



585687-EPP-1-2017-1-PT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

OA1.1.2 – Identification of constraints

Developed by IPP and DUOC
October 2021



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Disclaimer: This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. The information available in this document reflects the views only from the authors and project participants, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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1. INTRODUCTION

LAPASSION (Latin-America Practices and Soft Skills for an Innovation Oriented Network) is a project from the program Erasmus+ within the line KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education (reference 585687-EPP-1-2017-1-PT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP). It involves partners from Portugal, Finland, Spain, Brazil, Uruguay and Chile. LAPASSION consortium has as motivation to create a unique solution to address different problems affecting youth in HEI, helping students to obtain a better training in terms of innovation, soft skills, and internationalization. This solution is obtained by LAPASSION MP/I (Multidisciplinary Projects/Internships) for students' teams to help them to co-create, and co-develop projects proposed by enterprises and other organizations, or to accelerate innovative ideas in an international context involving students from several countries.

The aim of LAPASSION is to increase the innovation culture of HEI and the connection with Enterprises/Organizations (E/O) with impact in Employability, and Internationalization. This aim is pursued by implementing multidisciplinary projects/internships(MP/I) for co-creation, co-development and acceleration of innovative ideas, integrated in the educative project of the involved institutions. MP/I will be implemented by means of students' teams involving students with different backgrounds, different graduation levels, and from different countries, and solving challenges posed by E/O.

1.1 Consortium of LAPASSION

LAPASSION is a consortium with 15 partners, including 13 Higher Education Institutions (4 from Europe and 9 from Latin America), 1 Association of Enterprises from Portugal, and 1 Council of the Federal Institutes from Brazil. The list of the partners is the following:

- Polytechnic of Porto (IPP, Portugal)
- Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK, Finland)
- University of Vigo (UVIGO, Spain)
- University of Salamanca (USAL, Spain)
- Federal Institute Riograndense (IFSUL, Brazil)
- Federal Institute of Triângulo Mineiro (IFTM, Brazil)
- Federal Institute of Goiás (IFG, Brazil)
- Federal Institute of Maranhão (IFMA, Brazil)
- Federal Institute of Amazonas (IFAM, Brazil)

University of the Republic of Uruguay (UDELAR, Uruguay)

Technological University of Uruguay (UTEC, Uruguay)

Foundation of Professional Institute (DUOC, Chile)

Catholic University of Chile (PUC, Chile)

Association of Enterprises of Portugal, Commerce and Industry Chamber (AEP, Portugal)

Council of Federal Institutes of Brazil (CONIF, Brazil)

IPP is the coordinator institution of the project.

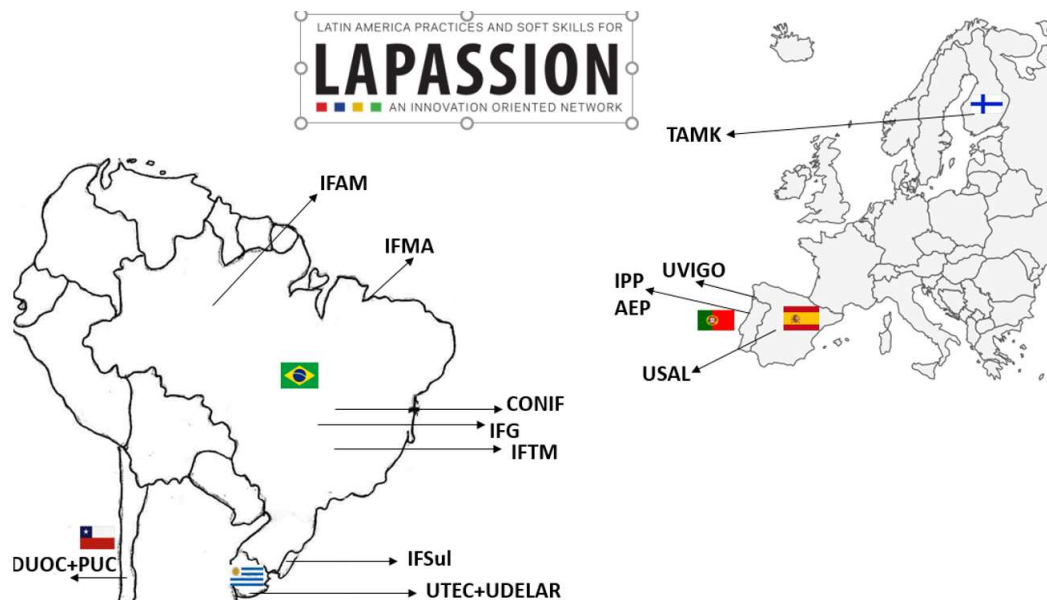


Figure 1 - LAPASSION partners in Latin America and Europe

1.2 Workpackages of LAPASSION

LAPASSION involves the following Workpackages:

WP1 – Preparation and Training for Multidisciplinary Projects/Internships (MP/I)

WP2 – Development of MP/I

WP3 –Quality Planning & Control (QP&C)

WP4 –Communication Plan, Dissemination and Exploitation Strategy

WP5 – Management

Preparation and Training for Multidisciplinary Projects/Internships (MP/I) are very important aspects for the project, and a specific Work package (WP1) has been included for this purpose. One of the important issues is the identification of constraints.

Considering the pandemic situation, this report was updated in October 2021, since due to the covid-

19 crisis, where all Academic Institutions were affected, we decided to transform projects created to be completely presential, as those organized in 2018 and 2019 (LAPASSION@Santiago, LAPASSION@Uruguay, LAPASSION@SãoLuís, and LAPASSION@Uberaba), to projects combining an initial presential phase (before the pandemics) and an online phase (during the beginning of the pandemics). This happened in LAPASSION@Goiania and LAPASSION@Manaus projects, both between March and May 2020. After some time, it was clear that LAPASSION would be transformed in completely online experiences in 2021, with LAPASSION@Pelotas. Close to the end of the project Latin America partners required additional preparation/training in aspects like strategies for the better connection between Academia and Enterprises for the continuation of practices developed by LAPASSION, and the Sustainability of LAPASSION project. Two additional presential preparation/training meetings were organized in Tampere (Finland) and Porto (Portugal) for that purposes.

2. EXPECTED CONSTRAINTS FOR PREPARATION ACTIVITIES

The following text was extracted from the LAPASSION proposal

- *“As referred for the Specific objectives the main risk is the failure in the complete involvement of partners. Motivation sessions are necessary, but the Risk Analysis and the Recovery Plan must consider measures to adopt, for example change the MP/I scheduled for one semester to a later moment to allow the non-preparation of some partner. Delays in project must be avoided, but they can occur. Failure in attending meetings can be minimised by teleconferencing. We assume that some MP/I will fail, the selection of MP/I proposals, availability of resources, selection of supervisors and students is crucial. Anyway backup MP/I proposals should exist.”*
- *“Bureaucratic problems in Partner countries need to be considered. For this reason, we did not propose equipment, a critical issue. Partner countries institutions assumed the availability of some space and resources for the MP/I projects.”*

When describing the Work-package 1 (Preparation) it was referred the following in the proposal for activity A1.1 (Preparation of Multidisciplinary Projects and Internships - MP/I):

- *“In A1.1 it will be decided which projects will run in each institution (OA1.1.1). This will depend on the availability of proposals from Enterprises and other Organizations (E/O) in the institution, but also from other constraints (OA1.1.2) like the background of supervisors and students from the receiving institution, the necessary backgrounds from students from other institutions, the availability of several resources (space, equipment, materials, etc).”*

2.1 Delays

The four first editions of LAPASSION Multidisciplinary projects for students took place as expected, namely:

- Santiago/Chile (April-June 2018): How to improve conditions for Senior Populations?
- Uruguay (March-May 2019): How to improve conditions for children?
- Uberaba/Brazil (March-May 2019): Food for the Future
- São Luís/Brazil (March-May 2019): How to improve the Human Development Index (HDI) of the State of Maranhão?



Figure 2- Preparation/Training in Santiago during the last week of LAPASSION@Santiago

In the case of the first edition, it was decided to organize the Preparation/Training session in two moments and during the development of the project, in spite of before the development (see figure 2). The main reasons for that were:

- The first preparation/training session was organized in February/March 2018 in Porto (Portugal, see figure 3), and another preparation/training session in Chile would be too close since the development projects were planned to start on the beginning of April
- It was clear that both Chilean partners (PUC and DUOC) had skills and experience to prepare LAPASSION@Santiago very well
- A small preparation/training session in May, at the middle of the development project, was proposed, even as a way to check if everything was running well
- The second part of the preparation/training was organized at the last week of LAPASSION@Santiago (week 10, at the beginning of June 2018) more focused in training

Brazilian and Uruguayan partners that were at a different level of the Chilean partners concerning Multidisciplinary projects experience. Notice that in this week it was possible to join several other participants (from the Quality meeting) and testify the students' teams operation, and the Demo Day with the speeches of the teams



Figure 3- Preparation/Training in Porto

The other preparation/training sessions occurred as expected in Montevideo (Uruguay), São Luís and Uberaba (Brazil) in November 2018. With the previous experience of Chile these three sessions were very productive for the success of LAPASSION@Uruguay, LAPASSION@SãoLuís (see figure 4), and LAPASSION@Uberaba, all held in March-May 2019.

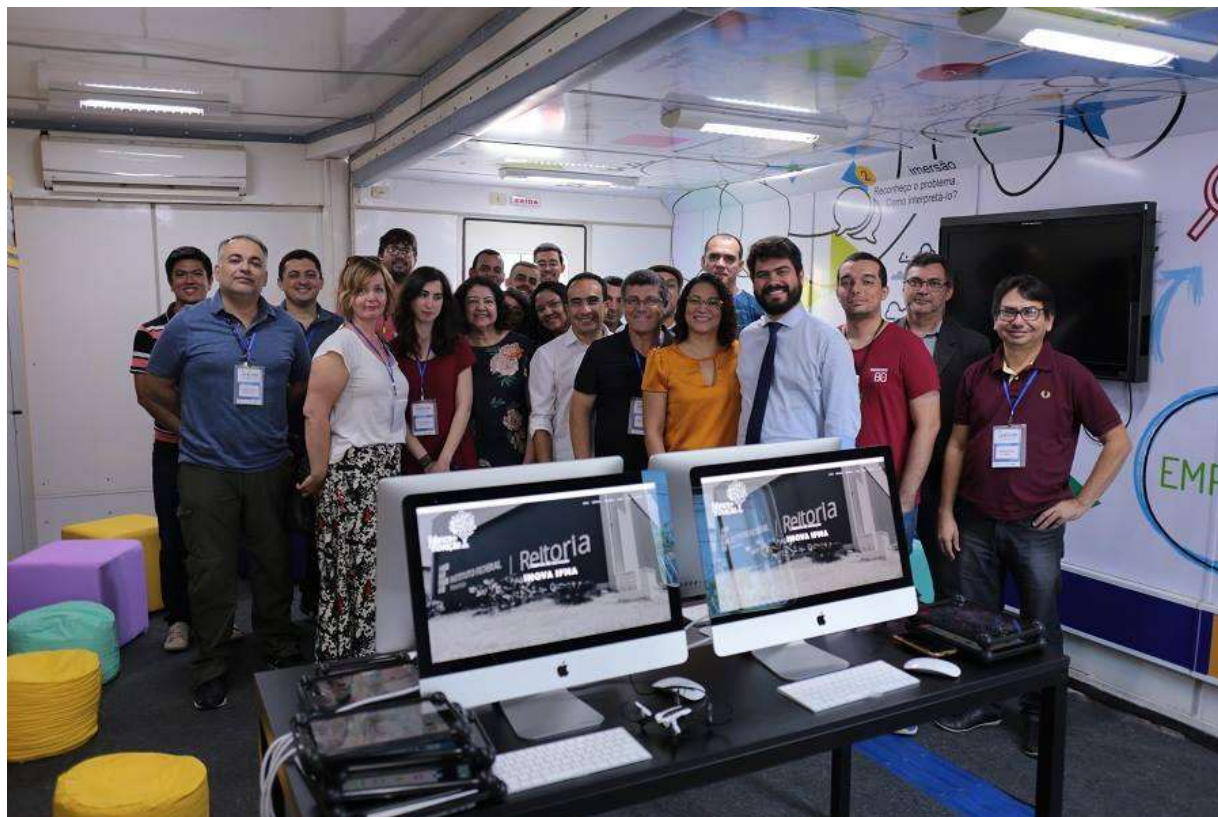


Figure 4- Preparation/Training in São Luís (Brazil) in November 2018

The next preparation/training sessions were held as expected during November/December 2019 in Santiago (Chile), Pelotas, Manaus and Goiania (Chile). In Manaus and Goiania it was decided to join part of the preparation at the first week of LAPASSION@Goiania and LAPASSION@Manaus, namely to allow some additional training from IPP and TAMK that was considered as very important for the beginning of the development projects, a training together with the students. Notice that these four sets of Multidisciplinary projects were planned to start in March 2019. In Goiania and Manaus the projects start at the beginning of the month. Some few weeks after (2 weeks in Goiania and 3 weeks in Manaus) covid-19 pandemic situation forced the projects to be transformed in online, while the projects of Santiago and Pelotas, expected to start at the end of March, were cancelled.

Considering the critical situation of the pandemics LAPASSION management decided to postpone the missing projects to 2021, and organize just one of the two cancelled, but with more students. The decision was to organize in Pelotas since that Santiago has already previously organized the first projects in 2018.

Considering that the online development of projects involves quite different skills a preparation/training week was organized online in June 2021 for the project of Pelotas. This was not

a delay since the previewed preparation/training of Pelotas was held in November/December 2019, it was an additional training.

2.2 Failure in attending meetings

In some cases, it was identified situations in which participants of preparation/training did not attended the meeting with justifiable reasons. In these cases, the participation was made online for trainers and trainees as well. But these were exceptions, and the general situation was the presential involvement in the preparation/training sessions.

2.3 MP/I failures

Fortunately, LAPASSION did not involve the failure of Multidisciplinary Projects/Internships (MPI). As it was expected some projects may involve some problems, but they were solved during the execution of the projects. Even in the critical situation of the pandemic, in which the projects need to go from completely presential to completely online in the second/third of the ten weeks, it was possible to adapt and finish the projects very well.

2.4 Problems with spaces and resources

LAPASSION Latin American partners were aware of the need to make available spaces for the students, a kind of Fablab spaces, and the availability of equipment and other resources (raw materials, components, software) at own institutional costs, since LAPASSION does not involve equipment acquisition. Thus, no space or resource problems have been reported. Even in the critical situation of covid-19 during the projects of Goiania and Manaus, where students had difficulties to access the institution, it was possible to overcome the difficulties and finish the projects.

Important to say that in Brazil and Uruguay LAPASSION motivated the creation of spaces for the sustainability of the project, in particular in Brazil, where the creation of 143 IFMaker spaces (spaces for the execution of multidisciplinary projects, Fablab style) in the Federal Institutes were funded by the Brazilian Ministry of Education (Secretary of Professional and Technology Education - SETEC). 74 IFMaker spaces have been selected in Phase 1 of the call (see figure 5).



Figure 5- IFMaker Spaces in Brazil were motivated by Project LAPASSION

2.5 Background of supervisors and students

Each partner holding LAPASSION development projects were warned by the need to adapt very well the sub-challenges proposed by external enterprises and organizations with the background of involved professors, coaches, and students. For example, in the projects for Uberaba, with the main challenge “Food for the Future”, the Federal Institute of Triângulo Mineiro, involved professor coaches and selected a good amount of students from the areas of Agriculture Sciences, Biology, Veterinary, etc. Another example is the LAPASSION@Santiago, and due to the nature of the projects, under the challenge of “How to improve the conditions for senior populations?”, Design and Engineering professors, coaches, and students from Chile were mainly involved. So, no main problems have been identified here.

3. UNEXPECTED CONSTRAINTS FOR PREPARATION ACTIVITIES

Considering that the main preparation/training activities scheduled for LAPASSION were scheduled till the end of 2019, these activities were not affected by the pandemic covid-19 situation. However, the impact was indirect, since Latin America partners felt the need to have more training on aspects like strategies for the better connection between Academia and Enterprises for the continuation of practices developed by LAPASSION, and the Sustainability of LAPASSION project. Two additional presential preparation/training meetings were organized in Tampere (Finland, see figure 6) and Porto (Portugal, see figure 7) for that purposes.



Figure 6- Preparation/Training in Tampere (Finland) in September 2021



Figure 7- Preparation/Training in Porto (Portugal) in September 2021

Another need was to promote preparation/training for the development of online projects, namely for LAPASSION@Pelotas. In June 2021 a preparation/training week was organized for the professors and coaches of Federal Institute Sul-Riograndense (IFSul) in order to prepare them for online multidisciplinary projects.



Figure 8- Online Preparation/Training for LAPASSION@Pelotas

4. CONCLUSIONS

In LAPASSION proposal Preparation/Training activities were planned till the end of 2019. Some problems were previewed and were handled for the 9 preparation/training sessions, the first in Porto (Portugal) and one for each expected development project. Covid-19 pandemic situation does not affect these sessions, since the main pandemic problem appeared in March 2020. The impact was really in Development projects. However, it resulted in the need for additional Preparation/Training weeks, one for training for online multidisciplinary projects, and two other for the connection between the Academia and the Enterprises and for the Sustainability of the LAPASSION project.

Currently, Latin America partners are already able to promote their own preparation/training sessions for new sets of multidisciplinary projects, like it happened with the additional BRAMPSSOL projects in Goiás (Brazil) and the Células de Inovación in Uruguay.