UNISAFE PROJECT - Security and safety on HEIs students and staff moving abroad

UNIPV structure involved: International Relations Office
Project Duration: 3 years
Coordinator: University of Pavia
Partners: University of Bologna, Edinburgh University, Jagellonian University, University of Poitiers, University of Granada, University of Iasi, Coimbra Group
Budget: € 449.108,00

In response to the increasingly important issue of security in the global world, the CG universities started a process of review their policies and procedures regarding the emergency protocols, with the objective of their harmonization and improvement. The problem of safety and response to emergency situations is particularly important for HEIs because they move thousands of students, teachers and administrative staff all around the world.

The main objective of the project is to equip HEIs with protocols, as well as practical tools that guarantee the safety and security of international mobility for students and staff. The protocols clarifies roles, duties and responsibilities of the parties involved in international mobility, define the importance of risk assessment and preparation of mobility, standardize procedures addressed to the specific needs of the beneficiaries.

Practical tools (such as online self-assessment tool, online open courses, emergency notification mobile app) will support beneficiaries - within the partnership and beyond it - in experiencing a safer and more secure international mobility.

The project will involve 7 HEIs (UNIPV-coordinator, UNIBO, UoE, JU, UP, UGR, UAIC) which are all members of the CG and already involved in the “Focus Group in Emergency Protocols” that prepared the guidelines “Protocol Procedures for Emergency Situations Student’s safety and security in HEIs”; local sections of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) will be associated partners and will bring into the project the perspective of the main beneficiaries (students) and disseminate the results among them; Coimbra Group.

During the project, the following intellectual outputs (IO), multiplier events (E) and intensive staff training weeks (C) will be carried out:

Four Intellectual Outputs: O1 Online self-assessment tool on safety and security, O2 - Open Courses on security protocols for universities, O3 Open courses on Health and safety for mobility participants, O4 University’s Emergency Notification System technical report;

Seven national multiplier events addressed to teachers, administrative staff, policy makers, students and lifelong learners organized in the 7 HEIs consortium members and 2 international events, one organized
during AeM working group (open to all the associate universities) and a final conference in Brussels (open to EC, EU universities, other stakeholders ect.);

Two Intensive international staff weeks on the following topics: C1 Training of staff on safety and security addressed to international officers, security managers, faculty/department mobility coordinators of partner HEIs; C2 Intensive Study Program addressed to students/members of the local ESN sections that will be trained on safety and security.

Seven transnational meetings (Ms) among partners will be held as part of the management and communication strategy to expose, develop and analyse the results of the IO.

The results of the project will enable the involved staff of HEIs to get acquainted with standardized guidelines and policies, which will have a deep impact on their daily work and on the way in which safety and security issues are addressed in response to the specific needs of mobile participants.

Mobile participants (especially students) will develop a stronger awareness on a broad variety of safety and security issues (from intercultural awareness to health insurance, from sexual injuries to terrorist attack), will expand their understanding and responsiveness to safety and security topics and to cultural diversity and will spend a more safe and cultural-aware period abroad.

Potential longer term impact for the staff involved will be the creation of a broad international network of colleagues working on those themes, which will remain a useful source of information and exchange of best practices also after the end of the project.

More broadly, the main desired impact of the project at local, regional, national and EU level is the development of shared awareness on safety and security issues during international mobility, spreading from the partners of the project to other institution and stakeholders.