among partner universities the IP will provide students with a certificate of completion and a number of 4 ECTS that are to be recognized as part of their cycle of studies.

Partner institutions

West University of Timisoara was the coordinator institution for the IP in terms of logistical, legal, and financial matters.

Ede University, Karoli Gaspar University, Babes-Bolyai University and Padua University was been responsible with the internal IP promotion and lecturers, researchers and students recruitment inside relevant departments.

Dissemination

The participants received a printed volume with the IP Project title: "Transparency, Democracy and Global Governance. A European Perspective" (coord. Delia Virga, 207 pg.). The volume has three sections (Transparency and Communication, Democracy and Global Governance) and brings together in 13 chapters the contributions of 14 professors involved in the IP. The volume is a form of valorisation of the insights offered by lecturers from partner universities during the preparatory phase of the international summer-school.

This volume focuses on explorations of the diversity of the European perspectives on transparency, democracy and global governance both in their particular features and in their interlinked nature. It creates a particular learning opportunity enjoyable for both students and lecturers. The sections within the volume are the expression of this diversity and testify the current concerns of the European academics on issues that shape constructive debates on media, governance and democracy.

Besides that the multiply effect and the dissemination was been realized by means of ICT:

- an interactive DVD-ROM with papers, case studies, information, PowerPoint presentations and vision documents, including audiovisual elements produced by students during the IP

- an project of interactive website, consisting of two parts: an open part and an internal part.

During the IP the coordinators of each partner university discussed the overall structure of the interactive website. This website will be developed in the coming year and will be tested during the preparation of the next IP event.

A curriculum development platform has been established among lecturers in order to structure a common plan for inserting the topics developed in the IP inside their regular teaching activities at their home universities.

The IP was communicated in the local and national Romanian newspapers in press statements and in articles and interviews and through radio news.

The other outputs of the project are viewed either as means to help the project achieve its major goal or as means of disseminating the novel pedagogy and experiences of the project to other interested parties.

- **an e-group** for follow-up discussions both between lecturers and participant students. IP Erasmus Summer School Timisoara 2010 on Yahoo Groups:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IP_Erasmus_Summer_School_Timisoara_2010/
- **a student forum website** "IP Erasmus Summer School Timisoara 2010" on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=101121049942332&ref=search>
- A **short movie** directed and produced by the Hungarian team about the IP.

Other activities

An important contribution had ARDOR (The Romanian Association for Debates, Oratory and Rhetoric) Timisoara, an NGO that facilitated the professional debate session. The ARDOR organized and trained the students in professional debate topic and judge during the competition the students activity.

The management of Radio Timisoara and the Romanian Public Television Timisoara facilitated the access of the IP participants in their studios and the coaching for production some audio-video materials.

A photo-artist (Laura Murari) facilitated a photo session where the participants illustrated the various concepts related to the IP. The best photos were presented in the Poster exhibition during IP Closing ceremony.