



Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education

LEAD Project

2nd Series of LEAD Workshops on Academic Leadership, Kunming and Beijing, Oct 21 to 26, 2016

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The LEAD Project team has organized, as its second major activity, 2nd series of workshops that took place, firstly, in Kunming and then in Beijing, October 21 to 26, 2016.

The host of the first workshops was Yunnan Normal University, and participants, as well as chairs and speakers, were coming both from the European and Chinese universities. It should be emphasized that there were also number of students whose filed is education and who are in the process of preparing themselves for issues in HE. The workshops as the whole event was very interactive and it was shaped in a way to stimulate lots of questions and lively discussions.

Workshops were organized around different themes relevant for the changes in higher education, and they were covering equally issues relevant for the system and structural changes, different roles of universities and topics relevant for particular aspects of university functioning.

Each workshop was organized around the experts/facilitators introductory speech that set up a ground for a further work. Participants worked in groups, and plenary discussions followed. The local participants (academics from YNNU and universities in Kunming, Yunnan) very actively participated in the workshops. It is actually very 'previous' for the academics to receive high-level training from European experts and LEAD partners. Therefore, the local participants really highly appreciated these workshops.

Each workshop had defined learning goals and learning outcomes which helped both, to the speakers and all the participants.

Generally, it could be said, that by the end of the two working days everyone was much better acquainted with the issues relevant for academic leadership and all the changes are placed in a well-defined context of change. Mutual understanding among Europe and Chinese colleagues has been achieved.

At the same time, social context and activities performed together, such as dinners, visiting university facilities and institutions, contributed significantly to the collegial atmosphere and cultural learning.

From the organizational aspects, the partner YNNU members were very much devoted to offer a good organization of the workshops and showed high commitment to the project.

The second part of this series of workshop was held in Beijing in the premises of National Academy of Education Administration (NAEA) from 24 to 26 October, 2016.

Involvement and support provided by the National academy of Education Administration has been relevant for everyone involved. Its support was significant for the project leaders, but also conveyed the message of the relevance of the topic for both sides, European and Chinese.

The format of the workshops was very similar, with some changes-additions of different speakers. The most significant difference was in a composition of the participants. In Beijing there was a high percentage of presidents and vice rectors and quite number of universities relevant for different regions. This fact also gave a different flavour to the discussions and made it possible to gain some additional outcomes of the whole process.

The issue that is still a challenge is a language. For many colleagues from China, preferred language for common communication is not English, but translated Chinese/English which of course, sometime slows down discussions. Nevertheless, it was managed with highly professional translators/interpreters and this helped a lot.

After the two sets of workshop, visit in Beijing was also used as a platform for a Consortium meeting in which different issues relevant for the project life had been discussed. Special attention has been given to the panning of the next event in Lisbon and

Tampere. The project partners discussed the suggestions and possible plans for the next events. The consortium meeting was very helpful for the project partners to exchange ideas and to reach common understanding or consensus on issues of the project implementation.