

*PRESS RELEASE*

## **Excellence-in-ReSTI: International pilot training kick-off for 25 young project managers from the Danube Region**

- Interreg Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) project team develops innovative Blended Learning curriculum
- One year pilot training packed with skills for project management in Research, Social and Technological Innovation (ReSTI)

Eisenstadt, 02.10.2018 – Two days full of learning, networking, and gaining skills for innovative project management: University of Applied Sciences (UAS) Burgenland's Campus Eisenstadt turned into a networking hub for 25 young project managers from all over Europe on October 1-2. The event kicked off a one-year pilot blended learning programme, the "ReSTI.academy", in which students and trainers will work together on testing and improving a five-module curriculum on Excellence in Research, Social and Technological Innovation Project Management (Excellence-in-ReSTI). Project manager Gábor Szüdi (Lead Partner, Centre for Social Innovation – ZSI) and UAS Burgenland's deputy project manager Irena Zavrl hosted the kick-off meeting, bringing together 25 international students with a team of 12 content-developing partners from 9 countries in the Danube Region. The quality-assured course modules will become part of the academic partners' curricula as the project ends in fall 2019.

### **Online Learning Modules of ReSTI.academy**

The Interreg DTP project „Excellence in Research, Social and Technological Innovation (ReSTI) Project Management“ aims at developing project management skills of first-time applicants for EU funded projects in the Danube Region. From a pool of 161 candidates, the consortium selected 25 funded participants for participating in three face-to-face meetings. Participants will be working on five online modules covering 20 courses: EU Policies, Project Design, Project Management, Social Innovation, and Innovation in the Business Context. The second meeting will take place in Budapest in March 2019 aiming to review experiences with the first semester and adjust the road for the second half of the study year.

### **The Five Doors to project management – and to an international career**

The kick-off event in Eisenstadt (Austria) culminated in an open-to-public presentation of the unique ReSTI "Five Door" Blended Learning Approach developed exclusively for this project. UAS Burgenland's innovation expert Regina Rowland explains: "The five doors provide opportunity to self-direct the learning process and adapt it to one's own learning preferences". The five doors are: The *library*, which refers to a location where resources are gathered and organized for easy access. The *café* facilitates social learning by creating relevant content together with others. The *playground* is addressing hands-on learners who need to engage with the content directly. The *forest* offers opportunities to digest and reflect upon the content and observe self or others during certain processes. Last but not least, the level of learning gained can be tested behind the *assessment* door.

Find more voices of the ReSTI.academy Pilot Training participants as well as further updates online: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/excellence-in-resti/news>.

### **Interreg projects create value for regions**

„The University of Applied Sciences Burgenland has become a driving force for regional development – and our role has been strongly supported owing to EU funds like Interreg cross-border and Danube Region cooperations“, says Georg Pehm, managing director of UAS Burgenland. The institution is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2018 – with cooperations in CEE countries playing a prominent part in all of its history. The project Excellence-in-ReSTI is co-funded by ERDF and the Federal Government of Burgenland, Austria. The project runs from February 2017 until fall 2019. The final event will be the certification ceremony for 25 successful participants in July 2019.

*Learn more about the project Excellence-in-ReSTI or subscribe for the newsletter*  
[www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/excellence-in-resti](http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/excellence-in-resti)

### **Open source knowledge base: ReSTI Infodesk**

*In addition, the project offers a free online tool - ReSTI Infodesk - that will allow you to ask specific questions related to the preparation and management of your innovative international project:* <https://desk.zoho.eu/portal/excellenceinresti/newticket>

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