

TEXTILE STRATEGY FOR INNOVATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION: LITHUANIAN EXPERIENCE

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

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The present investigation has been done by ERASMUS+ project “TEXSTRA”. The goal of TEXSTRA project is to develop the tools necessary for skills enhancement, targeted to higher education, in relation to research and innovation. The researchers of ten institutions from six European countries participate in the project. The results of investigations of Kaunas University of Technology in Lithuania are presented in this presentation.

The 21st age is the age of IT, “smart” materials, needs of sustainability and a very high speed of novelties. These novelties, coming from science to textile industry, have created great demands on new knowledge for textile engineers and managers and their all live studies. One of way for graduates additional and continual studying is online courses in which professionals could receive various and the newest needed information. The development of such courses make a high challenges for academic staff also. At first, the needs and backgrounds of potentials students of courses could be a very different.

In 2018 year the needs analysis of young specialists, academic staff and researchers and managers of industrial companies in Lithuania was carried out. It was stated that the opinion about needs of managers of companies and young generation differ in very high level. The opinion of academic staff and researchers was in the middle of opinions of students and managers of companies.

The reasons could be explained by the situation when young graduates started their professional job in company and met an unknown challenges and the fact, that some parts of more experienced managers graduate university a long time ago and did not had a lot of new subjects in their studies but met these challenges in their professional job in last few years. It was stated the fact, that managers of companies do not have information about novelties in studying process. Also, due to very intensive university studies programme which is mostly focused on new materials and technologies, some important basic information is very fast forgetting by young generation. The analysis of needs show a very high difference of the background of responders.

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