



Distribution and standardization of test of intelligence

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"We are very satisfied that we can help people. We are raising the culture of psychological assessment."

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FAST FACTS

Country or Region:

LITHUANIA

University:

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY (VU)

Business partners:

- Pearson Education (formerly Harcourt)

Area of UBC:

- RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
- COMMERCIALISATION

Project start date: Jun1997

Project end date: On going

Keywords:

- Testing
- Intelligence
- WISC

PROJECT SUMMARY

This case study is about how Vilnius University's Laboratory of Special Psychology (henceforth – LSP) has been working together with companies specialising in production of psychological testing materials. Through this cooperation LSP has managed to adopt three tests for use in Lithuania, conducted research on the test results (the results are encapsulated in academic articles), as well as to provide qualified professionals working in educational and healthcare systems with valuable psychological assessment tools all over Lithuania.

CASE STUDY IN DETAILS

Project Background and Needs

In Lithuania in 1970ies as professionals with a diploma in psychology started working in applied settings (e.g., education institutions and health care systems), the need for psychological research and assessment tools arose. Due to the closed Soviet system, it was difficult to receive information and sufficiently develop psychodiagnostics, psychological testing and assessment. Therefore, the LSP (the laboratory was founded in 1973) was faced with the need to produce standardised psychological tests that could be adapted for use in Lithuania, as well as the LSP had to set up a process through which psychologists working in the field of psychological assessment would gain access to culturally adapted and standardized tests.

Project Solution from University's Side

In 1997 LSP signed an agreement with Harcourt, which is now part of Pearson Education. The idea behind cooperation with a psychological test provider was to buy psychological tests, adapt them for use in Lithuania (translate them, align them with the cultural and demographical aspects of Lithuania, etc.) and distribute them to qualified professionals working in the field of psychological assessment. So far LSP has adapted the following three tests: WISC-III (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 3rd edition), WAIS-III Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, 3rd edition) and WASI (Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence). Currently LSP is working on the adaptation of WPPSI IV (Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, 4th edition) test materials. Additionally, LSP has used this opportunity to produce

Key Objectives:

- to find a provider of psychological testing that could be standardised and administered in Lithuania;
- to adopt such a test for use in Lithuania;
- distribute tests to qualified professionals working in educational and healthcare systems;
- to conduct research that would be based on data gathered from administration of the test.

Lessons learned:

- It's difficult to make agreements with external partners because university's procurement process is cumbersome.
- Burdensome bureaucratic processes at university forces to think about more independent arrangements for the lab.
- It is very rewarding to produce tools that can help professional psychologists to do their work better.

University profile:

Vilnius University, one of the oldest and most prominent higher schools in the Central and East Europe, was established in 1579. The University has 23 core academic and other equivalent divisions – 12 Faculties, 2 Institutes with faculty rights, 5 research institutes, and 4 inter-faculty Study and research centres. There are about 20 000 students studying at the University. There are 4 371 employees working at the University, of which 1 834 represent the teaching staff and 510 research workers. There are 1668 academic degree holders working at the University. Vilnius University is distinguished for its outstanding achievements in science and carries out fundamental and applied research in all areas of science.

study courses at the master's level, and students have had the opportunity to use the data from test results to conduct research and improve their skills in psychological assessment and testing.

Project Solution from Partner's Side

Pearson Education has been exclusively providing LSP with the content of tests that is being further adopted for use in Lithuania. Pearson Education also conducts quality checks on the analysis performed by LSP, issues training videos on how to conduct the tests and provides other types of support.

Achievements and Impact

In general, the cooperation has led to improvements in the overall culture of psychological testing in Lithuania. For Pearson Education, the partnership has insured that its product is well represented and used in the Lithuanian market. More specifically, by working together, LSP and Pearson have managed to psychologically test individuals, provide professionals with valuable assessment tools, improve professionals' skills in psychological assessment, conduct quality research and educate students at bachelors, masters and PhD levels. University benefits from this cooperation because LSP assigns part of the revenue to VU for the use of its infrastructure and name. Furthermore, Vilnius University gains from positive publicity.

Quantifiable Outputs for University

From this cooperation Vilnius University has gained the following:

- LSP has the exclusive rights to distribute Pearson's tests of intelligence;
- LSP and Vilnius University gains monetary benefit from the distribution of mentioned tests to educational and healthcare institutions all over Lithuania;
- There have been 8 articles written on the work that LSP is doing and there have been presentations in approximately 12 conferences;
- Based on this subject matter, 2 masters level courses have been prepared for those studying towards a degree in psychology.

Quantifiable Outputs for Partner (s)

Pearson Education has gained monetary benefit from the tests being used in Lithuania.

CHECKLIST OF PREREQUISITES TO SUCCESS

Formal aspects

- Formal practical level Co-operation Agreement is signed between University and Partner(s) which defines particular roles, outputs, reporting mechanisms and other relevant aspects.

Financial and/or Infrastructure aspects

- University gains monetary benefits from the project.
- Co-operation Partner gains monetary benefits from the project.
- University 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, R&D staff and students.
- Co-operation Partner is devoting its know-how to the mutual cooperation.

Marketing and communication aspects

- Project and/or project results are communicated within mass media channels.
- Project and/or project results are communicated within academic and/or scientific communication channels (research papers, scientific conferences and activities).
- Project and/or project results are communicated within internal marketing and/or communication channels within the University and/or Partner institution.
- Project and/or project results have achieved positive feedback from beneficiaries, customer(s), stakeholders, or society at large.

For More Information

For more information about the case study contact Albinas Bagdonas on albinas.bagdonas@fsf.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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