Fit Europe Transnational Meeting

Future IT Leaders for a multicultural, digital Europe
Hosted by Passau University 30th September – 1st October 2021

"We have to talk with the young generation, because they will be the ones who will answer tomorrow´s societal challenges, we have indeed to train the future IT Leaders for a multicultural and digital Europe", declared Prof. Damien Fabrègue, Vice-President for International Affairs at INSA Lyon.

The diversity of the participants sitting together in the International House building of the University of Passau on Thursday 30th September for the Fit Europe Transnational Meeting reflected this assertion perfectly. One could indeed see people of all generations and backgrounds discussing casually all together (physically and digitally, as the Meeting took place in a Hybrid format), from the President of the University, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch, to Computer Science students, as well as Academics, Industrials and administrative and managing Staff, coming from all over Europe.

And this is indeed the goal of the Fit Europe project, the purpose of this Meeting: a cross-sectorial project gathering talents from different fields of study, from both worlds of Academia and Business, to answer the challenges raised by tomorrow´s world, weather ethical, economical, legal or environmental.

That is what Dorothée Brac de la Perrière, European projects manager at the French Engineer-School INSA Lyon, introduced to the assembly and the President, after a Welcome speech of the latter relevantly highlighting the internationality of the University of Passau, its excellence in various fields of study such as Computer Science, law and Business, and its links with various industries and start-ups.

She indeed presented the consortium animating this ERASMUS-funded project gathering 4 academicals partners (Uni Passau, INSA Lyon, Uni Milano and Politehnica Bucharest) and 4 Industrials (ATOS Germany, La French-Tech Lyon One Saint-Etienne, Engineering and CIST) and the aim of Fit Europe: organizing seminars for the best Computer Science students combining trainings from Professors and Industrials and Project Work for the students in order to deal with different societal issues raised by new technologies.

Two Seminars already took place following this architecture, the first one in Passau and the second in Lyon, both digitally, in February and June 2021, and were a great success according to the feedback of the students. At least, that is what Ousmane Touat and Mohammed Messalti, two students having participated in the seminars, reported, affirming that those seminars were a real added-value to their academic journey allowing them to have enriching exchanges with other European students and professionals.

This was an encouraging feedback to start the discussion around the next Seminar that will take place in Milan no later than in November and will deal with Internet of Things, challenging the topics of security, privacy and trust. The idea of increasing the number of participating students was

discussed, as well as the Covid-issues, this seminar being the first one that hopefully will take place physically.

In addition to practical issues related to administrative and financial aspects, the participants also discussed the "White Paper", a report intended for the European Union, but targeting more widely the decision-makers from Academia, Industry, Politic or Education bodies. This intellectual Output, which will be disseminated in June 2022, provides guidance regarding the challenges raised by Fit Europe, the idea simply being: What is the message that needs to be delivered to the decision-makers with this project?

As a conclusion of these two-days meeting, the question of the project´s sustainability and further cooperation was raised. The participants came with interesting ideas and these will be the topic of coming discussions.