

**Erasmus+ CBHE
Steering Committee Meeting - Date: 20.04.2024**

Attendees:

Meeting No:	7	Meeting Time	11:00
Meeting venue:		Meeting date	20.04.2024
Attendees :	Prof. Ahmad Al-Salymeh, Prof. Mohammad Al-Shriedah, Prof. Nizam Salaht, Dr. Belal Ghanam, Dr. Ali Maqousi, Prof. Martin Leiner, and Dr. Iyad Aldajani		
Absence:	Prof. Dr. Andreas.Oberprantacher@uibk.ac.at		

1 Meeting Agenda

We discussed the administration of University Jena and the termination of Dr. Iyad Aldajani's contract as a coordinator. We also discussed the Algerians' budget and how to manage it. Lastly, we discussed who should be responsible for creating the final report and how to resolve the problem with the University of Jena administration.

3 Absent participants

Prof. Dr. Andreas Oberprantacher sent us an email stating that he would not be able to attend the meeting. In the email, he mentioned that the coordinator's contract cannot be terminated if they continue working on the same project. However, if the project is partially terminated, then the coordinator's employment will be terminated automatically.

4. Meetings discussed points

As per the steering committee held on January 9th, 2024 at the University of Jena, the AARMENA partners and the Vice President of International Relations (FSU) attended the meeting. During the meeting, the Vice President (FSU) informed the partners about the termination of the coordinator contract and the project termination without any official documents from the EACEA office in Brussels. However, the EACEA officer reported that the project is still on hold, despite the University of Jena's administration continuing with the termination procedure. The termination of the coordinator contract and the project by the University of Jena is considered wrongdoing by the partners and the EACEA office in brussels.

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Prof. Leiner and Dr. Aldajani have informed Prof. Andreas' email, of the information that the coordinator's contract was not legally terminated and will continue automatically, due the coordaintor continued his work as a coordinator on the same project, it is breaking labour law to implement such a discours of termination.

Dr. Aldajani, has stated that he continue working on the project activities such working with EACEA officer on developing the new budget and working with Natalia Meyer , on the new budget, and the budget of the Algerians and developing document to recquest unspent funds to return to the project. Developing the online workshop for the doctoral school, and the Neogationa course program atthat will take place in May at the istiqlal Univeristy and the prolongation document with the EACA officer.

Professor Ahmad Al-Salyemh has expressed concerns about the conduct of the University of Jena's administration. He finds their behavior unacceptable and insists that the coordinator should be employed until the completion of the submission of the final report to the EACEA officer. If the university employs someone else, it may result in penalties because it will be difficult for anyone other than the coordinator to write such a report. He also stated that employing the coordinator only for two months during the prolongation period is wrong and a violation of the regulation of Erasmus Plus. The steering committee holds the decision for employment, and the University of Jena administration must respect it. Any disrespectful behavior toward the project from the University of Jena administration will result in penalties, and the AARMENA team must inform Brussels of this misconduct. The University of Jena administration is responsible for such behavior, not Prof. Dr. Martin Leiner or Dr. AIDajani.

Prof. Nizam has stated that the situation must be stated from the stages where it started: the partner met with the vice president of the University of Jena and stated to her at the time of the steering committee meeting on 9 January 2024 by terminating the coordinator contract and ending the project is not legal because there is no official document from the EACEA office in Brussels. The only response from the EACEA office in Brussels was that the project is on Hold and not terminated. Therefore, they can not terminate the coordinator's contract or the project. AARMENA partners are working according to the regulations of Erasmus Plus, and the University of Jena must adhere to the regulations of Erasmus Plus and not make decisions unilaterally.

All partners have agreed that the University of Jena administration is responsible for the problem at hand. Any penalties that may be imposed on the AARMENA project because of the administration's decision and their finance department should be taken full responsibility for. Blaming the AARMENA project team or the coordinator, Prof. Dr. Martin Leiner, for their misconduct will not be accepted or permitted.

The AARMENA partners have decided to write an email to the President of the University of Jena regarding the situation. Additionally, Prof. Dr. Ahmad Al-Salymeh will travel to University of Jena to meet with the President's office and discuss these important issues in person.

6 Challenges and Recommendations

1. Some of the partners must explain to the Jena administration that they have created an issue that might result in penalties on the project.
2. Some must write an email to the president in the name of all partners.
3. Explain to the EACEA officer the problem, which might cause the project to close and then have penalties.
4. The University of Jena's administration makes decisions unilaterally without consulting the partners or the project coordinator.
5. Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh will travel to Jena to meet with the administration.

7 Next activities presentations

We agreed on a summer school for the AARMENA student to travel to Innsbruck from 24.06.2024 and then continue to Italy to the International conference on reconciliation studies 1.7.2024- 5.7.2024 and then to continue to the final conference.

The Negotiation course was agreed to teach in Palestine at al-Istiqlal Univeristy to master program in reconciliation communal peace program.

8 At the meeting end, the partners agreed on the following points:

1. Writing an email to president explicating the problem caused by the administration of the university of Jena.
2. Agreed, they will not pay any panelities in regarding to the AARMENA project if panelites are imposed due to the conduce wrong doing of the administration of University of Jena.
3. It was agreed that Prof. Dr. Ahmad Al-saymeh would write the email to the president and attend a meeting with the university president at the University of Jena.
4. We agreed the negotiation course would start on 12.May2024.
5. We agreed on the summer school
6. We agreed that the final report would be done by the coordinator of the project, Dr. AlDajani, and that he is employed from 14.1.204 until 14.09.2024
7. We agreed that if the University of Jena administration decided to disrespect the decision of the steering committee, an official email would be sent to the EACEA office in Brussels, releasing all partners from the penalties imposed because of the behavior of the university's administration.
8. The AARMENA partners agreed about the Algerian budget to define the number of funds eligible spent by the Algerian partners and use the rest in the budget for the partner countries.
9. Agreed to employ the coordinator Dr. Aldajani until 14.07.2024.
10. Agreed to employ the Coordinator, Dr. AlDajani, to write the final report and submit it to the EACEA office.
11. Agreed that any partner that does not work according to the regulation of eramsu plus project, will be responsible on the panelities in accordance to the behavior of the partner.