



ENHANCE

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAPACITIES IN VIETNAM

MINUTES

1st Round Table

“The Importance of Higher Education for the
Economic Development”

5th October 2016

Venue: VNU University of Social Sciences and Humanities
(USSH, Hanoi)
Room 304 Building E, USSH Campus,
336 Nguyen Trai Street, Thanh Xuan District
Hanoi, Vietnam



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

1. General data

WP5: Networking on R&I

Deliverable D5.1.1 Round Tables with Vietnamese HE Authorities

Round Table name: "The Importance of Higher Education for the Economic Development"

EU Organiser: University of Alicante

Host institution: VNU University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH, Hanoi)

Dates: 5th October 2016

2. Agenda

The Round Table consisted of two parts. The first part was focused on the presentation of the ENHANCE project and the preliminary findings of the in-depth needs analysis on R&I management and implementation conducted in Vietnam by the consortium. The second part was focused on discussing on the importance of Higher Education for the Economic Development. Below the agenda of the Round Table can be found.

05/10/2016 (WEDNESDAY)			Venue: Room 304 Building E, USSH campus
From	To	Duration	
08:45	9:00	15'	ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS
9:00	9:30	30'	Official Welcome Prof. Pham Quang Minh, Rector of USSH Hanoi Prof. Dr. Juan Llopis, Vice-President for International Relations, University of Alicante
09:30	10:00	30'	Presentation of the ENHANCE project Dr. Ester Boldrini, OGPI Deputy Director, University of Alicante
10:00	10:45	45'	In-depth needs analysis on R&I management and implementation in Vietnam: preliminary findings Prof. Andrej Soltesz, Slovenká Technická Univerzita v Bratislave, STUBA & Mr. Thien Nguyen, Center for Vietnamese and Southeast Asian Studies, HCMUSSH
10:45	11:15	30'	COFFEE BREAK
11:15	13:00	105'	Round Table: The Importance of Higher Education for the Economic Development Moderator: Dr. Tran Van Kham (USSH Hanoi) <u>Panellists:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Pham Quang Minh, Rector of USSH Hanoi • Prof. Dr. Juan Llopis, Vice-President for International Relations, University of Alicante • Prof. Jim Woodburn, Researcher, Glasgow Caledonian University • Mr. Nguyen Hoai Nam, MOET • Mr. Pham Quang Tri, MOST
13:00	13:30	30'	Round Table closure Prof. Pham Quang Minh, Rector of USSH Hanoi
13:30	14:30	60'	LUNCH BREAK



3. Objectives of the Round Table

The main aim of the Round Table was to exchange ideas on the importance of Higher Education for the economic development. This is meant to encourage dialogue and strengthen cooperation links and partnerships among academia, researchers, industries/private sector and policy makers.

The objective of the 1st ENHANCE Round Table was to foster a discussion on possible improvements and strategy for Research and Innovation management at national and institutional level.

The specific objectives of the National Round Table were:

- To present the ENHANCE project and the preliminary findings of the in-depth needs analysis on R&I management and implementation conducted in Vietnam by the consortium.
- To encourage dialogue among HE authorities and HE community.
- Mutual understanding and exchange of ideas and proposal for improvement of legislation on R&I.
- Better management at HE level and implementation.
- Relevant conclusion drafted after the Round Table and included in the ENHANCE White Paper: "Recommendations towards improving R&I management and Implementation in Vietnam".

4. Participants



Enhance Round Table 1 Minutes
October 5, 2016, Hanoi

The 1st ENHANCE Round Table brought together several managers and researchers from Higher Education Institutions (HEI), Science and Technology (S&T) authorities and relevant stakeholders in Vietnam, including:

Institution	Name	Role
Thai Nguyen University (TNU)	Prof. Dang Van Minh	Vice-President
	Prof. Do Anh Tai	Director International Relations
	Dr. Mai Anh Khoa	Vice Director of Research management Dept.
VNU University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi (USSH Hanoi)	Prof. Dr. Pham Quang Minh	Rector
	Dr. Tran Van Kham	Deputy Director, Office for Scientific Research Management
	Mr. Doan Viet Hai	Staff, Office for Scientific Research Management
	Mr. Luong Ngoc Vinh	Deputy Director, Office for Cooperation and Development
Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF)	Prof. Le Van An	Rector
	Dr. Pham Huu Ty	Head of Dept. of Science and International Relations
	Ms. Le Thi Thuy Hang	Officer of Department
VNU Ho Chi Minh-University of Social Sciences and Humanities (HCMUSSH)	Mr Dang Vu Thien Nguyen	Project Manager
	Dr. Tran Dinh Lam	Director of Center for Vietnamese and Southeast Asian Studies
	Dr. Tran Anh Tien	Deputy Head from Office of Scientific Research and Project Management
An Giang University (AGU)	Dr. Vo Van Thang	Rector
	Mr. Vo Van Oc	Project Manager
	Msc. Trinh Phuoc Nguyen	Deputy Director of Research Center for Rural Development
Can Tho University (CTU)	Mr. Do Van Xe	Vice rector
	Mr. Thai Cong Dan	Dean
	Ms. Nguyen Thi Huynh Phuong	Lecturer, School of Social Sciences & Humanities, CTU project member
Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)	Mr. Nguyen Hoai Nam	International Relations



Enhance Round Table 1 Minutes
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Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)	Mr. Hoang Van Tuyen	Coordinator
	Mr. Pham Quang Tri	Vice Director

These were joined by non-Vietnamese partners from the ENHANCE project:

Institution	Country	Name	Role
University of Alicante	Spain	Prof. Dr. Juan Llopis	Vice-President for International Relations
		Dr. Ester Boldrini	Deputy Director of International Project Management Office
		Ms Noelia López	Senior Project Manager, International Project Management Office
Glasgow Caledonian University	United Kingdom	Prof. Jim Woodburn	Associate Dean Research, Director, Institute for Applied Health Research
Slovenká Technická Univerzita V Bratislave	Slovakia	Prof. Julius Soltesz	Professor
		Prof. Andrej Soltesz	Professor

5. Resources used for the Round Table

Power point used are available at Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/f26ujl2wp8jl8d1/AACtNPBun6xYFQbW1s4Kkl5Aa?dl=0>

6. Round Table



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Moderator: Dr. Tran Van Kham, Deputy Director, Office for Scientific Research Management, VNU University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi

Panellists:

- Prof. Pham Quang Minh, Rector of VNU University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi
- Prof. Dr. Juan Llopis, Vice-President for International Relations, University of Alicante
- Prof. Jim Woodburn, Researcher, Glasgow Caledonian University
- Mr. Nguyen Hoai Nam, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Education and Training
- Mr. Pham Quang Tri, Ministry of Science and Technology
- Mr. Hoang Van Tuyen, Ministry of Science and Technology

The Round Table discussion was initiated by each of the panellists presenting the contributions of Higher Education for the economic development and providing initial discussion points. The contributions were followed by a Q&A discussion session led by the Moderator.

Prof. Pham Quang Minh presented the challenges faced by the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Vietnam such as the innovation being a very new aspect, globalisation in terms of bringing and retaining talent, security issues, etc.. Prof. Quang Minh mentioned that the relationship between HEIs and economic development is based in many studies and evidences from a regional and country perspective and that HEIs play a key role in the country progress.

Prof. Dr. Juan Llopis raised the following question to the audience: how can you measure the value that HEIs add to the society/economy? He stated that there is a no clear relation between GDP-patents-publications. He also raised the question of why researchers are publishing so much with such a lower research budget. In Spain researches have to publish to be senior lecturers. Not all the papers will have an impact on the economy but some of them will.

Prof. Jim Woodburn presented an overview of higher education and economic development. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD 2008) higher education contributes to social and economic development through four major missions:

- The formation of human capital (primarily through teaching).



- The building of knowledge bases (primarily through research and knowledge development).
- The dissemination and use of knowledge (primarily through interactions with knowledge users).
- The maintenance of knowledge (primarily through inter-generational storage and transmission of knowledge).

Prof. Woodburn stated that in a knowledge economy, higher education can help economies gain ground (on more technologically advanced societies) as graduates are more aware and better able to use new technologies. Higher education can provide both private and public benefits:

- Greater tax revenue
- Increased savings and investment
- More entrepreneurial and civic society
- Improve the health of nation
- Contribute to reduced population growth
- Improve technology
- Strengthen governance

Finally Prof. Woodburn presented Scotland's economic strategy and Higher Education contribution to the Scottish Government economy.

Mr. Nguyen Hoai Nam explained that there is no academic freedom. A link between Higher Education Institutions and workforce is needed. Cooperation with HEIs from EU is very important for MOET to support HEIs in Vietnam.

Mr. Pham Quang Tri explained that context is very important and that context in Spain and Glasgow is very different. In Vietnam the system for Intellectual Property Management is not well performed. The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) is a governmental agency which performs functions of State management on Science and Technology, including supporting innovation.

There are two types of funds for innovation in Vietnam:

- NAFOSTED: fund for basic research
- NATIC: fund for tech/innovative companies

There are 19 national programmes in Science and Technology. Each Ministry has a programme in R&D. Regional Governments have also programmes for R&D.



Mr. Hoang Van Tuyen explained that HEIs are transforming and that they play a key role in market orientated societies. There is a need in Vietnam for improving Intellectual Property Management and for protecting research results. There are lots of enterprises in Vietnam and lost of R&D programmes.

During the discussion session the following points were made:

- Autonomy is not autonomy inside HEIs in Vietnam.
- Students want to get a diploma more than knowledge. They will do whatever to get their diploma.
- If education is of good quality the students will enter the labour market. It is the responsibility of HEIs to ensure their employability. We have to pay attention to the kind of product we provide to society.
- Labour market is not competitive in Vietnam.

7. Feedback analysis

After the Round Table in Hanoi, an on-line questionnaire was distributed to the participants in order to gain feedback about the progress made during the Round Table. The evaluation approach for analysing the quality of the Round Tables chosen by University of Alicante is based on self-rating questions, as participants have the chance to evaluate by themselves. The survey is anonymous to ensure reduced answering bias. The same survey structure and general questions will be used for all upcoming project Round Tables to ensure comparability throughout the project life cycle.

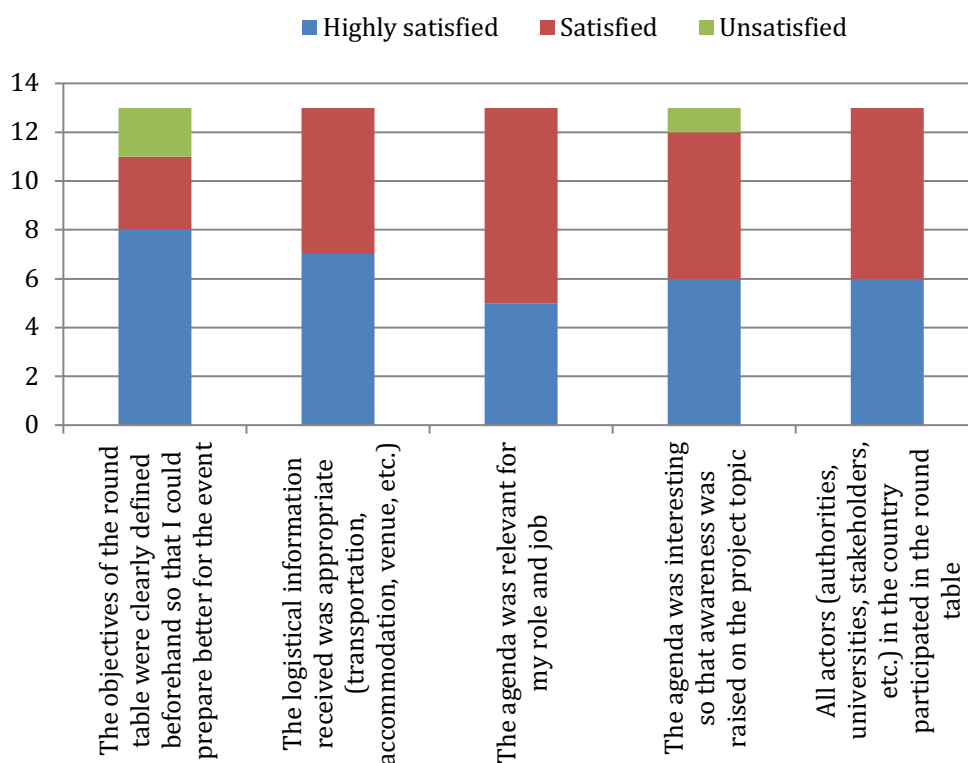
The analysis of the feedback is of special relevance for the project management as it should guide the coordinator in the process of managing the project and its processes within the partnership. Besides, the evaluation of the project offers benefits to the whole partnership, as it aims at detecting potential threats and problems. Due to this fact, corrective measures can be planned well in advance and serve as tool for early detection of deviances or challenges for project implementation.

7.1. Before the Round Table

Almost all the factors evaluated by the meeting participants in the section “Before the Round Table” can be identified as positive with most answers being in the categories “Highly satisfied” and “satisfied”. Only two respondents were unsatisfied with the point related to if the objectives of the round table were clearly defined beforehand so they could prepare better for the event and one respondent was unsatisfied with the agenda in terms of raising awareness on the project topic. These two aspects will be taken into account for the organisation of the 2nd Round Table.



BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE

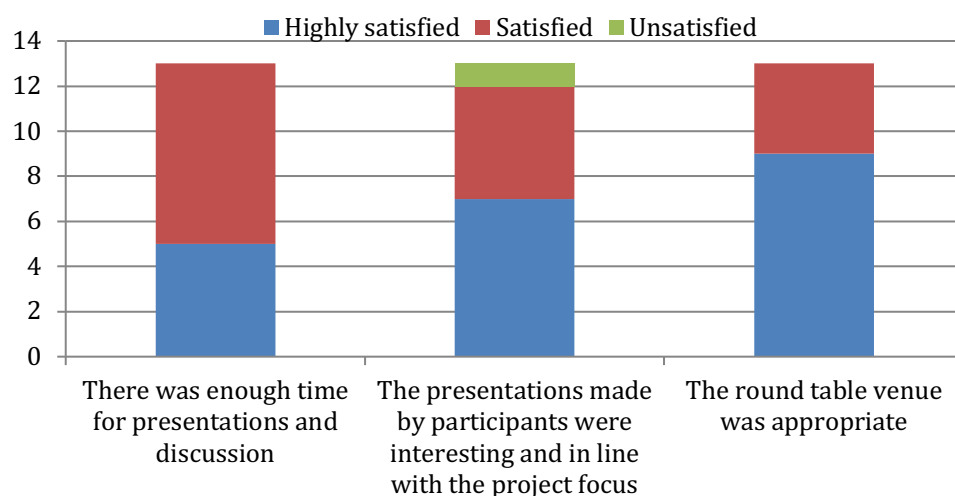


7.2. During the Round Table

Almost of the factors evaluated by the meeting participants in the section “During the Round Table” can be identified as positive with most answers being in the categories “Highly satisfied” and “satisfied”. Only one respondent was unsatisfied with the point related to if the presentations made by participants were interesting and in line with the project focus. This aspect will be taken into account for the organisation of the 2nd Round Table.



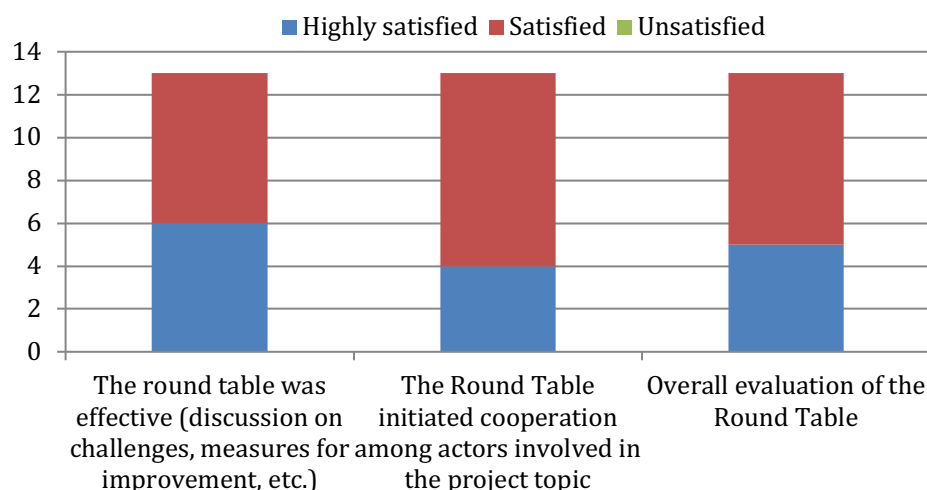
DURING THE ROUND TABLE



7.3. After the Round Table

All the factors evaluated by the meeting participants in the section “After the Round Table” can be identified as positive with most answers being in the categories “Highly satisfied” and “satisfied”. The overall evaluation of the Round Table was rated between the “Highly satisfied” category (38,46 %) and a 61,54 % within the “satisfied” category, which leads to the assumption that the meeting participants had been satisfied with the Round Table in Hanoi.

AFTER THE ROUND TABLE



8. Conclusions and recommendations

Participants in the Roundtable, involving government and higher education in Vietnam, provided a good **diagnosis of the Higher Education System in Vietnam and the challenges HEIs are currently facing**. Discussions on the contribution of higher education to social and economic development were considered in the presentations.

The Round Table also showed that there is currently **little interaction between the higher education system and the private sector**. Although there is a vision on the importance of having a fluid relationship between those actors, there is almost no implementation at this time.

As to **how universities may contribute to increasing this relationship**, universities have human capital, research disciplines & infrastructure needed for research. They could contribute with Studies and Research to start the Innovation process and bring applied research to end users by collaborating with enterprises who will have identified the relevant issues to target. Enterprises usually do not have either the human capital for research nor infrastructure or time to develop that. In order to work on this **universities should**:

- 1) Make companies aware of the key role of Higher Education Institutions as a R&D partner.
- 2) Adapt/update their curricula (=increasing the employability of their graduates by identifying the employment sector's real needs; increase interdisciplinarity);
- 3) Improve their research (=more applied and less basic research);
- 4) Improve their Technology Transfer Offices (=provide specific services for enterprises).

The **ENHANCE** project have activities in this framework.

- Building the human capacities in R&I management and implementation by a targeted training programme
- Strengthening the institutional capacity and enhancing R&I national networking by setting up a Network of R&I Offices in Vietnam

Two more **Round Tables** will be organised in the framework of the ENHANCE project as a **good practice** as they:

- Involve relevant stakeholders (although the number of participants needs to be increased compared to the present event);



- Stimulate relevant discussions which may bring good ideas for projects, policies, other activities etc.

Annexes

- Agenda Round Table
- Presentations
- List of participants
- Satisfaction survey

