

Report on the outcomes of a Short-Term Scientific Mission¹

Action number: CA 18236

Grantee name: Doriana Matraku

Details of the STSM

Title: STSM title: Positive/negative impact of pandemic situation in learning from students' point of view. *Cases of University of Tirana and Valencia*

Start and end date: **21.02.2022 to 25.02.2022**

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

The sudden shift to online learning without any planning -- especially in countries like Albania where the backbone for online learning was not ready and the curriculum was not designed for such a format -- has created the risk of most of our students becoming passive learners and they seem to be losing interest due to low levels of attention span.

The aim of this STSM was to increase and compare competencies and knowledge from students' point of view. The advantages and disadvantages of online learning from students of University of Tirana as a result of gaining experience from developed countries such as Spain.

To reach this goal, the work done was concentrated first in literature review:

From a literature review, I Tried to build the appropriate model to understand and highlight the needs of students. The latest study on the advantages and disadvantages of online learning and the shift from traditional learning to new methods had caused some problems. These problems are more evident in countries like Albania, where there is a lack of modern infrastructure, digitalization and at the same time we have curricula designed for face – to – face teaching. The identification of the need to implement this STSM comes as a result of the need to acquire competencies in improving teaching and the use of relevant methodologies from best practice.

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

This problem was not evident in Valencia, as the university took all the necessary action to help the students with laptops (in some cases needed) and also to take care of the infrastructure.

To reach the goal of this STSM, the host has organized some meetings and together we have prepared some actions:

1- Meeting with the host from University of Valencia:

Davinia Palomares Montero

Departament de Didàctica i Organització Escolar, Facultat de Filosofia i Ciències de l'Educació

Universitat de València

2- Meeting with Santiago Mengual (vice dean of quality), Facultat de Filosofia i Ciències de l'Educació. Santiago explained and showed in details, the actions University of Valencia took to have the possibility of hybrid teaching.

3- Meeting with Inma Chiva (vice dean of mobility), was very important as we discussed in details about future collaboration opportunities. University of Tirana has an Erasmus + agreements with University of Valencia and we will see in the future the possibility to exchange program for students and academic staff.

4- Survey organized for students of University of Tirana and also University of Valencia.

During the meetings with vice deans, and the visit to university, it was clear how quickly the University of Valencia was adapted to new methods of teaching. The halls of the University, were adapted with new technology in order to realize the teaching with the students in the class but also with the students from home (as purpose of the Covid infection).

The university taught physically but there was also the possibility of attending online lectures for students infected by covid.

In order to achieve good results from students, we have prepared a survey distributed to students of University of Tirana and also University of Valencia.

Description of the STSM main achievements and planned follow-up activities

The survey was organized in questions in order to better understand, how prepared were the students for this situation (to shift from face-to-face to on-line learning), what about their IT skills, were they prepared (with internet access or laptops) for this new method of learning?

One of the main goals of this STSM was to better understand the positive and negative impact of e-learning.

Students ranked as positive effect:

- Access to online materials

- Learning on your own place
- Ability to stay at home
- Ability to record a meeting, and follow in another moment
- Ability to have a paid work
- Ability to do something else in the same time

Students ranked as negative effect:

- Technical problems (especially in Albania)
- Social isolation
- Reduced interaction with teacher and also with other students
- Poor learning conditions at home
- Lack of self-discipline

In another section of the survey, we have prepared a comparison analyse between face-to-face and on-line learning in terms of increasing social competences, skills and knowledge.

We took a sample of students from University of Tirana and University of Valencia. We took results from 42% of the students as in quantitative models is a good sample.

We are still working in the case of University of Valencia, and we want to expand the model to include a larger number of students in the future.

The results aim to improve the teaching methods, the ways and impact of digitalization of teaching and learning and also to find other forms of digital techniques.

As a result, from this STSM, I think it is very important to:

1. improve teaching methods in Albania through training process for enable academic staff and students to strengthen their knowledge in IT skills.
2. mixed curricula, updated for online and face-to-face learning, because we can save our natural resources.
3. to strengthen collaborations with Higher Education Institutions outside Albania in order to learn and get the best experiences.

Follow-up process

- Getting more results from students from University of Valencia and enlarge the sample of this study.

Future collaboration:

- We intend to publish our study in a international ranked journal or to present our study in an international conference, presenting two countries, two Universities.