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UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTRES

**Bridging the gap between universities
and the labour market to improve
graduates' employability**

**International Conference
October 26th & 27th, 2016**

**Hosted by ADAM University
Dostuk Hotel – Conference Hall “Imperial”
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**





CONTEXT

Currently, youth unemployment is among the primarily important issues in all countries, as we are witnessing dynamic growth of working-age population in parallel with the development of economies. As a result, as well as due to lack of appropriate entrepreneurial skills among youth, graduates of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) face several difficulties in finding quality employment. This fact highlights the top importance of enhancing youth employment opportunities within agendas of governmental policies.

University Career Centres support students and staff within their institutions, and also work with employers and recruiters. Typically, they provide:

- Guidance to students about careers and employability to students, including information on specific employers and job opportunities;
- Opportunities for students to develop, identify and articulate their entrepreneurial skills, to enable them to secure and succeed in employment or self-employment;
- Support for teaching staff through identifying trends in employers' needs and guidance on how to develop skills required by employers within degree programmes; and
- Services for employers to meet and recruit graduates to join their organisations, such as careers fairs and events.

Career Centres therefore play an important role in ensuring that graduates are work-ready, and can meet the needs of employers, whilst ensuring that students are able to make informed decisions to develop successful careers.

An HEI with a strong career centre will be much more attractive to future students (as it shows them a “promise” of a good professional future after they graduate). It will also be better integrated into the business fabric of the society in which it is embedded, creating potential opportunities for cooperation between researchers and industry. Both of these aspects will in turn help businesses grow strong, as they will have better access to top-quality employees (HEI graduates) and collaborators (researchers), giving them a competitive advantage in the market place.

ABOUT UNIWORK

UNIWORK ‘*Strengthening Career Centres in Central Asia Higher Education Institutions to empower graduates in obtaining and creating quality employment*’ (544126-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-ES-TEMPUS-JPHES) is a three year Higher Education Capacity Building project (1/12/2013 – 30/11/2016), funded by the European Commission under the Tempus programme. It brings together 25 partners including 15 HEIs – 3 in the EU (Spain, Austria, UK), 2 in Kazakhstan, 3 in Kyrgyzstan, 2 in Tajikistan, 2 in Turkmenistan and 3 in Uzbekistan – as well as the Ministry of Education and a Chamber of Commerce in each of the Central Asian countries.



UNIWORK aims to boost university/enterprise links in order to foster sustainable socio-economic development in the five Central Asian countries by enhancing the capacities of partner HEIs to effectively improve the employability of their graduates and stimulate an entrepreneurship culture among their students. For this the UNIWORK partners have worked to transform the career centres in their HEIs into truly efficient instruments to develop students' and graduates' employability and to promote and support employment and entrepreneurship amongst them. In addition, project activities geared towards fostering relationships between the HEIs and the enterprise sector (future employers of university graduates) provided networking opportunities between them and developed tools and mechanisms for an active involvement of enterprises in the career centres.

For more information on Tempus project UNIWORK please visit our website www.uniwork-project.eu or “like” us on Facebook www.facebook.com/UNIWORKproject/

OBJECTIVES

This International Conference **“Career Centres: Bridging the gap between universities and the labour market to improve graduates’ employability”** aims to bring together experts and participants from Higher Education Institutions, Ministries of Education, Chambers of Commerce and the business sector to discuss the role of HEIs and their Career Centres in improving graduates’ employability and entrepreneurial skills and serving as a bridge to the main actors in the labour market. It will also serve to wrap up the UNIWORK project and allow the partner HEIs to showcase the work done by their Career Centres in the framework of the project during these three years. Special mention will be made of the importance of Career Centres in a same country working together to have more weight within society and support each other to continue developing their activities.

All Conference Materials will be available on the UNIWORK website shortly after the Conference.



AGENDA

Wednesday October 26 th	
8.30 – 9.00	Registration
9.00 – 9.45	Official Welcome and Inauguration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svetlana Sirmbard, Rector of ADAM University • Mira Karybaeva, Deputy head of President's Office • Deputy Minister Zuurakan Kadenova, Ministry of Labor and Social Development • Larisa Marchenko, Advisor to the Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic • Aziz Idrisov, Director of Youth Employment Agency • Gulnara Chokusheva, Kyrgyzstan National Erasmus+ Office • Cristina Beans, UNIWORK Coordinator, University of Alicante
9.45 – 10.00	Official Photo
10.00 – 10.30	UNIWORK: Enhancing Career Centres in Central Asian universities Cristina Beans, Senior Project Manager at International Project Management Office, University of Alicante
10.30 – 11.30	Keynote Speech: Investing in Graduates – Universities as drivers of economic growth Sara Pates, Head of University of Sheffield ENTERPRISE, Director of Enterprise Educators UK
11.30 – 12.00	COFFEE BREAK
12.00 – 12.20	Career Development in an Austrian university of applied sciences: the case of FH Joanneum Rene Wenzel, FH Joanneum
12.20 – 12.40	Career Centre – Road to the future Olga Shornikova, Head of Career Centre of Kokshetau State University
12.40 – 13.00	Modernization of Narxoz Career Centre activities as a part of the UNIWORK project Gaini Mukhanova, Head of Career Centre and Alumni Association of Narxoz University
13.00 – 13.20	Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship: Conclusions from the Regional Forum



Abror Juraev, Head of International Relations Bukhara State University

13.20 – 14.30

LUNCH

14.30 – 15.45

From the Campus to the Workplace: What Policy Recommendations?

- Kazakhstan – Manshuk Ordakhsnova, Career Centre Narxoz University
- Kyrgyzstan – Lyudmila Maslova, Director of Career Centre ADAM University
- Tajikistan – Sangin Boboev, Head of International Department Technological University of Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan – Abror Juraev, Bukhara State University
- Uzbekistan – Sheramat Avezov, Head of Department of Targeted Preparation of Graduates and Monitoring of Employability, Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education

15.45 – 17.15

Round Table: “Career Centres: bridging the gap between universities and the labour market in Central Asia”

Chair: Abdykadyr Abidov, Rector of Osh Technological University

Participants:

- Shara Akylbayeva, Association of Commercial and Industrial Enterprises (Almaty, Kazakhstan)
- Vahob Zokirov, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Gaini Mukhanova, Head of Career Centre and Alumni Association of Narxoz University
- Sheramat Avezov, Head of Department of Targeted Preparation of Graduates and Monitoring of Employability, Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education Uzbekistan



Thursday

October 27th

9.00 – 9.20	Economic prospects of youth for sustainable development in Kyrgyzstan Gulbarchin Suiunova, Executive Director of ENACTUS Kyrgyzstan
9.20 – 9.40	Improvement of Career Centre in Osh Technological University Nurgazy Tashiev, Director of Career Centre of Osh Technological University
9.40 – 10.00	The Career Centre of Talas State University today and the future Gulia Boobekova, Director of Talas State University Career Centre
10.00 – 10.20	Career Centre new enhanced service: using business simulators for the development of management skills Kubanychbek Rakhimov, IT engineer of ADAM University
10.20 – 10.40	TUT Career Centre strengthened with UNIWORK project Muzafar Kholikov, Head of Career Centre of Technological University of Tajikistan
10.40 – 11.00	Strengthened Career Centre of KPITTU Manzura Sultonova & Dilshod Nabiev, Head and Staff of Career Centre of Khujand Polytechnic Institute of Tajik Technical University
11.00 – 11.30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>
11.30 – 11.50	Employers and Graduates: bringing them together at Bukhara State University Bakhtiyor Adizov, Head of Marketing Department Bukhara State University
11.50 – 12.10	The benefits of Alumni Networks. Case of Samarkand State University Dilmurod Nasimov, Samarkand State University
12.10 – 12.30	Importance of Start Up Training for students and guidelines of Start Up programme in TSUE. Nozima Zufarova, Tashkent State University
12.30 – 12.50	Career Centres Networking. Towards a normalization as a university service.



	Victor Climent, GIPE University of Alicante
12.50 – 13.10	Enterprise Educators UK: Sharing and building on excellence Gary Wood, University of Sheffield Enterprise
13.10 – 14.10	LUNCH
14.10 – 14.25	Expanding the results of the UNIWORK project with the COMPLETE, TuCAHEA, CACTLE projects: synergy, sustainability and success Gaini Mukhanova, Head of Career Centre and Alumni Association of Narxoz University
14.25 – 14.45	The impact of TEMPUS 2013 project UNIWORK on the formation and development of the National Network of Career Centres in the Republic of Kazakhstan Olga Shornikova, Head of Career Centre of Kokshetau State University
14.45 – 15.05	Tajikistan Career Centres Networking, uniwork.tj Shuhrat Maqsudov, Head of International Relations Khujand Polytechnic Institute of Tajik Technical University
15.05 – 15.25	Career Centre Network in Kyrgyzstan Sherali Egemberdiev, Vice-Rector of student support at ADAM University
15.25 – 17.00	Round Table: “Stronger together: networking at a national level for better Career Centres” <u>Chair:</u> Sara Pates, Head of University of Sheffield ENTERPRISE, Director of Enterprise Educators UK <u>Participants:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victor Climent, GIPE University of Alicante • Olga Shornikova, Head of Career Centre Kokshetau State University • Shuhrat Maqsudov, Head of International Relations Khujand Polytechnic Institute of Tajik Technical University • Sherali Egemberdiev, Vice-Rector of student support at ADAM University • Shermet Avezov, Head of Department of Targeted Preparation of Graduates and Monitoring of Employability, Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education Uzbekistan
17.00 – 17.15	CLOSING CEREMONY
	OFFICIAL DINNER