



# SMARTI UK Project Overview and Planning Meeting (19-22 April 2022), Report

Zoom link

See Separate Agenda

1. Suspension of SMARTI from end April

## Participants

No	Name	Organization	Country	Email
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The meeting started with welcome and introduction presentation from LUJM. The Log Frame Matrix and WP2 Deliverables were reviewed. It was underlined that long and short term indicators at end of application should be carefully reviewed.

Overall the session was dominated by potential impact of the recommended communication from EU as per below. Before this communication the Steering Group had decided on an Option 1 for a 6 month suspension from end April 2022:

[TERMINATION OF COOPERATION WITH RUSSIAN PUBLIC ENTITIES R&E \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

There is a **STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER MARIYA GABRIEL ON THE TERMINATION OF COOPERATION WITH RUSSIAN PUBLIC ENTITIES IN RESEARCH AND IN EDUCATION**

Within this statement there are phrases like:

***On the participation of Russian public entities in Erasmus+***

*I have asked to terminate the participation of Russian public entities or bodies in all ongoing and future Erasmus+ actions. This also includes termination of all payments to Russian public bodies or related organisations.*

***On the participation of Russian individuals, youth, and civil society organisations in Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps***

*First, Russian students, scholars and academic staff will remain eligible for short term-exchanges and Russian students and scholars will remain eligible for degree mobility. A thorough screening against the EU sanction lists will be conducted. Student and staff exchanges towards Russia also remain eligible.*

*Second, participation of Russian individuals, youth, and civil society organisations in Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps youth actions remains, with a thorough screening to be conducted. The continued screening of individuals will ensure that no individual on the EU sanctions list is allowed to participate in an Erasmus+ or the European Solidarity Corps action.*



RTU was unable to participate over three days due to staff illness.

In addition, due to the Russian University Rector statement of support for the war in Ukraine as communicated recently in a meeting with RTU International Office and TU Dresden they are unable to currently cooperate with Russian universities. RTU also underlined the number of Ukrainian refugees that their staff is currently supporting.

The UK position is that they are unable to currently support any project that collaborates with Russian Federation institutes or persons employed in these institutions.

Both UCP and TUD are awaiting concrete and conclusive directions from Brussels. TUD have written to EU Desk Officer on this and plan to follow up again.

With Option 1 of suspension now in serious doubt we have looked at Option 2 with Armenia but keeping in mind that the Public Service Academy of Armenia (PAARA) Rector on behalf of other Armenia Rectors request that two Russian Federation individuals (guest professors at PAARA) be retained in the project due to their involvement in co-writing of the project, their knowledge of EMI and their experience of working in Armenian universities. It should be underlined that when this project was conceived it was planned that Russian universities were senior partners as they have had some experience of introducing EMI into their respective universities.

More specifically the Option 2 Plan involves looks at the descriptions of the AR universities and refining materials in this direction. A new Smarti Roadmap and updated WP ppts can only be completed once we receive clear instruction from Brussels to proceed on Option 1 or 2.



However, we envision the training for the 10 Module Main Curriculum to be held in UK in first two weeks of September but again early clarification is needed from EU to finalize. This is urgent if PCs are to process their visa applications on time.

The second NAD could be held before or around this time. Additionally equipment can be installed (awaiting OK from EU since last year) and the EMI Centres opened.

The presentation from Armenia on ongoing progress was very well received and especially the publication of the academic paper on the project. TUD quoted the EU Desk Officer on the importance of EU (UK) partners promoting the Smarti project. TU Dresden plans to disseminate Smarti at their own cost at BESIG IATEFL in Belfast in May and already have participated in an international conference in Uzbekistan in February this year where Smarti was presented.

The RTU Progress Evaluation Report was reviewed and points noted.

Website was reviewed and found to be well populated. Translation in Armenian needs to proceed.

On financials AR requested if Christina Spirow could return to the project as financial manager. They confirmed this is RF position. AR expressed grave concern on delay issue of getting equipment OK from Brussels. The UK side asked that if there was a realignment of the project could they receive additional staff costs as theirs was very minimal taking into consideration the needs that have emerged from the PC side. If two key Russian individuals are accepted by PAARA their budget would also need to be realigned to take into consideration additional staff and travel costs.



TU Dresden expressed concern that an AR partner was purchasing EMI books. Other partners should wait for lists from LJMU as WP2 leader. This was agreed in Porto and also with the RF colleague. Purchasing of books needs to be coordinated based on the indicative reading required for the 10 modules. AR requested that all book purchases should be included in one centralized order by Coordinator as otherwise it was practically impossible to purchase these books in AR.

On the academic front there was very fruitful discussion on the pedagogical aspects of the project relating to the preparation and development of the 10 Module Main Curriculum training materials led by WP 2 leaders John Moore. It was noted that Option 2 has changed the focus considerably.

The 10 Module templates were discussed and finalized. Thanks was expressed to Olga for her support in preparing these templates and Alexandra for the QA review of same. Regarding the 10 Module Main Curriculum training preparation work all outstanding issues were resolved. These Main Curriculum training materials will be collected by WP 2 Leader LJMU for uploading to Google Drive by....

LJMU will ensure completion of Main Curriculum Information Brochure for proposed September training.

On the modules themselves following PC input and feedback on the situation in Armenia it was agreed that each module should be limited to 1 ECTS (in Armenia = 30 academic hours)



Each module should involve 8 contact hours with remaining workload focusing on indicative reading, video links, handouts etc (keeping in mind that PCs may not be in a position to buy so many books) and assessment (to be finalized at Main Curriculum training). The Weekly Plan template is for PC completion.

The Main Curriculum training envisages one week of EU inputs on ten modules and a second week where PCs develop the 10 modules, module description template and weekly plan template based on EU materials and templates bearing in mind their national situation. During the second week EU partners will support PCs in completion.

Pilotings will be conducted by PC partners which will be observed by EU partners who will give Master Lessons as further training support.

Finally we would like to thank LJMU for hosting this key meeting on legal, financial and academic issues facing our CBHE project due to external factors.

TUD Team