

Preface

Modern Eurasian integration processes have been developing dynamically in the last three or four years, although the real mechanisms and tools are far from being fully developed. Currently, the achievements of international cooperation are most noticeable in the system of higher education and science: the unification of educational programs in the framework of the Bologna process, international research grants, international cooperation between universities in educational projects (exchange programs, double degree programs, joint master's programs), etc.

At the same time, integration processes on the Eurasian continent differ significantly from the European Union experience. Their peculiarity is rooted in the different historical, economic, cultural, political development of countries and peoples united in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Eurasian Economic Community (EAEU) and other international organizations. This creates additional, sometimes insurmountable, difficulties for intercultural integration.

The project 574060-EPP-1-2016-1-KZ-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP “Enhancement of higher education and corporate sectors integration in accordance with new social environment” (ENINEDU), which lays in the basis of these conference intends to enhance business-HEI cooperation in Euroasian area by changing the paradigm of education in line with Bologna process requirements. Improvement of such cooperation would result in gradual effectiveness increase of national development strategy, priority fulfillment, as well as change the graduate entrepreneurship and employment situation.

The idea of the project came from a composition of partner university experience. People's Friendship University and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) have had long cooperation with major international, Kazakhstan and Russian companies. L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University (ENU) has experience in both local and European projects and specific business-HEI cooperation practice in their education area. Samara State University of Economics and Orel State University have expertise of operation and cooperation with employers in different regions with various economic conditions. The inter-university discussion of graduate practical training problems have long been conducted at various intercollegiate conferences in the countries of these project consortium.

While performing the ENINEDU project the participants have come to conclusion that all cultural, educational or economic processes of Euroasian integration in long -term trend should result in higher possibilities of investment and competition expenditure, leading to hastier development of market economy.

Involvement of HEI's plays a crucial part of the project. Most of the published outcomes are aimed at changing the educational process at universities of the Euroasian area in order to promote the development of Eurasian economic integration, as well as expanding and strengthening international contacts of the Eurasian continent. This includes the business-HEI cooperation in EU overview, greater connections with businesses and increased number of joint projects with them. Regionally and nationally this project outcome would contribute to the creation of education-business clusters, thus increasing the education effectiveness. The latter will further lead to wider attractiveness of HEI's for potential students and increased stability of HEI's development.

The state regulators themselves would be interested in the recommendations from such a wide range of stakeholders, including EU partners, partner countries HEI's and business community. Locally, regionally and nationally the project outcome implementation is decreasing the municipal and national expenses for state unemployment subsidies, and at the same time increasing the income through taxation of both graduates and business activity.

The International Conference “Eurasia: Sustainable Development, Security, Cooperation” – 2019, being an initiative of three universities within this project, was aimed at analyzing geopolitical and economic situation in Central Eurasia which is quickly changing. The conference organizers tried to bring together researches and practioners from political, economic, legal, cultural and educational areas to discuss the above mentioned changes and challenges from different perspectives.

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