

Dear colleagues,

Thank you all for finding time in your busy schedules and joining us for this training week.

We are pleased to have the honor of welcoming you at our university.

Today we will officially launch the training week and I do hope that by Friday all of us will take something new, innovative and interesting.

When my colleagues and I started to plan this training week we had in mind the idea of organizing an event that will give all of us the chance of sharing experiences, opening new cooperation opportunities, telling each other about our practices, and opening the doors to our small, ancient and beautiful country.

Working at the international office gives us the invaluable chances of “changing lives and opening minds”. It is a pleasure for me to see the sparkling eyes of students who are accepted by your universities. Most of them are packing for an unforgettable experience for the first time in their lives. We are a very traditional country with national specifications and mentality. We are family oriented. For the colleagues from the western part of the world will be somehow a surprise to know that we even work with parents- explaining them how important exchange opportunity is for each student’s future carrier. We do all this with great pleasure and love. This love grows annually because the network of the students and colleagues involved in exchange programs grows passing it from one to the other. It will be worth to cite Desiderius Erasmus regarding dreams and turning those into reality as a result of everyday work: There are always some people who live in a dream world and there are some who face the reality and there are those who turn one into the other. This has become the slogan of our everyday work.

ASUE is friendly environment for incoming students and colleagues as well. I hope you will feel it during this short period of time. I know most of your students will doubt travelling to a small country but at the end of the day, I think it is a step worth of taking.

My colleagues Tatev and Margarith will have presentation about Student and Staff Mobility Programs at our university and International Capacity Building Projects of ASUE. To know our university better and establish collaboration in the frames of

research, we will have a meeting at the “Amberd” Research Center, will visit ASUE library and IT Center.

To make your communication easier in Armenia we have organized a crash course of Armenian and my colleague will give you some information about our unique alphabet, culture, food and music.

Our colleague Edith who is representing National Erasmus+ Office in Armenia will provide us with notion about ICM's in Armenia regarding all Armenian universities.

All our colleagues will have presentations about their universities and also have lectures for our local students and staff. Ms. Ana Pavia from the University of Porto will share her experience on how to submit successful exchange projects.

On the last day we have a presentation by the Chairperson of the State Committee for Tourism of the ministry of economic development and investments of the Republic of Armenia. She will speak about the importance of marketing for universities in general.

By finishing I would like to thank our university Rector- Mr. Atoyan who supports every initiative of ours, encourages to overcome all the difficulties to jointly develop the University of our Vision.

I would also like to thank our National Erasmus+ office – Ms. Karlova and Edith who are always so supportive. We always know that we have the pillar for every question we might have.

Now I would like to invite all of you to have a family picture in the backyard of the University and then return and continue the meeting.