International project "InMotion" to set up new standards for computer modeling in SPbPU

In 2016 SPbPU joined two new international education projects supported by the European Union – ERASMUS+, KeyAction2 – Capacity Building (universities' potential development). As part of the project ERASMUS+ "InMotion" implemented by SPbPU at the faculty of Distributed Intelligent Automation Systems, the first coordination meeting was held in December 2016.

"InMotion" (Innovative Teaching and Learning Strategies In Open Modeling and

Simulation Environment for Student-Centered Engineering Education) is a 3 -year project. The project goal is to assure high quality of education in computer modeling for students of engineering majors by developing new ways to educate them according to human resources demand.

The project participants from Germany, Spain, Slovenia, Malaysia, and Russia have the same opinion about teaching methods of modeling, which should be based on the unique classification of models, the implementation of universal technology and developing of practical skills in different environments. To achieve the project goal it is necessary to create study plans for computer modeling for BSc, MSc and PhD degrees as well as online courses and guidebooks for practicing engineers. The implementation of the unitary teaching methods will be preceded by the issue of unitary textbooks, and the use of the up-to-date engineering tools will enhance the competitiveness of graduates on the labor market.

It was for this reason that the meeting was arranged at the University of Bremen which has been the project coordinator for long time. The tasks were assigned to the following project participants: three European universities (University of Bremen, the National Distance Education University in Spain, and the University of Ljubljana), the Russian partners (Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, Novosibirsk State Technical University, St. Petersburg Institute for Informatics and Automation of the Russian Academy of Sciences, State Marine Technical University of St. Petersburg, and the participants from Malaysia

(University of Kuala-Lumpur, University of Technology, Petronas University of Technology).

The agenda for the first year of the project included two important aspects: schedule of trainings to be held with the European members of the Consortium for Russian and Malaysian university employees; educational content planning and its translation; curriculum planning.

Apart from the tasks mentioned above, SPbPU sees its biggest challenge in mastering the Sakai collaborative learning environment designed to assist each teacher in elaborating an educational project. The Consortium universities aim at upholding an active collaboration over the next three years.

In 2018 and 2019 our university will be hosting teachers and students who participate in the design and testing of the new educational programs and disciplines. The agenda of COMOD-2018 and COMOD-2019 conferences includes reports from the developers of the open collaboration environment and enrollment for the new summer school modules.

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