

## Message from the Institutional Coordinator

**I am particularly pleased to introduce to you the very first issue of the "Erasmus News" newsletter. This newsletter is the result of the very intensive work carried out by the newly formed Institutional Erasmus Committee of ATEI of Thessaloniki. This initiative is part of our ever growing efforts to link cultural and educational activities across Europe, in the context of the Erasmus programme. We hope this attempt will strengthen the ties between the institutions and will initiate a new era of inter-institutional communication for the benefit of the educational process.**



**Prof. P. Tzionas, Vice President, ATEI of Thessaloniki.**

*put considerable effort into developing better and more effective results. Finally, his pleasant and effective communication skills were greatly appreciated by his superiors and colleagues. We greatly enjoyed working with Georgios and we wish him all the best for his future career" – Heidelberg, May 2011.*

### **Thesis proposed for award in HAMK.**

*Reporting: Athanassios Iossifides, Academic Coordinator, Department of Electronics, ATEI of Thessaloniki.*

Our students, Georgios Xakopoulos and Panagiotis Papioannou, who pursued their final thesis in HAMK University (Finland) within Erasmus programme, were proposed for an award. Their supervisor, Jari Mustajärvi (Head of IT Degree Programme) stated:

*"Georgios Xakopoulos and Panagiotis Papioannou from Alexander Technological Education Institute were doing their Final Thesis in HAMK University of Applied Sciences during spring 2011. Their topic was «Analysis and Implementation of a Cognitive Radio Network for use in the Wi-Fi & UMTS Bands».*

## Student news

### **Student Internship at NEC Laboratories Europe.**

*Reporting: Periklis Chatzimisios, Academic Coordinator, Department of Informatics, ATEI of Thessaloniki*

Our student, Mr. Georgios Papadopoulos, worked as an internship student at NEC Laboratories Europe of NEC Europe Ltd. in Heidelberg through the Erasmus Placements program from October 1, 2011 until May 31, 2011. His supervisors were Dr. Xavier Perez-Costa, Chief Researcher at the Mobile Wireless Networks Group and Dr. Periklis Chatzimisios, Assistant Professor at the Department of Informatics (ATEI of Thessaloniki). Dr. Perez-Costa reported:

*"Georgios contributed to the design and evaluation of an enhancement for overlapping WiFi Networks in the framework of the FP7 European project "FLAVIA". During his stay, he participated in the solution design process, wrote valuable simulation code in OPNET for its performance evaluation and collaborated in the analysis of the results and proposal of further enhancements. Additionally, he completed his B. Sc. Thesis, entitled "On the Enhancement of IEEE 802.11 Overlapping APs Capacity Sharing". He worked hard and well with other team members to meet the scheduled deliverables and left a well documented version of his simulation code. Georgios learned fast, worked independently and provided good solutions on the tasks assigned to him. He has a good grasp of the underlying technical issues, and was able to provide high-quality solutions to the challenges he faced. He*

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*X.Perez-Costa, NEC Europe Ltd.*

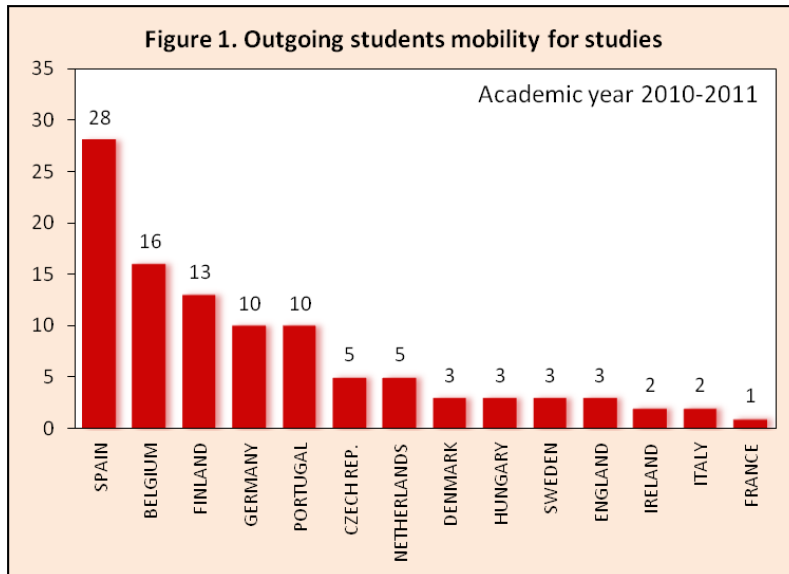


Students Panagiotis Papioannou and George Xakopoulos with Professor Jari Mustajarvi in HAMK.

*In their Thesis Georgios and Panagiotis presented first theoretical aspects and technological possibilities to implement cognitive networks. On that basis they designed and implemented an experimental arrangement to demonstrate and study the functionality of cognitive network in practice. The selected data transmission technologies were UMTS and WiFi. In order to construct the network they designed also some circuit boards that were manufactured in Training and Research Factory of Electronics, Elefors. It is my pleasure to state that Georgios and Panagiotis have done excellent work and it has been very pleasant to be their tutor. They are very capable of learning new things and prepared to work hard in order to achieve their goals. During the Thesis work they have also shown excellent skills in exploratory learning and problem solving. They get well along with people and present their work fluently." – Forssa 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2011.*

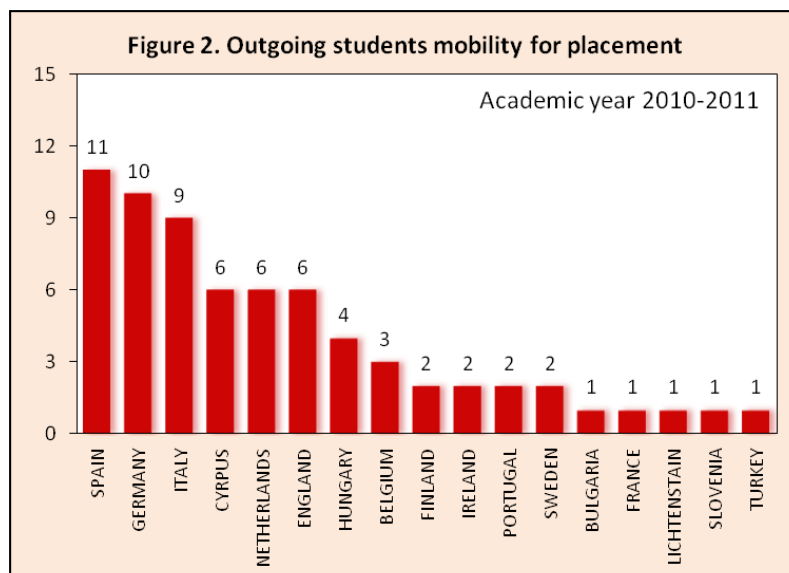
## Student mobility

Reporting: Efi Grigoriadou, LLP/Erasmus Institutional Administration Coordinator, ATEI of Thessaloniki.



### Outgoing students' mobility.

A total of 172 students of ATEI of Thessaloniki participated in Erasmus programme, 104 out of them for studies and 68 for placement. This corresponds to a 23% increase comparing to last academic year (2009-2010) mobility. It is worthy to note that Erasmus placement presents rapid growth during the last years. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate outgoing students' mobility for studies and placement, with respect to the receiving country. Spain remains constantly the first choice of ATEI students, followed by Germany and Belgium with 39, 20, and 19 students, respectively. On the other hand, the Departments of Plant Production and Informatics showed the highest outgoing students' mobility, with 27 and 26 students, respectively.



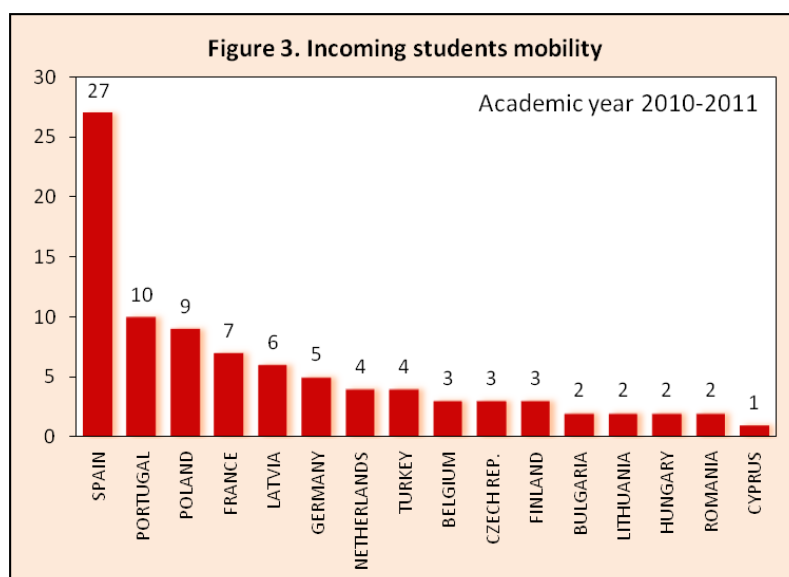
### Incoming students' mobility.

A total of 90 students were admitted in ATEI of Thessaloniki during the academic year 2010-2011. Figure 3 illustrates incoming students' mobility with respect to the originating country. Clearly, Spain holds the maximum share, in this context, as well, with 27 students. Department of Tourism Management accepted the vast majority of them (29), followed by the Department of Marketing and Advertising (11).

In the overall, academic year 2010-2011 was a very successful years for Erasmus exchange programme, in terms of student mobility.

## Staff mobility

Reporting: Efi Grigoriadou, LLP/Erasmus Institutional Administration Coordinator, ATEI of Thessaloniki.



### Erasmus staff training visits in ATEI of Thessaloniki.

**Mrs Claire Postill**, Study Abroad Administrator at the International Relations Office at **University of York** in United Kingdom visited our Institution on 10th of June 2011 in the frame of the Erasmus Programme. She had two meetings here with: a) the staff of the Erasmus Office, b) Dr. Athanasios Iossifides, Erasmus Coordinator of the Department of Electronics. Aim and objectives of this visit: to improve the quality and to increase the volume of student and staff mobility; to help students manage their Erasmus exchange to give a fully rounded experience; to encourage staff and students to visit ATEI of Thessaloniki; to find Erasmus placement opportunities for the students of Electronics and Nursing Departments.

**Mrs Ryan Schepers**, Erasmus Coordinator of the School of Communication & Media in **Hanze University Groningen** (The Netherlands) visited our Institution on 3rd of June 2011. She had three meetings here with: a) the staff of the Erasmus Office, b) Prof. Panagiota Polydoratou, the new Erasmus Coordinator of the Department of Library Science & Information Systems and c) Prof. Periklis

*Our intent is to use the results of the Erasmus Questionnaire for statistical purposes and thorough analysis so as to improve the level of educational services offered by ATEI of Thessaloniki within LLP/Erasmus Programme, in all possible aspects.*

*Institutional Erasmus Committee of ATEI.*

Chatzimisios, the Erasmus Coordinator of Department of Informatics. Aim and objectives of this visit: to learn more about the Greek University System and the English courses offered in our Institution; to learn from the experiences and good practices of the Erasmus Programme in order to make students more aware of the added value of a period on an Erasmus exchange; to encourage other administrative staff to take part in staff exchanges.

### **Erasmus teaching staff visits in ATEI of Thessaloniki.**

#### **Tourism Management Department**

- Ann Rey, University of Angers, France (30-31/5/2011).
- Sarmite Rozentale, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, Latvia (2-6/5/2011).
- Ewelina Paszkiewicz, Radom Academy of Economics, Poland (20-26/6/2011).

#### **Accounting Department**

- Katarzyna Kalinowska, Technical Radom University, Poland.

## **New procedures**

### **Institutional Erasmus Committee of ATEI of Thessaloniki.**

*Reporting: Efi Grigoriadou, LLP/Erasmus Institutional Administration Coordinator, ATEI of Thessaloniki.*

On 31/3/2011, the council of ATEI of Thessaloniki decided the formation of a new committee in order to upgrade the management and organizational procedures and further enhance the LLP/Erasmus development strategy of ATEI of Thessaloniki at an institutional level. The so called Institutional Erasmus Committee is staffed with Professor Panagiotis Tzionas, the Institutional Erasmus Coordinator (ATEI Vice President), Efi Grigoriadou, the Erasmus Administration Coordinator of ATEI and three Departmental Academic Coordinators, namely, Professor Eri Zachopoulou (Department of Early Childhood Care and Education), Assistant Professor Periklis Chatzimisios (Department of Informatics), and, Assistant Professor Athanassios Iossifides (Department of Electronics).

### **New evaluation procedure for students' participation in LLP/Erasmus programme.**

*Reporting: Athanassios Iossifides, Academic Coordinator, Department of Electronics, ATEI of Thessaloniki.*

The Institutional Erasmus Committee together with all the Departmental Erasmus Academic Coordinators of ATEI, upgraded the subordinate student evaluation procedure for participation in the LLP/Erasmus programme. Specifically, the minimum requirements for a student to be selectable for participation and the evaluation procedures were fully declared, as follows:

Minimum requirements for study programmes:

- a) completion of 2 academic semesters;
- b) 60 ECTS accomplished (at least);

- c) a minimum of B2 level at the teaching language of the hosting institute (unless host institute poses specific language requirements).

Minimum requirements for theses/placement programmes:

- a) fulfillment of Department requirements for thesis or placement realization;
- b) a minimum of B2 level at the teaching language of the hosting institute/ company.

Evaluation: A final rating is formulated for each student as the mean value of two indexes:

- a) academic performance index (0%, 25%, 75%, or 100%) and
- b) interview/motivation letter index (from 0% to 100%).

The final rating should be over 60%.

### **New Erasmus programme evaluation questionnaire**

*Reporting: Eri Zachopoulou, Academic Coordinator, Department of Early Childhood Care and Education, ATEI of Thessaloniki.*

The Institutional Erasmus Committee of ATEI has established a new Erasmus Programme Evaluation Questionnaire. The questionnaire, to be filled anonymously by incoming students, consists of two parts: a) the general part dealing with the overall evaluation of the programme as applied in ATEI of Thessaloniki, and b) the course evaluation part dealing with the evaluation of the courses that the students attended. Our intent is to use the results for statistical purposes and thorough analysis so as to improve the level of educational services offered by ATEI of Thessaloniki within Erasmus Programme, in all possible aspects.

## **New bilateral agreements**

**Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg, Germany, with the Department of Food Technology.**

**SRH Hochschule Heidelberg, Germany, with the Accounting Department.**

**Universidad de Granada, Spain, with the Nursing Department.**

**Dronning Mauds Minne, Hogskole for Forskoleutdanning Trondheim, Norway, with the Department of Early Childhood Care and Education.**

**International Business School Lippstadt, Germany, with the Tourism Management Department.**

**Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Turkey with the Tourism Management Department.**

**Erciyes University in Kayseri, Turkey with the Tourism Management Department.**

## **New departmental coordinators**

**Prof. Panagiota Polydoratou** is the new Erasmus Coordinator of the **Department of Library Science & Information Systems.**

*“Within the Electronics Department, electronics is taught at a serious level, but hard things become easy when you have the passion for them. Also the teachers are eager to help you when a problem occurs or something is not clear.”*

*Fitiou Ioan, Incoming Erasmus student.*

**Prof. Giakoustidou Dimitra** is the new Erasmus Coordinator of the **Centre of Foreign Languages and Physical Education**.

## Interview

### **Visiting students from Alba Iulia, Romania.**

*Reporting: Athanassios Iossifides, Academic Coordinator, Department of Electronics, ATEI of Thessaloniki.*

During the spring semester of 2010-2011, Fitiou Ioan and Bota Daniel, students from “1 Decembrie 1918” University, Alba Iulia, Romania realized their 6-month exchange period in Department of Electronics of ATEI of Thessaloniki. They were successful in all the courses they had selected, showing excellent fit and willing to learn. A short interview follows:

**Q:** What is your opinion on the Erasmus programme in general?

**FI:** *I think that the Erasmus programme is one of the best ways for students to connect with other students from different countries and the idea of studying in a different language in a foreign country can increase the level of experience of a student, no matter of the domain that he approaches.*

**BD:** *My opinion about the Erasmus programme is a good one, I think all the students must have the chance to study abroad; it is an experience that you will never forget.*

**Q:** Would you suggest to other students to participate in Erasmus programme?

**FI:** *Definitely!*

**BD:** *Definitely I will suggest to other colleagues to go with Erasmus programme because they will never regret this, just like me!*

**Q:** Were your expectations met in ATEI of Thessaloniki?

**FI:** *Yes, and much more.*

**BD:** *Yes, the university was ok, the teachers also, everything it was just like I expected, not to mention about Thessaloniki it's a wonderful city.*

**Q:** How do you find the level of the programme of study of Electronics Department?

**FI:** *Within the Electronics Department, electronics is taught at a serious level, but hard things become easy when you have the passion for them. Also the teachers are eager to help you*

*when a problem occurs or something is not clear.*

**BD:** *I think the level of study at Electronics Department is good but our level was too low. I say this because we didn't know a lot of things and I saw that at ATEI the laboratories are very important and theory takes the second place.*

**Q:** How was your stay in Greece?

**FI:** *Excellent, especially because in the second semester the weather is nice and you can do a lot of things around.*

**BD:** *Short and overall it was a great experience.*

**Q:** What was the best part of your participation in the Erasmus programme?

**FI:** *The best part of my Erasmus participation was meeting new people that I still keep in touch with and visiting a lot of interesting and fascinating places.*

**BD:** *The parties every weekend, socialization with other students from different countries, the trips and in the end the laboratories.*



Students Fitiou Ioan and Daniel Bota with Professor Christos Tzikas<sup>1</sup> in Digital Systems Lab.

<sup>1</sup> Professor Christos Tzikas (recently retired) has been one of the key persons in Socrates/Erasmus Programme development for ATEI during the years 1996-2004.



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