



Newsletter 12 of MEDIATS project December 2021 - April 2022

In this issue you will find news and updates of all partners:

- Online project meeting of MEDIATS consortium on 6 April 2022
- Cooperation of project consortium in times of full-scale invasion of russian federation on Ukraine
- International Highlight Event and Project Steering Committee in Kyiv
- Announcement of International Scientific and Practical Conference "Communication as a factor in the transparency of social interaction: psychological, historical, legal, economic and political dimensions."
- News from partners



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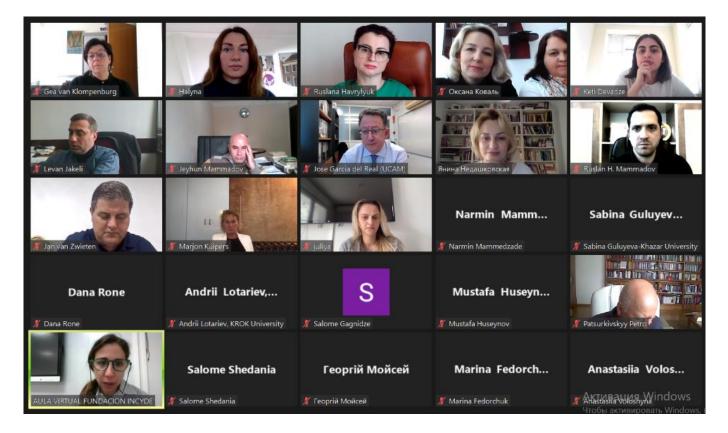




Online Meeting of MEDIATS Community Stories of support of the EU Partner for Ukraine

On April 6, 2022 the meeting of MEDIATS partners was organized online. The event began with one minute of silence in honor of memory of soldiers and civilians who died as a result of full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. In their speeches, all present partners expressed their sincere condolences and inspiring words of support to the Ukrainian people, as well as discussed further steps of cooperation and development of the international community MEDIATS.

It is worth noting that the consortium cooperates not only on working issues, but also partners are ready to help each other in difficult situations. Since the beginning of the war, all partners have supported Ukrainians.



At the initiative and support of Rector of the Netherlands Business Academy, Prof. Jan van Zwiten, Oksana Oliinyk, the alumnus of Master Degree program in mediation at Business School of KROK University, coordinates Ukrainian school for children from Ukraine in Dordrecht. Oksana was also one of the participants of the training for students of mediation program, which was organized in Dordrecht in November 2021. Marjon Coopers and Gea van Klompenberg, lecturers of the Netherlands Business





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Academy, have organized a medical assistance to group for Ukrainians and do other support for their Ukrainian friends, including involving to the project activities.

Yvette Livius, Education Coordinator of Breda City Council and NLBA Executive Director, together with Halyna Bohachenko, Projects and Programs Manager of KROK University, are also organizing education for children from Ukraine in cooperation with Breda schools. Halyna together with Oksana presented the idea of the Ukrainian school to the community of school directors and teachers in IST. Nicolette Rooimans, the cluster director PCPO. Yvette Livius is also the member of crises group in Breda city council and contributed a lot in preparation of housing for Ukrainian orphans, that came from Polohy, Zaporizka region.







Lecturers of NLBA Marjon Coopers and Gea van Klompenberg have organized group for medical assistance to Ukrainians and do other support for their Ukrainian friends, including involving them to the activities of another Erasmus+ project DISCOM – "Development of interdisciplinary skills for cooperation and conflict managent", in frameworks of which the visit to Turiba University, Latvia, will be also organized.

Oliver Schmidt, CEO of Hultgren Nachhaltigkeitsberatung UG also provides help to Ukrainian people, including sharing of initiatives for support of Ukrainian Army and Ukrainian Universities, organization of housing to Ukrainians and his moral involvement, dedication and support to the Ukrainian partners is enormous.

Yanina Nedashkivska, alumnus of Business School of KROK, organized humanitarian activities in Spain, together with university staff to develop the Platform for Peace at Catholic University of San Antonio in Murcia, Spain. All these is due to help of Maria Mendes Rocasolano, professor of UCAM University, who was the trainer of Yanina and other students at training for students in mediation program, which took place in October 2021 in Spain.



At the meeting the participants discussed activities and further steps to implement the project - the organization of summer school at Batumi State University, national seminar at Ganja State University, preparation of news and updates for the new newsletter, preparation of project publications.

Oksana Koval, Director of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Communications of the Western Ukrainian National University, that recently joined the consortium, announced the International Scientific and Practical Conference "Communication as a factor in the transparency of social interaction: psychological, historical, legal, economic and political dimensions." The organizers plan to hold a conference on April 28 at the Western Ukrainian National University, for more details, please, follow the link: <u>Facebook</u>





We are glad that the consortium of the MEDIATS project is turning into a MEDIATS community, in which all project participants communicate, help each other, create and implement new initiatives, actively involve new partners, such as Western Ukrainian National University - this is real added value and impact of the project, that changes lives for better.

Launch of Ukrainian School in Dordrecht, the Netherlands

Since the start of war Prof. Jan van Zwieten, Rector of the Netherlands Business Academy provided help for Ukrainian people. One of his initiative was to organize education for Ukrainian children from families that flee from Ukraine because of the war. Jan van Zwieten met with officials of Dordrecht discussing the idea and provided the campus of Netherlands Business Academy for Ukrainian school. That helped a lot, as it was almost impossible to find a separate building for school. Jan also invited his Ukrainian partners and friends from MEDIATS project to the Netherlands.

Oksana Oliinyk, the alumnus of Master Degree Program in Mediation at Business School of KROK University and the trainee of mediation training, which was organized by NLBA in Dordrecht in November 2021, after arrival to the Netherlands started coordination of Ukrainian school in Dordrecht.

You will read more information about the school from the post of Oksana Oliinyk on Facebook:

We launched a Ukrainian high school in Dordrecht. The fact is that in the Dutch education system, primary (4-11 years) and secondary school (12-17 years) are two separate galaxies.

As younger children learn the language easier and faster, they go to Dutch international school, where children from more than 40 non-Dutch countries study. The task of the school is to help children to master the language in 40 weeks at a level that will allow them to go to a regular school. My children are currently studying in such a school. Here, by law, school attendance is mandatory.

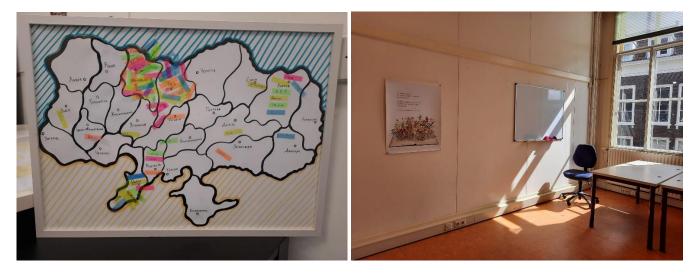
Usually children aged 12-17 without knowledge of the language are enrolled in ISK - an international high school where the students can stay for two years. Its task is to integrate teenagers into the mainstream education system and, more importantly, into society, but at a slower pace.

But Ukrainian children fleeing the war are a special group. The vast majority (I don't want to say "everyone", because there are those who simply have nowhere to go) want to go home. They do not want to integrate, they would prefer to finish the normal school year according to the Ukrainian education system.

While the local education system is overloaded even without Ukrainians, and there has always been lack of teachers in the country, there is room for innovation.







So, our school is an interesting hybrid.

- we follow the educational programs of Ministry of Science and Education of Ukraine;

- in addition, the students receive additional classes in Dutch and "social sciences" (a course on how their society is organized);

- we have Ukrainian teachers who teach their subjects in Ukrainian;

- in fact, we are a division of one of the international schools - Daltom Lyceum (so in internal documents we are called ISK2);

- we conduct classes according to the schedule of classes, as in a regular school, from Monday to Friday, from 9 to 15;

- since we are a division of the lyceum, all funding comes from the city council through the lyceum. This applies to equipment, furniture and teachers' salaries;

- Ukrainian teachers have signed temporary contracts (until the summer holidays, with the possibility of extension) and will receive a Dutch teacher's salary;

- now we have about 100 students from about 10 towns/villages (students are brought by special buses), but we expect 250 students, with a probability of doubling the number;

- We have at our disposal a three-storeyd business building, that is also ancient historical building, which was turned into a school in a few days. When the number of students doubles, we will move to a more separate room, which is already being prepared for us by the city council.

As early as April 4, the teachers began to get acquainted with the children and prepare for school. The scheduled classes started on April 11.





It all became possible

- thanks to the efforts of the Netherlands Business Academy team, where I studied in November last year in the frameworks of MEDIATS project, and especially thanks to the contacts and determination of Jan van Zwieten, who introduced me to the director of our lyceum and city council officials. Moreover, he provided the campus of the Business Academy in Dordrecht;

- thanks to the culture of Dutch society: there are rules about everything, but rules can be changed, you can negotiated, because the task of rules is to serve to people;

- thanks to the openness of the Dordrecht City Council, their flexibility and willingness to innovate;

- thanks to the genuine enthusiasm of the director of Dalton Lyceum Louis, his professionalism and flexible perseverance;

It is possible that our "case" will be of interest to active Ukrainian communities across Europe, and you will be able to organize something similar at another countries.

Glory to Ukraine!







Platform for Peace and its Christian support to Ukraine, Universidad Catolica San Antonio de Murcia

War has invaded the life of every Ukrainian, and no matter what each of us has done before, we are now soldiers in our own country. Someone yesterday was a lawyer, a teacher, a manager. Today they are our fighters on the front line, defenders in the territorial defence units, volunteers. Ukrainians united around a common goal - to survive and win! And everyone's contribution is very much valuable.

Currently, the geography of Ukrainians is impressive, which in turn opens up additional opportunities to support the fight against the aggressor now and to recreate Ukraine in the near future.

As a recent participant of the international educational project MEDIATS – alumnus of the Master Degree Program in Mediation and Conflict Management, trainee of the 2-week training, that was organized in Universidad Catolica San Antonio de Murcia in October 2021, Yanina Nedashkivska is currently actively developing the charity platform For Peace, established at Catholic University UCAM (Spain, Murcia).

The university responded sincerely to the call for help. In just a few days, the UCAM for Peace platform was created and several humanitarian convoys were organized. Regular appeals to people and businesses was very fruitful.



Within a week, a truck with humanitarian aid went to the Polish-Ukrainian border, and a week later the next one. Ukrainians in need were provided with medicines, food, hygiene items, clothes and other necessary things.





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Also, a team of 15 people visited Poland and organized logistics, shelter, medical and other support for those who went to Spain to obtain temporary shelter. Women, children and large arrived in Murcia by bus with the UCAM for Peace team and are currently under the care of the platform.







"Unfortunately, the war in Ukraine is still going on, so volunteer and humanitarian work must continue to function. Ukraine needs help more than ever, so there is no time to relax, "says Yanina.

She is convinced that everyone should carry out their service regardless of their location. "It is important to take the initiative, if possible, to join any activity aimed at helping Ukraine and Ukrainians. No small deed, no small help! Every hryvnia listed, every parcel sent, every warrior fed, every bulletproof vest, every closed monument, every baby transported, every child's drawing, every call for help, every kind word - everything matters! Ukrainians, we are the strength and will, the face, the voice and the soul of our Motherland! Everything will be Ukraine! "







Invitation to participate at International Scientific and Practical Conference "Communication as a factor in the transparency of social interaction: psychological, historical, legal, economic and political dimensions."

Dear Sir/Madam, Today, in a time of war, in a time of great trials for Ukraine and every Ukrainian, in a time of deep despair, hope or exaltation, we must be strong and do everything we can, each in his place. Together with volunteer initiatives, West Ukrainian National University resumed the educational process and research activities.

The staff of the Education and Research Institute of Communications together with the Department of Psychology and Social Work of the Classical University of Ternopil invites scientists to participate in the

I International Scientific and Practical Conference "Communication as a factor of transparency of social interaction: psychological, historical, legal, economic and political dimensions", which will take place on April 28, 2022.

Directions of work of the conference:

Scientific and practical platform 1. International partnership and communications in modern globalized world.

Scientific and practical platform 2. Theory and practice of political, diplomatic, trade and crisis negotiations. Scientific and practical platform 3. Institute of Mediation: Ukrainian Realities and Foreign Experience. Scientific and practical platform 4. Psychological and legal principles of culture of tolerant interaction.

The program of scientific and practical platforms will be continued by discussion panels. Experts of the discussion panels will be domestic and foreign scholars and practitioners from 15 countries: Ukraine, Poland, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Georgia, Slovakia, USA, Latvia, Azerbaijan, Slovenia, Austria, Canada, Germany, UAE.

Working languages of the conference - Ukrainian, English, Polish. The conference will be held live and online using the Zoom platform. Identifiers and access codes will be sent to all participants in person via e-mail. Application to participate in the I International Scientific Conference: "Communication as a factor of transparency of social interaction: psychological, historical, legal, economic and political dimensions", April 28, 2022

Information about the applicant and the title of the report in Ukrainian and English:

Surname _	
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Name			

Patronymic name _____





Name of institution / educational institution
Position
Degree
Academic status
Contact telephones, E-mail:
Platform name
Title of the report
I PLAN (emphasis added): to speak, to take part as a listener, in absentia

Send the application by e-mail: <u>nnic@wunu.edu.ua</u>

Conference coordinators:

Oksana Koval - acting Director of the Education and Research Institute of Communications of West Ukrainian National University (Ukraine) Tel.+380969795012, e-mail: nnic@wunu.edu.ua, oksanakov@gmail.com

Justyna Krywkowska - Doctor of Law, Professor at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (Poland).

We invite you to take part in the conference and We sure that your presence on it will give a significant impetus to the development of cooperation between our countries. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the conference. Let us be strong, let us hold together, let us move with dignity to victory with prayer to God and with Ukraine in our hearts!

Glory to Ukraine!

Glory to Heroes!

Best regards and gratitude for good communication,

Oksana Koval, Director of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Communications West Ukrainian National University



Міжнародна науково-практична конференція

«Комунікація як чинник транспарентності соціальної взаемодії: психологічний, історичний, правовий, економічний та політичний виміри»







24-26 January 2022 International Highlight Event was organized at KROK University

24-26 January 2022 in frameworks of the EU Erasmus+ capacity building of higher education project "Mediation: Training and Society Transformation/ MEDIATS", International Highlight Event on Dissemination of Project Results was hosted by KROK University.

The event included:

- expert reports on the development of mediation in the European Union and Eastern Europe,
- presentation of best practices in the implementation of mediation programs,
- dissemination of experience and achievements in the promotion of mediation values of the participating universities of Ukraine, Georgia and Azerbaijan,
- workshops of European experts;
- workshops of Ukrainian, Georgian and Azerbaijani mediators who acquired mediator skills within the project implementation.

The target audience of the International Highlight Event were the representatives of higher educational institutions, NGOs, governmental bodies, students, applicants, mediators, and for all interested in mediation, who would like to establish new contacts, develop mediation skills, etc.

Day 1 of International Highlight Event was opened by Anatoliy FRANTSUZ, Hero of Ukraine, Ph.D. in Law, Professor, Honored Lawyer of Ukraine, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Head of the Department of State and Legal Disciplines of "KROK" University.

Svitlana SHITIKOVA, Project Coordinator of the National ERASMUS + Office in Ukraine warmly greeted the participants focusing on importance of dissemination of Erasmus+ Projects.







Jan van Zwieten, rector of Netherlands Business Academy, the Netherlands also welcomed the participants and presented the topic "How to make mediation Successful in Ukraine, basing on international experience.

The next presentations included:

Welcome words and presentation "Development of mediation in Spain", María Méndez Rocasolano, Doctor of law, mediation expert at Catholic University of San Antonio, lecturer of trainings for students of MEDIATS project.

Welcome words and presentation "Mediation in Latvia: new challenges and new solutions", Dana Rone, Doctor of law, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of TURIBA University, Advocate, Certified Mediator, lecturer of trainings for students and lecturers of MEDIATS project.

"Development of mediation in Ukraine", Viktor Savchenko, Associate Prof of Law Faculty of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine, participant of trainings of MEDIATS project.

"Results of implementation of Master of Mediation and Conflict Resolution program at KROK University", Olga Karpova, Executive Director KROK Business School.

"Presentation of MEDIATS Results at V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University" Anton Kvitka, Deputy Director Of Karazin Business School of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine, participant of trainings of MEDIATS project.

"Presentation of MEDIATS Results at Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University", Ruslana Havrylyuk, Head of Department of Public Law of Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine, participant of trainings of MEDIATS project.

"Development of mediation in Azerbaijan", Gasim Shaliyev, Chairman of Qualification Commission of Mediation Council in Azerbaijan, participant of internship training for students of MEDIATS project.



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"Presentation of MEDIATS Results at Khazar University", Dr. Jeyhun Mammadov, Dean of School of Economics and Management, Khazar University, Azerbaijan, participant of trainings of MEDIATS project.

"Presentation of MEDIATS Results at Ganja State University", Ruslan Mammadov, Head of International Relation Office, Ganja State University, Azerbaijan, participant of trainings of MEDIATS project.

"Developments in mediation in Georgia", Dimitri Dzagnidze, teacher of law school Ilia State University, Georgia, participant of trainings of MEDIATS project.

"ISU role in the promotion of mediation in Georgia, development, and implementation of a mediation module", Salome Gagnidze, expert of trainings program and Konstantine Chokoraia, Assosiate professor of Law Ilia State University, Georgia, participants of trainings of MEDIATS project.

"Presentation of MEDIATS Results at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University", Keti Devadze, psychotherapist and teacher Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, Georgia, participant of trainings of MEDIATS project.

Summing up of the results was made.

The moderators of the Day 1 were Andrii Lotariev, Head of International Office of KROK University, Halyna Bohachenko, Projects and Programs Manager of International Office.

The second day of International Highlight Event was opened by Petro PATSURKIVSKY, Doctor of Law, Professor, Honored Lawyer of Ukraine, member of the working group of the MEDIATS grant project from Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, who also presented the topic "New value challenges of mediation in Ukraine"







Natalia MAZARAKI, Doctor of Law, Professor, Head of the Department of International, Civil and Commercial Law at Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics, presented "Ensuring the quality of mediation services"

The most remarkable mediation organizations in Ukraine took the floor at the event:

League of Mediators of Ukraine was presented by Anna ZUBACHOVA. Chairman of the Board and Member of the Board LIMU, mediator, lecturer of Mediation Program of KROK Business School, participant of trainings of MEDIATS project.

National Association of Mediators of Ukraine was presented by Inna TERESCHENKO, member of board NGO "NAMU", co-founder, Chairman of the Board NGO "ORGM", mediator and Eugenia CHMYHOVA, member of board NGO "NAMU", PhD, mediator.

Association of Family Mediators of Ukraine - by Svitlana STADNYK, President and member NGO "AFMU", mediator, lecturer of Mediation Program of KROK Business School, participant of trainings organized within MEDIATS.

Panel discussion with the participation of representatives of public, non-governmental organizations and associations of mediators of Ukraine was organized, with the following key speakers: Kateryna NAROVSKA, Vice-President of the NGO "NAMU", co-founder and Honorary member of the NGO "NAMU",

Anzhela KRYCHYNA, Member of the board and founder of LIMU

Svitlana STADNYK, President and member NGO "AFMU", International Mediator, participant of trainings of MEDIATS project.

The moderator of the Session was Oleg Triboy, lawyer, lecturer of KROK Business School, Master of Law, Master of economics and Business Administration International Counsellor of Mediation, participant of trainings of MEDIATS project.







Later the workshops in 2 sections in English and in Ukrainian were organized. English-speaking workshops included the following:

"Exercises for exploration phase" by Jan van Zwieten, Rector of Netherlands Business Academy, lecturer of mediation training programs for lecturers and students

"Online mediation" by Tariel Sikharulidze, Associate Professor at the School of Arts and Sciences of Ilia State University

"Practical Skills of Conflicts Solving" Olena Parkhomenko, Associate Prof of Karazin Business School and Viktor Savchenko, Associate Prof of Law Faculty of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine, participant of trainings of MEDIATS project.

"Awareness of perception in mediation" Gea van Klompenburg and Marjon Kuipers, mediators, experts and lecturers of Netherlands Business Academy, trainers of mediation trainings for lecturers and students within MEDIATS project.

"Mediation challenges" María Méndez Rocasolano, Doctor of law, mediation expert at Catholic University of San Antonio, trainer of mediation training for students within MEDIATS project.

The second Ukrainian-language part included the following workshops:

"Business mediation" Oleg Triboy, lawyer, lecturer of KROK Business School, Master of Law, Master of economics and Business Administration International Counsellor of Mediation, participant of trainings organized within MEDIATS.

"Psychological skills of the leader in predicting and resolving conflicts" Oksana Sedashova, PhD, Assosiate professor at the KROK Business School International Counsellor of Mediation, lecturer of mediation program, participant of trainings organized within MEDIATS.

"Mediation with one participant or Conflict consulting" Svitlana Stadnyk, teacher of KROK Business School, International Mediator, President and member of NGO Association of Family Mediators of Ukraine, participant of trainings organized within MEDIATS.



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"Talking in high tones: how to lower the degree and overcome the conflict" Yanina Nedashkivska, mediator, coach, student of Master degree program "Mediation and Conflict Resolution at the KROK Business School, participant of internship for students within MEDIATS.

International Mediation Center was presented by Olga Karpova, Executive Director at the KROK Business School.

Panel discussion "Why should businesses learn mediation and conflict management?" finalized the meeting.

On the third day the participants hold consultations, exchanged best practices, ideas, continued discussion of development of mediation in different countries and implementation of the mediation program.

IHE was broadcasted online and is available on youtube. Enjoy the videos following the links: Day 1: https://youtu.be/n8TwiM2Wj2s Day 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_hfzeuaBrQ

IHE involved about 625 participants online and offline on the first day and about 230 participants on the second day of official events.







Fifth Project Steering Committee Meeting

26-27 January 2022 Fifth Project Steering Committee Meeting of Erasmus+ "Mediation: Training and Society Transformation/ MEDIATS" was hosted by KROK University.

At the meeting of the teams of Karazin Business School of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (Ukraine), Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University (Ukraine), Khazar University (Azerbaijan), Ganja State University (Azerbaijan), Ilia State University (Georgia), Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University (Georgia) presented the results, achievements, work plans, reporting documents. The team of coordinators hold individual meetings with each partner to discuss the documentation in details.









News from CHNU

Graduation of the masters of the EPP "Mediation"

January, 2022 - Students from the Department of Public Law of the Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University of the EPP "Mediation", who studied within the framework of the MEDIATS Project "Mediation: Training and Society Transformation" of the ERASMUS + KA2: CHBE Program received master's degrees. In addition to master's degrees, students received certificates of mediator.

Link: https://law.chnu.edu.ua/nova-pleiada-pravnychoi-elity/



The Certification Program "Professional Mediator"

January-March, 2022 - The Certification Program "Professional Mediator" has been launched and is being implemented with support of the MEDIATS Project "Mediation: Training and Society Transformation" of the ERASMUS + KA2: CHBE Program. This program is a joint project of the Mediation, Negotiation and Arbitration Laboratory of the Department of Public Law and the Faculty of Law. This Program was conducted online. The educational and scientific laboratory of mediation, negotiations and arbitration of the university is actively working, which in February together with the public organization Bukovyna Mediation Center launched a certificate program: "Professional mediator: basic skills". The key feature of this program is that it is implemented after the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On Mediation", which legitimized mediation as an important alternative tool for resolving conflicts and disputes in society.

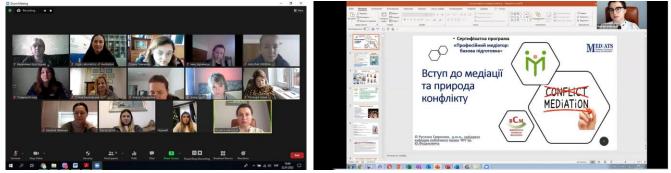
This program brought together 2 groups of participants: 23 notaries of our region and 18 representatives of other professions: lawyers, psychologists, teachers of schools and universities, volunteers, representatives of various public organizations. This number of participants and their interest





in learning shows how much society needs people who have the skills of professional mediators and are able to work in a situation of increasing numbers and deepening conflicts.

Link: https://www.facebook.com/profi.mediation.chnu/



The second semester of the studying of masters of the EPP "Mediation"

Students who enrolled in 2021 to the EPP "Mediation", who studied within the framework of the MEDIATS Project "Mediation: Training and Society Transformation" of the ERASMUS + KA2: CHBE Program from the Department of Public Law of the Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University continued their studies in the program. This semester, students have a number disciplines for deeper study of mediation. In particular, students study subjects such as "Restorative justice", "Mediation in the activities of a lawyer", "Mediation as value" "Mediation in the activities of a notary", "Negotiations".

Now because of the war, students continue to study online.

Professors *Petro Patsurkivskyy* and *Ruslana Havrylyuk* wrote and published a scientific article in one of Ukraine's leading journals: "Justice and Mediation as Competitive Complementary Systems for Resolving Conflicts (Disputes) in Society."

In addition, the same professors and the head of the University's Laboratory for Mediation, Negotiation and Arbitration prepared **two sections for a collective monograph on the role of mediation and other tools for alternative dispute resolution in civil proceedings. The book is expected to be published in June 2022.**





News from ISU

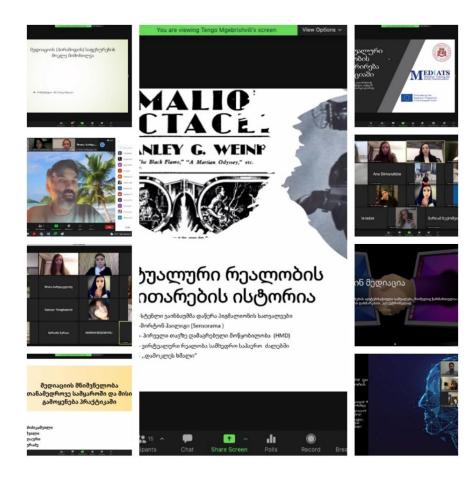
Cycle of training in Mediation organized by ISU School of Law

On December 8, 9, and 10, 2021, Ilia State University School of Law organized Mediation Week within the Erasmus+ project: "Mediation: training and society transformation / MEDIATS".

Mediation week included a three-day training cycle in which second-year students of the Private (Business) Law Master's Program (Mediation Module) shared their knowledge and experience gained through the internships in Spain and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for those interested in mediation.

The trainings were held in a mixed format and it was included both theoretical and practical training through role-playing games.

At the end of the training, feedback was provided between the trainers and the participants.



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On January 24-27, 2022, the representatives of Ilia State University School of Law participated in an International Highlight event organized by KROK University in Ukraine, Kyiv. The event was held within the ERASMUS + project "Mediation: training and society transformation / MEDIATS."

At the event, the representatives of the Law School presented the project activities which were aimed to promote the development of the Mediation Institute in Georgia. A presentation of a mediation module integrated into a Private Business Law Master's program and an online mediation seminar was also held on these days.

The event was attended by MEDIATS project partners as well as representatives of various organizations interested in mediation.



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Tengiz Mgebrishvili, student of a Mediation module, created an article on the experience gained during the internship in MURCIA.

The innovative experience of acquiring the Mediation basis in Murcia

This year, Ilia State University gave me the chance to attend a practical Mediation course conducted by MEDIATS Project Mediation: Training and Society Transformation at the Catholic University of Murcia (UCAM), Spain. Currently, I am pursuing my studies as a second-year graduate student of private Law, with a concentration in Mediation program, at Ilia State University. Considering my passion for alternative dispute resolution I saw this as a perfect opportunity to explore the world of Mediation and myself as an aspiring Mediator. Before I enumerate and describe the memorable and informative experience, which was offered by the UCAM, I will briefly examine the progressive process of Mediation.

Mediation, unlike other dispute resolution mechanisms, is the future of dispute resolution. The process of dispute mediation moves away from positional bargaining to identifying the needs and interests of each of the parties. The essentiality of the needs and consent of the parties makes Mediation a futuristic and progressive mechanism. Although, the process is far more complex than it seems. Therefore, precisely for the reason to fully understand the means of the process I enrolled and completed a two-week internship program in UCAM.

The real journey began when I reached my house, where along with the students I become a wiser person just in those two weeks. During the first week of the internship, students, and representatives from Georgia as well as from Ukraine had a unique opportunity to get acquainted with "Mediation as a Goal and Challenge in XXI Century Justice Institutions". We had Spanish experience on Court-Based services, explored the historical Los Jeronimos Monastery building, the University's educational premises, and visited the Mediation Unit of the Court of Murcia.

First days in the university along with the beautiful sunny weather of Spain has introduced me to the fascinating world of Mediation. Despite the studying process, I had a chance to explore the city and observe the cultural behaviors of Spanish people. People outside are walking around sleeveless while enjoying the surroundings of the city.





In addition, the project has offered us the opportunity to explore other cities in Spain. The next days of the project were engrossing. We have visited Cartagena - a port city and naval base in the Murcia region; discovered an ancient Roman Theatre and other fascinating exhibitions of the city. Furthermore, our mentors discussed their experience of international company mediation. We reviewed the issues of mediation in the international and business world.

The most interesting part of this project was the workshop and practical experience of Virtual Reality (VR), as it responds to the new challenges of online (virtual) Mediation proceedings. The pandemic has changed many things about the way we work, study, and operate. In another word, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) crisis has forced mediation out of its comfort zone. Parties and mediators adapted to the new reality of conducting proceedings in the face of travel restrictions and social distancing measures.

This brings challenges, including the need to retain an environment that fosters cooperative activity and the building of company culture. Solutions involving VR are quickly emerging to help tackle these. I believe VR will be one of the most transformative tech trends of the next five years. Moreover, artificial intelligence (AI) will provide us with more personalized virtual worlds to explore, even giving us realistic virtual characters to share our experiences with. Using the VR headset and technology in Mediation is a new step in dispute resolution. Parties have ample opportunity to avoid the obstacles of online (via videoconference) mediation and to resolve their disputes without leaving home through VR. We had a chance to transfer this innovative experience into practice and had mediation role-play in VR. Role-playing in Virtual Reality was quite an impressive, progressive, and memorable experience, as we, students could see how the development of technology can be useful during the mediation practice.

Even before I knew it, the two weeks of the internship were over, and I had already done much beyond what I thought I could do. I meet lots of interesting people and exchange my experience and knowledge with them. I acquired much more than I had expected myself to in just a few days. I explored the technological world of Mediation, I learned how to make an observation, address parties' emotions, and use new technologies in the process of Mediation.

The fruitful experience emerged me a more confident and independent person. I am currently able to properly use acquired knowledge, experience, and skills in my career as well as in the development process of Mediation.





IV

Student, Tengiz Mghebrishvili, also prepared an article in Georgian, which was published in 3 different online media. The media article is available at the following links:

https://bit.ly/3K4wJzb https://bit.ly/3x4DA7V https://bit.ly/3u3xbYK







Support of Ilia State University to Ukraine



The Russian invasion of and ongoing aggression against Ukraine created a fatal threat for civilians, including academics. In solidarity with Ukrainian academia, Ilia State University (ISU) established the program in support of academics at risk. The program intends to support Ukrainian scholars who are under the threat by providing a safe environment for them and their family members. The ongoing war demonstrated the significance of having the expertise on Ukraine (language, politics, culture) on the one hand and unfolded the scarcity of relevant academic resources, on the other hand. We believe that Ukrainian Academics at Risk Program will contribute to the development of Ukrainian Studies in Georgia as well.

Hence, ISU announced 3 positions for Ukrainian academics willing to conduct lectures and engage in other academic activities at ISU. Three representatives of the Ukrainian universities and research institutions will receive a monthly scholarship in amount of 1000 USD and will be provided with accommodation in Tbilisi. Selected candidates will have unlimited access to ISU teaching and research facilities. Duration of the program is 3 to 6 months.





Real case mediation sessions organized by GSU Mediation Center

According to the on-going work package of MEDIATS project the newly established Mediation Centre coordinated practical activities for alumni students of the Mediation course at Ganja State University. As a head of Mediation Center, Ruslan Mammadov organized individual inter institutional mediation session for our alumni mediation course students. Keeping the confidentially we've partially got permission of both conflict parties for arranging mediation sessions and publishing of it. In general we have organized 3 separate mediation sessions. The conflicts parties were the university administrative and academic staff and students.



One of the sessions is coordinated by Mustafa Huseynov (Student)–BA student of Economics and Management program. Another session moderated by Dilbar Aliyeva (Student) – BA student on foreign languages (English) at Foreign Languages Faculty of Ganja State University and finally, Narmin Mammad-Zada (Student) – BA student on foreign languages (English) at Foreign Languages Faculty of Ganja State University also successfully finalized mediation session.

All 3 alumni of the course and currently enrolled students had passed local and international qualification courses on mediation and had got different level of proficiency on mediation.

Periodically support of Mediation Center.

In line with operation of the Mediation Center periodically staff, students and alumni of the mediation course students find a chance to make practice on what they've learnt during their study period. Besides, our alumni students show volunteer psychological support and give advises for the staff and students of our University. Here includes some social discussion, conversations and entertainment card games. Narmin Mammad-Zada and Dilbar Aliyeva are in the process of activity with staff members of the University.





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







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Meeting of the Rector of GSU with students

On December 22, 2021, the rector of Ganja State University, Professor Yusif Yusibov met with students. It should be noted that the rector of the university regularly organizes such meetings with students.

During the meeting, the rector made a speech to the students on the educational process carried out at the university, preparation for exams, scientific and innovative projects, reconstruction work, etc. Then Vasif Hasanov, the Director of the Department of Innovations of the University, gave detailed information about the "Mediation Center" opened at the university within the Erasmus + KA2 MEDIATS project. Besides, he had been informed the students of further perspectives and plans of the university. He has also promoted the newly opened Mediation Center and its ability to resolve the conflict of the students which might be faced during exams and latterly. On the other hand, the local coordinator of the project Vasif Hasanov gave detailed information about the goals and objectives, activities, structure, application rules of the "Mediation Center" established by the relevant order of the rector. In the end, he had been noted that Ruslan Mammadov had been appointed to the Mediation Center by the relevant order of the rector and noted that he was a very experienced and internationally certified mediator in this field.

The meeting ended with answering students' questions.





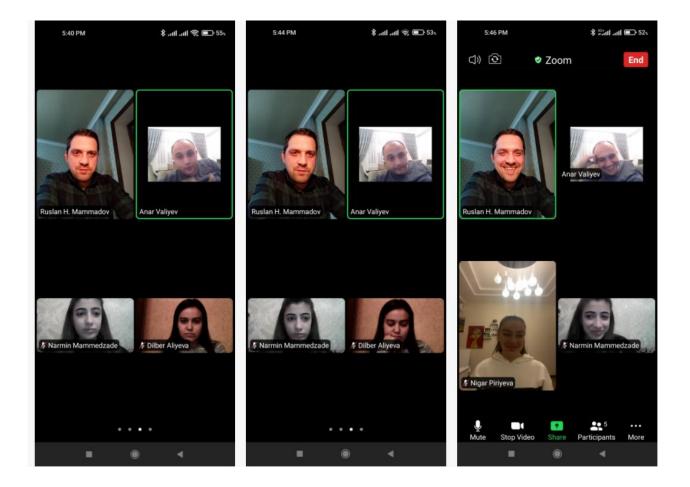


Meeting with an expert on academic writing and career planning

Participants of the Mediats Erasmus+ project Aliyeva Dilbar, Piriyeva Nigar, and Mammadzade Narmin took part in an online meeting with valuable specialist Anar Valiyev, the Dean and Associate Professor of School of Public and International Affairs, ADA University, Azerbaijan, and the head of the Mediation Office Ruslan Mammadov.

At the meeting, students were provided with valuable information about the collection of information for research work, the style of writing research articles, and also career opportunities. During the discussions, students' questions were answered in detail by Anar Valiyev.

Finally, we would like to thank Anar Valiyev for participating in this meeting and Ruslan Mammadov for arranging the meeting.







Presentation of the "Center of Mediation and its values and strategy had been discussed in the academic council of the University

On December 2, 2021, a meeting of the Academic Council had been held at Ganja State University. The meeting had been opened by the rector of the university, Professor Yusif Yusibov. After this, he gave a floor to Vasif Hasanov the Director of the Innovation Department of the University. As a local project coordinator Vasif Hasanov made a detailed speech on "Mediation Center" which recently had been opened due to the EU Funded Erasmus + KA2 MEDIATS Project. He had mentioned the goals, purpose and activity, structure, and application rules of the local "Mediation Center". He had also mentioned the appointment of Ruslan Mammadov to the "Mediation Center" by the order of the rector and noted that he is a potential the right candidate for this position. Besides, he has particular skills in mediation, and being an internationally certified mediator would allow him to proceed actively in the Center.

The meeting of the Scientific Council ended with a discussion of current issues.

