



## **Press release – Final Partner Meeting of HEIBus Project**

Nov.2019

The Final Partner Meeting of the Project *Smart HEI-Business collaboration for skills and competitiveness* (HEIBus) is organized in 18-19 Nov by University of Jaen, Spain. The HEIBus Project started in January 2017 and will end in the end of December 2019 and it was financed through the Erasmus + Knowledge Alliances 2 Program. The project objectives focused on developing new smart and innovative cooperation methods between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and companies. The consortium is formed from five European universities and seven companies with strong expertise and experience in their field of work. The coordinator of the project is JAMK University of Applied Sciences (Jyväskylä, Finland).

During the 3-year implementation period the proposed cooperation models were tested by the consortium partners as pilot projects. These cooperation models aimed to increase the involvement of students and HEI staffs in international Research & Development & Innovation (R&D&I) projects proposed by companies. These projects facilitated direct contacts of the HEI students and staff with companies in an international environment that stimulates innovative and entrepreneurial thinking.

During the HEIBus project, two rounds of Multidisciplinary Real Life Problem Solving (RLPS) projects were organized each consisting of three such projects. In these projects 108 students, 12 HEI staff members from all partner HEIs and more than 10 company experts collaborated for solving the proposed themes. The first round started in September 2017 with three RLPS projects hosted by JAMK University of Applied Science (Finland) in collaboration with ITAB Finland Oy, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (Romania) in collaboration with Automates ACM and University of Jaén (Spain) in collaboration with Andaltec. All three projects ended in December 2017 with final presentations. The second round started in September 2018, and the hosting universities were Esslingen University of Applied Sciences (Germany) in collaboration with FESTOOL GmbH, University of Miskolc (Hungary) in collaboration with Robert Bosch Power Tool Kft. and University of Jaén (UJA, Spain) in collaboration with Sensor Integration & Robotics (ISR). The final presentations for these three RLPS projects were organized in December 2018.

Expert level real life problem solving (EXPERT) is a new cooperation model proposed in the HEIBus, which was tested by pilot projects in two phases. In these projects 36 researchers from 4 HEI partners and more than 12 experts from companies, collaborated in solving the research themes that were proposed. The first round started in January 2018. The company partners in the first project round were: Electrolux



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Lehel Ltd. from Hungary, ITAB Finland Oy and S.C. ProTehnic SRL from Romania. The second round started in January 2019. The company partners in the second project round were: Valtra Oy from Finland, Bosch Power Tool Kft. from Hungary and Bosch Plant Jucu from Romania.

The Flexible Student Mentoring by Companies cooperation model (FlexMentoring) offered the possibility for companies to be involved directly in the education proses of students thru dedicated activities that were supervised by company mentors. In these activities 15 companies (Elomatic, Moventas, Valtra, ProTehnic, Automates, Bosch Jucu Plant, Electrolux Lehel, Bosch Power Tool Kft., Stöbich Brandschutz, FESTOOL, Wieland Werke, Andaltec, Sensor Integration & Robotics, Marwen Ingeniería and Valeo Lighting) closely cooperated with HEI partners in their own countries in implementing the cooperation models. During the three years implementation more than 100 students from bachelor, master and PhD level participated in these activities.

All implemented activities received a positive feedback from the participating students, HEI staff and company representatives. This success offered the premises of continuing the implementation of the proposed model in the next years and extending the partner consortium.

#### Contact:

Anneli Kakko, JAMK Project Manager

JAMK University of Applied, Sciences, Jyväskylä, Finland

[Anneli.Kakko@jamk.fi](mailto:Anneli.Kakko@jamk.fi)



*HEIBus Project members during the Kick-Off Meeting in Miskolc, Hungary*



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*Participating students in RLPS Project with ISR*



*Participating experts in EXPERT Project with Valtra*

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