

Modernization of education and training through benchmarking: reflections from project partners

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Abstract

The aim of the study is to present the reflections from the Tunisian project participants regarding the modernization of biotechnology education and training through benchmarking visit of a European higher education institute. This benchmarking visit was organized from 25th to 29th of September 2023 and was part of one of the work packages included in CBHE Erasmus+ project 'Modernization of Biotechnology training for better employability of graduates in Tunisia'. Authors collected the data through Webropol survey right after the benchmarking visit from 27 project participants, who were informed about their voluntary and anonymous responses. The reflections from project participants are presented in terms of their overall feedback about the benchmarking visit of Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK) Finland. The account of responses shows that the Tunisian project partners were very satisfied with the mission and listened attentively to all the speakers, coaches and consultants, student entrepreneurs, professors and researchers who gave us guided tours of the research laboratories or the various workshops. In terms of what was the most favorite part of the benchmarking visit, the respondents highlighted that it was difficult to choose because everything was interesting and complementary to each other. Finally, while reflecting on any challenges faced during the week and suggestions to TAMK's project coordinator, participants mentioned that it would be really difficult to adapt all these best practices in Tunisia and that they would like to see more involvement of students.

Keywords: BioTech Tunisia, Erasmus CBHE Project, benchmarking, modernization, education, training, employability