

# Self-evaluation report

For the year 2017  
(Academic year 2016/2017)

Piran, February 2018

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The self-evaluation report of the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) for 2017 contains information on the study programmes, review of research and project activities, information on publications, material conditions and personnel at the EMUNI University.

The self-evaluation report is based on the reports, which are subject of discussions of the Senate and the Management Board of the EMUNI University. Based on the findings from individual reports, the competent authorities of the EMUNI University propose measures for the improvement of the operation, which are taken into consideration in the annual work plan for the following year.

# 1 Higher Education Institution

## 1.1 Introduction

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Full name of the University:          | Evro-sredozemska univerza  |
| Abbreviated name:                     | EMUNI  |
| Name in English language:             | Euro-Mediterranean University  |
| Abbreviated name in English language: | EMUNI  |
| Name in French language:              | Université Euro-Méditerranéenne  |
| Abbreviated name in French language:  | EMUNI  |
| Seat of the University:               | Piran, Kidričevo nabrežje 2  |
| Registration number:                  | 3487288  |
| Tax number:                           | SI79525415   |
| Telephone:                            | +386 59 25 00 50   |
| Fax:                                  | +386 59 25 00 54   |
| Website:                              | <a href="http://www.emuni.si">www.emuni.si</a>   |
| Legal act:                            | Statute of EMUNI,<br>26 November 2008 (amendments of the Statute on 27 November 2010, on 25 November 2011, on 11 February 2015 and on 9 December 2016) |

Since its establishment in 2008, the EMUNI University, one of the priority projects of the Union for the Mediterranean, has become an international institution, which gathers expert knowledge and experience of the Euro-Mediterranean countries and thus contributes in a significant way to the creation of a unified, integrated Euro-Mediterranean higher education and research area.

The University to a large extent conducts its operation at its seat in Portorož, where the spatial conditions for some of its activities are fulfilled. When additional premises are needed, they are rented at the academic institutions in the surroundings.

The EMUNI University can implement the study activity in all study areas, classified in accordance with the international classification Isced (UNESCO, 1997). The EMUNI University may organize the

implementation of study programmes, which are accredited at the partner universities in Slovenia and other member countries of the EMUNI University. The University conducts research activities in all scientific fields of research, classified in accordance with the international classification Frascati (UNESCO, 2002).

Important dates:

- February 2009: entry into the court register;
  - June 2009: accreditation of the first study programme at EMUNI, which has already been accredited at the University of Maribor;
  - July 2009: EMUNI is entered into the Register of Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter referred as "Register");
  - December 2009: EMUNI obtains the Erasmus University Charter;
  - July 2011: two master study programmes ("Business Communication in the International Environment" and "Environment Analyses and Management") are entered into the Register at the Ministry, competent for higher education;
- Changed the seat of the University from Portorož to Piran, Slovenia.

The mission and operation of EMUNI University and its international character is reflected in both the local and regional environment and contributes towards its strengthening and development. EMUNI is establishing cooperation activities with the environment in various ways. These include organization of conferences, round tables, lifelong learning and publishing activities. In this aspect, it is increasing its visibility, both in Slovenia, Europe and the wider surroundings.

The EMUNI University integrates with the international environment also through its participation in meetings and conferences in Slovenia and abroad. The integration also includes its broad network of 128 members, which involves research and higher education institutions from 30 countries.

EMUNI University is also important for the operation of the Union for the Mediterranean, which was established in 2008 as part of the Barcelona Process. The purpose of the Union for the Mediterranean is to strengthen economic, political and social ties between the northern and southern parts of the Mediterranean. One of the six priorities of the Union, determining how to realize its mission, was the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), which represents the educational-research link of the Euro-Mediterranean region. In pursuit of its mission and strategy, the EMUNI University follows the goals and guidelines of the Union for the Mediterranean. With a purpose of a better communication, connectivity and quicker flow of information, the EMUNI University Management Board also includes one Representative of the Union for the Mediterranean.

## 1.2 Vision

(Adopted as part the Work plan at the 5th session of the Management Board of the EMUNI University, 25. 9. 2009 in Portorož)

**The Euro-Mediterranean University** (EMUNI University), headquartered in Slovenia, will significantly contribute to the development of Higher Education and Research Area and to the sustainable development of wider social-economic and cultural environment in the EUROMED countries, as well as to the recognition of Slovenia in the region – Union for the Mediterranean.

## 1.3 Mission

(Adopted as part of the Work plan at the 5th session of the Management Board of the EMUNI University, 25. 9. 2009 in Portorož).

**The EMUNI University** is an international association of universities with headquarters in Slovenia. It represents one of the six projects of the Union for the Mediterranean, approved in the frame of a common declaration, adopted in Paris on 13 July 2008. Within the mission of the EMUNI University, the following goals shall be achieved:

- Raising quality of higher education through the implementation of study and research programmes;
- Becoming an international university, which will acknowledge cultural diversity;
- Establishing university environment, which will have a stimulating effect on the integration of different nations and cultures in the academic spheres;
- Ensuring administrative, operational and material infrastructure, which will enable the operation of the university.

The goal of the EMUNI University is to create specialised study programmes among the Euro-Mediterranean universities. The study programmes will cover themes and areas, which are significant for the Euro-Mediterranean area. The study programmes or parts of them will be implemented at the EMUNI University as well as other universities, co-founders of the EMUNI University.

One of the main activities of the EMUNI University is also research, which is one of the important factors of development, success, and quality of the University.

The basic mission of the University is to contribute with its higher education activities to strengthening intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region and to contribute to the priority goals of the Barcelona process, which is in the broader sense included also in the Union for the Mediterranean.

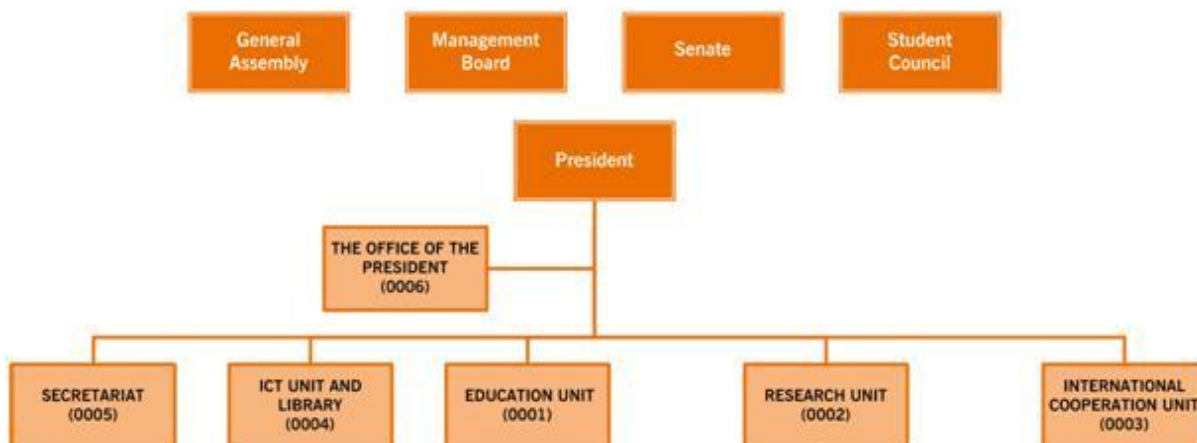
## 1.4 Strategy

In 2013 the EMUNI Development Strategy was developed, which was adopted at the 25<sup>th</sup> correspondence session of the EMUNI Management Board, held between 21 and 25 February 2014.

## 1.5 Organisation Structure

Organisational structure of the EMUNI University is presented below:

*Image 1: Organisational structure*



## 1.6 University bodies

EMUNI is an international association of universities. EMUNI has the following bodies:

- General Assembly,
- Management Board,
- Senate,
- President of the University,
- Student Council.

**General Assembly:** The General Assembly of EMUNI is convened when necessary, in general once a year to discuss general policies and guidelines for the operation of the university. Each signatory of the Foundation Charter has one partner at the General Assembly.

Chairing of the General Assembly:

| Year              | No. of partners | No. of countries | Vice-Chair 1                  | Vice Chair 2                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2009              | 114             | 32               | Prof. Hassan Nadir Kheirallah | Prof. Maurits Van Rooijen    |
| 2010              | 141             | 37               | Prof. Giuseppe Giliberti      | Prof. Ahmed Noureddine Helal |
| 2011              | 206             | 42               | x                             | x                            |
| 2013 <sup>1</sup> | 212             | 47               | Prof. Hassan Nadir Kheirallah | Prof. Marko Pavliha          |
| 2014 <sup>2</sup> | 206             | 41               | Prof. Hassan Nadir Kheirallah | Prof. Marko Pavliha          |
| 2015              | 121             | 33               | Prof. Hassan Nadir Kheirallah | Prof. Lučka Lorber           |
| 2016 <sup>3</sup> | 128             | 32               | Prof. Giuseppe Giliberti      | x                            |
| 2017 <sup>4</sup> | 128             | 33               | Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Giliberti  | Dr. Hassan Nadir Kheirallah  |

The responsibilities of the General Assembly are stipulated in Articles 14, 15 and 16 of EMUNI Statute.

According to the Statute, the General Assembly shall be convened by the President, as the need arises, either face to face or by correspondence, by taking into consideration every partner approved by the Management Board. The list of EMUNI members is kept by EMUNI.

**The Management Board** is a University management body. The Management Board of the University is composed of 10 members coming from 8 countries. The members of the Management Board were appointed at the General Assembly on 23 February 2013 (Piran, Slovenia):

- Giuseppe Giliberti, Italy (Chairperson)
- Boštjan Udovič, Slovenia,<sup>5</sup>
- Chris Soler, Malta,
- Jerneja Penca,<sup>6</sup>
- Dragan Marušič, Slovenia,

<sup>1</sup> In February 2013 the General Assembly was convened instead of in November 2012.

<sup>2</sup> In 2014, there was no General Assembly; instead, the General Assembly was organized on 11 February 2015.

<sup>3</sup> In 2016 General Assembly was organized on 11 May 2016.

<sup>4</sup> In 2017 General Assembly was organized on 5 April 2017.

<sup>5</sup> He was appointed as member of the Management Board by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 16 February 2016.

<sup>6</sup> Dr. Jerneja Penca was appointed EMUNI employee in the Management Board at its 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held from 24 February 2018 to 27 February 2018.

- Hassan Al-Zaza, Syria,<sup>7</sup>
- Hassan Nadir Kheirallah, Egypt,
- Inga Dailidiene, Lithuania,
- Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux, France,<sup>8</sup>
- Mohammed Shabat, Palestine,
- Moustafa Bousmina, Morocco,
- Oto Luthar, Slovenia
- Said Bhira, Tunisia,<sup>9</sup>.

The Chairman of the Management Board is since 17 May 2014 and reconfirmed on 12 February 2015, Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Giliberti, Italy.

The Management Board operates in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of EMUNI, Articles 17, 18, 19.

**The Senate:** The composition of the Senate may take into consideration the study areas and academic as well as scientific and research disciplines, as well as guarantee the representation of all members of the Union for the Mediterranean, thus realizing the mission of the University.

Members of the Senate, nominated on April 2017, are:

- Prof. Dr. Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry, Egypt - President and Chairperson
- Prof. Dr. Dušan Lesjak, Slovenia
- Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Cataldi, Italy
- Prof. Dr. Hassan Nadir Kheirallah, Egypt
- Prof. Dr. Inga Dailidiene, Lithuania
- Prof. Dr. João Casqueira Cardoso, Portugal
- Prof. Dr. Joseph Shevel, Israel
- Prof. Dr. Karim Moustaghfir, Morocco
- Prof. Dr. Labib M. M. Arafef, Palestine
- Prof. Dr. Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux, France
- Prof. Dr. Mustafa Aydin, Turkey
- Prof. Dr. Claudio Cressati, Italy
- Prof. Dr. Eugenia Ferragina, Italy
- Prof. Dr. Francesc Prior Sanz, Spain
- Prof. Dr. Nevila Rama, Albania
- Prof. Dr. Seddik Abdelsalam, Egypt
- Mohamed Bouagina, Tunisia (Student)
- Mohja Loussif, Tunisia (Student)
- Mariam Keriakos, Egypt, (Student)
- Ahmed Zerd, Egypt (Student)

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<sup>7</sup> Hassan Al-Zaza was appointed the representative of EMUNI students on 9 March 2016.

<sup>8</sup> Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux was appointed the new member of the EMUNI Management Board by the EMUNI Foundation (instead of Peter Volasko).

<sup>9</sup> Said Bihra was appointed as representative of special counsellor to the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) on Higher Education and Research in September 2017 and replaced Amb. Delphine Borione.

The Senate operates in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of EMUNI, Articles 20, 21, 22 and 23.

**President:** President, Prof. Dr. Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry, was appointed at the 24<sup>th</sup> session of EMUNI Management Board in Rome (Italy) with a 5-year term of office starting on 1 February 2014. The president is the management and expert body of the University and its legal representative.

**Student Council:** The EMUNI Student Council was constituted in April 2015 and operates in accordance with Articles 31 and 32 of the EMUNI Statute. The new members were elected at the 3<sup>rd</sup> correspondence session of the EMUNI Student Council between 11 and 14 April 2017 with a one-year term of office starting from 10 April 2017.

Members of the Student Council are:

- Mariam Armia Keriakos
- Dina Ayman Mohamed Azab El-Zohiry
- Mehdi Nassih
- Mohja Loussif
- Mohamed Bouagina

## **1.7 Sessions of the EMUNI Bodies in 2017**

### **General Assembly Session of the EMUNI**

EMUNI General Assembly took place on 5 April 2017 in Piran (Slovenia).

### **Sessions of the EMUNI Management Board**

36<sup>th</sup> Management Board Correspondence session held from 23 February until 27 February 2017.

37<sup>th</sup> Management Board regular session held on 5 April 2017.

38<sup>th</sup> Management Board regular session held on 17 November 2017.

### **Sessions of the EMUNI Senate**

- regular session: 5 April 2017
- correspondence sessions: from 29 to 31 March 2017 (joined with Management Board session) and from 20 to 22 December 2017

## 2 Personnel

On 31. 12. 2017 EMUNI had 7,45 employees. The average number of employees in 2017 amounted to 6,91 FTE.

**Table: List of employees by job position and organisation unit**

| Job Position             | Organisation Unit   | Actual 2017 | Type of Contract       |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|------------------------|
| President of EMUNI       | President of EMUNI  | 1           | Contract of employment |
| Administrative assistant | International Cooperation Unit/ Research Unit / Office for sponsored programmes | 2,45        | Contract of employment |
| Administrative assistant | Education Unit / Accreditation  | 2           | Contract of employment |
| Administrative assistant | ICT, Administration, Finance and Accounting Sector                              | 2           | Contract of employment |
| <b>TOTAL employees</b>   |   | <b>7,45</b> |                        |

### Overview of EMUNI employments in the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017:

- In March 2017, we employed a researcher working on the joint project EMUNI and ZRS Koper.
- In May 2017, we employed an administrative assistant in the Education and Accreditation Unit.
- In July 2017, we employed an administrative assistant in the Department of International Cooperation.
- In October 2017 we employed an administrative assistant in the Education and Accreditation Unit.
- In October 2017, we employed a researcher working on the joint project EMUNI and ZRS Koper (until August 2018).

### Overview of terminated employment contracts in the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017:

- In September 2017, an associate of the Education and Accreditation Unit terminated the employment contract.
- In December 2017, a professional assistant at the Department of International Cooperation went to the maternity leave.

- In December 2017, a professional associate in the ICT Personnel Unit terminated the employment contract.

| Job Position / Field of work | Area                               | Type of Contract        |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Project Experts              | EMNES Project                      | Authorial work contract |
| Lecturers                    | Study programmes and summer school | Authorial work contract |

### 3 Study programmes and other educational activities in academic year 2016/17

#### 3.1 Master study programme Intercultural Business Communication

##### Enrolment

Four students of the six were enrolled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the programme as two students withdrew. The call for enrolment in the 1<sup>st</sup> year was published, but with no successful enrolment of two candidates from Syria.

##### Course delivery

The face-to-face sessions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year started in November 2016 with the following courses conducted: English Language II, French Language II, Internet Marketing, Internationalization Strategies and Information Technology Abilities for Business.

Except for both languages that continued with face-to-face sessions in March 2017, the rest of the courses was concluded on-line by then. During the second face-to-face session the Research Methodology and Master Thesis course was introduced, which is not part of the curriculum, but reasonably assisted students in delivering their Master Thesis Proposals until the summer. All three proposals were approved by the Commission for Student and Study Affairs by the end of the academic year, allowing students to continue their work towards graduation.

##### Collaboration activities

EMUNI joined a network of Universities conducting Master Programmes on Intercultural Communication, named EURO CAMPUS. The Master programmes are conducted in several Universities around Europe, each year a different university in the network hosts one semester in the fall. Starting September to December 2017, EMUNI participated with one student and one lecturer conducting the course of Socio-Economic Processes in the Mediterranean. This participation should allow a double degree diploma with the University of Urbino to the EMUNI student.

## **Summary of evaluation questionnaires analysis**

Students reported overall a very high level of the satisfaction with all the aspects of the Master's study programme Intercultural Business Communication in the second study year. They were content with administrative support of EMUNI staff, information's provided, facilities, logistic organization support and implementation of the courses. Basically, the only critique raised was in regards with EMUNI library, which will be taken into the consideration for improvement in the future. Apart from this comment, only positive feedbacks were given. A detailed evaluation of the questionnaires is described in Quality assurance report for the educational activities for academic year 2016/17.

### **3.2 Professional upgrading study programme Euro-Mediterranean Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

#### **Enrolment**

In the academic year 2016/2017, EMUNI launched a 12-month, non-degree programme on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. This diploma is a Professional Upgrading Certificate. The application period opened in June 2016. We received 74 applications, from which 50 students were invited for personal interviews. Finally, 26 students were selected and enrolled. The students are coming from Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Ghana.

#### **Course delivery**

Between 24 October and 18 November 2016, they attended the face-to-face lectures in Piran, Slovenia and Siena, Italy with the following courses conducted: Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurship Opportunity Recognition, Field Visits 1/2, Human Resource Management and Entrepreneurial Business and Governance Models. The lecturers came from Slovenia, Italy and Morocco. In the beginning of 2017, the programme continued with on-line and face-to-face classes in Egypt and Morocco provided for the Modules in Finance, Project Management and Legal Environment, in partnership with Arab Academy and their respected lecturers. In May 2017 students came to Slovenia for the face-to-face module in Entrepreneurial Marketing Strategies provided by a visiting professor from Great Britain and in the frame of Field Visits 2/2 attended the Business Conference (BIZBarcelona) in Spain.

#### **Collaboration activities**

EMUNI received 18 full scholarships for the Egyptian students from the Al Alfi Foundation in Egypt, and some participating Universities from Italy and Morocco as well as EMUNI provided partial or complete scholarships for other students.

## Summary of evaluation questionnaires analysis

The analysis shows that, in general, the course 'Entrepreneurial Business and Governance Models' received the most positive reviews, whereas the course 'Introduction to Entrepreneurship' was evaluated as the weakest. Of the general aspects, the students gave the best reviews to their peers, EMUNI staff, accommodation, and food. The results will be taken into consideration in the future planning and conduction of the programme. A detailed evaluation of the questionnaires is described in Quality assurance report for the educational activities for academic year 2016/17.

### **3.3 Summer School on Euro-Mediterranean Studies – Migration and the Euro-Mediterranean Region**

EMUNI Summer School was conducted as a Jean-Monnet Module between 19 and 23 June in a distance learning format and between 26 and 30 June 2017 in a face-to-face format. In total 26 were accepted and confirmed their participation and 18 participants from 13 different countries (Turkey, Lithuania, Slovenia, Italy, Hungary, Brazil, Algeria, Belgium, South Korea, Egypt, Pakistan, Tunisia and Switzerland) made it to the summer school. 12 professionals from the field contributed to the successful deliverance of the courses and field trips.

## Summary of evaluation questionnaires analysis

Results show that students were in general very satisfied with information, logistics and structure of the Summer School before the arrival. Almost all of them evaluated the length of a Summer School as "adequate".

When evaluating the teacher's overall performance and a quality of a course content, the teachers and course evaluations received overall very good scores. From the graphs we can conclude that students were most satisfied with following teachers and content of their courses: Mateja Sedmak, Umberto Speranza, Danjela Frangež, Marko Lovec in Mohammed Elrazzaz. We will take these evaluations into the account when deciding for lecturers for the upcoming academic activities.

Students gave many comments on possible improvements for a distance learning and on strengths and weaknesses in the implementation of a Summer School in general. If we summarize most common inputs regarding e-learning, we will inform teachers about student's wishes, to give them more time for assignments with less theoretical content (less based on the literature) and to deliver all the materials at once.

Students gave great comments on overall organization of the school, to logistic, accommodation facilities and location. They liked the themes of courses, teacher's friendliness, field trips and they felt very welcomed.

Student's suggestions for improvements are mostly related to more frequent and longer breaks (more free time). They would also like that some from the professors are chosen from South-Mediterranean regions or from more distant countries within Europe.

In general, teachers were satisfied with the information received before their arrival (content and purpose of the Summer School, logistics, administrative aspects, and participants).

They evaluated environment, IT support, financial remuneration, time slot in the schedule, preparation of students and motivation of students, mostly with a grade “excellent”, which shows a high general satisfaction with the implementation of a school. Two thirds of the lectures reported that Summer School met their expectations, for one third it even exceeded their expectations. Almost all of them were most satisfied with a selection of a theme (Migration). All of them would like to participate in the next edition of the Summer School. Teachers also left the comments, that the information, accommodation, and travel were handed perfectly, learning environment was unique and facilitated the teaching process. Students were very active and motivated.

### **Assessment of current situation and guidelines**

EMUNI university will continue with the conduction of the professional upgrading study programme and summer school. We will also strive to increase the number of accredited and implemented study programmes. EMUNI will continue to improve the quality of the education process through internationalization.

### **3.4 ERASMUS mobility programmes**

By the end 2017 EMUNI has signed 13 new Erasmus+ bilateral agreements with higher education institutions from partner countries. Bilateral agreements are the basis for the participation in the programme Erasmus+ programmes and enable participation in projects, student exchange, staff mobility and other activities, related to upgrading the university curricula. In November 2017, EMUNI hosted teaching (1) and administrative staff (2) from two partner universities in Egypt: Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport.

In 2017 EMUNI applied for an Erasmus+ KA107 project (staff mobility with Southern Mediterranean Countries) in a consortium with University of Maribor and University of Primorska. We were granted in total, as a Consortium, 79 mobilities (incoming and outgoing) with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The aim of these mobilities is to enhance the inter-institutional cooperation through staff mobility and to empower staff with intercultural experience.

### **Assessment of current situation and guidelines**

The EMUNI University will continue to implement mobility programmes and seek to increase its number, as due to the international character and orientation of the University, international activities of the University in the academic exchange and cooperation are of utmost importance.

## **4 Projects and Research**

### **4.1 Cooperation in the development of a new master programme AdapTM**

Since 2017 EMUNI will be participating in designing and implementing an interdisciplinary master’s degree study programme titled Smart Environment and Climate Change Management. The master contributes towards sustainable development and is based on building capacity in the field of emerging technologies in environment change management in a competence-based education system, in line with the Bologna process. The development of a programme is a result of a successfully gained 3-year Erasmus+ project in a consortium of participating universities.

## **4.2 Application of the Jean Monnet Module**

In 2017 EMUNI did not apply a project within Jean Monnet Module (Erasmus+ programme). We decided not to apply, since we are implementing the current one with title “Euro-Mediterranean Studies - Current and Future Perspectives.

## **4.3 Application of the Jean Monnet Project**

In 2017 EMUNI applied with a new project proposal within Jean Monnet Project (Erasmus+ programme) under the title “MED-HUB: Establishing EMUNI Knowledge Hub on Euro-Mediterranean Studies” but the proposal was not granted by the funding agency, but the application package serves as a basis for future similar calls (2018).

## **4.4 Implementation of the MERID project**

In 2014, EMUNI was granted a 999.750 EUR project within the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union with the title Middle East Research and Innovation Dialogue (MERID). Project proposes a comprehensive action to intensify and encourage research and innovation cooperation between the EU and the Middle East region, directly involving partners from Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. The project is the first attempt to systematise support to the policy dialogue and involvement of research communities of Iran and Iraq in the H2020 programme, as well as an initiative that seeks to give continuity to collaboration frameworks already established between the EU and Middle East countries.

In 2017, EMUNI organized the following events:

- MERID Brainstorming meeting for recommendations for an enhanced EU-Middle East STI Cooperation organised by EMUNI on 5 April 2017 in Piran, Slovenia.
- MERID Project (Middle East Research and Innovation Dialogue) workshop at the EU-Iran Higher Education and Research event held by the European Commission on 3 July in Tehran, which also required remote support from EMUNI in terms of organisation.

We prepared deliverables according to timeline. More about the project can be found at <http://meridproject.eu/>.

## **4.5 Implementation of MEDNICE project**

In 2016, EMUNI was granted a new project called MEDNICE under the Interreg MED Programme. MEDNICE is one of the three Horizontal Projects approved for coordinating ten Modular Projects (MPs) under priority axis Energy Efficient Buildings. EMUNI’s key role in the project is to ensure networking and community building between the different MPs and other stakeholders.

As a MED hub for Energy Efficiency (EE) innovative and shared solutions, the MEDNICE project will anchor a MED community around energy issues that public organisations face in order to promote modular projects’ results and increase their impact on public policies. Indeed, in the MED area, the majority of public buildings is not adequately designed to reduce their energy consumption and improve their EE performance. This is partly due to a lack of awareness of owners and managers and knowledge gaps regarding common answers to this transnational challenge. Thus, the overall objective of MEDNICE is to empower MED projects’ partners through the establishment of a MED community and a joint transnational framework around energy efficiency in public buildings. By setting up training and peer

learning mechanisms, MEDNICE will contribute to increase the capacity of owners and managers of public buildings to design and implement better energy efficiency practices. It will set up a knowledge platform that will allow for capitalizing and communicating results and outputs of the modular projects. It will serve as a cornerstone of a transnational peer network laying the ground for a MED identity. MEDNICE will also analyze and summarize EE practices through thematic and policy papers to be promoted and benefit the MED community. Relying on Ambassadors this will help disseminate and transfer messages in order to advocate for specific MED EE policies and mainstream them in relevant strategies.

The overall objective of the project is to empower MED projects' partners through the establishment of a MED community and a joint transnational framework around energy efficiency in public buildings. The project will set up a platform that will allow for transferring outputs deriving from the modular projects. The transnational peer network to be created by the project will facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges and joint learning through virtual and face-to-face meetings. By relying on a strong MED community, empowered public stakeholders will have the means to review their policies and investments needed to optimize energy planning measures and management to ultimately reduce

In 2017, one major event took place in the frame of MEDNICE project where EMUNI was one of the main organisers:

- First Annual Congress gathering representatives of 10 Modular Projects addressing energy efficiency related issues in public buildings and other stakeholders such as Mr. Dominique Ristori, Director General for Energy of the EU Commission, Mr. Julien Guerrier, Director of EASME, Mr. Pierre-Emmanuel Noel, Senior Banker at EIB and Mr. Jorge Borrego, Deputy General Secretary of the UfM. The event was held on 4-6 October 2017 in Nice, France.

#### **4.6 Implementation of ERC project**

ERC = Science2, funded by the European Research Council (ERC) and coordinated by Science|Business, is a communication project aimed at broadening the ERC's popular and political support as widely as possible across Europe. ERC = Science2 will in the coming 42 months talk about the science done in the framework of ERC grants and their cutting-edge variety that can capture the imagination, change the world and stimulate curiosity. To this end, the consortium will launch a novel communications campaign, including catchy contents and easy to understand examples of cutting edge research findings, that will be promoted and distributed across an unusually broad network of science and natural history museums, zoos and aquaria, universities and research organisations in Europe. Activities will involve innovative approaches for communicating science to children and teenagers through provoking and entertaining formats, as well as events tailored to reach out to young academics and researchers, such as science cafés, brown-bag lunches, and research speed-dating. During the lifespan of the project, more than 75 events were planned in many different countries and languages.

EMUNI's role in the project consists of organisation and implementation of outreach events on campuses in Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. In the framework of the project, a lecture took place with the Slovenian ERC Grantee Jernej Ule in Ljubljana on 30 August 2017.

#### **4.7 Support to EMNES project**

In 2017 EMUNI continued its administrative support to the coordination of the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES), which is scientifically led by Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium. The aim of the project is to contribute to the general objective of reinforcing dialogue and promoting socio-economic research and studies in priority themes of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, particularly focusing on employment creation and social inclusion, especially among the youth. It is also designed to ensure the dissemination of the results of these studies and research to civil society and socio-economic policy makers. Within the project, researches will be focused on providing policy makers with a renewed vision for socio-economic development in the south Mediterranean countries, mainly focusing on employment creation, social inclusion, and sustainable development. The EMNES project presented significant input into the EMUNI Annual conference 2017 on Youth, Employment and Entrepreneurship.

The EMNES project has been carefully designed to contribute to the general objective of reinforcing dialogue and promoting socio-economic research and studies in priority themes of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, particularly focusing on employment creation and social inclusion, especially among the youth. It is also designed to ensure the dissemination of the results of these studies and research to civil society and socio-economic policy makers.

A main objective of the EMNES network is to increase the capacity of research institutions and think-tanks on both shores of the Mediterranean in measuring and analysing trends and challenges in the region due to synergy effects especially fuelled through collaborative research, joint publications, scientific meetings, annual conferences, workshops, and the publication of policy briefs, annual reports and books. Whilst the Northern partners contribute with analytical tools and research methods, the Southern institutes contribute with policy-relevant facts, primary data, and knowledge, experience and dissemination on the ground.

In 2017, EMUNI was co-organiser of the following events held under the EMNES project:

- **Presentation of the EMNES-EMEA-IeMED study “How Regional Integration Leads to Youth Employment in the Euro-Mediterranean Region” and fourth Scientific Workshop** under the EMNES project was held on 22 July in Barcelona, Spain
- **Second EMNES Annual Conference together with the Fifth Scientific workshop** of EMNES project was organised by EMUNI together with its partner institution Faculty of Economics and Political Science of Cairo University from 6 to 8 December in Cairo Egypt.

#### **4.8 Implementation of 4PRIMA project**

The 4PRIMA Coordination and Support Action will create the bases and will develop a set of activities aimed at supporting the establishment of a long-term, well-structured and integrated partnership for research and innovation (R&I) on food systems and water resources, among countries from both sides of the Mediterranean Sea (“PRIMA Initiative”). In order to enable a sustainable development in this area, 4PRIMA will facilitate the establishment of favourable and stable conditions for a reinforced international cooperation on food systems and water research, based on a better coordination, collective ownership of R&I programmes and, consequently, clear and tangible mutual benefits. 4PRIMA will develop a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and an associated implementation plan, as a result of an extensive participatory process that will target a critical mass of key players at international level and all relevant stakeholders of the food and water sectors. To achieve this main

objective, 4PRIMA will take advantage of a wide portfolio of results and relationship generated in previous and on-going EU projects, as well as it will seek cooperation between EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs), in coherence with the activities of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation. Given the strategic relevance of an appropriate development and uptake of the SRIA to establish a long-lasting partnership in the region, 4PRIMA science diplomacy actions will be essential to ensure the support to R&I policy dialogue addressing sensitive challenges between EU and MPCs. Moreover, in order to maximise its expected impact, 4PRIMA project will explore avenues for awareness raising and development of strategic alliances with key stakeholders, including EU, AC and MPCs countries that did not take part to the PRIMA joint programming process, with the goal to enlarge the participation to the “PRIMA Initiative”.

In year 2017, EMUNI (co)-organised the following events in the frame of this project:

- **4PRIMA Roundtable Discussion Science Diplomacy and Scientific Mobility** within the PRIMA Initiative was held at EMUNI premises on 7 April 2017 in Piran, Slovenia
- **First PRIMA Stakeholders’ Forum** took place on 23-24 April 2017 in Cairo, Egypt where the president of EMUNI was moderating a panel discussion on Science Diplomacy Approach of the PRIMA project where EMUNI is one of the partner institutions.

#### **4.9 Conduct of research within EL-CSID project**

In 2017 EMUNI continued to perform research activities and play a role of the work package leader in the project titled European Leadership in Cultural, Science and Innovation Diplomacy (EL-CSID), coordinated by Vrije Universiteit Brussels. One full-time researcher was joined by another part-time researcher in the autumn 2017. As the activities are expected to increase in 2018, EMUNI will sustain its efforts.

#### **4.10 Project by the Slovenian Research Agency**

A 2-year postdoctoral project, with a code Z5-8239 titled «The role of transnational private standards in environmental governance» was transferred to EMUNI in July 2017. The project will continue throughout 2018, seeking synergies with the existing and new educational and policy activities at EMUNI.

Since October 2017, EMUNI participates in the project number N6-0039: “Yugoslav self-governing experiment and the discussion on the development of European socialism between East and West (1950-1980)” and it is coordinated by ZRS Koper.

## 5 EMUNI Annual Conference, Seminars, workshops, lectures and related activities

EMUNI Annual Conference took place on Wednesday and Thursday, 5th-6th April, in Piran (Slovenia). EMUNI's event, together with its General Assembly, the brainstorming meeting held by MERID (Horizon2020 project funded by the EU) and a stakeholder forum under the Horizon 2020-funded 4PRIMA project, addressed the topics of Youth, Employability and Entrepreneurship: The Role Of Higher Education Institutions. This conference capitalised on achievements by the EMUNI University – notably the recently launched Upgrading Diploma on Entrepreneurship & Innovation – as well as on the UfM Med4Jobs Initiative and the conclusions of the II UfM Regional Forum Mediterranean in Action: Youth for Stability and Development (Spain, 23–24 January 2017), where UfM Foreign Affairs Ministers endorsed the UfM roadmap.

Building on the conclusions of the UfM Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour (Jordan, 26-27 September 2016) and in view of the Ministerial Conference on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation (Malta, 3-4 May 2017), this conference provided a unique platform for structuring regional collaboration gathering policy-makers, representatives of academia, business sector and youth to come up with solid recommendations that could develop into concrete actions.

More about the conference, its conclusion and video material can be found at: <http://www.emuni.si/en/annual-conferences/2017-piran-slovenia>

2017 very was active in terms of cooperation at different activities, e. g. conferences and round tables. EMUNI cooperated in following activities:

1. On 26-28 January 2017, EMUNI was invited to attend the Eurocampus preparatory meeting in Urbino, Italy
2. On 6 February 2017, Prof. El Zoheiry gave a lecture to Entrepreneurship students at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport in Egypt.
3. On 7 March 2017, EMUNI was also represented at the Senior Officials meeting organised by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in Malta where Prof. El Zoheiry, President of EMUNI gave a short introductory speech on EMUNI and Slovenia.
4. Prof. El Zoheiry, President of EMUNI, chaired a session on Migration at the workshop co-organised by Twas, OGS and EMUNI in Trieste (IT) from 13 to 17 March 2017.
5. EMUNI was also present at the High Level Working Group on Employment and Labour organised by the UfM in Barcelona (ES) from 28 to 29 March 2017.
6. The president of EMUNI was also invited to attend the Technical Level Meeting on Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation held on 3 May 2017 in representation of both EMUNI and the PRIMA initiative.
7. On 9 May 2017 took place in Bologna (IT) the High-level Conference on Science Diplomacy where Prof. El-Zoheiry participated as panellist in a session on SESAME: A Large Scientific Infrastructure as a Tool for Diplomacy in the Middle East.
8. EMUNI participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Day International Conference organised in Kranj (SI) on 18-19 May 2017.
9. The I EuroMeSCo Youth Forum, co-organised by IEMed and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, took place on 31 May 2017 in Barcelona (ES) where Dr. Jerneja Penca, Research fellow at EMUNI, held a presentation on “Avoiding (the perception of) Discrimination against the Youth from Muslim Countries and the Middle East. The Role of Science”.
10. The General Assembly of Science/Business Network members took place on 26 May 2017 in Brussels where EMUNI was represented as well.

11. On 10 July 2017, Prof. El-Zoheiry gave a lecture on Sustainable Blue Growth in the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries at the Advanced Training School in Trieste (IT).
12. The Final Conference of MedSpring project took place in Brussels on 7 July 2017 under the title of “The MedSpring Legacy for Euro Mediterranean Cooperation on R&I” where EMUNI was also represented.
13. Considering the long history of cooperation between EMUNI and Heliopolis University in Cairo (EG), Prof. El-Zoheiry was invited to attend the “HUSD House of Culture Stakeholders High-level Workshop” on 31 July 2017.
14. EMUNI being part of the Advisory Board of Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design (IUSD) was invited to participate in the IUSD Alumni Symposium held on 25-27 September 2017 in Stuttgart (DE).
15. The Educate for Dialogue – EuroMed Conference on Intercultural Citizenship Education was co-organised by EMUNI in cooperation with Anna Lindh Foundation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia and CMEPIUS on 9-10 October 2017 in Piran (SI).
16. Prof. El-Zoheiry was invited by the EUROMED Cities Network (which became member of EMUNI in November 2017 and EMUNI joined their network in July 2017 as well) to participate as panellist in a round table discussion on “Knowledge, art and culture at the service of prevention and fight against violent extremism” moderated by Hatem Attallah, Executive Director of Anna Lindh Foundation, held in the frame of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Cities on the Prevention of Radicalisation – Mayors call to prevent terrorism” organised by EUROMED Cities Network together with the University Jean Jaurès de Toulouse, the European Forum for Urban Security and the University Sophia Antipolis of Nice with support from the European Commission and the European Parliament, amongst others.
17. On 24 and 25 October 2017 took place the conference “Social Innovation – Research and Policy of the Future: towards a comprehensive innovation policy” in Brussels where EMUNI was represented as well.
18. EMUNI participated in the High-level Conference “UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development” bringing together UfM government representatives, regional and international partner organisations and international financial institutions and other stakeholders from the private sector in order to exchange views on how to better implement the UfM Urban Agenda adopted at the Second UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban development. The event was held by the UfM at the Headquarters of the UfM Secretariat in Barcelona (ES).
19. Prof El-Zoheiry chaired a session organised by the British Council on Science for Cultural Relations at the World Science Forum on 7 November 2017 in Amman (JO).
20. On 30 November 2017, EMUNI was also present at the Pre-Med meeting on Water and Marine resources for the Mediterranean and the “MED-Rome Mediterranean Dialogues Annual High-level Initiative” both held in Rome (IT).
21. EMUNI was invited to attend the UfM Stakeholder meeting on Blue Economy organised on 29-30 November 2017 in Napoli (IT).
22. Dr. Jerneja Penca gave a lecture on Science Diplomacy at the Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati in Trieste (IT) on 15 December 2017.

### **Assessment of current situation and guidelines**

EMUNI University plans to continue with the submission of new projects as lead partner and participant in partner projects. The organization of the annual conference, as well as other conferences, is also planned. As the research group was registered with the Slovenian Research Agency, research activities

will go hand-in-hand with the conduction of the study programmes since the students will be able to participate in the research work.

## **6 Scientific journal IJEMS**

Since 2008, the EMUNI University has issued the International Journal of Euro-Mediterranean Studies (IJEMS). In 2016, three issues of the journal were published.

The IJEMS Journal is important for EMUNI as it enables publishing of scientific-research accomplishments of teachers and researchers, who are cooperating with EMUNI, as well as of EMUNI students, who get the opportunity to publish their research projects and master papers. Thus, the journal serves as an appropriate textbook for the courses of study programmes and professional upgrading study programmes, implemented by EMUNI.

International Journal of Euro-Mediterranean Studies (IJEMS - International Journal of Euro-Mediterranean Studies) represent an interdisciplinary contribution to research of topics relevant to the Euro-Mediterranean region. IJEMS is an international journal aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue and exchange between the social environments, human resource development and at ensuring a better mutual understanding of the broad field of the Euro-Mediterranean region. Key issues include policy papers, sociology, economics, growth and development, human geography, environment, business and management, education, international relations, gender studies, life science and history.

The ambition of the IJEMS is to become one of the key periodicals in the regional affairs, of interest both to the scholarly and the academic community. The journal also enables EMUNI to be an outlet for the scientific-research accomplishments of teachers and researchers, who are cooperating with EMUNI, as well as of EMUNI students. Thus, the journal serves as an appropriate textbook for the courses of study programmes and professional upgrading study programmes.

In 2017 EMUNI has continued with the publication of the journal twice per year. Through sustained editorial effort, the quality of the submissions and published articles has been elevated in comparison to the previous year. As such, the journal has demonstrated its capacity-building role of the regional academics, including some in early-career stages. In 2017, EMUNI has also received a subsidy from the Research Agency for the printing of the publication.

### **Assessment of current situation and guidelines**

The EMUNI University will continue to issue the magazine IJEMS also in the future and strive to involve even more prominent international experts from the Mediterranean and broader area. It will also continue with the preparation and mailing of the newsletter and flyers on a regular basis.

## 7 Material conditions

### 7.1 Premises and equipment

The seat of EMUNI University is in Piran. Until 1 December 2015, the University premises, obtained as an international organization in the academic year 2008/2009, were in the Student Dormitory Portorož. Between 1 December 2015 and 30 April 2016, EMUNI was located in the building of the Faculty of Tourism Studies – Turistica of the University of Primorska. On 1 May, the university moved to the Trevisini Palace in Piran, which is fully equipped with all the necessary facilities.

EMUNI University agreed on the use of library services for its students with the University Library of the University of Primorska.

In 2013, EMUNI began collecting library materials and arrangements for the reference library and continued with that in 2014 and 2015. Around 1000 library units have been acquired so far. The works are in Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Italian and Slovenian.

We also gained access to the following databases:

- Central and Eastern European Online Library
- Directory of Open Access Journals
- EBSCO Host
- EconPapers
- EconBiz
- Education Resources Information Center
- E-journals
- Genamics JournalSeek
- Google Scholar
- Index Islamicus
- JournalFinder
- NewJour
- Open J-Gate
- ProQuest
- RefSeek
- Research Bible
- ScienceDirect

The links are available at the EMUNI University webpage at the following link: <http://www.emuni.si/education/databases>.

### 7.2 Promotional Publications

In 2017 the EMUNI produced the following electronic promotional publications:

- E-Newsletter: through out the year (online);
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme promotional material;
- Intercultural Business Communication promotional material;
- Blue Mission promotional material;
- MERID promotional material;
- EMNES promotional material.

Promotional publications are intended for both, target and wider public to inform them about the activities and events of EMUNI. All promotional publications were issued in e-form to enable the maximum extent. There were over 8.000 recipients of e-publications in 2017, and the number of subscribers to the newsletter continues to grow.

### **7.3 Other services and organisation information**

#### **IT services, technical support and information communication technologies**

Main tasks and goals of the IT unit are defined by direct needs of EMUNI University – to ensure good operating conditions and high efficiency of the information systems.

#### **Support services are being carried out in different areas:**

- support and maintenance of the computer solutions;
- information and communication services – maintenance of the information infrastructure;
- office and business systems;
- information security;
- graphical design.

#### **Assessment of current situation and guidelines**

EMUNI moved its premises in 2016 to a building more suitable for a university. The students have access to the University Library of the University of Primorska. The new premises allow a smooth education process. In terms of funding, EMUNI will continue to apply for projects and external sources of financing.

## **8 Quality Assurance**

At the 21st Senate session in September 2015, the newly formed Quality Assurance Commission was established, replacing the former Commission due to the change of the Senate members, from which the Commission is mostly composed. The new version of the Quality Manual was adopted in September 2014. In line with the Manual, the main activities at the University are regularly monitored. This is done by discussion, questionnaires and constant communication among the management, employees, students, and other stakeholders.

In identifying and assuring quality, the EMUNI University complies with the Higher Education Act (Official Gazette of RS, no. 32/2012-UPB7, and amendments), Criteria for accreditation and external evaluation of higher education institutions and study programmes (Official Gazette of RS, no. 95 / 2010 17/2011, 51/2012, 6/2013), Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Helsinki, 2005) and the Resolution on the National Programme of Higher Education 2011-2020 (ReNPVS11-20) (Official Gazette of RS, no. 41/2011).

The new version of the Quality Manual was adopted in September 2014.

Areas of assessment<sup>10</sup> are as follows:

- integration with the environment;

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<sup>10</sup> Article 24 of the Criteria for accreditation and external evaluation of higher education institutions and study programmes (OG RS, No. 95/2010)

- functioning of the higher education institution;
- personnel;
- students;
- the material conditions (facilities, equipment, library-information activity and financing);
- quality assurance, innovation and development orientation;
- study programmes are assessed also on the basis of the organization and implementation of education.

The new Quality Assurance Commission was established at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Senate.

### **Analysis of the questionnaire for students in the professional upgrading study programme Euro-Mediterranean Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

The questionnaire enables students to provide their opinion on the study programme, both its content and organizational and logistical aspects. Obtaining data on the students' opinion is an integral part of the quality assurance system at EMUNI University. The questionnaire results are taken into account in the (self)evaluation of the functioning of the EMUNI University and in the planning of further activities.

A more detailed analysis of the data and findings are set out in Annex 1.

### **Assessment of current situation and guidelines**

Quality assurance surveys, carried out in the conduction of the master study programme and other activities, will continue to be conducted by EMUNI University also in the future, as the results of surveys help improve the quality of study programmes. This ensures constant improvement of the study process and the satisfaction of all parties involved. The Quality Assurance Commission performs its work in line with its duties and tasks.

## **9 Evaluation of the achievements in 2017**

### **9.1 Assessment of the achievement of goals**

The operation of EMUNI in 2017 was quite successful. We managed to acquire two (2) new projects:

A new master programme AdapTM, in which EMUNI will be participating in designing and implementing an interdisciplinary master's degree study programme titled *Smart Environment and Climate Change Management*, which will be modelled in line with the Bologna process. The development of a programme is a result of a successfully gained 3-year Erasmus+ project in a consortium of participating universities. Erasmus+ KA107 project for staff mobility (Southern Mediterranean Countries) in a consortium with *University of Maribor* and *University of Primorska*. We were granted in total, as a Consortium, 79 mobilities (incoming and outgoing) with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

In 2017 EMUNI continued with its good practice on implementing Educational programs, starting with Professional upgrading study programme "Euro-Mediterranean Innovation and Entrepreneurship Diploma" (IEP). In the first part of 2017 EMUNI concluded the 2016/2017 academic year for 18 students, who received full scholarship from Al Alfi Foundation, Egypt. For the academic year 2017/18 the implementation of scholarship scheme for enrolled students was not granted from Al-Alfi Foundation, Egypt. Despite all financial challenges, EMUNI will perform the upgrading study program with its own

funds. Again, EMUNI also fully covered the study (tuition fees, accommodation) of 5 students from the Master study programme of “Intercultural Business Communication” (IBC).

As part of the planned study activities we carried out all the set objectives according to the work programme – we organized a training course on blue growth named “**Blue Mission**” cofinanced by MFA and MESP of RS.

## **9.2 Improper or unexpected effects of the implementation**

The year 2017 was marked with many projects, activities and events. However, EMUNI faced direct and indirect financial challenges. Indirect were related to the workload - working hard to secure new EU funds which could improved the financial condition and could enable new impetus for further development of EMUNI, and notably, the HR challenges with local personnel, which slowed down the general working processes. The direct financial challenge, which significantly marked the 2017 was the reduced financing for the IEP program - resulted in a significant cut into the EMUNI budget. Despite of all these facts, there were no large or unexpected consequences on the implementation of the objectives.

## **9.3 Success assessment in comparison with previous years**

EMUNI’s growth in success, compared to previous years comes from:

- For the first time in 2017 members of EMUNI General Assembly pay membership fee, which grants them the privilege to become Members of the Inner Circle of the EMUNI General Assembly. Now Emuni has 33 GA Inner Circle Members.
- Having two successfully running education programmes: Euro-Mediterranean Innovation and Entrepreneurship Diploma" (IEP) and “Intercultural Business Communication” (IBC), including a summer course on blue growth named “Blue Mission”.
- Signing a consortium agreement with Primorska University and Maribor University for staff mobility.
- And lastly, a new intake of IBC students.

The success was even more significant due to the limitations, which the EMUNI University was confronted with lack of human resources and shortage of finances for its purposes.

## **9.4 Review of the efficiency of operations**

In assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of operations with respect to defined standards, criteria and measures to improve the efficiency and quality of operations, we derive from the regulation of public funding of higher education and other institutions, principles for the financing of higher education institutions contained in the Higher Education national programme and measures for monitoring, assessment and quality assurance of higher education institutions, study programmess and research, artistic and professional work.

EMUNI disposes with public funds of the budget of the Republic of Slovenia, in accordance with the financing agreement signed with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, and at the same time with the Public Finance Act and other legal regulations in this field. EMUNI operates with public funds in accordance with the criteria and standards set for the use of funds by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. EMUNI fully complies with the principles of economy and efficiency of operations with funds.

## **9.5 Explanations regarding areas where objectives have not been achieved**

The EMUNI University was successful in 2017 in comparison to previous years, however, some goals were not fully achieved due to various factors. Below the scope and objectives, which were either not met or were only partially achieved, are listed:

In the study area we did not fully achieve the objectives because, since as a university network we mainly depended on the partner institutions and the concluded arrangements. In addition, many questions remain open in relation to the notification and accreditation of study programmes by the SQAA. The plans were optimistic, since 2015, by end of 2017 we could not make progress on this field.

## **9.6 Assessment of business effects of higher education institutions on other areas**

EMUNI is one of the most important projects of the Union for the Mediterranean. It focuses on bringing together universities, research institutions, research centers and centers of excellence for the joint work in developing new programmes and projects aimed at bridging the gap between the north and the south, east and west of the Mediterranean region.

The priority areas of EMUNI include higher education and research, intercultural business communication and connections, sustainable conservation of the Mediterranean area, maritime and land highways, alternative energies and civil protection. These topics are dealt within the context of EMUNI summer schools/courses, research seminars, European projects and intensive programmes, which involve students, young graduates and academic staff, whose goal is to create a common language of the region - the language of research and excellence. EMUNI partner universities help in creating the foundations of intercultural dialogue and common sustainable growth, as they focus on themes and topics that directly relate to the Euro-Mediterranean region. With the personnel mobility program the process of intercultural exchange is getting positive impacts on both sides, host and guest institutions.

Thematically, EMUNI focuses on the priority areas of the Union for the Mediterranean and on other areas that are of most interest for the international community, including business development and economic studies, marine issues, culture and tourism, human rights, migrations, gender issues, development studies, water management and regional integration. Study activities that are carried out in collaboration with partner universities (e.g. summer schools/courses, professional upgrading study programmes, etc.) are through the optional and mandatory study courses also connected to the areas listed above.

In the year 2017 and in the academic year 2017/2018 EMUNI will contribute to the creation of a single, integrated Euro-Mediterranean higher education, science and research area. EMUNI already serves as a center for the creation of institutional networks, exchange of students and projects in the Euro-Mediterranean region. According to the results achieved in 2017 it will continue to actively contribute to the research and academic staff and to development of joint study programmes.