

# NEO Kazakhstan

# NEWS LETTER

May-July, 2023 Issue 2

## Zoom in for new opportunities

The National Erasmus+ Office in Kazakhstan (NEO KZ) is actively organizing Zoom sessions to facilitate communication among Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and to explore the diverse opportunities offered by Erasmus+. These informative sessions, held from May to July, covered a range of topics including the Jean Monnet component, the Horizon Europe programme, Erasmus Mundus Action for students and HEIs, writing competitive project proposals for Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE), and Jean Monnet. Notably, the sessions were designed to seamlessly transition from introductory overviews to practical insights, which were delivered by representatives of HEIs that have many years of experience in participating in Erasmus+. The sessions were held on:

- Jean Monnet: 74 participants
- EMJM for students: 76 participants
- Horizon Europe: 97 participants
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) & Erasmus Mundus Design Measure (EMDM) for HEIs: 27 participants
- Writing a competitive project proposal for CBHE: 43 participants
- Writing a competitive project proposal for Jean Monnet: 49 participants

## Strengthening collaboration

The NEO KZ organized an online networking event for Kazakhstani HEI representatives, aiming at fostering cooperation among institutions. Participants actively discussed and sought solutions to challenges faced during Erasmus+ applications. An interactive quiz offered engagement and opportunities to win prizes from the EU Delegation in Kazakhstan. Responding to attendees' suggestions, a separate session for HEI staff new to Erasmus+ was held on July 26. The event proved successful in facilitating knowledge exchange and building connections among HEIs, contributing to a more informed and collaborative higher education community in Kazakhstan.



## NEO KZ visits

In May, the NEO KZ Coordinator Laura Paluanova visited Bishkek at the invitation of the NEO Kyrgyzstan. Besides engaging with the NEO Kyrgyzstan, the NEO KZ Coordinator visited HEIs in Bishkek, including International School of Medicine, Diplomatic Academy, and Kyrgyz State Technical University. These visits fostered new connections and collaborations.



Ongoing regional joint projects with Kyrgyzstan were discussed, along with exploring prospects for new initiatives involving both countries.

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**Covering the map of Astana-based HEIs**

The NEO KZ visited Kazakh National Academy of Choreography, Kazakh National University of Arts, Astana International University, and met with the staff of the National Research Institute named after E.Dalenov with a primary focus on presenting Erasmus+ opportunities for HEIs and research institutions. The institutions' staff enthusiastically highlighted their potential for international programmes and expressed eagerness to collaborate with NEO KZ in this direction.

**Visit to Kokshetau**

At the invitation of Shokan Ualikhanov Kokshetau University, the NEO KZ Coordinator had a business trip to Kokshetau in June. The purpose of the trip was two-fold: to disseminate crucial information about Erasmus+ and to get familiarized with the implementation phase of the CBHE projects at the university. In addition to Shokan Ualikhanov Kokshetau University, the Coordinator also met with the leadership of other HEIs of the city, including Abay Myrzakhmetov Kokshetau University, Humanitarian-Technical Academy, and Malik Gabdullin Academy of Civil Protection to present Erasmus+ and foster cooperation between these HEIs.



**Study visit to Brussels, Belgium**

June 13-16 the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) organized a networking event in Brussels, Belgium, exclusively for NEO coordinators and Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE). From Kazakhstan, Laura Paluanova and HERE team member Dana Abdrasheva attended the event. As part of this enriching experience, HERE members had the special opportunity to visit the Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain), where they engaged in valuable exchanges of expertise and knowledge with their peers. This study visit provided an excellent platform for fostering new connections with other NEO coordinators and HERE teams.



**The HERE trainings and seminars**

With Serik Omirbayev as its Chair, the HERE team attended an introductory virtual seminar organized by SPHERE. In May the HERE met online to define each member's specialties and areas of focus. This helped create a comprehensive schedule of seminars aimed at improving various aspects of higher education. The first seminar, led by Ainash Kudysheva, centered on inclusion in higher education and encouraged fruitful discussions among participants, who shared ideas, proposals, and challenges faced by educational institutions. Further seminars are planned to continue this collaborative effort, enabling the team to make positive changes in Kazakhstan's higher education landscape by promoting inclusivity and academic excellence.

### NEO KZ on social media

Laura Paluanova presented the EMJM programme for individuals from Kazakhstan during a live session on the "We Project" YouTube Channel, a popular channel among the youth in Kazakhstan. During the interview, the NEO KZ Coordinator highlighted major specifics of this program and provided helpful resources where potential applicants can find information. The live session was viewed more than 100 times and is available on [YouTube](#).



### Kazakhstan in Erasmus+ in 2023

2023 selection results for Kazakhstan are as following:

#### 3 CBHE projects with 1 grant holder

8 Kazakhstani HEIs are participating in 3 CBHE projects, of which one university, in particular, D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University, is a grant holder for the first time. The other 7 HEIs are: Shokan Ualikhanov Kokshetau University, Alikhan Bokeikhan University, Karaganda University of Kazpotrebsoyuz, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University, Mukhtar Auezov South Kazakhstan University, M.Kh. Dulaty Taraz Regional University.

#### 6 Jean Monnet projects

This year was fruitful for Kazakhstan in terms of Jean Monnet projects. Particularly, 3 Jean Monnet Modules were selected from KIMEP University, Karaganda University of Kazpotrebsoyuz, Shokan Ualikhanov Kokshetau University. 1 Jean Monnet Center of Excellence will be implemented at L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University. This year Kazakhstan is participating in Jean Monnet Networks for the first time. Two HEIs at once are participating in 2 Jean Monnet Network projects: Nazarbayev University and KIMEP University.

#### 54 EMJM grant holders

54 applicants from Kazakhstan were awarded EMJM scholarships for pursuing a master's degree, offering cross-cultural experiences in at least two European countries. During their studies, students will receive full financial support.

### Upcoming events in August-October

- Pre-departure orientation for EMJM scholarship holders
- Seminars with HERE
- Regional TAM seminars in Bishkek, Astana, Tashkent
- Erasmus+ Days throughout Kazakhstan
- New office venue
- The launch of the NEO KZ website

### NEO KZ public page statistics

The NEO KZ followers on social media platforms: 460 on Instagram, 122 on Facebook, 67 on YouTube.



**Instagram:** the most popular post is about the organization of the Zoom session on EMJM for students. Shared 22, saved 32 times.



**Facebook:** the most popular post that was viewed more than 1300 times is about the first newsletter of the NEO KZ.



**YouTube:** the most popular Zoom session recording is about EMJM for students with 347 views.

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