

Enhancing innovation competences and entrepreneurial skills in engineering education

DESCRIPTION:	<p>Armenia, Georgia, Belarus and Kazakhstan are currently facing economic difficulties as consequences of economic policy, recent international financial crisis, collapse of world oil/gas prices and economic slowdown in China and other emerging countries. The situation causes an urgent need to implement structural economic reform to transform traditional economy to diversified, knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy. However, present higher education in these countries does not have a strong link to innovation and entrepreneurship. It has failed to become the driving force to create new innovative enterprises which lead to new jobs and economic growth.</p> <p>This project aims to enhance innovation competences and entrepreneurial skills in engineering education through university-business cooperation in order to support creation of new enterprises, new jobs and economic growth in the partner countries.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - foster an innovation culture among partner university staff and students - establish 8 innovation centers at partner countries - provide training to 104 partner country staff on innovation and entrepreneurship - introduce innovation pedagogy in teaching and learning - define transversal innovation competences and develop tools to assess such competences - introduce new courses on innovation and entrepreneurship to engineering students - promote university-business cooperation - provide business incubator and start-up accelerator services to staff and students to develop successful businesses - organize an innovation competition to promote entrepreneurship - disseminate project results to other universities in the partner countries - help partner countries to develop a national innovation strategy 	
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