



## **Hassiba Benbouali University of Chlef Erasmus Plus programme ICM with IPB**

Hassiba Benbouali University of Chlef is an emerging higher education institution that was founded in 1983. It provides a quality education to more than 32.000 students within Bsc, Msc and PhD levels, taught and supervised by 1100 teachers. Hassiba Benbouali University is ranked among the top ten universities in Algeria. It is structured in nine faculties and one sport institute.

Our university's consultancy committee, during the university development meeting, agreed on the implementation of the exchange strategy for the sake of enhancing the quality of education we offer to students as well as the performance of our staff. This agreement was made, mainly, after having debated the idea during the Spring 2016 consultation meetings about the internationalization of our institution. These meetings were conducted in the form of a study workshop that gathered over 120 experts. The latter discussed their views and experiences and ended up by giving a set of suggestions that versed into the worthiness of the exchange strategy as a developmental one.

Considering the recommendations drawn from the workshop; our university adopted the exchange strategy through targeting the maximum of student exchange, staff mobility and research opportunities.

From this perspective, the Erasmus plus programme is undoubtedly the most appropriate one, as it offers a platform that handles students' exchange, through sending abroad and receiving from abroad, and so is the case for the staff.

Hassiba Benbouali University of Chlef fits the exchange programme regarding its advantageous geographical location, mainly for the fact that Chlef city is situated in the Northern part of Algeria, 180 km to the west of the capital Algiers and 220 km to the east of Oran city, while connected to both cities via the East-west Highway. Chlef city covers a large area, reaching the seaside, which is at 45 km from the city capital. The airport that is based at only 10 km from the university, offers a considerable facility in terms of mobility for the staff as well as guests.

During the academic years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, UHBC conducted an International credit mobility "ICM" with the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança in Portugal, in the field of civil and industrial engineering.

"Change by exchange" is one of our main slogans for the next decade. Actually, the mobility programme does not only influence the local students but also the university's industrial and social partners. During the last year, the university organizes the Erasmus workshop where experts explain to both students and staff the selection procedure and the different opportunities offered by the programme. For the last two years, students have been manifesting an increasing interest in the Erasmus programmes. Having offered the programme opportunities to the elite among the students, this has boosted our students' will and motivation to excel in terms of academic achievement. Moreover, granted students have been showing an advance in terms of new skills acquisition. This was reported by their teachers, as the university management staff set an evaluation system of the impact of the programme on the participants' profiles based mainly on questionnaires and learning behavior's observation. These evaluation tools have revealed a more strategic learning behavior from the participants' part, showing more interest in their studies and being more collaborative with peers.

Considering these acquired capacities we have been working on the dissemination of the impact and the pedagogical benefit, through inviting participants to share their learning trip experience with their peers presented as success stories, while keeping them ready to participate in any future surveys for the sake of obtaining a more accurate evaluation. The dissemination operation covers the university's community, nevertheless we intend to raise the echo to the national level through the publication of articles about the participants successful experiences.

Besides, our industrial partners have been showing a special interest in our granted students for the openness and motivation they manifest as a result of the programmes. The positive impact of the programme is also touched in the mastery of language and communication skills which are considered as key criteria in recruitment contests.

On the basis of this already touched impact we expect a considerable benefit from the programme by exploring new areas of mobility, as we believe that it will raise the university's pedagogical yield potential. However we look forward to manage to develop channels of collaboration in terms of curricula development and research projects, as we count a considerable number of PHD researcher who can be supervised by supervisors from partner universities.

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