

# NEWSLETTER



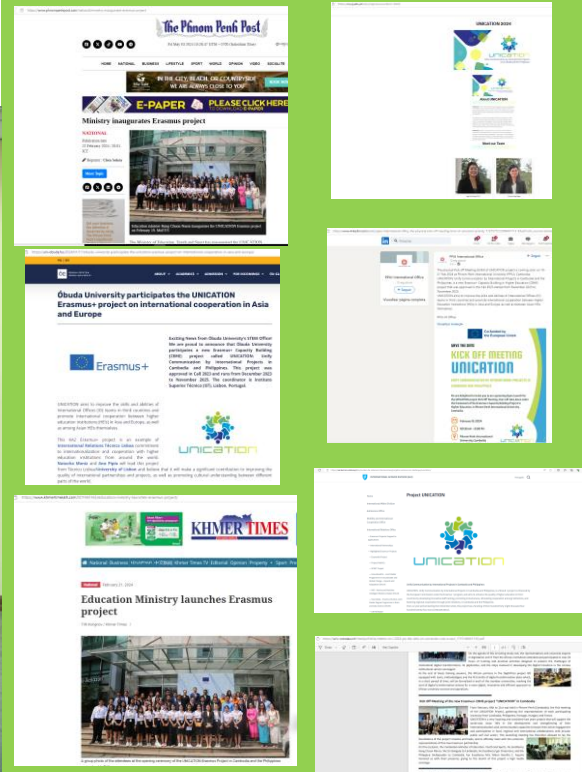
N.º 1 | 31 May 2024

Report Period: Dec 2023- May 2024



## DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

Dissemination is a powerful tool for making the project outcomes and deliverables available to internal and external stakeholders, thereby boosting public awareness and sustainability of outputs in the long term.



# Abstract of UNICATON

UNICATON- Unify Communication by International Projects in Cambodia and Philippines, is a Strand 1 project co-financed by the European Commission under the Erasmus + program, and aims to enhance the quality of higher education in third countries by developing innovative staff training, promoting inclusiveness, stimulating cooperation among institutions, and fostering regional cooperation through joint initiatives, in Cambodia and the Philippines.

The project involves the development and implementation of learning documents, training modules, and practical methods to enhance the skills of higher education staff in communication, interculturality, and project management. Trainings target various stakeholders including project managers, academic staff, administrative staff, and local actors linked to international projects. Implementation plans will ensure the application of newly acquired skills in project management and communication.

## UNICATON PRESENTATIONS



**UNICATON**  
Unify Communication by International  
Projects in Cambodia and Philippines

### Disclaimer

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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# NEWS ABOUT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

## PRE KICK-OFF

The inaugural meeting of the UNICATION project commenced on December 12, 2023, through a Virtual Kick Off Meeting, marking the commencement of collaborative efforts among participating institutions. The agenda was meticulously structured to ensure a comprehensive discussion on various crucial aspects. Beginning with welcome speeches and institutional introductions, the session progressed to elucidate the project's objectives, main outcomes, and planned activities. Project management strategies, including the delineation of responsibilities and timelines, were meticulously addressed, followed by the formulation of an action plan for the inaugural project year.



## OFFICIAL KICK-OFF MEETINGS GROUP MEETING AND TRAINING

The UNICATION kick-off meeting took place between February 19th and 21st at Phnom Penh International University (PPIU) in Cambodia. With the participation of representatives from all the partners involved in UNICATION, the event gathered a total of more than 60 participants from 5 different countries.

Brief outline of main facts and data and introduction of staff involved from each institution

- Instituto Superior Técnico
- Óbuda University
- Université Côte d'Azur
- University of the Philippines
- Batangas State University
- Phnom Penh International University
- University of Heng Samrin Thbongkhmum
- National University of Management

The PPIU welcome us with the dignified presence of His Excellency Mr. Hangchuon Naron Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Cambodia. The inauguration ceremony of this project was also attended by Mr. Igor Driesmans, Ambassador of the European Union to Cambodia, Mrs. Maria Ameri Maria Amelita C. Aquino, Ambassador of the Philippines to Cambodia and Mrs. Tep Rose, Rector of PPIU (Phnom-Penh International University).

Throughout the meeting, the six Work Packages were presented and thoroughly discussed, alongside the organization of teambuilding activities and the nomination of project committees.

At the end the Project Team embark to Cambodia cultural insight, and explore Ankor What monument.



## NEWS ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK: [UNICATION.EU](https://www.facebook.com/UNICATION.EU)  
LINKEDIN: [UNICATION.EU](https://www.linkedin.com/company/UNICATION.EU)



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# UNICATION progress report

We are thrilled to share a progress update on our endeavors thus far, as we continue our journey towards fostering impactful collaboration and innovation. We are pleased to announce that progress reports for the EACEA have been diligently prepared and submitted via the designated platform. These reports encompass various facets of our project, including the Quality Plan, Dissemination and Communication Plan, Project Management Board (PMB) Handbook, Kick Off Meeting (KoM) Report, Activities Report, External Evaluator Terms of Reference, and Partnership Agreements.

Internally, over the course of the first six months, each committee – PMB, Steering Committee (SC), Dissemination Committee (DC), and Quality Control Committee (QC) – has convened on average twice, ensuring comprehensive oversight and alignment with project objectives. Noteworthy achievements include the selection of an external evaluator within the SC and the approval of the PMB Handbook, delineating clear reporting guidelines for project milestones.

Additionally, significant progress has been made within the DC, with the approval of technical specifications for the development of our project website and the formulation of a media kit for upcoming trainings and workshops. Meanwhile, the QC Committee has finalized the methodology for monitoring events and activities, laying a robust foundation for quality assurance throughout the project lifecycle.

These milestones underscore our collective dedication and momentum towards realizing the objectives of UNICATION. We extend our gratitude to all Team for their unwavering commitment and look forward to continued collaboration as we embark on the next phase of our journey.

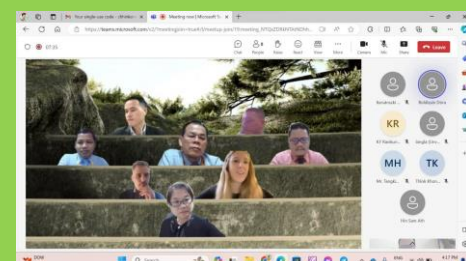


## WP2- PREPARATION surveys

Between February and March of 2024, the Óbuda University research team conducted a questionnaire-based research within the framework of the UNICATION Erasmus+ project among staff members of higher education institutions in Cambodia and the Philippines. The aim of the research was to map the internationalization processes of universities in Cambodia and the Philippines to support future developments. During the research, we used a self-administered online questionnaire that included both open and closed questions. The questionnaire contained a total of 31 questions, including statements that were rated on a 4-point Likert scale by the respondents. The questionnaire covered the following areas: Institutional Information and Profile, Overall Status and Trends, Institutional Commitment and Policy, Teaching and Learning for International Students, Faculty and Staff Support, Partnership, Internationalization of Research, Emerging Issues and the Future of Internationalization. Participation in the survey was voluntary and anonymous, with 81 staff members responding, though not all completed every question.

Respondents believe that the most important priorities for their institution's internationalization beyond the 2023-2024 academic year will focus on the internationalization of curricula. They expect the overall level of their institution's internationalization to increase over the next five years. The research also highlighted critical competencies and strategies for staff in International Offices. Essential skills include soft skills, cultural intelligence, negotiation, adaptability, and experience in international relations, along with language proficiency, communication skills, and a thorough understanding of internationalization strategies.

The report of this work package with the survey and the data collection overview was submitted in the platform, and recommendations were shared by the Consortium to the Bodies of each Asian HEIs partners and Ministries of Education in each country.



## MEET THE PARTNERS



For more details ⇒ [IST Presentation](#).

### Instituto Superior Técnico/University of Lisbon (ULISBOA) Project Coordinator

Following an outstanding scientific and cultural tradition inherited from its prior institutions, Universidade de Lisboa was created in July 2013, as a result of the merger of Universidade Técnica de Lisboa and Universidade de Lisboa (tracing its origins to the establishment of the Portuguese University in 1290). Universidade de Lisboa has 18 schools and over 100 research units, around 50,000 students, 4,000 lecturers, 2,500 non-academic staff and 400 degree courses. Teaching, research, science, technology and innovation are the core business of Universidade de Lisboa.

Instituto Superior Técnico was created in 1911 and is the school of Engineering, Science and Technology and Architecture of Universidade de Lisboa. In these domains, IST represents the largest and most reputed school in Portugal and one of the bests in Europe. At IST, we aim to give our students and alumni the education and the knowledge tools to improve, to change and to shape society through science, technology, and entrepreneurship. We provide top quality higher education, strongly exposed to Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) activities, immersing our students in an exciting and global environment geared towards solving the challenges of the XXIst Century. Internationalization has been defined as a key strategic goal over the past few years with increasing number of international students and staff as well as an increasing participation in international academic networks and partnerships of excellency (e.g. CLUSTER, TIME, CESAER, MAGALHÃES, TEMPUS, KIC-INNOENERGY, S3EP). Through a large number of agreements with other institutions worldwide (more than 500), IST participates in more than 50 Double Degree programmes, and joint PhD programmes with MIT, CMU, UT-Austin and EPFL, thus promoting a highly modern and culturally diverse society.

# UNICATION Dissemination & Communication Plan

To guarantee the effective management of all communication activities and ensure that the project creates a strong awareness among the target stakeholders, a communication plan will be developed at the beginning of the project and implemented.

The main objective of UNICATION, in light of developing the communication plan, is to create awareness, increase trust and acceptability, engage different types of stakeholders in the UNICATION activities, and guarantee the use and sustainability of results during and after the project.

The fundamental objectives of the communication and dissemination plan are to:

1. Set up the multi-stakeholder platform;
2. Establish effective communication and dissemination;
3. Develop dissemination materials and activities;
4. Organise workshops and Dissemination Events;
5. Exploit results during and after the project;
6. Manage knowledge and innovation.

This plan incorporates the interaction with all partners and accommodates their strengths and potentialities. Most importantly, this project plan will help to acknowledge the scope of communication, understand the target groups and communication channels, recognize the importance of partner interaction, diagnose different communication channels and harmonise them.

Table 4 - Dissemination tools and channels, stakeholder groups and expected impacts

Dissemination Tools and Channels	Target Stakeholder Group	Expected impact
Website	All stakeholders, particularly the wider public	Increased awareness of UNICATION, its objectives, results, and events
Interviews/podcasts	All stakeholders	Discussion of project activities in the context of specific topics of interests and engaging specific stakeholder groups
Social networkingsites	All stakeholders, particularly the wider public	Increased awareness of UNICATION, its objectives, results, and events
Promotional materials	All stakeholders, particularly the wider public	Detailed information on project activities, including open invitations to contribute and to join Events, agenda of events
Workshop	Selected stakeholders i.e. Representatives from Academia, society organisations, government	Discussion of project activities in the context of specific topics of interests and engaging specific stakeholder groups.
Newsletters	All stakeholders, particularly the wider public	Regular updates to disseminate project specific news and activities.
Scientific articles/papers/posters	All stakeholders particularly Policy makers, Academia	Wider recognition of the importance of risk governance for products and processes utilizing nanotechnologies. Established contacts that partners have with popular media will be used to raise awareness of project output.
Audio visual materials (videos)	All stakeholders, particularly the wider public	Increased awareness of UNICATION, its objectives, results, and events
Participation in external events	Clusters meetings	Partners will participate in external events including conferences, and workshops to present output from the UNICATION project

## WP3-UNICATION trainings

Scheduled from Sunday, May 5th to Thursday, May 7th, our Training preparation meeting in UNICA agenda was packed with insightful sessions aimed at ensuring the success of our forthcoming virtual workshops.

The meeting on Monday, May 6th, began with a cordial welcome extended by UniCA, followed by a comprehensive overview of the tasks and deliverables pertaining to Work Package 3 (WP3).

Then the Óbuda Partners delve into the presentation of the survey results from Work Package 2 (WP2), shedding light on the identified needs of our Asian trainees.

Throughout the day, discussions were ensue regarding the pedagogical methods for our virtual trainings, culminating in a common agreement on the features of the general virtual workshop, including its duration and thematic components. Following the sharing of international best practices, setting the stage for a productive day.

On Thursday, May 7th, discussions were focus on the definition of expected outcomes and the structure of the forthcoming report. Furthermore, attention were to finalizing the study visit in Lisbon, outlining expected training content and activities. All the European Teams also dedicated time to the presentation and adoption of the evaluation form for the trainings, ensuring comprehensive feedback mechanisms are in place.

We look forward to your active participation and meaningful contributions as we work towards the success of our upcoming virtual and presential workshops.

UNIVERSITÉ CÔTE D'AZUR Co-funded by the European Union

Date	Time	Activity
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May		Arrival of the delegates
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	9:00 - 9:15	Co-Working Breakfast
	9:30 - 9:45	Welcome of the Delegates
	9:45 - 9:45	Introductory words by UniCA
	9:45 - 10:15	Remind on WP3 tasks and deliverables
	9:45 - 10:15	Presentation of WP3 Survey Results
	9:45 - 10:15	Highlight of the identified needs of Asian trainees
	10:15 - 10:30	Obuda University, Tamás Korancsik
	10:15 - 10:30	Coffee Break
	10:30 - 11:15	Discussions and choice of the Pedagogical Method for the virtual trainings
	11:15 - 12:00	Common Agreement on the features of the General Virtual Workshop
	12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Break
	13:30 - 15:00	Practical Workshop: Definition of harmonized practical exercises for the virtual workshops
	15:00 - 15:15	Coffee Break
	15:15 - 15:45	3.2 Sharing International best practices Workshop: Definition of a harmonized approach on how to handle the Workshop
	15:45 - 16:00	Support Document
	15:45 - 16:00	Wrap Up of Day 1 - End of the Day



## MEET THE PARTNERS



### Université Côte d'Azur (UNICA)

Université Côte d'Azur is a French experimental university, with a high regional implementation that contribute to the local and national impact on the scientific and research sectors more particularly.

The institution has been created as an experimental university since 2020, replacing both the Université Nice Sophia Antipolis created in 1965, and the Communauté d'Universités et d'Établissements created in 2015. Currently, Université Côte d'Azur (UniCA) therefore includes 17 major academic establishments around the historic university core to create one of the France's top 10 research-intensive universities. Structured around innovative internal components with increased responsibilities for greater agility, Université Côte d'Azur backs all its training and innovation missions with the excellence of its research. Its strong roots in the Côte d'Azur region makes it one of the driving forces behind its growth model.

UniCA is also a founding member of the European Ulysses alliance, home to one of France's four Interdisciplinary Institutes for Artificial Intelligence (3IA), and with major partnerships with leading national research players, Université Côte d'Azur aims to rank among Europe's top universities and consolidate its international dimension. The 2023 Shanghai Academic Ranking for World Universities also raised Université Côte d'Azur as top 401-500 best universities in the world. At a national level, Université Côte d'Azur is therefore positioning itself as one of the 20th best French universities.

UniCA is therefore getting itself noticed for the rapid growth of its capacities, and the commitment of the institution to a more attractive, engaged and open-to-the-world university; which contributes to make it more competitive both on the regional and global levels.

For more details ⇒ [UNICA presentation](#).





# QUALITY ASSURANCE OF THE UNICATION PROJECT EVENTS

The continuous quality assurance process is essential for the success of the UNICATION Project. Within the framework of the Project Quality Assurance, the Quality Committee has started its activities with the evaluation of the project kick-off meeting; in close cooperation with the partners, it has developed and implemented an evaluation survey for the Kick off Meeting.

Quality Committee has also held several meetings to develop the Quality Plan (QP) which was finalized during a Quality Committee internal meeting and shared with the project partners.

The QP, based on the UNICATION project cycle, involves a Quality Management Plan including Monitoring and Reporting, and an Analysis of Potential Risks, Quality Standards and Control Measures for all WP.

The QC will perform evaluation surveys for all in person events, trainings and WP to ensure the best development of the project and analyse possible points to improve along the project timeline.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ONLINE MASTERCLASS

(July, 2024)

Target group: Public in general

Aims: Case study presented by one university teacher/staff member of each European Partners about an International Project already finished with success.

### ONLINE TRAINING

(July- September, 2024)

### PRESENTIAL TRAINING

(25th-29th November, 2024)

Target group: Manager, Teacher, Researcher, Staff

Aims: This short-term course is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of international projects. Participants will learn essential concepts, strategies, and tools for management, communication and diversity within project teams and stakeholder engagement processes.



## UNICATION CONSORTIUM

