

BOKU hosts... Erasmus+ project partners

A best-practice example for international project weeks

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Project EDULIVE

EDULIVE – Transforming Higher Education to strengthen links between universities and the livestock sector in Argentina and Peru is a project in the field of Capacity Building in Higher Education, co-funded by Erasmus+. This three-year project (2015-2018) counts with 18 partners in Europe, Argentina and Peru and coordination lies with BOKU. EDULIVE is based on the knowledge triangle approach¹ and aims at improving university programs on Animal Science in Peru and Argentina by strengthening cooperation between universities, research institutions and stakeholders (be it farmers' organizations, private companies or NGOs) in the livestock sector (focus on alpaca fiber, sheep wool and dairy cattle).

Europe visit 2017 -- two weeks in Austria and Spain

The project is directed at the staff level of universities. A central part of the staff training is a yearly visit to Europe to exchange views, strategies and different realities of university structures. Each of the four partner universities - *UNALM-Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina* in Lima-Peru, *UNSAAC-Universidad Nacional San Antonio Abad del Cusco* in Cusco-Peru, *UNR-Universidad Nacional de Rosario* in Rosario-Argentina and *UNCO-Universidad Nacional del Comahue* in Neuquén-Argentina - can select 2 professors linked to the practical education of students. In 2016, the group went to *UCM-Universidad Complutense de Madrid* in Madrid-Spain and *MSA-Montpellier SupAgro* in Montpellier-France. This October, they spent one week each at BOKU and UCM.

A diverse project week at BOKU

After an initial welcome meeting with the project coordinators, the group actively participated in a meeting with the service unit 'Research Support, Innovation & Technology Transfer' on October 16, where DI Bernhard Koch held an interesting presentation on the interaction with industry partners, research inventions and patents. On the next day, they attended the Master and Doctoral Seminar of the animal breeding group and a highly beneficial talk with Dr. Alfons Willam – responsible of the Master's program Animal Science – to get to know teaching strategies at BOKU and the Master program's integration of stakeholders. After a refreshing lunch at the traditional restaurant *Café Einstein*, they went to the public Erasmus+ Event at House OeAD, organized by the project. The afternoon was filled with exciting presentations about Erasmus+ and example projects at BOKU: after an opening by Mag. Gerhard Volz of OeAD and Dr. Andreas Melcher (CDR-BOKU), Martina Friedrich of OeAD gave an overview of the Erasmus+ program and a short movie was played. Then, Dr. Margarita Calderón-Peter (ZIB-BOKU) gave an insight on Erasmus+ at BOKU, followed by three presentations of current projects coordinated by BOKU: Dr. Roland Ramusch (Institute of Waste Management) talked about his project *Latin American-European network on waste electrical and electronic equipment research, development and analyses* (LaWEEEda), DI Rainer Svacinka (Institute of Food Science) presented the project *South East Asia Academy of Beverage Technology* (SEA-ABT) and Dr. Maria Wurzinger summarized project EDULIVE. After some closing remarks, the international participants - from the Latin-American project partners and local project coordinators to representatives of the embassy of Argentina and Thailand - gathered at the regional, organic buffet for some more networking.

The next two days were spent outside of Vienna at an excursion to Styria, including a visit at the research station Raumberg-Gumpenstein with tours on research in the field of cattle, sheep and goats, as well as the research farm Moarhof with a tour on organic farming and dairy cattle; a walk in the well-preserved village Pürgg with a following dinner and Austrian folk music at the traditional restaurant Krenn, a farm visit at family farm Gruber, a visit and guided tour on Austrian wool textiles at the factory Steiner 1888 and last, but not least a visit and guided tour of Admont Abbey, the biggest monastery library worldwide.

The week was rounded off with a workshop dedicated to reflection and integration of the newly acquired knowledge and viewpoints with Mag. Thomas Guggenberger – Head of Quality Management at BOKU – with the additional task of developing ideas on how to implement the new findings into the home institutions. Also, feedback was given on the project week and its organization for analysis and further improvement for the next visit in 2018.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/higher-education/knowledge-innovation-triangle_en