

Main Beneficiaries of the FRIENDS Projects

1. Students across campus who will benefit first hand from the Intercultural Passport virtual module and the FRIENDS Teahouse space.
2. University International Relation Offices' staff, faculty and senior management who will improve their practical knowledge on IaH, as well as their overall intercultural awareness.
3. Students of peer HEIs outside the consortium in the five partner countries.
4. Employers and HEIs business partners, local communities and minorities.



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Furthering International Relations Capacities and
Intercultural Engagement to Nurture Cultural
Diversity and to Support Internationalisation at
Home

Bhutan, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand





Project Information

Erasmus+ Programme for Capacity Building in Higher Education

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

FRIENDS: -Furthering International Relations Capacities and Intercultural Engagement to Nurture Cultural Diversity and to Support Internationalisation at Home

Coordinator: Varna University of Management (Bulgaria)

Project Duration: 15.10.2018 – 14.10.2021 – 36 months

Definition of Internationalisation at Home (IaH)

“The purposeful integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for all students within domestic learning environments”

(Beelen & Jones, 2015)

Introduction

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 Home.

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 (PC) Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) 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.



Main Objectives of the FRIENDS Project

1. To outline PC HEIs' internationalisation landscapes and to identify levels of integration of international and intercultural dimensions into PC HEIs' formal and informal curriculum.
2. To improve PC HEIs' capabilities for internationalisation through staff trainings and by translating general awareness of the IaH concept into streamlined IaH Action Plans.
3. To build students' intercultural knowledge and sensitivity to cultural diversity through the introduction of intercultural Passport virtual module into PC HEIs' elective formal curriculum.

4. To transform PC HEIs' International Relations Offices (IROs) into vibrant multicultural focal points through the establishment of FRIENDS Teahouses and the induction of Home away from Home Programme for integrated international student care.
5. To promote virtual mobility and campus diversity across the 5 PCs as key tools for students' global competence development.

Main Outputs of the FRIENDS Project

- **Institutional IaH Action Plans** adopted to streamline PC HEIs' initiatives for IaH and to improve PC HEIs IROs staff and faculty's capacities for internationalisation
- **Intercultural Passport virtual module** designed and embedded into PC HEIs' elective curriculum to build students intercultural knowledge and sensitivity to cultural diversity
- **FRIENDS Teahouses** social spaces established at the 12 PC HEIs to function as student friendly multicultural hubs that welcome diversity and support the welfare of students with diverse cultural backgrounds
- **Home away from Home Programme** induced as a mode for integrated international student care and services at the 12 PC HEIs involved

More Information

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