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Advancing Higher Education in Maldives Through E-learning Development

Faculty of Organization and Informatics (FOI)
The Maldives National University (MNU)
Croatian Academic and Research Network (CARNET)
Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)

PRESS RELEASE

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THE MALDIVES NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (MNU) WILL START OPERATING IN FULL e-LEARNING ENVIRONMENT BY 2022

Male', July 2020 – A 720,592.00 EUR worth project "**AMED - Advancing higher education in Maldives through E- learning Development**", approved by the European Commission under Erasmus+ programme - KA2 (Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practice, Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education), with **The Maldives National University (MNU)** as the main beneficiary, is now halfway through and a lot of project activities are successfully finalised.

The main goal of AMED project is to enable support of the modernization, approach and internationalization of high education in Maldives through teacher competences and skills promotion, considering new innovative education programs in E-learning. In January 2019, the project partners from three different countries - **The Maldives National University (Maldives), The Open University of Catalonia (Spain), The Faculty of Organization and Informatics and Croatian Academic and Research Network (Croatia)** have started the activities designed to facilitate learning and understanding through collaboration, engagement and knowledge sharing.

The MNU has benefitted from the project in four main areas: empowerment of people through collaboration and training , development of process of the e-learning roadmap, procurement of equipment (3) and awareness raising via project dissemination actions.

MNU and CETE staff more empowered

The MNU staff, especially teachers and the team working at the Centre for Educational Technology and Excellence (CETE) has benefitted from working with project experts during the process of co-creation and development of the new study program with a focus on e-learning development and successful implementation. The collaborative working process also allowed the recognition and sharing of good practices in the course development process and is expected to be adopted by the MNU in the future. The major impact on the MNU and CETE staff had the **job-shadowing meeting** held in November 2019 in Barcelona, where UOC team shared good practice and expertise on the areas such as eLearn Center development, Virtual Library, online teaching process etc. As a result of this activity, the MNU today is more aware of the processes and changes required to facilitate quality e-learning.

E – learning roadmap development

One of the important expected outcomes of the AMED project is the development of The E-learning Roadmap, with the aim to ensure the relevant and effective implementation of e-learning at the MNU. The actions highlighted in the roadmap are based on the contextual evidence generated in phase one of the project and are aligned with the MNU strategic goals set for 2018-2022.

New equipment

The MNU is in the process of procuring equipment funded by the project to support and improve the establishment of the **e-learning infrastructure**, such as e-Learning studios and e-facilitations classes. The equipment procurement was coordinated and monitored in close cooperation with the experts from CARNET - Croatian Academic and Research Network.

Awareness raising

The MNU project team, as well as the project partners, are investing huge efforts to disseminate project results in order to enable the empowerment of e-learning environment at the biggest higher education institution in the Maldives. The expected outcomes are shared with the Maldives Ministry of Higher Education which will help the MNU with further development of e-learning environment even after the project formally ends in January 2022.

The project is coordinated by the Faculty of Organization and Informatics of the University of Zagreb and more information and results are available on the official project webpage available at amed-project.eu

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