

Action plan for the implementation of the Erasmus Mundus Design Measures project EURO-HEPAT-design

EURO-HEPAT-design is an Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDM) project aiming to design a new international master's level study programme in high-energy physics (HEP) and accelerator technologies (AT) in the Baltic region.

Project parameters.

Start date: 1st of October, 2022.

End date: 31st of December, 2023. *(extended to 31st of May, 2024 in December 2023)*

Duration: 15 months. *(extended to 20 months in December 2023)*

Funding: lump-sum grant of 55'000 Euros.

Original project action plan:

October – December 2023:

- i. Conclusion of the project implementation agreement between Riga Technical University (RTU) and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)¹, including the transfer of 49'500 Euros, corresponding to 90% of the project funding to the RTU account.
- ii. Kick-off meeting with the partner higher education institutions (HEIs) for the implementation of the EURO-HEPAT master's study programme; the planned partner HEIs are: RTU (Latvia), University of Latvia, UL (Latvia), University of Tartu, UT (Estonia), Kaunas University of Technology, KTU (Lithuania) and Vilnius University, VU (Lithuania). Development and approval of the remaining action plan outlined below.
- iii. Formation of the project's working group comprising nominated individuals from all HEIs involved in the EMDM project.
- iv. Development and signature of the EMDM project Consortium agreement.
- v. Development of the initial state-of-play and legal analysis documentation.

January-March 2023:

- i. First in-person EURO-HEPAT workshop.
- ii. Analysis of the state-of-play documentation; identification of the main study directions for EURO-HEPAT; commencement of the design of the study programme structure and the proposed curriculum.

April-May 2023:

- i. Development of the first draft of joint mechanisms.
- ii. Development of the first draft of the curriculum.

June-August 2023:

- i. Second in-person EURO-HEPAT workshop.
- ii. Review of the first draft of joint mechanisms and curriculum.

¹ https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.

- iii. Development of the second draft of the joint mechanisms and curriculum.
- iv. Commencement of preparation of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) project proposal.

September-October 2023:

- i. Third in-person EURO-HEPAT workshop.
- ii. Preparation of a Consortium agreement for the implementation of the EURO-HEPAT study programme.
- iii. Collation of the prepared documentation for the completion of the EMDM project.

November-December 2023:

- i. Review of the final draft of the EMDM documentation package.
- ii. Completion of the first draft of the EMJM project proposal.
- iii. Signature of the Consortium agreement of the development and implementation of the EURO-HEPAT study programme.
- iv. Submission of the prepared EMDM document package to EACEA.
- v. Close of the EMDM project.

January-February 2024:

- i. Final review of the EMJM project proposal.
- ii. Submission of the EMJM project proposal.

Departures from the action plan.

Following the successful kick-off of the project at the end of 2022, the implementation of the next steps suffered some setbacks. Majority of the delays accumulated were due to the major structural changes at the coordinating institution of this EMDM project, RTU, taking place throughout 2023. These changes significantly impacted the structural unit at the university responsible for the implementation of the project, the Centre of High-Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies, (AEDFPTC), which was transformed into the Institute of Particle Physics and Accelerator Technologies (IPPAT) under the Faculty of Materials Science and Applied Chemistry. Later in the year, the faculty itself was restructured into the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology. These structural changes severely impacted not only the personnel from AEDFPTC (later IPPAT), but also the availability and the response time of other administrative and legal departments at the university. In order to mitigate the impact to the EMDM project incurred, an extension to the end-date for the project was requested and granted in late 2023, with the new end-date set for May 31st 2024. Additionally, the delays incurred forced the postponement of the planned submission of the EMJM project proposal, currently planned for the next expected call in February 2025.

Finally, during the discussions within the project's group and the discussions with the legal departments at the HEIs of the Consortium, it was discovered that the timeline and the currently available to the project's group resources are not sufficient basis on which to prepare and sign a rigorous Consortium Agreement on the Development and Implementation for the planned master's study programme, now known as the *"European Master in Particle Physics and Accelerator Technologies for Research and Industry"* (EMPATRI). The signature of the EMPATRI Consortium Agreement is planned after the hoped successful bid for the EMJM project call. Additionally, signature

of such an agreement was deemed possible only after a legal framework allowing for the award of a single joint diploma for the graduates of the planned study programme has been achieved. This, in turn requires an initial agreement upon which the request of the establishment of such a framework can be made. A decision was reached to substitute the hoped-for Consortium Agreement with a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the current Consortium members. This MoU shall be added to the final EMDM project documentation package submitted to the EACEA.