

ERASMUS+ TOOLKIT PROJECT

NATIONAL CASCADE TRAINING, SRI LANKA

18th January 2022



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



ERASMUS+ CBHE



TOOLKIT - Designing and Managing International Relations, Educational Projects and Mobility Schemes in Asian Universities

Coordinated by University of Bologna, Italy

European Partners

Uppsala University

Vilnius University

7 Partners from Myanmar, Laos and Sri Lanka

TOOLKIT Project - Knowledge sharing

- **The TOOLKIT project aims at enhancing internationalisation of Higher Education Institutes in the partner countries**
- **Supporting their transition towards a more innovative, modern and international education system**
- **Creating opportunities for sharing knowhow, best practices and expertise with high ranked EU Universities.**
- **University of Kelaniya and University of Peradeniya are the Sri Lankan partners of the TOOLKIT Project.**

- **Three training programmes related to internationalisation were conducted online in 2020 and 2021 by the TOOLKIT Project**
- **Internatinalisation Strategies**
- **Project design and Management**
- **Managing Inbound and Outbound Mobility of staff and students**
- **The partner universities from Sri Lanka intend to share the knowledge and experience gained with other state universities and non-state Higher Education Institutes in Sri Lanka through this National Cascade Training.**

13.00 hrs	Welcome address and introduction to the programme , Snr. Prof. Neelakshi C. Premawardhena, Director, Centre for International Affairs, University of Kelaniya
13.05 – 13.15 hrs	Address by Senior Professor Nilanthi de Silva, Vice Chancellor, University of Kelaniya
13.15 – 13.25 hrs	Address by Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya

Internationalization strategies

Presented by Universities of Peradeniya & Kelaniya

13.25 – 13.35 hrs	Prof. Nimal Dharmasena, University of Peradeniya
13.35 – 13.45 hrs	Snr. Prof. Neelakshi C. Premawardhena, University of Kelaniya



Developing International Strategies for Universities

Neelakshi C. Premawardhena
Director, Centre for International Affairs
University of Kelaniya
Sri Lanka



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UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

VISION

- To become a centre of excellence in creation and dissemination of knowledge for sustainable development

MISSION

- To nurture intellectual citizens through creativity and innovation, who contribute to the national development.



INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES

The International strategies are aligned with the Corporate Plan/Strategic Plan and the Action Plan of a university

- **Strategic/Corporate Plan**
- **Goals**
- **Strategic plan executed through the Action Plan**
- **Goals related to internationalisation**
- **How successful have we been?**
- **What more needs to be done?**

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

- 1. To create a high quality and flexible teaching and learning environment**
- 2. To develop the highest quality faculty and staff to attain the strategic goals of the university**
- 3. To create a multi-disciplinary research culture of global standing**
- 4. To improve the image of the university by widening the range of economic and social engagement**
- 5. To develop an excellent system of governance through efficient and effective administration and financial management**

(Corporate Plan, University of Kelaniya 2021-2025)

INTERNATIONALISATION: ACHIEVING THE GOALS

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

First point of contact for any international scholar, grant agency, prospective student or university

- International Cooperation Division**
- International Student Affairs Division**

International Cooperation



International Student Affairs



INTERNATIONALISATION: ACHIEVING THE GOALS

- **Matching objectives, strategies and KPIs with THE and QS rankings**
- **Increasing partnerships with overseas universities for research collaboration, incoming and outgoing staff, student mobility (onsite and virtual) and more training opportunities for administrative staff**
- **Increasing number of international students for postgraduate studies and research**

INTERNATIONALISATION: ACHIEVING THE GOALS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

- **Funding for academic staff for doctoral studies, conference participation, publication of research papers**
- **Funding for research projects approved by the Research Council**
- **Senate Awards for academic staff for publications in indexed journals**
- **Vice Chancellor's Awards for research, academic excellence, international recognition, patents**
- **International Conferences**
- **Virtual Mobility for Staff and Students**

INTERNATIONALISATION: ACHIEVING THE GOALS

- **Partnering with international organisations and agencies – Japan Foundation, Korea Foundation, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Fulbright Commission, Commonwealth Foundation, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) & Goethe Institute for educational projects, staff and student scholarship grants, visiting professorships**
- **Reaching higher international ranking E.g. THE , QS Ranking**
- **Grant Schemes: World Bank Funded**
- **Higher Education for Twentieth Century (HETC)**
- **Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD)**

Erasmus Projects

- **Funded by the European Commission**
- **There are thousands of staff and student mobilities taking place annually since 1987.**
- **What was earlier confined to mobility within Europe, the programme added global dimension in the subsequent years by encouraging collaborative projects with non-EU partner universities.**

- **University of Kelaniya first benefitted from an Erasmus Mundus project that gave mobility opportunities to many students and staff while receiving incoming staff and student mobility**
- **Through this project the visibility of University of Kelaniya in the international higher education sector increased rapidly and many new partnerships were established.**
- **Over 120 staff and student mobility grants have been secured by the university while receiving over 60 guest professors and administrative staff as well as a number of students from the EU on incoming mobility.**
- **Currently around 2000 students and 100 staff have benefited from Virtual Mobility**

OUR ERASMUS PARTNERS

U. PORTO

UNIVERSIDADE
DO PORTO



**UNIVERSITE
DE ROUEN**



UNIVERSIDADE
NOVA
DE LISBOA

MUNI Masaryk
University



TALLINN UNIVERSITY



University of
LODZ

utad UNIVERSIDADE
DE TRÁS-OS-MONTES
E ALTO DOURO



University of
HUDDERSFIELD



UAlg
UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE

- **Akdeniz University, Turkey**
- **Bologna University, Italy**
- **Lodz University, Poland**
- **Masaryk University, Czech Republic**
- **New University of Lisbon, Portugal**
- **Polytechnic Pozega, Croatia**
- **Rouen University, France**
- **Szczecin University, Poland**
- **Tallinn University, Estonia**
- **University of Algarve, Portugal**
- **University of Huddersfield, UK**
- **University of Porto, Portugal**
- **University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal**

CHALLENGES

Main obstacles to the development/improvement of the international dimension:

- **Negotiating and approving MOUs**
- **Status of international offices – one of the significant entities of a university**
- **Appointing permanent staff to the Centre for International Affairs**
- **Budget issues**
- **Visa issues for student mobility to Europe when no diplomatic mission is available in the country**
- **Trade Union action**
- **Terror attacks e.g.; Easter bomb attack in 2019**
- **Prevailing situation due to Covid 19 pandemic**