



Vilnius University's cooperation with CERN on students' mobility

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"Students get a unique experience through participating in scientific projects. CERN is receptive to new ideas and IT solutions, raising a new challenge for students."

Algimantas Juozapavičius,
Professor, Vilnius University

FAST FACTS

Country or Region:

LITHUANIA

University:

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY (VU)

Business partner:

- CERN (European Council for Nuclear Research)

Area of UBC:

- MOBILITY

Project start date: 2005

Project end date: On going

Keywords:

- Internship
- Programming
- IT
- Scientific projects

PROJECT SUMMARY

In order to involve the best IT students into scientific projects, Vilnius University (VU) started organise student internships in CERN. Students are financed under Erasmus or other applicable programme. By this cooperation VU students get a unique experience in CERN, and CERN receives the best IT students with new ideas.

CASE STUDY IN DETAILS

Project Background and Needs

In 2005 Vilnius University applied for participating in CERN's experiment called CMS. In the end, in this experiment there were 5000 people participating from all over the world. Scientists from Vilnius University participating there got verbal agreement for Vilnius University student internships in CERN. Few students of Software Engineering were accepted for internship in 2005. When CERN realised that Vilnius University's students are very good in programming they offered to accept students for internships on continuous basis.

Project Solution from University's Side

There is close contact between the professor, who is the contact person for CERN, and IT students. The professor may promptly reply to the needs of CERN as well as put interested students into the contact with CERN.

Project Solution from Partner's Side

There is close relation between contact persons in CERN and VU. As interns are accepted mainly for activities of one experiment (Compact Muon Solenoid), it is easy to meet the needs of the team.

Achievements and Impact

Such cooperation is useful for all sides:

- Students get a unique experience.
- CERN receives the best IT students with new ideas.
- Vilnius University in global scope is seen as a good

Key Objectives:

- To involve the best IT students into scientific projects.

Lessons learned:

- It is very important to set the roles and clearly describe the needs and responsibilities of all parties.
- Close internal (between the contact person in the organisation and the staff/students in the organisation) and external (between contact persons in both organisations) relation between contact persons is essential in order to meet the needs of each side promptly.

University profile:

Vilnius University (VU), one of the oldest and most prominent higher schools in the Central and East Europe, was established in 1579 having reorganised a college found in 1570. VU has 23 core academic and other equivalent divisions. There are 4 371 employees working at VU, of which 1 834 represent the teaching staff and 510 research workers. There are nearly 20 000 students studying at VU. VU provides accredited degree-awarding studies of first cycle (more than 70 study programmes), second cycle (more than 110 study programmes), 3 integrated study programmes (of first and second cycles), third cycle studies in 68 study fields, and non-degree studies (58 residence study programmes and 1 programme in pedagogy study field). VU carries out fundamental and applied research in all areas of science.

university where science takes an important place.

Quantifiable Outputs

78 students have already had internships in CERN.

CHECKLIST OF PREREQUISITES TO SUCCESS

Formal aspects

- Clear roles and responsibilities are defined for University.
- Clear roles and responsibilities are defined for Partner(s).

Financial and/or Infrastructure aspects

- University gains non-monetary but measurable and verifiable benefits from the project.
- Co-operation Partner gains non-monetary but measurable and verifiable benefits from the project.

Human capital aspects

- University is devoting its human capital, know-how, competence to the mutual cooperation, specifically, academic staff, students and administrative staff.
- Co-operation Partner is devoting its human capital, know-how, competence to the mutual cooperation.

Marketing and communication aspects

- Not applicable.

Quote of the Business Partner:

“The students are mainly getting experience in the area of the CMS IT infrastructure (design, development, CMSSW, data quality monitoring, online management tools etc.). For the CMS researchers working 100% at CERN, this help provided by the students is very much appreciated.

As a consequence, and due to the extremely good quality of these students, we have also been happy to hire some of them over the years to work in the CMS Collaboration also for longer periods (2-3 years) in the Computing and Offline projects.”

Kirsti Aspola

CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid) Resources Office

For More Information

For more information about the case study contact Kristina Slekiene on kristina.slekiene@cr.vu.lt

For more information about the project “FROM BRIDGING TO SUCCEEDING. University and Business Co-operation Through Success Stories.” and for more case studies visit www.university-business.net

For more information about the Nordplus Horizontal programme visit www.nordplusonline.org

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