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Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
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Developing a new curriculum in Global Migration, Diaspora and Border Studies in East-Central Europe (2020-1-SK01-KA203-078263)

International conference

"Teaching methodologies and approaches to border, migration and diaspora studies."

Kaunas, 23.09.2021

A conference launched and organized in Kaunas will discuss and disseminate the interdisciplinary teaching methods in Migration, Diaspora and Border Studies tested by the researchers who carried out mobility. The GLocalEAST consortium seeks to answer the need to develop teaching methodologies and approaches from a national to a transnational perspective. The development of experiences of the consortium and associated partners in Global Migration, Diaspora, and Border Studies in East-Central Europe could prospectively integrate into selected MA courses currently running in the HEIs of the consortium.

Lack of interdisciplinary pedagogical methodologies answering the emerging educational needs in Migration and Border studies, especially in the aftermath of the latest 'migration crises' in the Western Balkans, Ukraine, and Belarus, invites us to join the conference in Kaunas and to discuss these issues in between academicians, representatives of state institutions and members of NGO's.

The refugee crisis in Europe is a consequence of the inefficiency/lack of migration politics. Lack of a functional connection between the academic environment, governmental institutions, labour market and civil society, namely NGOs and weak cross-border cooperation in research on migration issues, especially considering the permanent intertwining of the global and local dimensions, helped to coin the idea and topics of the conference. At the same time, the problem arises when politics and the media either overemphasize the migration process or interfere with self-evident regulations and distort organic relations.

The new axis of migration brings us to new dimensions of migration and the "blurred" diaspora. Reflections of academic spheres, NGO's and methodological challenges should gain attention at the conference.

Transformation of East-West and South-North migration dimensions, changing concepts of borders, the new diaspora within European Union, Lithuanian perspective on borders, diaspora and migration, challenges for the state institutions, NGOs activities and diasporic communities are the topics discussed in the conference. How should we use teaching methodologies and approaches to talk about modern migrant realities?

The target group will embrace scholars, local university administrative units, student associations and civil society organizations. This event will represent a significant opportunity to share innovative methodologies for studying and teaching the topic.

GLocalEAST consortium:

Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovakia)

University of Bologna (Italy)

University of Belgrade (Serbia)

Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania)

European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) (Germany)

University of Zagreb (Croatia)



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VMU Small Hall (S. Daukanto g. 28, Kaunas) / On-line

10:00 Opening Word:

-prof. Egidijus Aleksandravičius (Vytautas Magnus University)

-dr. Aneta Világi (Comenius University in Bratislava)

10:10 Panel I

Keynote speaker – prof. Krzysztof Czyżewski (Borderland Foundation) "I am with You. Practising the Borderland"

Roundtable discussion:

-prof. Egidijus Aleksandravičius (Vytautas Magnus University)

-prof. Stefano Bianchini (University of Bologna)

Moderator: dr. Tomasz Błaszczak (Vytautas Magnus University)

12:00 Panel II

-prof. Jarosław Jańczak (Viadrina University) - "Teaching borders and migration – ambivalences, (inter)disciplinarity and (academic)culture differences."

-dr. Ilona Strumickienė (National Library of Lithuania) - "Reflections on challenges: teaching migration and diaspora in Lithuania."

-dr. Drago Župarić-Iljić (University of Zagreb) - "Comparative overview of teaching methods in Migration Studies: Selected cases".

Moderator: dr. Giedrius Janauskas (Vytautas Magnus University)

14:00 – Lunch break

15:00 Panel III

“Practicing borders, migration and diaspora studies” – Expert roundtable:

-dr. Ingrida Dačioliienė (World Lithuanian University)

-dr. Giedrė Milerytė-Japertienė (National Museum of Lithuania)

-Vaidotas Pakalniškis (Lavoriškės Gymnasium)

-dr. Linas Venclauskas (Sugihara House)

Moderators: dr. Tomasz Błaszczak / dr. Giedrius Janauskas (Vytautas Magnus University)

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/Tj7NHMoc9WnBRwT49>