

www.roamingproject.org



Table of contents

Dr. Kontogoulidou Hosted a Delegation	2
IRO Enhancement	3
LOGOS Discussion & Development Module	4
Brikena Avdyli	5
RIT Kosovo's ICM Week	7
International University of Struga's ICM Week	10
University of Western Macedonia ICM Week	11
Kolegji Universitar LOGOS' ICM Week	13
IBC-M ICM Week	14
Mediterranean University Montenegro's ICM Week	15
POLIS University's ICM Week	16
Mariel Laclere	17
ROAMING Project Advances	20
TL: DR	21

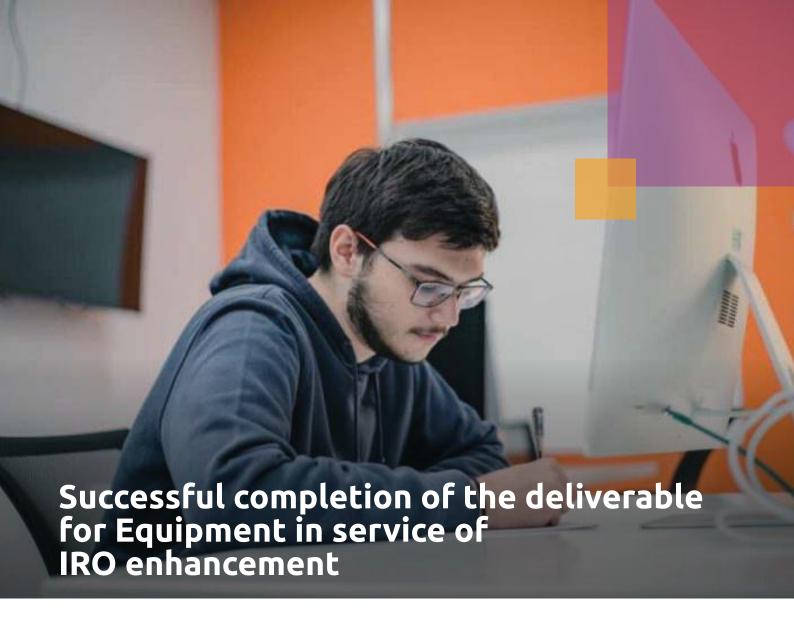


Dr. Christina Kontogoulidou, the ROAMING Project's external quality expert from the University of Piraeus in Greece, welcomed a delegation from partner universities under the Erasmus+ ICM program. The delegation included representatives from Ben-Gurion University in Israel, Mekelle University in Ethiopia, United States International University in Kenya, and Machakos University, also based in Kenya.

During their visit, Dr. Kontogoulidou provided the delegation with comprehensive insights into the ROAMING project, explaining its significance for universities in their respective nations. The partner universities exhibited a strong interest in engaging with various project activities, recognizing its value and potential impact.

The ROAMING team is actively collaborating with these universities to explore avenues for cooperation. This partnership will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise, contributing meaningfully to the project's overarching goals.

The ROAMING project continues to make progress in advancing mobility programs and academic collaboration for underprivileged communities. With the involvement of these esteemed partner universities, the project is poised for further growth, ushering in transformative developments in higher education.



The ROAMING Project team successfully completed the equipment deliverable for IRO enhancement. This milestone was achieved as part of the second Work Package – ReConfiguration of IROs, which aimed to optimize processes and empower our IRO teams.

As a part of this effort, each country initiated a procurement/tendering process to acquire the necessary equipment, enhancing their respective IROs. These new tools will greatly streamline our work processes and reinforce our commitment to delivering exceptional services.

We extend our gratitude to all our partners for their support and collaboration. Together, we are advancing IRO operations, which will serve to benefit our valued stakeholders, and promote international cooperation.



On July 4, 2023, LOGOS University College organized a module for academic and administrative staff discussion and development at its premises. Entitled "Internationalization: European and Regional Trends with an Introspective Look at LOGOS," the objective of the session was to prompt reflections on the current trends of internationalization in Albania within the European and regional Higher Education Area (HEA), and to assess our institution's position within this context. The event was attended by members of both academic and administrative staff.

The training session covered various topics, including internationalization strategies within the European and regional HEA, and LOGOS's role in this context. It also addressed internationalization, International Credit Mobility (ICM), and the involvement of academic, administrative staff, and students, particularly those from marginalized groups. Internationalization serves as a fundamental principle at LOGOS University College, aiming to provide inclusive opportunities at both national and international levels for staff and students alike.

Five Tips and Tricks to Increase Diversity and Inclusion in Universities

Universities play a crucial role in teaching younger generations that diversity is a value, not a threat. By doing so, we educate new generations to cherish differences and collaborate for the betterment of society. However, the process of teaching students about diversity and inclusion is not easy. Given that many societies are divided due to various issues, young people are often raised with a mentality of "us" versus "them", and universities have a powerful role in dismantling this categorization. Below are five tips and tricks to help them do it.

Strategic Recruitment:

It is essential for universities to conduct internal assessments of their current level of diversity and set objectives for the level they want to achieve. Reaching students from communities outside of the mainstream student body can be challenging, particularly for private universities that are often considered unaffordable. Strategic recruitment through channels that can access target students, along with incentives such as scholarships and financial aid, is crucial. Providing students with access to peers from different communities fosters the unlearning of "us" versus "them" mentalities.

Inclusive and Clear Policies:

Policies guide behavior by clarifying the non-negotiable values and norms of the university. Unclear or non-inclusive policies signal that diversity and inclusion are not priorities, potentially allowing individuals to engage in unacceptable behavior. Conversely, clear policies that prioritize diversity send a strong message that discriminatory behavior will not be tolerated, serving as an effective deterrent.



Diverse Faculty and Staff Representation:

Representation of diversity in faculty and staff goes even beyond inclusive policies and serves as a powerful example for students. Exposure to role models from different communities breaks down "us" versus "them" mentalities. Students may come to admire professors from groups they had previously judged, realizing that individuals from these groups can be successful with equal access to quality education and opportunities.

Capacity Building Activities:

It is not just the students who need to unlearn "us" versus "them" mentalities. Unconscious biases contribute to social divides and may lead to discriminatory behavior, for which the individuals may not be aware of. Universities should conduct diversity and inclusion capacity-building activities to reinforce these values and address potential unconscious biases. By raising awareness of these biases, individuals can take steps to address them.

Engage the Community:

Inclusive efforts should involve all stakeholders, including parents, who play a significant role in shaping their children's perspectives. Activities focused on diversity and inclusion should bring together students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and community members to learn together. By engaging the broader community, universities can more effectively shape generations of youth with open minds and hearts.

RIT Kosovo's ICM Week: Celebrating Diversity, Resilience, and Community

During International Credit Mobility (ICM) Week, RIT Kosovo, hosted a series of impactful events which were centered around diversity for students, faculty, and staff. The aim of ICM Week was to bring various stakeholders together to discuss the importance of access to mobility opportunities and how it impacts an individual's ability to grow personally and professionally.

Cultural Connections Over Lunch Event: The ICM Week commenced with an engaging "Cultural Connections Over Lunch" event. International freshman students at RIT Kosovo participated in stimulating discussions which fostered a sense of community and mutual understanding. Participants were able to share more about themselves and learned more about their peers in the process over lunch.

Diversity and Inclusion Open Discussion: Emphasizing diversity and inclusion, RIT Kosovo organized an open discussion where consortium partners shared best practices. Led by Brikena Avdyli, an expert in Diversity and Inclusion and an RIT Kosovo faculty member, this session aimed to ensure active participation from a diverse range of students and staff.

Journey of Resilience Talk: RIT Kosovo alum Arbias Llolluni, delivered an inspiring talk on resilience. Llolluni shared insights into technological breakthroughs and their impact on societal development, showcasing the exciting opportunities available to RIT Kosovo students.

Everyone in Everything Event: The final event featured various stakeholders within the RIT Kosovo community. Mr. Perparim Rama, the Mayor of Prishtina, was also in attendance for the event which highlighted capacity-building projects and included presentations, discussions, and personal testimonials from partner institutions and students.

Furthermore, RIT Kosovo actively participated in and co-organized joint events with partner institutions, contributing insights on social inclusion and facilitating networking opportunities for students, staff, and faculty.

These events not only demonstrated RIT Kosovo's dedication to diversity, inclusion, and global connectivity but also underscored its commitment to excellence in education and community engagement. The resounding success of the ICM Week was a testament to RIT Kosovo's efforts in enriching the educational journey of its students.





On October 12, 2023, the International University of Struga organized Erasmus+ Day- a day dedicated to fostering a sense of unity between various university groups. The event brought students, faculty, and staff together to provide more information on the exciting opportunities that extend beyond borders and provide academically and personally enriching experiences.

Head of IRO Lirinda Vako, Erasmus+ Coordinator Semra Bujari, member of the Roaming project Nazmije M. Zabzun coordinated the event and under their leadership, students and staff had a detailed presentation about Erasmus+ Programme, including mobilities, opportunities and grants offered by the European Commission. Erasmus+ Day enabled students who have participated in the program to share their various transformative experiences. They explained the significant impact their time abroad had on them, the academic insights gained, and the friendships formed.

The International University of Struga is committed to cultivating a nurturing environment where students can thrive both locally and abroad. As Erasmus+ Day unfolded, the International University of Struga's dedication to embracing diversity and creating a global learning environment reinforced the idea that education knows no borders.



ICM Week- Erasmus+ Day – University of Western Macedonia

An Erasmus+ Info Day about the mobility opportunities that the Erasmus+ programme offers to students and staff members was organised by the University of Western Macedonia in honour of the Erasmus Days. The event took place on Kastoria Campus on Thursday 12th October 2023 from 11:00 to 15:00.

The aim of the event was to promote the benefits of the Erasmus+ programme and to enhance understanding and awareness of Erasmus+ among students and academic staff. Erasmus+ is a programme that enables its participants to explore new cultures, enhance their language skills and embrace European values such as tolerance, respect and diversity.

Throughout the event, Ms Aikaterini Blanta, the Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator of the University of Western Macedonia, presented the mobility opportunities that the Erasmus+ programme offers to students and staff members, emphasized the importance of internationalisation and intercultural communication in Higher Education and encouraged student and staff participation.

Moreover, students and staff members were motivated to explore the possibilities of participating in Erasmus+ exchange and were informed about eligibility criteria, application procedures, and available destinations. They were also given the opportunity to know more about the achieved results of the programme in the previous academic years. At the end of the event, both students and staff members asked several questions and shared their experiences and good practices with the rest of the audience. The feedback received from all the participants was extremely positive and the overall impression of the event was more than encouraging.



Throughout Erasmus Days week, LOGOS University College hosted International Mobility Week events on October 10th, 11th, and 12th, each focusing on a specific theme. Over the course of these three days, both collaborative and individual events were organized in partnership with the ROAMING consortium.

Day 1, Tuesday, October 10th: Activities were conducted with the academic staff.

Day 2, Wednesday, October 11th: Events were held with the administration.

Day 3, Thursday, October 12th: Events were organized for the students.

During this week, intensive meetings were conducted both online and on

LOGOS University College's campus. These events served as a reminder of the indispensable role that the Erasmus program plays in fostering a sense of global citizenship and solidarity among students, educators, and communities alike.





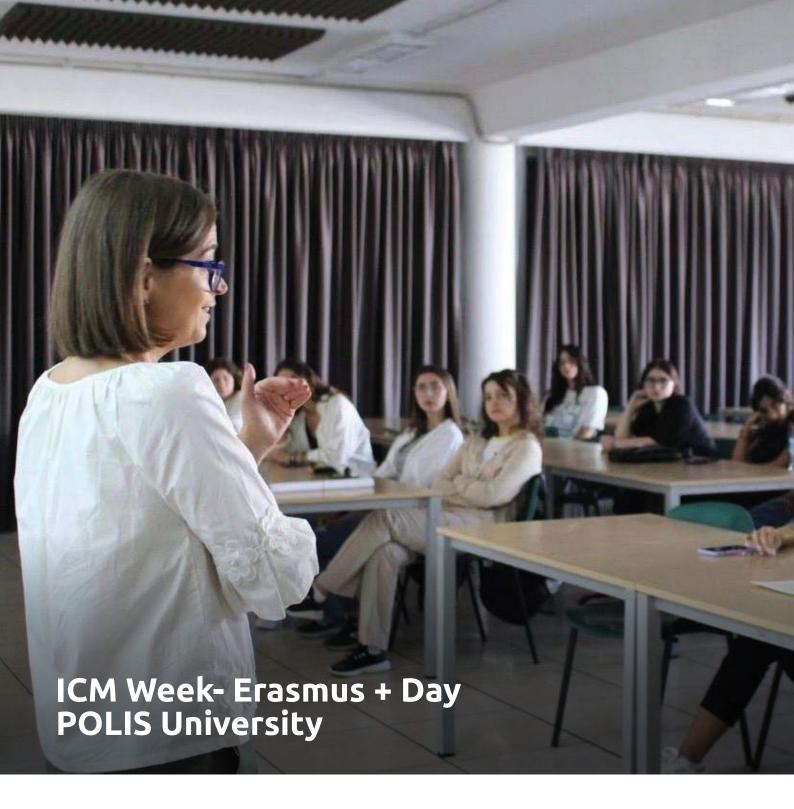
During ERASMUS+ week, from October 9th to 14th, 2023, the IBC-M team leading the ROAMING project orchestrated a series of events to mark ERASMUS+ Days. These gatherings united IBC-M students, faculty, and staff to deliberate on the advantages of international projects and mobilities (ICM and CBHE). Recognizing the pivotal role of internationalization in delivering top-tier education, IBC-M aims to expand participation by leveraging the expertise of its international partners involved in ROAMING.



ICM Week- Erasmus + Day- Mediterranean University Montenegro

Erasmus Day was held at the Mediterranean University, through which mobility offers were promoted for staff and students, as part of the University's internationalization strategy.

Erasmus day was held through the ROAMING project, which was financed by the European Commission.



In the framework of the project ROAMING, Polis University organized its ICM activities Erasmus Days on the 8th and 9th of October 2023. Students and faculty had the opportunity to learn about different mobility possibilities within our current projects, step-by-step procedures before, during, and after the mobility, as well as hear first-hand experiences of alumni. Additionally, attention was also paid to aspiring applicants with fewer opportunities, guiding them through the application process and further scholarship sources.



Mariel Leclere – Mental Health Consultant with a PhD in Cognitive Psychology

Dear incredible students,

Embarking on an international mobility journey is not just about traveling; it's about transforming your life, and this project can make an irreversible difference in your student achievement life, an among these differences, let's cite six milestones.

Opportunity for Personal Growth and Empowerment:

Applying in international mobilities or exchanges is your chance for you to grow, to step beyond what you know and dive into a pool of new experiences and learning. No matter where you come from or the challenges you've faced, this program is a beacon of empowerment, designed to help you realize your potential. It's about breaking down barriers, not just geographically but those that exist within us. Imagine gaining confidence, skills, and insights that no classroom could ever provide!

Enhanced Academic and Professional Opportunities:

Indeed, academically and professionally, the doors that exchange programs open are unparalleled! Through exchange programs, you are not just earning credits, but you are building a foundation for your future career. International credit mobility, ensures your hard work is recognized and rewarded back home and beyond. It's an opportunity to stand out, to show the world and future employers the unique perspective and drive you bring to the table.

Support and Capacity Building:

We understand the journey can seem daunting, which is why support is at the core of the international exchange offices at you universities. From policy interventions to infrastructural and human capacity enhancements, every step you take with us is supported. Our International Relations Offices are equipped to guide you, ensuring a smooth and enriching experience throughout your exchange.

Cultural Exchange and Global Understanding:

The value of cultural exchange cannot be overstated. By stepping into a new culture, learning a new language, and seeing the world through a different lens, you are not just a student, but more than this, you are a global citizen. These experiences are about building bridges, understanding diversity, and creating a more connected world.

Networking and Community Building:

Networking and building a community with peers from across the globe will be one of the most rewarding aspects of your journey. These connections will become your support network, friends, and possibly even future colleagues. The community you build will extend far beyond the duration of the exchange, offering benefits that last a lifetime.

Accessibility and Inclusivity:

Dear students, remember that this program champions accessibility and inclusivity for every for you! Your background, your struggles, and your doubts do not define your potential. The ROAMING project is here to ensure that every student, regardless of their socioeconomic or geographical starting point, has the opportunity to thrive, grow and shine thanks to their multiple and diverse skills!

So please, take this step, not just for the academic credits, but for the life-changing experiences, the friendships, the professional network, and the personal growth. Let's embark on this journey all together, breaking new ground and reaching new heights that are waiting for you!

Do not hesitate one more second, and come on the RAOMING board to strive and grow!!!



RIT Kosovo (A.U.K.) had the pleasure of hosting our ROAMING partners on March 4th and 5th for training sessions pertaining to Work Package 3 – Development and Enhancement of IROs. Throughout the training, partners gained insight into student and staff support from our trainers from the University of West Macedonia, Ms. Aikaterinni Blanta and Ms. Malamati Tzonou. Participants learned more about supporting students, academic, and administrative staff before, during, and after a mobility. We also reviewed case studies and held interesting discussions on the material covered throughout the day. Additionally, we had the pleasure of having Ms. Nazmije Merko and Ms. Semra Bujari from IUST host trainings on ICM transfer and recognition principles and processes. Participants learned more about the international credit transfer system, credit transfer and recognition processes, recognition principles and processes with a specific focus on key protocols. Over the course of two days, all participants learned more about how we can enhance our IROs and realize key milestones for the ROAMING project moving forward.

TL; DR

Main activities for the second quarter of the project life cycle:

Dr. Kontogoulidou engaged partner universities in the Erasmus+ program, fostering collaboration. ROAMING completed IRO equipment upgrades, enhancing operations.

The ROAMING Project team successfully completed the equipment deliverable for IRO enhancement.

LOGOS University College held a staff development session on internationalization trends, focusing on Albania's position in the European and regional Higher Education Area. The event discussed strategies and roles within internationalization, emphasizing inclusivity for marginalized groups.

Brikena Avdyli suggests five strategies for universities to enhance diversity and inclusion: strategic recruitment, clear policies, diverse faculty representation, capacity-building activities to address biases, and engaging the community to shape inclusive perspectives.

RIT Kosovo hosted ICM Week focusing on diversity and mobility, featuring events like cultural discussions, diversity talks, and community engagement, demonstrating a strong commitment to global connectivity and education excellence.

International University of Struga organized Erasmus+ Day to promote unity and highlight opportunities beyond borders, showcasing transformative experiences of students and emphasizing the university's commitment to global education and diversity.

University of Western Macedonia organized an Erasmus+ Info Day to promote mobility opportunities and raise awareness among students and staff about the program's benefits, emphasizing internationalization and intercultural communication in Higher Education. The event received positive feedback and encouraged participation in Erasmus+ exchanges.

IBC-M organized events during ERASMUS+ Week to highlight the benefits of international projects and mobilities, emphasizing the importance of internationalization in education and collaboration with ROAMING partners.

IBC-M organized events during ERASMUS+ Week to highlight the benefits of international projects and mobilities, emphasizing the importance of internationalization in education and collaboration with ROAMING partners.

LOGOS University College hosted International Mobility Week events throughout Erasmus Days week, engaging academic staff, administration, and students in activities highlighting the importance of global citizenship and solidarity through the Erasmus program.

Erasmus Day at Mediterranean University promoted staff and student mobility as part of the internationalization strategy, facilitated by the ROAMING project funded by the European Commission.

Polis University's ICM activities during Erasmus Days in October 2023 covered various mobility opportunities, procedures, alumni experiences, and support for applicants with fewer opportunities, aiming to inform and guide students and faculty.

Mariel Leclere encourages students to embrace international mobility for personal growth, enhanced academic and professional opportunities, supported by cultural exchange, networking, and inclusivity. The ROAMING project aims to empower students regardless of background, fostering life-changing experiences and connections.

RIT Kosovo hosted specialized trainings for ROAMING partners on IRO development and mobility support, featuring insights from experts on student and staff assistance, ICM transfer processes, and recognition principles to enhance project milestones.



The consortium is composed of:

















