



Date: 15.04.2021 Venue: WSAAS, Serbia

Kick-off meeting

DIMPS project overview

Tatjana Marinkovic, WSAAS



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Presentation content

Project ID

Erasmus+ call

DIMPS project priorities

Strategic partnership

Context

DIMPS project goals

DIMPS project beneficiaries

Expected results

Intellectual outcomes

Impact



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



- **Project Title:** Digital Internship Model for Higher Professional Studies
- **Project Acronym:** DIMPS
- **Project Number:** 2020-1-RS01-KA226-HE-094527
- **Funding Scheme:** ERASMUS+ KA226
- **Applicant Organisation:** WESTERN SERBIA ACADEMY OF APPLIED SCIENCES
- **Project Start Date:** 01/03/2021
- **Project End Date:** 28/02/2022
- **Project Duration:** 12 months
- **National Agency in Charge:** RS01 Fondacija Tempus



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



ERASMUS CALL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN RESPONSE OF THE COVID-19 SITUATION

KA226 - Partnerships for Digital Education Readiness

Projects aim at equipping education and training systems to face the challenges presented by the recent sudden shift to online and distance learning, including supporting teachers to develop digital competences and safeguarding the inclusive nature of learning opportunities



DIPMS Choice of Priorities and Topics

HORIZONTAL PRIORITY: Innovative practices in a digital era

The general objective of the project, the development of a digital internship model, a platform and toolkit for professional higher education studies, directly addresses the horizontal priority

The establishment of a virtual internship model, platform and toolkits will increase digital competences of users, both students and teachers

Additional priority: HE: Building inclusive higher education systems

Virtual internships may be a solution to the inclusion of students who cannot participate in traditional internships due to financial, geographical reasons, disabilities etc.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



DIMPS PROJECT PARTNERS



**WESTERN SERBIA ACADEMY OF
APPLIED SCIENCES**

Užice, Serbia



UNIVERSITY OF WEST ATTICA

Athens, Greece



**UNIVERSITY OF RUSE "ANGEL
KANCHEV"**

Ruse, Bulgaria



**THE HIGHER EDUCATION
TECHNICAL SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

Novi Sad, Serbia



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



DIMPS PROJECT CONTEXT

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented disruption of the educational process in the history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Covid19 revealed vulnerabilities in professional higher education

Low levels of digitalization

Longstanding structural weaknesses





Covid19 revealed vulnerabilities in professional higher education

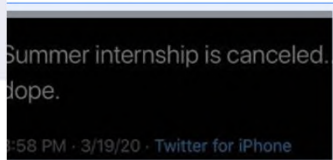
INTERNSHIPS AND APRENTICESHIPS WERE CANCELED!!!



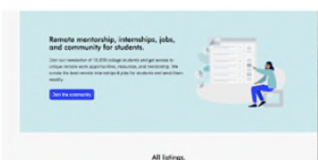
ch's coveted internships are getting ...
chcrunch.com



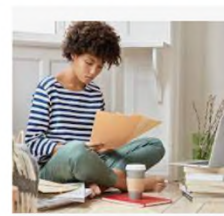
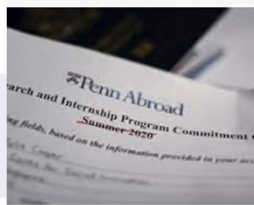
What to Do if COVID-19 Cancels Your ...
salliemae.com



College Students Are Left Wondering ...
uft.org



Students face challenges as summer ...
stanforddaily.com



3:58 PM · 3/19/20 · Twitter for iPhone

WUFT

College Students Are Left Wondering "What If?" As Summer Inter...

Images may be subject to copyright. Learn More

Related images See more

- Student Internships Cancelled
We hope to provide internship opportunities in the future but at this time our Tribal communities health is our top priority.
Student Summer Internships C...
ctclust.org
- 5 COMPANIES NG INTERNS SUMMER
- Thank you for applying for the Law Student Internship at DC Volunteer Lawyers Project for summer 2020. We regret to inform you that due to the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this internship for the coming summer. Best of luck to you in your search for a summer internship.
First coronavirus summer inter...
reddit.com
- Is My Internship Cancelled?
🤔



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Covid19 revealed vulnerabilities in professional higher education

Disruptions in workplaces have made it difficult to implement apprenticeship and internship schemes and work-based learning modes, the key elements of a functional and market-responsive technical and professional education system



Logo of the partner presenting



Covid19 revealed vulnerabilities in professional higher education

Work-based learning has been maintained in very few sectors like finance and ICT, where commercial activities have continued through teleworking. However, technical professional education programs, as well as heavily affected economic sectors such as tourism, faced serious difficulties concerning work-based learning





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Work-based learning is a substantial part of professional education

For a vast majority of study programmes in Professional Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs), internship is mandatory for the programme accomplishment, with defined learning outcomes and ECTS-expressed workload.

The internship concept is based on a planned period of experience in the workplace to help students to develop particular skills, knowledge or understanding.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Work-based learning is a substantial part of professional education

Limited opportunities for students to physically approach the workplace have strongly affected and delayed the accomplishment of their studies.

The analysis of key performance indicators in this project partners institutions for the previous academic year revealed a significant reduction in certified student numbers, mainly due to the delay in the accomplishment of internships and final theses.

Worldwide, delayed certification is likely to affect the immediate and future careers of millions of learners.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



THE GOAL OF DIMPS PROJECT

To introduce the specific virtual internship model and the methodology for VIs with practical workflows and guidelines, which enable quality design of customized and flexible internship programs.



HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL SCHOOL
OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Novi Sad

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



THE GOAL OF DIMPS PROJECT

It will be based on the proposed VI lifecycle model and methodology

It will connect all parties (students, schools, and companies) within the secure and collaborative web platform.

The goal is to deliver a more flexible, efficient, personalized, low-cost, and adapted solution for VIs.

Students can easily search and apply for VIs, connect with companies, teachers, and peers, as well as learn and work on various projects.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



CAN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF VI PLATFORM TRANSCEND THE NEED TO RESOLVE EMERGENCY EDUCATION OBSTACLES?

The assignment of work-based tasks that can be performed digitally and remotely, with the development of adequate monitoring of student progress, can significantly facilitate student learning outcome achievement.





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



CAN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF VI PLATFORM TRANSCEND THE NEED TO RESOLVE EMERGENCY EDUCATION OBSTACLES?

Importantly, digital internships may be a solution for the inclusion of students who cannot participate in traditional internships due to financial, geographical reasons, or disabilities etc.

Therefore, the development of a digital internship model and platform would facilitate the internship process in professional studies per se, and increase its inclusivity, thus contributing to the overall improvement of professional higher education process quality.

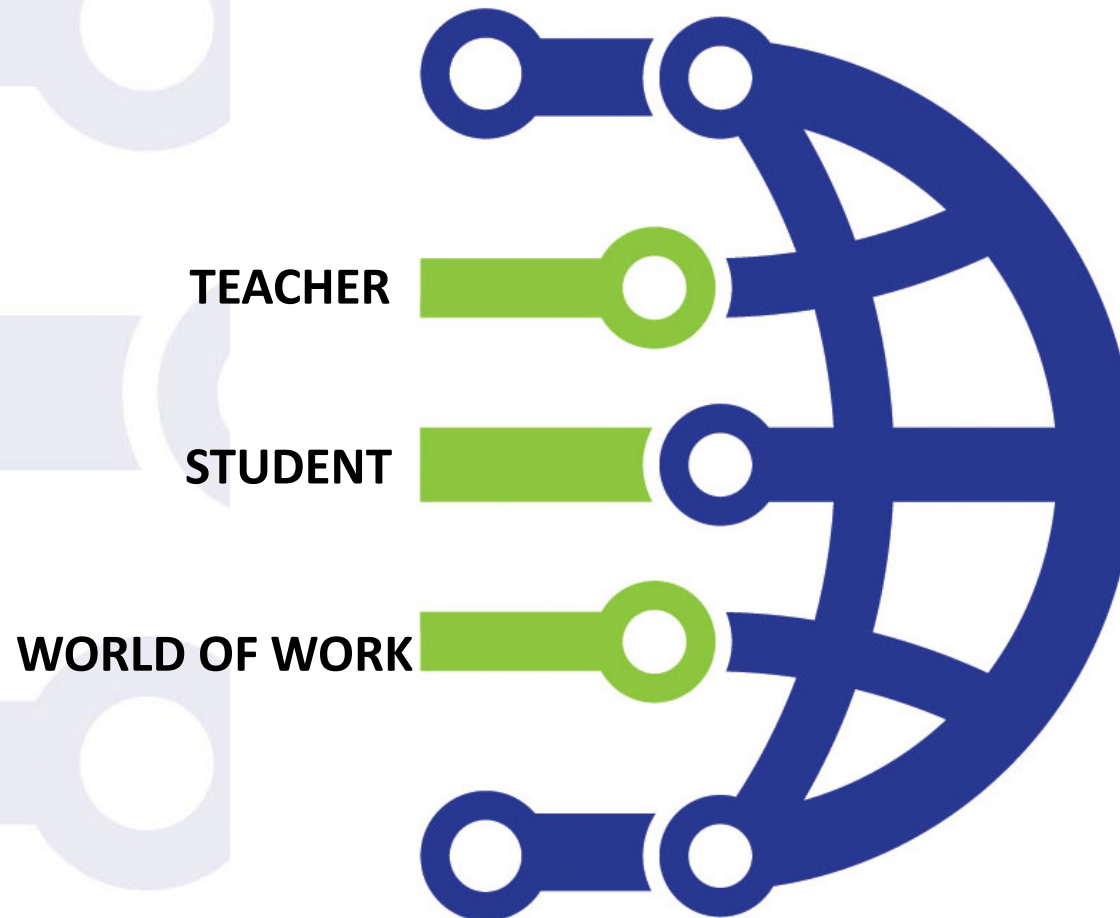




Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



DIMPS PROJECT BENEFICIARIES



TEACHER

STUDENT

WORLD OF WORK



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



DIMP PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

**STUDENTS, PHEI TEACHERS,
TRAINERS AND MENTORS**



They will gain tools and knowledge on how to organize virtual internship programs and establish cooperation with various business partners.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



THE EXPECTED DIMPS RESULTS – INTELLECTUAL OUTPUTS

- IO1 - Developed model for digital internship in professional higher education, including learning outcomes and methodology for its implementation;
- IO2 - Created online platform for the organization and management of virtual internships;
- IO3 - Created toolkit/guide for the implementation of virtual internship



HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL SCHOOL
OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Novi Sad

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



IO1 Developed model for digital internship in PHE

The model for digital internships in professional higher education will be created taking several criteria into account:

- the state of work-based learning in professional higher education;
- perceived opportunities and challenges of representatives of key stakeholders for the development of digital internships in professional higher education;
- the best existing practices and recommendations for carrying out digital internships;
- the quality framework for internships and
- the expected learning outcomes of digital internships in professional higher education





IO2 Created online platform for the organization and management of virtual internships

It will be based on the proposed VI model and methodology, and it will connect all parties (students, schools, and companies) within a secure and collaborative web platform.

The goal is to provide a more flexible, efficient, personalized, low-cost, and adapted solution for VIs.

Testing of the online platform for digital internships will be performed by piloting internships in each country as well as by virtual student exchanges between partners with complementary programs, WSAAS and UNIWA; and VTSNS and UR





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



IO3 Created toolkit/guide for the implementation of virtual internship

IO3 will encompass all elements required for the successful implementation of the innovative model of internship in companies, including designing of complete or partial digital internship positions, selection and delegation of particular tasks to the students, monitoring of student progress and program accomplishment.

As for the PHEIs, the guide will include elements such are: support to students to select and approach the digital internship position in the workplace; monitoring and validation of student progress; assessment of achieved learning outcomes; knowledge, skills and competences during the digital internship; support to companies in terms of training the internship mentors.





Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



THE EXPECTED DIMPS RESULTS

- usability report with the results of piloting and testing in project partner countries developed and disseminated among key stakeholders;
- raised capacities of PHEI teachers/trainers/mentors for organizing virtual internships;
- improved professional and digital skills of students;
- improved capacities of business enterprises to carry out digital internships;
- created network of educational institutions and business partners involved in conducting virtual internships;
- representatives of the education and business sectors informed on the possibilities for carrying out virtual internships and benefits from them.



THE EXPECTED DIMPS IMPACT

In order to achieve an overarching and sustainable impact, the DIMPS project:

- relies on recognized needs for the for the modernization and digital transformation of education and training systems across Europe
- offers a specific virtual internship model and the methodology for VIs with practical workflows and guidelines, which enable quality design of customized and flexible internship programs
- strengthens both new and existing cooperation among academic staff participants whereas also targeting non-academic staff, students, entrepreneurs, and association staff.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



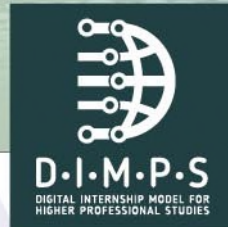
THE EXPECTED DIMPS IMPACT

DIMPS impacts PHEIs widening their teaching capacities and increase their digital educational readiness

DIMPS impacts students, allowing them more efficient work-based learning

It widen the spectrum of internships that will be accessible for the students with difficulties

DIMPS impacts the world of work, perceived opportunities and challenges of representatives of key stakeholders for the development of digital internships. We expect the improvement of the perception regarding the benefits of engaging apprentices from PHEIs



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



THE EXPECTED DIMPS IMPACT

DIMPS impacts participating partner institutions by strengthening the cooperation within institutions, making them more open to mobility and successful acquisition of innovative projects under the EU schemes in the field of professional education development.

They will also build mutual confidence, and consequently create networks and lay the groundwork for future accomplishments through inter-institutional agreements, in the sphere of mobility schemes, exchange or adaptation of good practices, joint research and publications, co-organized conferences, new project applications, and alliances.

The project will thus contribute to the European dimension of all involved organisations.



THE EXPECTED DIMPS IMPACT

Contributing to the supply of digital education opportunities, the project will impact the digital education readiness of project partners, but it is readily transferable to the other professional higher education institutions.

By adjusting learning requirements and outcomes, this digital internship model can be adopted at other qualification levels, particularly those in dual education.



Thank you for your attention

Tatjana Marinkovic, tatjana.marinkovic@hotmail.com

2020-1-RS01-KA226-HE-094527

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

