



Towards Sustainable Financial Management
of Cambodian Universities

National Conference

"Trends in Financial Management of Universities: reflecting on current status and potential improvements. European and Cambodian perspectives" (T1.3)

Royal University of Phnom Penh, Phnom Penh (Cambodia)
28th November 2019

WP1. Analysis of the Financial Management Practices
D.1.3.1 Conference Proceeding



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BALANCE: Towards Sustainable Financial Management of Cambodia Universities

BALANCE consortium: University of Alicante (Spain), Università degli studi di Genova (Italy) University of Heng Samrin Thbongkhmum, Chea Sim University of Kamchaymear, Svay Rieng University, Mean Chey University, University of Battambang, Kampong Chheuteal Institute of Technology, Kampong Speu Institute of Technology, Royal University of Agriculture, Royal University of Phnom Penh, National University of Management, National institute of Education; Ministry of Education Youth and Sport - Department of Higher Education.



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1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To the dedicated staff in the partner institutions who are truly invested in the success of this project; as well as to the European Commission for supporting and funding this project through the Erasmus+ programme.

To the local organisers, Royal University of Phnom Penh in Phnom Penh, Cambodia for their support in the organisation of the BALANCE Conference, to the key-note speakers who shared their excellent insights and to all the presenters and participants for making it a very interesting and successful conference.



2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On November 28th the first BALANCE National Conference titled “***Trends in Financial Management of Universities: reflecting on current status and potential improvements. European and Cambodian perspectives***” took place at the Royal University of Phnom Penh in the Cambodian capital. Around 100 representatives of more than 30 Cambodian Higher Education Institutions attended the event.

The conference aimed to promote and disseminate BALANCE Project outcomes achieved so far as well as to foster dialogue on relevant topics in the field of Financial Management in Higher Education.

In particular, the event resulted an opportunity both to acquire knowledge on different aspects related to Financial Management and to raise awareness on the most relevant challenges the sector is facing in Cambodian context.

The conference was organized by the Royal University of Phnom Penh in the framework of the project **BALANCE – “Towards Sustainable Financial Management of Cambodia Universities”**, Co-funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ programme (grant # 598669-EPP-1-2018-1-ES-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP).

Financial Management is one of the cornerstone of institutional management and quality education.

In Cambodia, where one of the lowest rate of public expenditure is registered, the Higher Education System is required to greater efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.

The Higher Education development depends on enhanced capacity of university leaders and operational staff as well as on a more effective national and institutional-level policies. A greater attention to partnerships, including those with the private sector, the improvement of the quality and the ensuring of sustainable HE financing are also important elements to focus on.

The participation in the conference was free of charge.



3. AGENDA

<p><i>Trends in Financial Management of Universities: reflecting on current status and potential improvements. European and Cambodian perspectives</i></p> <p>University of Alicante (Spain), University of Genoa (Italy)</p>		
<p>Thursday, 28th November 2019 Royal University of Phnom Penh, Main Campus, Stem Building, Conference Room</p>		
From	to	
8:55	9:20	Participants registration
9:20	9:45	<p>Institutional welcomings</p> <p><i>H.E. Manuel Palomar - Rector of the University of Alicante (project coordinator)</i> <i>H.E. Mak Ngoy - Director General of Higher Education at Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports</i></p>
9:45	10:15	<p>BALANCE Project presentation and promotion</p> <p><i>Dr. Roberto Escarré, Director of Research Management Service, University of Alicante</i></p>
10:15	11:15	<p>"Trends in Financial Management of Universities: reflecting on current status and potential improvements."</p> <p><i>Dr. Joaquín Marhuenda, Director of Institutional Projects of the University of Alicante</i></p>
11:15	11:45	<i>Coffee break - Networking</i>
11:45	13:15	<p>Presentation of BALANCE Needs Analysis Results (D1.1.2 "Analysis of Cambodian Financial Management Practices and Financial framework") + Report on Cambodian Financial Models (D1.1.1)</p> <p><i>Angelo Musaio, Head of International Projects Office of the University of Genoa</i></p>
13:15	14:30	<i>Lunch break- Networking</i>
14:30	16:00	Open debate on Funding in Higher Education Systems mediate by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the University of Alicante
16:00	16:20	<i>Coffee break - Networking</i>
16:20	17:00	<p>Introduction to White Paper "Financial Model for the Cambodian public Higher Education System"</p> <p><i>Dr. Roberto Escarré, Director of Research Management Service, University of Alicante</i></p>



4. PRESENTATIONS and SESSIONS REPORT

4.1. INSTITUTIONAL WELCOMINGS

The conference was opened by H.E. Manuel Palomar, Rector of the University of Alicante and by H.E. Mak Ngoy, Director General of Higher Education at Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Authorities correspondingly representing the BALANCE Project Coordinator and Cambodian Higher Education System, expressed their gratitude for the fruitful collaboration that the project represents for all the Institutions and stakeholders involved. The importance of the international cooperation as well as the relevance of the topic for the improvement of the Education have been highlighted, confirming the great interest in the partnership built.



4.2. BALANCE PROJECT PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION

Dr. Roberto Escarré, Director of Research Management Service of the University of Alicante, presented BALANCE Project to the Higher Education community participating in the conference explaining the rationale of the project and the funding scheme (ERASMUS+ Capacity building in higher education) that made possible to it carry out. Background, objectives and activities have been presented in order to expound the basis of the expected impact that BALANCE aimed to have.



4.3. "TRENDS IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF UNIVERSITIES: REFLECTING ON CURRENT STATUS AND POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS."

Dr. Joaquin Maruenda, Director of Institutional Projects of the University of Alicante gave a presentation on the Financing in Higher Education, explaining the Policies of funding Higher Education. Financial resources, sources of funding and use of resources have been discussed reflecting on the differences between the Higher Education systems in different countries.

Finally a comparison between the two countries applying different type of funding in Higher Education have been presented, giving the chance to reflect on the characteristics of each financial policy.





***link presentation to be upload in BALANCE website?**

4.4. BALANCE NEEDS ANALYSIS RESULTS (D1.1.2 "ANALYSIS OF CAMBODIAN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK") + REPORT ON CAMBODIAN FINANCIAL MODELS (D1.1.1)

The University of Genoa as leader of the Need Analysis Workpackage, presented the draft (to be discussed and modified if needed) of two parts of a document: 1) needs analysis results; 2) analysis of Cambodian financial management practices and financial Framework. The document showed findings emerged from an online questionnaire submitted to Cambodian Universities with the collaboration of the MoYES & Ministry of Economy and Finance, which provided the EU partners with contacts and further information on not-in-the-consortium Universities. Data emerging from the survey have been analysed by using a statistical software (SPSS) and presented as figures and/or frequency table. Aims of the questionnaire were twofold: to present an overview of financial models of Cambodian national and institutional system (in addition to literature knowledge) and to highlight needs for further training activities.

4.5. OPEN DEBATE ON FUNDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS MEDIATED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ALICANTE

Three main topics have been selected as the most relevant to be discussed in the open debate. Three groups composed by representatives of 3/4 BALANCE institutions was created to discuss each one of the topic with the mediation of Dr. Nith Bunlay, representative of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

The topics discussed were the following:

1. Financial management experiences (Institutions debating: UHST, UBB, NUM)



2. Revenues and expenses management: current practices in HEIs and potential (Institutions debating: SRU, MCU, KSIT, RUPP)



3. Others sources of income or revenues generation activities (Institutions debating: CSUK, KCIT, RUA)



Debate has been conducted in Khmer language in order to foster and facilitate the participation of the entire assembly assisting the conference.

Institutions had the possibility to share their point of view on the topics and compare their experience and practices with other universities. This allowed to better identify the potential aspects to be improved as well as the positive and consolidated elements that can be shared with other institutions.

For more information about the BALANCE
project, please visit our website:

<https://www.balance-project.eu>

