



FRIENDS

PROJECT NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the 2nd FRIENDS Newsletter

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Our group of FRIENDS, from Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Turkey, Bhutan, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand are pleased to present this 2nd newsletter showcasing our activities and accomplishments over the past few months.

If you are committed to intercultural understanding and interested to learn about different cultures and to improve your global skills, stay tuned and follow us every step along the FRIENDS learning journey!



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Intercultural Passport Design

8th -11th October 2019

Svay Rieng, Cambodia

Svay Rieng University (SRU) hosted the 3rd FRIENDS meeting with participants from the 16 university partners from Europe and Asia.

The four day workshop and partner meeting was opened by Prof. Saravuth Tum, Rector of SRU who welcomed the FRIENDS consortium members to the university. This was followed by a short address by Ms. Christina Armutlieva, the project coordinator.

The first three days of the meeting were dedicated to the design and prototyping of the Intercultural Passport tool. Participants engaged in workshops and activities moderated by Ms Christina Armutlieva, from Varna University of Management (VUM) and Dr. Richel Lamadrid, from Saint Louis University (SLU), which included the Intercultural Passport design, the Intercultural Awareness and Cultural Diversity Massive Online Open Course (IACD MOOC) components and the ideation of the Digital Storytelling competition.

The partner meeting on day four included a visit to the Department of Higher Education (DHE) in Phnom Penh where the FRIENDS consortium met with the DHE Deputy Director, Mr. Song Sok San to discuss potential measures and activities to complement and possibly enhance the project's impact on the processes of internationalization in the 5 Asian Partner Countries and in particular in Cambodia.

The workshop presentations are available on the Project website [here](#).



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SWAG Competition

July to October 2019

The FRIENDS SWAG Design Contest aimed to spark curiosity about the Erasmus+ funded project FRIENDS among the project consortium's stakeholders.

The contest was launched in July with students asked to design three to five items to be used as promotional giveaways during project activities. The design ideas, submitted by students at each of our Asian partner institutions, were required to follow the FRIENDS branding guidelines and were evaluated on originality, creativity, functionality and adequacy to FRIENDS spirit and philosophy.

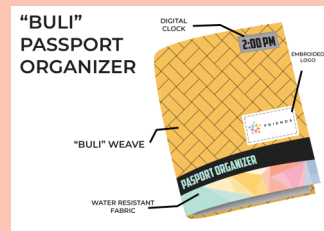
In total one-hundred and fifty-nine designs were submitted and during September, each partner institution selected a winning design to be entered into the second round.

From these twelve designs, the consortium partners voted on selecting three finalists and a final grand winner was chosen by an online vote with a total of seven-thousand seven-hundred votes cast.

1st Place: Cebu Technological University, Philippines (Mr. Rabbi C. Florentino, 1st year, Bachelor of Industrial Technology Major in Drafting)

2nd Place: Berjaya University College, Malaysia (Ms. Peh Jia Wen, 2nd year, Bachelor in Hospitality Management)

3rd Place: Svay Rieng University, Cambodia (Miss. Saman Diphimean, 4th year, Bachelor in English Language)



Cebu Technological University

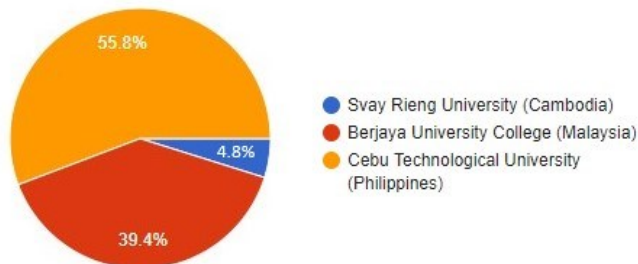


Berjaya University College



Svay Rieng University

Final Votes from 7,700 Responses



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Intercultural Passport Award

The FRIENDS Intercultural Passport Award launched in January 2020 aims to build students' intercultural knowledge and sensitivity to cultural diversity. In order to receive Intercultural Passport, a student must fulfil two requirements, namely to complete the [IACD MOOC](#) and to submit a short video as part of the Digital Storytelling Contest.

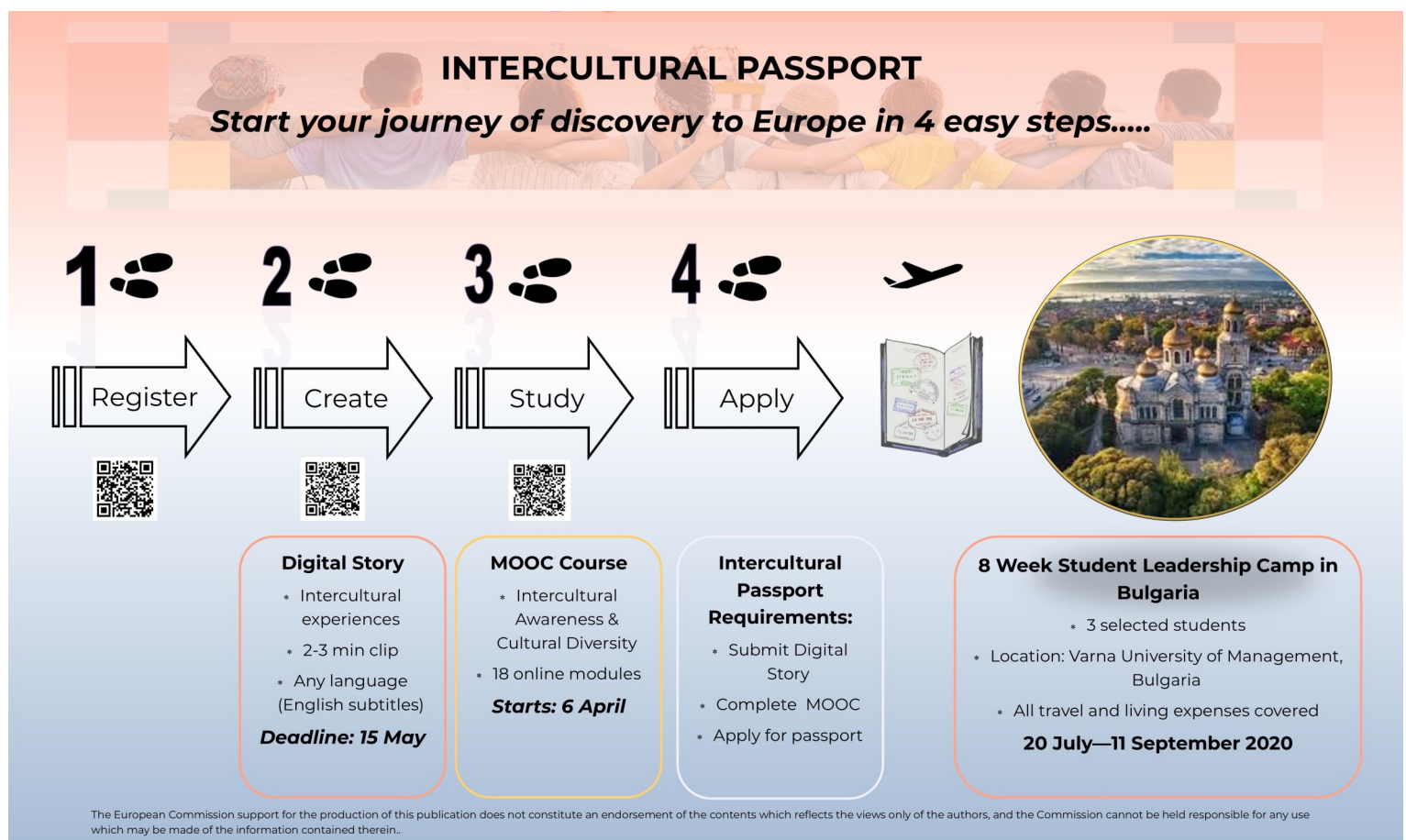
Through applying in the Intercultural Passport, students are expected to acquire global skills that are considered an asset not just by the students themselves, but just as importantly, by their prospective employers.

The Intercultural Passport is seen as a metaphorical supplement to the official government passport that a person should have when traveling. Interestingly, similar initiatives for the provision of an intercultural certificate are offered by a good number of highly internationalized universities across the world which aim to develop and assess a student's global competence.

The Intercultural Passport tool is open and available to everyone. To apply for it, the applicants need to first register on the project website [here](#).

Do not miss out on this opportunity to improve your global skills!

Register now!



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FRIENDS IACD MOOC

IACD MOOC Initial Run

6th April – 15th May 2020

The IACD MOOC is one of the FRIENDS project's key outcomes. It has been specially designed and developed by the four European project partners and is targeted at Asian university students at all levels of education and of diverse backgrounds who are interested and motivated to build their intercultural competence and sensitivity to cultural diversity.

The IACD MOOC provides students with an online internationalisation at home/virtual mobility experience.

Topics covered during the course include:

- The Concept of Culture
- Dimensions of Culture
- World Values Survey
- Ethnic and Cultural Diversity
- Linguistic Barriers
- Gender Roles
- European Cultural Identity
- Intercultural Communication Skills
- Business Etiquette

You can read the IACD Syllabus [here](#) or download it by scanning the QR code below.



INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY: MASSIVE ONLINE OPEN COURSE (IACD MOOC)

★★★★★(4)

Current Status	Price	Get Started
NOT ENROLLED	Free	Login to Enrol

RATINGS AND REVIEWS



5.0

Avg. Rating

4 Ratings



What's your experience? We'd love to know!

[Login to Review](#)



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Digital Storytelling Contest



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Digital Storytelling Contest

It is through stories that we learn to appreciate, recognize, and understand the experiences and opportunities that we have encountered



ANY ENROLLED
STUDENT AT OUR
UNIVERSITY



STORIES OF YOUR
INTERCULTURAL
EXPERIENCES



ONLY INDIVIDUAL
ENTRIES



2-3 MINUTE VIDEO
CLIP



ANY LANGUAGE
(MUST HAVE
ENGLISH SUBTITLES)



HDTV VIDEO
RESOLUTION



MP4 / MOV FORMAT



CLIP MUST FOLLOW
COPYRIGHT LAWS



Download Competition Details
Submission Deadline:
15th May 2020

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FRIENDS Dissemination Activities



FRIENDS Open House & Digital Storytelling Workshop at Mahasarakham University



FRIENDS Intercultural Passport and MOOC Presentation at Asia Pacific University



FRIENDS Teahouse equipment arrives at Dewey International University



SWAG Competition presentations at Payap University



FRIENDS Digital Storytelling Contest at Royal Thimphu College



FRIENDS Tambayan at the University of Cebu



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Project Information



The FRIENDS project title stands for **F**urthering **I**nternational **R**elations **C**apacities and **I**ntercultural **E**ngagement to **N**urture **C**ampus **D**iversity and to **S**upport **I**nternationalisation at **H**ome.

The FRIENDS project is built around the concept of Internationalisation at Home (IaH) that reframes the traditional perceptions of higher education internationalisation in the five Partner Countries involved in the project, namely Bhutan, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

The notion of IaH is based on the assumption that for various reasons the largest part of universities' student body will always remain non-mobile and therefore deprived from access to

global knowledge and skills.

The FRIENDS project aims to create a paradigm shift at the 12 Asian Partner Country Higher Education Institutions involved and introduces an egalitarian community spirit where internationalisation is not a privilege of the few any more but an asset all students can benefit from.

Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education

Project number: 598652-EPP-1-2018-1-BG-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Coordinator: Varna University of Management (Bulgaria)

Project Duration: 36 months–15th October 2018–14th October 2021



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Upcoming Events

Early May 2020: FRIENDS Progress Report submission to EACEA

Late May 2020: Digital Storytelling Contests' finalization and announcement of results at the 12 Asian partner universities

August - September 2020: Student Boot Camp hosted by VUM in Bulgaria

Early October 2020: FRIENDS partner meeting and Home Away from Home Retreat hosted by PYU in Thailand

Get in Touch

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Partner Institutions



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