



**University of Kelaniya,** Sri Lanka



TOOLKIT Project  
Project Design and Management  
Module 3

# Project Management

## **Challenges and Solutions**

# ERASMUS MUNDUS



- **Erasmus Mundus – International Mobility Programme for Academic and Knowledge Transfer 2014 – 2019 (IMPACT)**
- **8 European and 12 Asian partners from Vietnam, Myanmar, Mongolia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, China, Philippines**
- **Incoming mobility: Academic Staff, Postdoctoral, Undergraduate  
9**
- **Outgoing mobility: Academic Staff, Postgraduate, Undergraduate  
19**
- **Consortium Meetings, Selection Committee Meetings and staff training**

# Challenges

## Financial management

- **All mobility – handled by the coordinator, University of Rouen, France**
- **Travel arrangements and cost of stay for consortium meetings – 10,000 Euro**
- **Option given to partners to manage the arrangements through the Coordinator or by the university**
- **First option was selected due to high commission for international money transfers, red tape and tedious procedures associated with obtaining approval for travel and accommodation costs**

## **Management of mobility**

- **Incoming mobility – visa issues with long term mobility  
undergraduate and doctoral mobility**
- **Managed through application for entry visa well in advance**
- **Outgoing mobility – visa issues with long term mobility  
undergraduate and postgraduate mobility (5-10 months) to  
Portugal and Belgium – no consistant procedure  
Visa application through diplomatic missions in India  
Demanded personal visit**
- **Managed with greatest difficulty. IMPAKT Project funded the  
travel cost to New Delhi**

## Management of mobility

- **Change of responsible person who managed the project towards the latter part of the project**
- **Leftover amount from the original budget had to be used within a few months which did not benefit anyone.**
- **No new call was possible due to time restrictions**
- **Only previous grantees were given a chance to reapply**
- **Current grantees offered an extension of the scholarship**
- **Only 1 student and 1 staff benefited. 2 staff and 2 students did not use the awarded extension**

# 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**

- **Covid 19 related impediments affected all related activities**
- **Financial Management**
  - a) **Equipment grant - adhering to standard procurement procedures**
  - b) **First instalment of the partner grant of approx. 15,000 Euro sent to UoK – faced severe difficulties in utilising this amount for staff costs and other activities related to internationalization**

## **Solutions –**

- **Consulting the Coordinator seeking advice and guidance constantly**
- **Separate budget approved by the Finance Committee and the University Council**

# Summary

- **Financial Management due to Government imposed regulations and standard financial procedures at universities**
- **Consular matters affecting long term mobility visits**
- **Lack of staff in the Centre for International Affairs**
- **No permanent fulltime staff**
- **Only contract basis staff**