

BCBU+

Barents Cross-Border University Development project 2011 – 2013

Rector's meeting of BCBU network 13. – 14.3.2012 at University of Lapland



Partners and budget

- Funded by Kolarctic ENPI CBC programme (EU)
- Two years (since 18.4.2011)
- Lead by the University of Lapland
- 10 partners from 4 different countries
- Involves 4 Master's programs of BCBU network
 - Environmental Engineering (BEE), Social Work (CSW), IT (GSD3) and Health and Wellbeing (MCH)
- Total budget 944 576 EUR

Country (4)	Partners (10) from BCBU network	Budget (inc. 10% own financing)
FINLAND (2)	University of Lapland	267 604
	University of Oulu	114 648
SWEDEN (1)	University of Luleå Technology	110 032
NORWAY (1)	Narvik University College	130 527
RUSSIA (6)	Murmansk State Humanities University	32 452
	Murmansk State Technical University	51 326
	Northern State Medical University	32 709
	Northern (Arctic) Federal University	120 945
	Karelia State Pedagogical Academy	50 222
	Petrozavodsk State University	34 111

Goals of the project

- To further develop and integrate Master's programmes to regular activities of participating universities.
- To develop models of good practices for implementation and co-operation of master's programmes.
- To make stronger and institutionalise a cross border campus for implementing the master's degree and later for the PhD degree education.

Main activity 1 - Developing the Virtual Campus

To reduce the impact of geographical distance and travel times and develop the cost-effective co-operation and spread the knowledge across borders

Activities:

1.1. To establish a common eLearning and web conference platform

- *Several eLearning tools (ACP, Skype, eLink ect.) and connections are tested and mobilized*
- *The first concrete Virtual classroom is built at MSHU
The classrooms will be built to all Russian universities*
- *Intensive training of Online working has been offered for teachers*
- *BCBU+ eLearning environment Optima has been mobilized*

1.2 To increase availability of academic and research material by translating and disseminating the selected material via Virtual platform

- *Defining of requirements for material has been started*

1.3 To collate BCBU results and publish Cross Border Cooperation handbook to promote the quality of assurance in cross border degrees

- *Planning of the handbook has been started*

Main activity 2 – To find out the Best Practices

- To facilitate the spread of effective and quality teaching and administrative practices and academic knowledge across borders

Activities

2.1 Developing administrative practices:

- Design and pilot the practices of cross border mobility for students, teachers and supervisors. Several exchanges will be organised.
 - Student exchanges (group and individual) to the partner country focusing on professional practice training.
 - Teacher exchanges to the partner country
 - One intensive programme for students and teachers in Rovaniemi
 - Planning of the Multidisciplinary Dialogue - The First Joint Summer School of Finnish – Russian cross-border networks (BCBU and CBU). The school will be organized in Rovaniemi on August 2012.

2.2 Developing of academic practices:

- Support professional development of BCBU teachers and supervisors and quality of teaching.
 - eLearning course in Oulu
 - English course in Arkhangelsk
 - Pedagogy course in Murmansk
 - Intensive work guidance and working methods course in Petrozavodsk

Remarks

- The long-term co-operation in BCBU network is a very good ground for the project co-operation.
- Co-operation between partners worked smoothly and is professional.
- BCBU+ project offers resources and very good tools for concrete co-operation.
- All partners aren't so active and participate in the implementation of activities as it has been planned.
- The most of the planned activities are implemented well.
- Implementation of some activities have taken more time than expected.
 - Delay of procurement of IT-equipment for the virtual classrooms. The partners have postponed the purchase of equipment for the virtual classroom because of the change in the rule of origin. The Russian partners are waiting for a final decision from JMA how to proceed.
 - Lag of IT-equipment has delayed some other virtual activities and the first interim reporting to JMA.
- Administrative issues has taken more time than expected due to insufficient experience in Kolartic ENPI program.
- Budget doesn't involve enough funding for the salaries of different actors (accounting staff, teachers, researchers).
- Cooperation with Joint Management Authority (Regional Council of Lapland) has been good and intensive.
- Knowledge and competence on Kolartic ENPI program has increased a lot in the network.

Upcoming activities

- Pedagogical intensive course for teachers in Murmansk (May 14 – 17, 2012)
- Constructing the virtual classrooms (March – May)
- Benchmarking visits (April – June)
- 3rd Project meeting via videoconference (March 29)
- Internal evaluator Kristiina Jokelainen starts her work (March ->)
- Translating of selected material (March – June)
- 4th Project meeting in Narvik (June 5 -6)
- Student exchange (June, August)
- Multidisciplinary Dialogue – Joint Summer school with CBU network (August 27 -31)

Thank you!

What has been done?

1st year BCBU+ activities

Project Meeting in Luleå and 3rd Steering group meeting (December 8 – 9)

Preparing of 1st interim report to JMA (December – March)

VC: Developing of eLearning platform Optima (November →)

BP: English intensive course for Russian teachers in Arkhangelsk (4 days January 2012)

VC: eLearning intensive course for teachers in Oulu (4 days, November)

BP: Teacher exchange from Ulapland to NArFU beside the English course

ROM / Monitoring (October)

VC: 1st Virtual classroom is constructed at MSHU (March 2012)

VC: Testing of webconference tools and connections (September - December)

BP: Student exchange of MCH students from NArFu to Oulu (March 2012)

BP: Field trip of students in Narvik

Start of the project 19.4.2011

2nd Steering group meeting via videoconference (October)

BP: Field trip of BEE students to Murmansk (May)

ENPI training for all partners via videoconference (10.10.11)

Kick off Meeting and 1st Steering group meeting (June 3-4)

1st pre-payment grant (20%) (August – October)

Partnership agreements (June – October)