

Network: CIII-AT-0012-11-1516

Program description:

Since the beginning the network (Languages and Literatures in a Central European context) has four objectives:

- To develop joint-programs, joint curricula and joint-modules
- To raise the cooperation between philological disciplines
- To raise the mobility of students and teachers of philological disciplines
- To develop e-learning materials and open education resources to facilitate cooperation on the teaching level

1. Joint-programs, joint curricula, joint modules

General objectives:

Implementation of a Bachelor/Master structure - in compliance with the principles of the Bologna declaration - with interdisciplinary curricula in modular form.

In particular:

- Development of future-oriented and innovative study programs of international dimension and increase of employability of graduates
- Reinforcement of the European perspective and the teaching of the languages of the region and Dutch as less widely used and less widely taught languages in particular.
- Development of market-oriented and interdisciplinary study programs in a (Central) European and comparative context
- Guarantee of international recognition, transparency and comparability of academic achievements through ECTS credits
- Obligatory credit point allocation to courses and mandatory use of the Diploma Supplement to facilitate the adoption of the Bologna Process

a. BA - Dutch Language and Literature in a Central European Context

After the arrangements made for the curriculum 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' (2005/2006 – 2006/2007), a curriculum for a Joint Degree of 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' was elaborated in connection with the seven partner institutions Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovakia), Masaryk University Brno (Czech Republic), Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church Budapest and University Debrecen (both in Hungary), Palacký University Olomouc

(Czech Republic) and University of Wroclaw (Poland) in 2007. The development of the curriculum was supported by the EU (Socrates CD – Grant). The program was accredited in 2007/08 and is now running at six universities.

The curriculum (in total 180 ECTS) consists of two parts:

- **Basis curriculum** (90 ECTS): Language, literature and culture of 'The Low Countries'.
- **Joint curriculum** (90 ECTS): Basic knowledge of a second foreign language of the region will be acquired and special emphasis is laid on the Central European context, in the field of history, economy and the European Union.

The curriculum consists of ten groups of subjects (module groups), which are comparable at all partner universities. The modules of the basis curriculum are offered independently and autonomously at every university; yet the joint curriculum consists of modules which are identical for all students in all participating countries, either at their home institution or at a partner institution to guarantee mutual recognition of academic performance. A part of the study program is completed with e-learning modules offered at the international e-learning platform run by the partner institution. For the current version of the curriculum see: <https://dcc.ned.univie.ac.at/de/node/7657>.

The network partners of Dutch Studies make use of the e-learning modalities which have been developed over the past years. The e-learning system of the Dutch department was tested by the partners of the network Consortium 'Dutch Language and Literature in a Central European Context' in 2008/09. The Consortium for 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' developed 21 e-learning courses dealing with language, literature and culture in a central-European context which have been used during the last semesters.

b. Joint MA-DCC

In the academic year 2013/2014 we discussed the possibilities of a joint MA in the context of Dutch Language and Literature in Central European Context (DCC). But in the same period several partners in the network changed their existing MA-curricula. Therefore we had to wait until this development was finished to continue the conception of our 'common' MA-Modules. In 2015/2016 we will resume the work on modules for a common MA-curriculum for DCC. For this reason in 2015/2016 we will organize three meetings on this topic with the partners.

c. Modules for a Doctoral School

In the past the partners of the network have organized (in cooperation with Comenius and the Nederlandse Taalunie (NTU)) regularly so called 'Colloquia for Doctorandi and Habilitandi'. In 2015/2016 the partners of the network will evaluate the possibilities to complete these colloquia with or to transform them to Doctoral Schools that offer joint Modules that can be recognised in context of the different curricula of doctoral studies in the region.

d. Austrian Studies

A novelty in 2013/14 was the participation of the MA program 'Austrian Studies' of the University of Vienna. The Department of German Studies at the University of Vienna has

elaborated a MA-curriculum entitled ‘Austrian Studies – Cultures, Literatures, Languages’ which started in the winter term 2011. The study program was accredited in 2010. The curriculum of Austrian Studies includes a module with a comparative (Central) European perspective/aspect, this is why it fits nicely into our network of Language and Literature in a Central European Context. Also, it provides students in our network who are interested in Austrian Studies with new perspectives. Although the new study program of our network has started only recently, there are already a number of students from the partner faculties who are interested in Austrian Studies.

e. MA – Hungarian Language and Literature and Joint Phd/ interdisciplinary MA – Slavonic Studies

i. MA – Hungarian Language and Literature

Because of the repeated failures in implementation of the ‘Joint Diploma in Hungarian Studies MA’ with the title *Hungarian Language and Literature* (HLL), we do not intend to try bringing about a new Joint Studies Program in Hungarian Studies in the future, but will instead concentrate our efforts on making use of the CEEPUS program within the framework of the study programs already offered, which will involve further cooperation between our partner universities and the mutual supplementation of our course offerings.

ii. Joint PhD/ Interdisciplinary MA – Slavonic Studies

Because of the failures in implementation of the ‘Joint PhD program’, the department of Slavonic Studies does not intend to try bringing about a new Joint Studies Program in the future. Since CEEPUS encompasses most of the countries that are relevant for the department of Slavonic Studies, it will continue to make extensive use of the CEEPUS mobility programs for students inscribed in the regular programs. The mobility program will enable further cooperation between our partner universities, exchange of students (at BA, MA and PhD levels) and teachers, and the mutual supplementation of our course offerings. This will foster the language and intercultural skills of students and teachers. In the past students were able to integrate courses they took at the partner universities very well into their existing curricula. On the other hand, incoming students are offered a broad variety of courses that complement their studies at their respective home universities. The current BA-curriculum for students of Slavonic Studies strongly recommends the use of mobility programs.

For the year 2015/16 the implementation of a new interdisciplinary MA-program “Interdisciplinary East European Studies” is planned. The program is based on tight cooperation between the Department of Slavonic Studies, the Department of East European History, the Department of Political Science and the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Mobility and international academic exchange will be a central topic. An academic stay abroad, respectively, in an East European country will be highly recommend. Especially for the summer term 2016 an increased demand from interdisciplinary MA students is expected.

Since the available number of scholarships in the various programs is strictly limited, every single scholarship is very valuable for keeping up regular student exchange.

2. Raise cooperation between philological disciplines

The cooperation between institutes for Dutch, Finno-Ugric, German/Austrian and Slavonic studies in this network enables cooperation on a broad level between different philologies and a dynamic exchange on bilateral and multilateral level.

In fact the exchange between the partners of our network takes place between philologies. In contrast to the students, that follow courses in different philologies and languages (in particular the students of DCC (courses in Dutch, Polish, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Slovenian, English)), teachers use in the most of the cases mobility to a partner institute. Mostly they teach in the same language as at home.

One of the challenges of this network is to stimulate courses that cross the borders of different philologies. Maybe our idea of common courses on translation and translation problems could be a first step in this direction.

The planned MA-program “Interdisciplinary East European Studies” is expected to attract alumni and alumnae of the philologically based BA program “Slavonic Studies” who will be motivated to use the CEEPUS mobility program.

For SS 2016 / WS 2016 / 2017 a language-excursion is planned. We will make an effort to find a language instructor who will organize an excursion with ten students. The goal is to connect the stay in e.g. Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia or Slovenia with a specific research topic but mainly with language practice.

For the summer 2016 a Workshop on translation / transfer of literature with participants from six countries is planned in Vienna.

3. Raise mobility

One of our central objectives is to raise the mobility of students and teachers of different disciplines in the region.

At all participating universities (except for Bucharest, Krakow, Poznan and Zagreb), the departments of Dutch Studies, Slavonic Studies and Finno-Ugric Studies are involved in the network. Moreover, there are several partner universities who are interested in Austrian Studies. Thus, dynamic multilateral exchange can be guaranteed.

We are quite happy with the reached results in the last years. Nevertheless we realize that there still is a disparity in mobility (preference for Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Czech Republic and Austria vis-à-vis Slovakia, Romania, Slovenia and Serbia, due to the fact that the project Dutch Language and Literature in Central European Context (DCC) has most of the partners in Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Austria. In fact the cooperation between the different partners in Vienna (Slavonic Studies, Finn-Ugric/Department of Hungarian Studies, Austrian Studies) offers also beyond the DCC-cooperation a lot of possibilities for mobility, not least to countries as Slovakia, Romania, Slovenia and Serbia. We will continue to stimulate this type of mobility and are convinced that the new possibilities in context of Austrian Studies will ameliorate the complained disparity in the long run.

The planned MA-program “Interdisciplinary East European Studies” is expected to attract alumni and alumnae of BA programs from various disciplines who will be motivated to use

the CEEPUS mobility program. Also, the students will be encouraged to travel to less visited countries.

For SS 2016 / WS 2016 / 2017 a language-excursion is planned. We will make an effort to find a language instructor who will organize an excursion with ten students. The goal is to connect the stay in e.g. Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia or Slovenia with a specific research topic but mainly with language practice.

For the summer 2016 a workshop on translation / transfer of literature with participants from six countries is planned in Vienna.

4. E-learning materials, Open Education Resources

The network partners of Dutch Studies make use of the e-learning modalities which have been developed over the past years. The e-learning system of the Dutch department was tested by the partners of the network Consortium 'Dutch Language and Literature in a Central European Context' in 2008/09. The Consortium for 'Dutch Language, Literature and Culture in a Central European Context' developed 21 e-learning courses dealing with language, literature and culture in a central-European context which have been used during the last semesters.

In 2015/2016 we will on the one hand actualise some existing e-learning-courses (Vlaanderenkunde, Overheidsterminologie, Inleiding in de Nederlandse taalkunde), on the other hand we will evaluate the possibilities to develop specific Open Education Courses. For instance we think about a language course 'Dutch for beginners' or a course for a wider public on 'Dutch language and Culture'. We are already in contact with the project iMooX (<http://www.imoox.at/wbtmaster/startseite/index.html>) of the TU-Graz.