



ROAMING

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The Project

ROAMING - Strengthening International Staff & Student Mobility Offices in the West Balkans

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The overarching goal of the ROAMING Project is to reduce the unbalanced international mobility uptake of underprivileged students and staff of remote and less privileged HEIs in the West Balkans. ROAMING aims to reach the goal by strengthening the capacity of their International Relations Offices through several means and two main objectives:

1. A more efficient integration of participating HEIs' Internationalization Strategy with their International Credit Mobility (ICM) policy and international credit transfer pursuant ICM
2. The very strengthening of the capacity of the participating HEIs' IROs through policy interventions, physical and technical infrastructural enhancement and human capacity building through a series of trainings.

ROAMING Partner Institutions



Consortium: Logos University College (LOGOS), Coordinator
(Albania)



Universiteti Polis Sh.P.K. (U-POLIS), Beneficiary
(Albania)



Panepistimio Dytikis Makedonias (UOWM), Beneficiary
(Greece)



International University of Struga (IUS), Beneficiary
(Republic of North Macedonia)



International Business College Mitrovica (IBC-M), Beneficiary
(Kosovo)

RIT | Kosovo

RIT Kosovo (A.U.K) College, Beneficiary
(Kosovo)



Univerzitet Mediteran Podgorica Privatna Ustanova (UNIMED),
Beneficiary (Montenegro)

Work packages:

WP1. Management;
WP2. (Re-)Configuration of IROs;
WP3. Development & Enhancement of IROs;
WP4. Quality Assurance;
WP5. Dissemination & Exploitation;

Lead: LOGOS
Lead: U_POLIS
Lead: UOWM
Lead: IBC-M
Lead: A.U.K

ROAMING Project kicked-off

ROAMING project held its Kick Off and First General Management meetings. During this event, representatives from the consortium partners gathered to lay the groundwork for the project's objectives, discuss the allocation of resources, and establish a shared vision. The meeting also served as an opportunity to define the key milestones and deliverables that will guide the project's progress in the coming months.

The consortium of seven partners held the Kick-Off meeting of the project at the LOGOS premises in Tirana on March 22-24 of 2023. During the kick-off meeting the participants managed to finalize:

1. **Signing of the consortium agreement by all partners**
2. **Compilation of the needs and wants assessment document**
3. **Finalization and approval of the project management plan.**

Consortium member participants in the Kick-off meeting



Quality Monitoring Action Plan

International Business College - Mitrovica (IBCM) as the leading partner of the Quality Assurance work package for the ROAMING (Strengthening International Student and Staff Mobility Offices in Western Balkans) Project developed the Quality Monitoring Action Plan.

The purpose of the Quality Monitoring Action Plan is to define the actions and measures that have to be taken by each partner within a consortium with the aim to ensure that, not only the activities described in the application are completed according to the Work Plan, but also to ensure that the quality of these activities is at the appropriate standard and in line with the QA procedures in EU universities, as well as in compliance with the contractual requirements of the Project.

The purpose of Quality Monitoring Action Plan is:

1. to provide assurance that the project is being conducted appropriately and in compliance with the project application, and decided regulations and standards;
2. to provide a project reference document of the quality assurance, control procedures and standards applicable to the project;
3. to describes the projects standards, procedures, techniques and tools that will be used to ensure the quality of its outputs throughout the project life.

Dissemination Strategy and other relevant dissemination products

RIT Kosovo as the leading partner of the Dissemination and Exploitation work package for the ROAMING Project developed the Dissemination Strategy as well as generated several relevant dissemination products and templates. Work package 5 contains work related to the Dissemination and Exploitation of the knowledge generated throughout the ROAMING project.

The main goal of this work package is to ensure continuous dissemination activities through raising awareness for the utility and service of IRO's in each HEI involved in the project, thereby ensuring transparency in every phase of the project.

Through the dissemination of the results and findings to reach stakeholders, target groups, and the public, to the goal of ensuring that the results and activities of the ROAMING project are fully disseminated to project partners, target groups, stakeholders and the public at large will be met.

Specific dissemination and communication objectives of the ROAMING Project include, among others:

1. Coordination of dissemination products with the consortium and relevant stakeholders
2. Organization of at least 5 ICM orientation weeks with a minimum of 250 participants, one in each institution
3. Organization of the final conference as a public event where aside from the partners within the project, other stakeholders will be invited.

University of Western Macedonia and International University of Struga hosted study visits for Western Balkan Universities

The aim of the visits was to explore best practices in international cooperation and draw inspiration from UOWM and IUSG experienced International Relations Offices (IRO). During the visits, participants had the opportunity to gain insights into the structure of UOWM's IRO, including its internationalization strategy objectives and priorities for international cooperation. Various approaches for fostering collaboration between potential partners were discussed, such as online or modular courses, lecture exchanges, visiting staff programs, summer schools, and joint programs.

The hosting universities prepared a questionnaire that covered organizational issues of IROs, cooperation and mobility structures of students and staff, and criteria and priorities for international cooperation.

Participants engaged in discussions about the autonomy and administrative structure of their respective IROs, as well as the coordination with faculties and departments. They also shared their criteria for choosing international partners, highlighted the involvement of students in international initiatives, and exchanged insights on raising awareness about mobility opportunities. The study visits emphasized the importance of support services for students and staff, including mental and physical health, cultural activities, volunteering, and greater accessibility for vulnerable social groups.

During a roundtable discussion, the results of the previous day's questionnaire were presented and analyzed. Key findings revealed that a significant proportion of IROs operated as autonomous units with clear administrative structures, and there was coordination between faculties/departments and IROs in the majority of cases. Respondents also expressed similar criteria and priorities for choosing international partners and emphasized the involvement of students in international cooperation initiatives.

University of Western Macedonia

The University of Western Macedonia (UOWM) welcomed 13 representatives from consortium partners of Western Balkan Universities for a productive Study Visit on May 15-16, 2023.

To illustrate IRO strategies in action, the organizers delved into a case study on the "Development of a network of universities in Green Transition Areas," in which UOWM played a strategic role as a partner.

The study visit at UOWM concluded with detailed discussions on the selection procedures and support services provided to students and staff, facilitating an enriching exchange of ideas and experiences among the participants.

Members of the consortium discussion on best IRO practices at UOWM



International University of Struga

The International University of Struga (IUST) welcomed 14 representatives from consortium partners of Western Balkan Universities on May 29-30, 2023. The aim of the visit was to provide insights into the organizational structure and strategic framework of IUST's International Relations Office (IRO) and learn from the experience of a young, yet rapidly growing university. Cultural differences between the Western Balkans region and other regions were recognized as a common challenge. Academic staff stressed the importance of gradually addressing these differences and preparing self-assured students who are ready to embrace mobility programs.

Participants of the consortium members at the study visit in IUST



ROAMING Webpage and Social Media pages have been launched

RIT Kosovo, as one of the partnering Higher Education Institutions in the Erasmus Project ROAMING, is the lead university in terms of Dissemination and Exploitation of the knowledge gathered and generated throughout the project lifecycle.

RIT Kosovo team, in close cooperation with partners and the service provider, developed an aesthetic webpage for the project as well as a number of social media platforms.

You may visit the webpage at www.roamingproject.org

We also invite you to follow the ROAMING Project social media links seen below for real-time updates on the development of the project:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/roaming.project>



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/roaming-project/>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/roaming.erasmus/>



Dr. Christina Kontogoulidou selected as ROAMING External Quality Assessment Auditor

Dr. Christina Kontogoulidou was selected for the role of the External Quality Assessment Auditor for the ROAMING Project. With over 25 years of experience as the Head of International and Public Relations Office at the University of Pireus, Greece, Dr. Kontogoulidou brings exceptional leadership and strategic thinking to the project.

Beyond her administrative role, she is also an accomplished adjunct lecturer in Health Management & Economics at the same university, where she completed her doctoral studies. Her extensive academic teaching experience has provided her with a deep understanding of the field.

Dr. Kontogoulidou's achievements extend beyond academia, having successfully coordinated and managed various European programs, including ERASMUS+ projects. In recognition of her contributions, she was honoured with the title of "ERASMUS Minister" by the European Association of ERASMUS coordinators (EAEC) in 2013. Her exceptional work led to her appointment as Vice-President of the European Association of ERASMUS coordinators (EEACE) in 2014.



**Dr. Christina
Kontogoulidou**
External Quality
Assessment Auditor

Tendering documents for equipping International Relations Offices have been drafted

POLIS as the lead institution for the second Work Package – Re-Configuration of IRO has successfully completed the deliverable for Equipment in service of IRO enhancement. As part of the work package, this crucial task has been implemented to streamline the overall processes and empower our IRO team.

In this endeavour, each country initiated a procurement/tendering process to procure the designated equipment. This will result in the acquisition of brand-new equipment to enhance their respective IROs. This equipment will greatly facilitate our work and further strengthen our commitment to delivering exceptional services.



Development or enhancement of an ICM strategy

POLIS as the lead institution for the second Work Package – Re-Configuration of IRO has successfully finalized the ICM strategy that was drafted in cooperation with the partnering institutions. As part of (re)configuration of IROs, this fundamental deliverable has been completed to ensure that the strategies are oriented towards approaching students and staff with fewer opportunities, like people with different abilities, vulnerable stratum etc.

The consortium members worked together to draft strategies tailored to their needs and circumstances. Main objectives of the strategy included but were not limited to:

1. Enhance accessibility and utilizing technology to support mobility,
2. Raise awareness and provide training for successful mobility experiences,
3. Foster collaboration and engagement with international partners,
4. Develop the infrastructure and allocating resources to support ICM.



Development or revision of protocols regulating mobility procedures during all of its phases (before, during, after) with emphasis on students and staff with fewer opportunities.

Following up on the development of ICM strategies for the partner institutions, POLIS as the lead institution for the second Work Package – Re-Configuration of IRO has successfully finalized the development (or revision when relevant) of protocols regulating mobility procedures during all of its phases: before the students and staff take on the mobility opportunity, during their exchange experience as well as after the students and staff complete their experience abroad and return to their home campus to proceed with their academic activities.

Dedicated protocols were developed with emphasis on students and staff with fewer opportunities. This phase of the project represented a continuation and fragmentation of the ICM Strategies, where specific aspects and important aspect were brought into consideration.

Considering the knowledge acquired by the participants from the study visits to UOWM and IUST, the consortium members were able to address a realistic revision of protocols which will be used to regulate the mobility procedures. The procedures are detailed in the three phases, during the informative phase (before), the period of mobility (during) and after the return from the mobility.

Students with fewer mobilities are considered to have a specific focus during this phase, to address the necessary approaches and protocols in order to facilitate mobility processes for them.

Other Dissemination Activities

Title: Press release, after two study visits at UOWM & IUST, by LOGOS.

Why: To share best models & practices regarding the organizational structure and strategic framework of the host universities' International Relations Office

Project output: Internalisation of HEIs

Target audience Reached: Specific end user communities; local authorities; civil society.

What? Type of dissemination activity: clustering activity

Study Visits in Kozani, Greece & Struga North Macedonia

Two delegations from LOGOS University College participated in study visits at the University of Western Macedonia (UOWM), Kozani, Greece and the International University of Struga (IUST), North Macedonia on 15-16 and 29-30 May 2023, respectively. The purpose of the study visits was to share best models and practices regarding the organizational structure and strategic framework of the host universities' International Relations Office (IROs), their operations and synergies. During the visit, the participants were introduced to the respective IROs, including the various types and range of projects accomplished under Erasmus+, student and staff selection procedures, inter-institutional agreements, development strategies, as well as the limitations and barriers to foster internationalization.

LOGOS University College was represented in both study visits with mixed groups of academic and administrative staff. Assoc. Prof. Konstantinos Giakoumis, Dr. Emira Spahaj and Ms. Parashqevi Avdylaj were in Kozani; while Dr. Valbona Nathanaili, Dr. Ledia Sula and Ms. Anisa Duka participated in Struga. Both study visits were part of the ERASMUS+ CBHE Project No. 101083070 titled "Strengthening International Staff & Student Mobility Offices in the West Balkans," with the illustrative acronym ROAMING. The project is conducted by a consortium of seven HEIs (5 from the West Balkans, 1 from a European country and 1 from a country associated to the ERASMUS programmes), under the leadership of LOGOS University College.

LOGOS University College believes that internationalization provides opportunities for universities to become key mediators in the encounter between world and national cultures; hence, internationalization is an important strategic priority of the institution, as stated in its Strategic Development Plan. The ROAMING project and its study visits are part of LOGOS' plans to further develop mobility of students and staff - academic and administrative (Strategic Priority No. 5, Objective 2) and enhance international academic partnerships aimed at joint research and development projects (Strategic Priority No. 5, Objective 3).

<https://erasmus.kulogos.edu.al/erasmus-projects/roaming>

Title: Roaming Communication with LOGOS

Description: A meeting was organised with LOGOS University College's academic and administrative staff members to raise awareness of the project, its products and requirements.

Who? Target audience reached: Specific end user communities; local authorities; civil society.

How? Communication channel: Event, meeting

Link: <https://erasmus.kulogos.edu.al/erasmus-projects/roaming>

Outcome: 21 staff members; social media coverage: Instagram, 2340 followers & 5,022 following; Facebook, 4,2 K followers

Status: Delivered



Joint virtual meeting of members of Project & General Management Groups

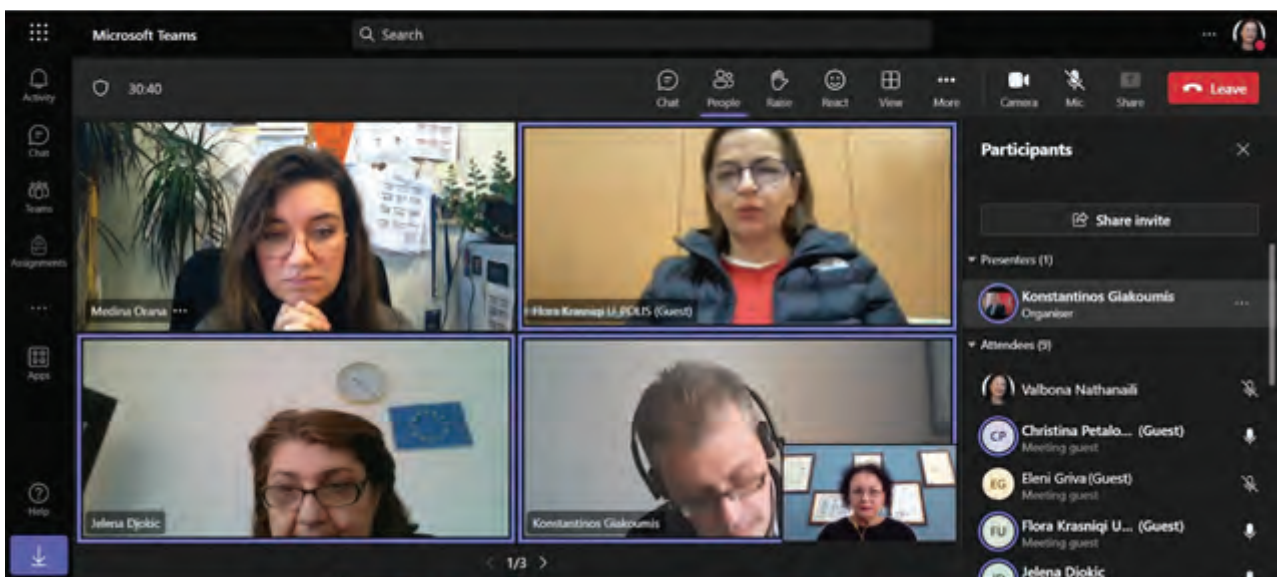
Description: On Wednesday, 1 March 2023 at 10.30 (GMT +1), the members of the ROAMING Project's Management Committee (PMC) were invited to attend a first initialization joint meeting of PMC group together with the General Management (Steering) Committee (GMC) group. Deliberations & Decisions: Drafts of 4.1. The Partnership and/or Consortium Agreement, 4.2. The Project Management Plan and 4.3. The Needs & Wants Analysis Survey are to be submitted for consultation by 10 March 2023, any feedback to be moderated by 15 March 2023, targeting to approve and share the final version of these documents by 17 March 2023. If not the entire document, elements of the Quality Monitoring Action Plan related to the assessment of quality in: i) the procedures of appointing decision-making structures; ii) the procedures of approving the documents above; iii) the substance of these documents; iv) organization, content and delivery of the kick-off meeting are to follow the same dead-lines.

Who? Target audience reached: Members of Project Management Plan Group and General Management

How? Communication channel: Event, meeting on-line, through TEAMS

Outcome: Members of above the groups from ROAMING.

Status: Delivered



Title: **ROAMING awareness meeting**

Description: A Radio programme was broadcasted at Radio Ngjallja (broadcasting throughout the Republic of Albania) on 17 March 2023. The programme was presented by Dr. Valbona Nathanaili and Dr. Blerta Avdia.

Who? Target audience reached: Citizens <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLRoY19uHqg>

How? Communication channel: TV/Radio campaign

Outcome: 1910 subscribers,

Status: Delivered

Statement on Inclusion by Mimika Dobroshi – Head of Kosovo Erasmus Office

The Regulations establishing the Erasmus+ program define “(young) people with fewer opportunities’ as “(young) people who, for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons, due to their migrant background, or for reasons such as disability or educational difficulties or for any other reason, including a reason that could give rise to discrimination under Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, face obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the Programme;” The main target groups of this strategy are people with fewer opportunities in life, which put them at a disadvantaged situation compared to their peers as to participating in the programmes and/or in education and training systems. Those people may find themselves in such a disadvantaged situation because of one or more of the exclusion factors (i.e. disability, cultural differences, socio-economic barriers, discrimination of any kind, geographical barriers). The Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programme places a strong focus on social inclusion as one of the four horizontal priorities along the green and digital transitions, and promoting young people’s participation in democratic life. The Programme seeks to promote equal opportunities and access, inclusion, diversity and fairness across all its actions. In order to implement these principles, an Inclusion and Diversity Strategy covering all programme fields is devised to support an easier access to funding for a wider range of organizations, and to better reach out to more participants with fewer opportunities. In Partner Countries, EU Delegations and National Erasmus+ Offices (NEOs) are also key in bringing the programme closer to the target groups addressed by this strategy.

What Kosovo Erasmus Office is trying to do in the next period is organize a Thematic Cluster meeting with all project previous and current addressing inclusion – discuss their impact so far and devise a set of recommendation together with other stakeholders such as MESTI and public and private Universities in Kosovo which will be used a guideline for addressing special needs access related to mobility of students and staff in the future.



Mimika Dobroshi
Head of Kosovo
Erasmus Office

TL;DR

Main activities for the first quarter of project life cycle:

ROAMING Project aims to strengthen international staff & student mobility offices of higher education institutions in the west Balkans.

General Management, Steering Committee and Quality Monitoring Committee members were appointed and held their initial meetings prior to the kick-off meeting.

ROAMING Project started its implementation on February 1, 2023, and held its kick-off meeting in Tirana in March 22-24, 2023.

IBCM as the leading partner of the Quality Assurance work package for the ROAMING Project developed the Quality Monitoring Action Plan in May, 2023.

RIT Kosovo as the leading partner of the Dissemination and Exploitation work package for the ROAMING Project developed the Dissemination Strategy and generated several relevant dissemination products and templates.

UOWM and IUSG hosted study visits for the rest of the Western Balkan Universities on May 15-16 and May 29-30, respectively.

RIT Kosovo as the leading partner of the Dissemination and Exploitation work package for the ROAMING Project launched the project website www.roamingproject.org.

Dr. Christina Kontogoulidou from the University of Piraeus in Greece was selected as ROAMING External Quality Assessment Auditor.

POLIS as the leading partner of the (Re-)Configuration of IROs work package for the ROAMING Project successfully completed the tendering portion of the deliverable for Equipment in service of IRO enhancement.

POLIS as the leading partner of the (Re-)Configuration of IROs work package for the ROAMING Project successfully completed the development or enhancement of ICM (International Credit Mobility) Strategies for the Western Balkan Universities



Co-funded by
the European Union

The consortium is composed of:



R O A M I N G

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