**GJU-Network “Electrical Engineering and IT“ 08.- 09. November 2018 in St. Augustin (Hochschule Bonn Rhein-Sieg)**

**MINUTES**

**Participants:**

**(cf. also appendix: List of Participants)**

Prof. Dr. Rainer Herpers, Nadine Kutz, Dr. Barbara Hillen, Prof. Dr. Georg Schneider, Prof. Dr. Sahel Alawneh, Dr. Dhiah Abou-Tair, Prof. Dr. Raed Mesleh, Prof. Dr. Christina Claß, Sabine Ganter, Tanya Marin-Weigelt, Prof. Dr. Kurt-Ulrich Witt, Prof. Dr. Paul Grimm, Prof. Dr. Frank Klingert, Prof. Heinz-Erich Erbs, Prof. Dr. Roman Obermaisser, Prof. Dr. Harald Loose, Stefanie Kirsch.

The meeting was held at Hochschule Bonn Rhein-Sieg.

Prof. Dr. Herpers, faculty of Computer Science at Hochschule Bonn Rhein-Sieg (HS BRS) opened the meeting welcoming the participants and guests from Jordan and Germany. After an introduction round of each network member, Dr. Dhiah stressed the strong relations with HS BRS over the last years in student exchange and capacity building projects. The Vice-president for Internationalization and Diversity at HS BRS, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Bode called GJU a strategic partner among more than 80 partner universities of HS BRS worldwide due to the vital bilateral cooperation. HS BRS has recently been awarded an innovative university out of 29 German universities and received grants that will also benefit the student exchange with GJU, especially in increasing the number of outgoing students from HS BRS to GJU as international experience and intercultural skills for IT students are more needed than ever and demanded by CEOs from their employees in order to enhance their willingness to participate in international collaboration projects.

Nordrhein-Westphalia also offers a short-term scholarship program <https://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/home/internationales/nrw-nahost-foerderprogramme/jordanien-stipendienprogramm.html> which shows that collaboration in Higher education with the Middle East is in the focus of German politics.

**Session I – Updates from GJU and partner universities**

* Dr. Dhiah presented the faculty of IT at GJU and recent research updates from his faculty (SEEIT School of Electrical Engineering and IT). He discussed his Erasmus Plus staff and student mobility projects DAAD (KA 107) where SEEIT sent 3 students to Trier, 12 to Siegen, 5 to Portugal and 3 to Iceland. He mentioned the collaboration in the field of Capacity Building with University of Siegen, where two proposals were written and encouraged participants to join DFG calls with developing countries in order to apply for research funding and staff (such PhD positions). Prof. Grimm and Prof. Klingert from HS Fulda would be eligible since Hessia has the Promotionsrecht at Universties of Applied Sciences.
* 2018 Flying Faculty professors came to SEEIT from Darmstadt, Bremen, Trier, Jena, Anhalt and Lübeck to SEEIT. The best time slots for a visit are End of January-Beginning of February, Mid of June-Beginning of July or in September. SEEIT can host up to three professors each time.
* Prof. Schneider presented the successful Erasmus Plus for Mobility (KA107) project with GJU funded with 70.00,- Euro as a fruitful output of the Network meeting 2017 in Trier. Network meetings are a perfect platform to discuss calls, find topics and start applying for funding jointly.
* Prof. Class reported about her teaching experience at GJU and how students should be prepared for their German year. Her conclusions go in line with the experience of Prof. Heiden, Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science at HS BRS, who mentioned earlier that GJU students should be more proactive and approach their German professors when content during lectures is not fully understood. Dr. Dhiah wants the German professors and their International offices to report back about students absences as they are advised to attend lectures and interact with their fellow German students. Physical presence is important to team up and get actively involved.
* The number of students at SEEIT will increase: In 2018 about 15 students were sent to Germany, 2019 it will be between 20 and 25.

**Session II: Research and successful third party funding projects**

* Prof. Raed presented his research collaboration and encouraged Flying Faculty professors to present their research at GJU. Guest lectures are seen as a fruitful basis for future collaboration and establishing joint projects.
* Prof. Herpers presented the OSSCOM project with GJU, his DAAD (Change by Exchange) project and opened the discussion to apply for the DAAD call Deutsch-Arabische Transformationspartnerschaften (line 4/2/1) <https://www.daad.de/hochschulen/programme-regional/arabischer-raum/de/27682-deutsch-arabische-transformationspartnerschaft/>
* **DAAD Proposal:** HS BRS and GJU will apply in December 2018 for DAAD transformation line 1: Mobility and Capacity building: A framework for filing, commercialization and marketing of IP. They will apply for student mobility and exhibitions to experience IP knowledge (Bonn Rhein-Sieg business campus, Tageti, Tarent, Oaisis -500). Conducting 2-3 workshops, bringing experts from Germany, Lebanon and locally from Tageti.
* Prof. Sahel presented his recent mobility projects with Iceland Reykjavik where 54.000,- Euro for staff and student exchange have been granted. Further international projects with Canada, Italy, Portugal, UK, USA (NATO project) and a 400.000,- grant project with Qatar foundation as well as a recent Arab-American Frontiers in Kuwait fellowship proposal (NASA, NSF, USA Aid) have been presented. As dean of SEEIT Prof. Sahel outlines that GJU has several Erasmus collaborations with Arabic, European and overseas countries and emphasizes that Flying Faculty visits contribute to establish such ideas and joint projects.
* Prof. Class offered to invite the German Gesellschaft fuer Informatik in order to discuss topics for a DAAD proposal (Artificial intelligence, etc) as she is the group chair of Informatik und Gesellschaft. She put as an advantage that data collection is easier in Jordan than in Germany.
* Prof. Obermaisser presented his research projects with Dr. Dhiah and SEEIT at GJU.

**Session III – Student Mobility**

**Student exchange with GJU**

* Partner universities within the SEEIT network that never or rarely took GJU students: HS Aschaffenburg and HS Goerlitz. The number of courses offered at HS Goerlitz that GJU students could take was very limited. SEEIT revised the curricula and expanded the list of elective courses so another attempt with HS Goerlitz can be done. HS Aschaffenburg only offered basis courses either in summer or winter semester. When GJU decided only elective courses can be taken in Germany the problem was solved. For Aschaffenburg targeting the winter term is better for synchronization.
* Prof. Raed will provide a list of elective courses to SEEIT’s partner universities.
* In order to inform the international offices of the partner universities about the preparation of GJU students before their German year the next network meeting will include presentations from GJU’s international office, office for industrial links and German language center.

**Session IV – Further collaboration planned**

* Hochschule Darmstadt: E-Learning course about NoSQL-Databases.

Prof. Erbs, Professor of Computer Science at University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt, offers a course consisting of teaching videos (in German), mostly based on slides. The material can be used, to run the course at GJU under supervision of a colleague or a teaching assistant. Remote supervision is offered by Prof. Erbs. The final examination will take place at GJU. Term grading could be done on the basis of lab exercises or homework. A mid-term examination could be done by the assistant or by Prof. Erbs remotely.

* Hochschule Bonn Rhein-Sieg: DAAD proposal Capacity Building about Intellectual property/patents (Deadline 10th December 2018) will be handed in.

**Session V – Wrap up and further planning**

* **Next network meeting** suggested date: End of October or beginning of November 2019. Next host Prof. Schulze at HS Zittau/Goerlitz or preferably Sabine Ganter at HS Bremen
* Schedule modified: Two parallel Workshop sessions for Electrical Engineering and for IT.

**Supporting program**

* Campus tour including visits of HSBRS institute for Visual Computing
* Company visit at [Tarent](https://www.tarent.de/en/) offered possibility to take GJU IT students for internships as many of their graduates are IT students from HS Bonn Rhein-Sieg.

List of Participants

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