



# Project Implementation Report

## COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Number: 610456-EPP-1-2019-1-FR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Project Title: “Latin American Alliance for Capacity building in Advanced physics”

Coordinating Institution: Université de Paris

### 1. RELEVANCE

- Despite the challenges faced during this first period of implementation, we acknowledge that the **project remains relevant to the objectives of modernising the educational platform in the area of Advanced Physics**, in eight Latin-American Higher Education Institutions from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.
- We note positively that the project is reinforcing the **regional cooperation** in this specific area given that it is promoting the collaboration between the four Latin American Partner Countries.
- Concerning the specific **Partner Countries’ needs**, we would like to receive additional information for each of them about how the project addresses the national strategies and policy development in the area covered by the project.
- We acknowledge that the project has been **strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic** and had to revise the workplan and modify numerous activities to be implemented virtually. We note positively that the consortium has reacted quickly to the new context and that the measures put in place have enabled the project to implement most of the activities foreseen.
- We are also aware that the project faced other **challenges** such as the new legal status of the coordinating institution, the political changes in Ecuador and the difficult context in Venezuela, causing delays in particular in the process of purchase of equipment.

### 2. QUALITY OF THE PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Despite the difficulties faced during the first period of implementation, we estimate that the project has progressed well in the **development of the new courses of Advances Physics** to be included in the existing **Masters of Physics** of the partner institutions. We understand that for some universities this involves a significant change in their existing programmes, updating and reforming their syllabus to include new area such as Data Science and Instrumentation.
- We are also aware that the **pandemic had a significant impact** in the **pedagogical strategies** and that in particular, the project had to simplify the connectivity requirements to a minimum bandwidth that could operate the remote equipment.



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- Concerning the **implementation of the new courses**, we would like to receive additional details about which partner universities have already started, how many students are following the new courses developed and what has been the outcome of the surveys among students and teachers concerning the teaching of these new courses.
- We acknowledge that the **purchase of equipment** has been delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic and because of administrative difficulties linked to the change of the legal status of the University of Paris. We are aware that it was a complex tendering process and we are pleased to learn that it was concluded in June 2021 and that the material is expected to arrive around mid-October 2021. Please keep us informed of the progress of the installation in each partner and contact us if you face additional difficulties.
- We are pleased to note that the project has developed adequate **Quality Assurance measures**, including regular surveys among students and teachers. Regarding the external evaluation, please include in your Final Report the report of the evaluation.
- Regarding the **project visibility**, we consider that the project website is well structured and that it seems regularly updated. We have noticed that the English version is still under development. Please keep us informed once it has been finalised.

### **3. QUALITY OF THE PROJECT TEAM AND THE COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS**

- Concerning **project management**, we are aware that the project had to deal with the administrative process of the **change of the legal status of the coordinating institution** which led to some administrative delays and additional burden in the management of the project.
- We consider that the **coordination and communication mechanisms** are well established. We are also pleased that the signature of the Partnership Agreements has been finalised with all partners despite the difficulties in receiving them from the two partners in Venezuela.
- Overall, we estimate that the **partner institutions are well involved** in the project activities and that they play a key role in implementing the project, with well-defined leadership responsibilities and tasks. It is positive to note that the project has established a regular communication with Faculties, International Relations, Finances and Press offices within the partner institutions.
- Concerning the **involvement of external stakeholders**, we are pleased to note that the project has established partnerships with international research institutes and industrial partners. Please, specify which type of collaborations have been established.
- We are pleased to note that the consortium is informing regularly the Erasmus+ contact persons in the **EU Delegations in Ecuador, Peru and Colombia**.

### **4. IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

- Regarding the **dissemination** of the project outcomes, we consider that you have elaborated a well designed Dissemination Plan, defining clear target groups and different dissemination



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channels. We are aware that in the current context of COVID-19, most of the dissemination activities have been organised virtually.

- We note positively that **several HEIs in the region** have expressed their interest in joining the project and that students from HEIs outside the consortium would like to follow the courses established by the project. This shows that the results are generating a significant interest in the region.
- Concerning the **sustainability of the project outcomes**, we are aware that given that the new courses are well embedded in the programmes of the partner institutions, the sustainability is ensured. However, it is important that the partners authorities confirm their commitment to keeping the new Physics courses inserted in their local Masters. We also estimate that the partners should explore further opportunities for additional funds in the future, in particular to keep up-to-date the equipment purchased.
- We are pleased to note that the project has created **synergies with other EU funded projects** working in the same field. Please specify which kind of collaboration has been established with these projects.

To conclude, we kindly ask you to take into account the following **main recommendations** during the second half of your project implementation:

- In the context of the **current sanitary crisis**, please keep your Project Officer regularly informed of all the changes needed to be done in the workplan and in the nature of the planned activities.
- Even if we are fully aware of the current difficulties to purchase the equipment, it is very important to install the **equipment** as soon as possible at the partner institutions.
- In order to ensure the **sustainability**, the partners authorities should confirm their commitment to keeping the new Physics courses inserted in their local Masters.
- It is recommended to explore **opportunities for additional funds** in the future, in particular to keep up-to-date the equipment purchased.

We also kindly ask you to send to the Agency the **information requested below within one month of the receipt of this letter**:

- For each **Partner Country**, the specification about how the project addresses the national strategies and policy development in the area covered by the project.
- Update about the implementation of **the new courses**.
- Information about the translation of the **project website in English**.
- Progress of the **installation of the equipment** at the partner institutions.
- Type of **collaborations** established with international research institutes/industrial partners and with other EU funded projects working in the same field.