



## Sustainability strategies

Sustainability is the ability of the project to function beyond its end. The project is considered to be sustainable if the project outcomes or some parts of project outcomes are maintained after the end of the EU funding. Sustainability of the project deliverables is closely connected with the quality of products, exploitation of products, and dissemination and communication activities. Dissemination and communication activities provide support for using deliverables after the project end; exploitation helps to identify those deliverables which will have a high potential to be sustainable.

The main products of the STEM project with regard to the application are Masters' programs on "an Integrated approach to STEM teachers' training", STEM centres, STEM training programs, STEM network.

Six Master's programs will be developed and launched by partner universities. Each program is of a 2-year duration; enrolment of students will be implemented twice during the project duration, in 2020 and 2021. Project partners will explore an opportunity to transfer each program into a double degree status.

STEM centres will be set up at six partner universities in Russia and Kazakhstan.

STEM training programs aimed at STEM teachers of all levels are to be delivered by STEM centres in partner countries.

STEM network is to unite STEM centres set up within the project; it will be open to all interested parties.

These products are initially the main target for further exploitation after the project end.

The project sustainability strategies are aimed at ensuring smooth lasting running of Masters' and training programs and functioning of STEM centres and network.

The project sustainability measures will be monitored by a special project Action team under the guidance of ENU and BFU. Sustainability actions will start from the first project year.

Sustainability of project deliverables will include financial and non-financial aspects.

Non-financial sustainability can relate to the notions of continued cooperation, added value, innovation, quality, visibility, employability.

### **Sustainability of Master's programs**

#### *Financial sustainability*

Financial sustainability includes the costs of sustaining the consortium and the costs of delivering the Program to students and the costs of mobility flows.

#### *Costs of delivering Master's programs*

New Master's programs will enroll both non-fee students and self-funded students.

#### Strategies:

To build funding capacity through a portfolio approach to sources of finances:

- To ensure a considerable number of non-fee places within each program;
- To attract best national students through Olympiads;
- To attract international students through ministerial scholarship track and Open Doors Olympiad;
- To develop an attractive marketing package for self-funded students with focus on the unique features of the program and employability advantages;
- To research all potential funding opportunities that can provide scholarships for talented students.

*Costs of sustaining the consortium in case of double-degree programs*

Strategies

Work with partner institutions in the consortium to secure commitment for 'in kind' resources to deliver a joint program.

*Non-financial sustainability*

*Quality of the program*

Strategies

- To implement accreditation of the programs;
- To build a brand name for the program through getting a quality label of the NIS networking university;
- To encourage scientific collaboration of the teachers engaged in the program delivery;
- To integrate programs academically and administratively within partner universities;
- To develop partnerships with potential employers for providing internships and placements.

*Mobility flows*

Strategies

- To conclude exchange agreements between consortium members;
- To introduce recognition mechanisms for study abroad periods.

**STEM centres**

*Financial sustainability*

Strategies

- To institutionalize new structures
- To research funding opportunities for additional support;
- To develop a marketing strategy for new units.

*Non- financial sustainability*

*Visibility*

Strategies

- To engage various stakeholders' groups into collaboration with Centres;

- To design the web site of centres with focus on end-users;
- To build trust, dialogue and cooperation with all interested parties to maximize the impact;
- To widely disseminate centres' resources and activities in groups of cooperation.

### **Training programs**

#### *Financial sustainability*

##### Strategies

- To research funding opportunities for sponsor support;
- To carefully calculate the program cost and to provide lower costs for large groups of trainees;
- To make evident advantages of taking part in the programs.

#### *Non-financial sustainability*

##### Strategies

- To identify and promote the key points of the programs;
- To involve end-users into program planning from the start;
- To maintain the niche market through an innovative pedagogical content;
- To constantly review the programs based on new trends and trainees' feedback;
- To market the programs strategically;
- To develop an integrated communication strategy tailored to different beneficiaries of training.

### **STEM network**

#### *Financial sustainability*

##### Strategies

- To develop new projects with new funding;
- To ensure in-kind contribution from all partners.

#### *Non-financial sustainability*

##### Strategies

- To conclude network agreements;
- To continue academic activities: conferences, joint research, mobility initiated within the project;
- To widely disseminate networking activities.

*The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*