**Network Meeting SMLS on 25th and 26th of September 2019 at Technische Hochschule Lübeck**

**MINUTES**

Participants

* Prof. Dr. Rudy Lohmann, TH Lübeck
* Alexandra Wolf, TH Lübeck
* Nour Alshami, TH Lübeck
* Prof. Dr. Rainer Lehmann, TH Lübeck
* Prof. Dr. Alexander Steinmetz, FH Würzburg-Schweinfurt
* Prof. Dr. Lutz Schminke, HS Fulda
* Prof. Dr. Torsten Bleich, DHBW Villingen-Schwenningen
* Dr. Serena Sandri, GJU
* Dr. Rana Sabri, GJU
* Luai Abu Rajab, GJU
* Stefanie Kirsch, GJU
* Prof. Dr. Michael Grabinski, Universität Neu-Ulm
* Gisela Zimmermann, HfWU Nürtingen-Geislingen
* Prof. Dr. Frank Gillert, TH Wildau

**25th September 2019**

Welcome

Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Frank Schwartze, Vice-president for International Affairs at TH Lübeck welcomed the participants and gave a short introduction about his university. Network head Prof. Dr. Ing. Rudy Lohmann from TH Lübeck and Prof. Dr. Alexander Steinmetz, Deputy Network head of the SMLS network from FH Würzburg-Schweinfurt asked for an introduction Round of all participating network members.

Updates from GJU

Presentation of Dr. Rana Sabri: General information about GJU, founded in 2005 with now around 5000 students. Explaining the German dimension at GJU with IO, GLC, OIL, Exchange Coordinators being part of the German Year Committee, Exchange programs like Flying Faculty and Train the Trainer Program and a German Vice-president supporting students in their German Year. Since 2008 4253 students went to Germany. 446 Incoming students came to GJU since 2010. Main Challenges of GJU and SMLS were discussed, such as attracting of academic & industrial partners in Germany, achieving a balanced student exchange between GJU and German Universities, developing comprehensive Master’s Programs, promoting joint research and research visits among academics, participating in DAAD/Erasmus+ calls.

Presentation of Dr. Serena Sandri: GJU has a good reputation in Jordan. 98% of GJU graduates find a job within 3 months. Companies like the fact that graduates have an academic and practical experience in Germany. Master Degree in Logistics Management. Good number of BA students in order to capitalize the MA was offered with two tracks, thesis track and comprehensive track. Future SMLS perspective Accreditation by FIBAA, more Flying Faculty professors, perspective for joint supervision of Master thesis, a new master program e.g. International business or International accounting.

Dual Study Program was a challenge to be launched because traineeships in Jordan companies were still new. Reforming education in a more applied way was the idea behind it. The curriculum was developed with the companies and should have a broad approach in order to enable students to adapt to changes in the labour market needs. The graduation project will be written at the Jordanian company with joint supervision with GJU and company supervisor. 15 Jordanian companies from logistics are part of it. German companies are welcome to join. Students need to find the company on their own. So far the company is not paying a salary but maybe it will change in future. If Dual Studies model is successful other schools will follow like SEEIT. In Germany at DHBW students get 60 Credits for practical training in company out of 210 total credits.

**26th September 26, 2019**

Incomings & Outgoings: GJU Study Survey

Prof. Dr. Desiree Ladwig and Alexandra Wolf give a presentation (PPP) about the Cultural Shock Model about Jordanian Students coming to Germany. Practical implications to pre-departure training at GJU, especially done by IO and OIL and GLC. Maybe start earlier with preparing students and involve German students and GJU students who came back from Germany more in pre-workshops. Language skills need to be improved at GLC!

Repatriation of students deserves to include OIL more especially for job support, and start up enhancement. Network members recommend to show success stories from former students.

Student’s challenges and need for competences in Germany

Students challenges in Germany: Accommodation during internship, also finding internship is problematic, they have to start in the study semester right away, students are too picky regarding companies, suggestion that students can also do their internship at the partner university, it is recommended to tell students how competitive it became on the German job market, German university has to take into account the cultural differences, maybe GJU needs to prepare them earlier. Suggestion: Invite representatives from Industry as Guest lecturers (Lehrbeauftragte) with honorarium to GJU.

Dual Studies and Industry partnership

Prof. Dr. Frank Gillert, TH Wildau (PPP) introduced his Logistics study program. In 4th semester his students do an internship with a clearly defined task (no rotation in the company) and write a paper at the end of this semester. In 5th semester Prof. Gillert sees the students different after experiencing work-based learning integration. In 7th semester they have 8 weeks internship and 12 weeks bachelor thesis with the same company. So companies create their own employees. TH Wildau has strong international cooperation with Georgia, Kazachstan (DKU) and United Arab Emirates (UAE). Advantage of German co-educational system is the mutual curriculum development between educational and market system. TH Wildau has great infrastructure with logistics lab on campus and also invested in Georgia and Kazachstan with acquired industry funds. UAE invested in their campus labs with their own money. German approach is very much desired by partner country. Close cooperation with AHKs in the country.

Prof. Dr. Torsten Bleich, DHBW (PPP) presented his university and its Dual Study Program. Their Faculties offer 61% Business and Engineering 37% courses. 6x12 weeks of academic studies with 150 ECTS and 6x12 practical qualification with 60 ECTS. Company selects the students at the beginning of their study and therefore DHBW has very good students with a drop-out rate of only 5%. The BA thesis is related to practical training and supervised by two supervisors from DHBW and the company. Most of the graduates (90%) start with the company. They have only 6 weeks of holiday per year in the practical part. Mentor and accessor at company need to have at least the degree that is achieved by the student. DHBW has 40% full time professor and 60% part time lecturers. No tution fees are charged, the company pays the student a salary about 1000 Euro per month. Most students go abroad in the practical part of their studies.

Prof. Gillert says DHBW is the future model. Practical part needs to be established more for Jordan step by step. But the broader perspective is missing when students are only trained in one company. GJU should consider the development and trust building within the country and companies with success. Luai asking how to convince the Jordanian company, Prof. Gillert recommends to convince at first with a small number of students with good results/performance. Experience from DHBW graduates they stay with company for many years and show great loyalty.

The professors suggest a joint student project: Re-organize a warehouse (marketing project), management project for students like real cases scenarios, include Flying Faculty into project work, step by step, make success with one company and sell your success story. GJU professor needs to strengthen the contact to the Jordanian companies. Make use of MBA contacts. Small and medium sized companies (SME) in Jordan will be the backbone of the country and its economy.

Staff and Student Mobility Programs

PPP Flying Faculty Experience of Prof. Dr. Lutz Schminke, HS Fulda was at GJU in April 2019.

PPP Erasmus+ Mobility programs presented by Stefanie Kirsch. She encourage the network members to participate in Erasmus calls like International Credit Mobility (ICM) or Capacity Building. The international office at GJU has a contact person Ms. Eman Asenwar that supports GJU staff and is well connected to the Erasmus coordinators at GJU’s partner universities.

Several professors were interested in coming as a Flying Faculty guest to the School of Management and Logistics, such as Prof. Dr. Alexander Steinmetz, Prof. Dr. Lutz Schminke and Prof. Dr. Torsten Bleich. Prof. Dr. Rudy Lohmann already arranged his FF stay and came right after the network meeting.

Further cooperation talks with TH Wildau have been made and Prof. Dr. Gillert was considering visiting GJU with a delegation from his university next year.

The network meeting 2019 ended with a Company visit a SLM Solutions Group AG in Lübeck.

Next network meeting 2020

Next network meeting will be on 24th and 25th of September 2020 at Hochschule Fulda.