

EULiST (Erasmus+ Mobility) Project between Leibniz University Hannover (LUH) and Rey Juan Carlos University (URJC) in Madrid:

Leibniz Language Centre (LLC) visit to URJC in Madrid

V. Morgade Cuña, F. García Manrique (LLC Spanish Department) and M. Schelm (LLC Tandem Department) arranged an Erasmus+ mobility visit to Madrid. The mobility stay was organized within the framework of the joint e-tandem project between the Hannover Leibniz Language Center (LLC) and the URJC in Madrid. The said e-tandem project, envisioned as an integral part of the Spanish courses, commenced in the 2022/2023 semester.

Though the visit to Madrid was from 24.02.2024 to 01.03.2024, all meetings were scheduled from 26.02.24 to 01.03.24. with the URJC project counterparts (M. A. Cano Linares, T.T. Klinge y J. Dadey).

WORK SCHEDULE

Day 1 (26.02.24) –Vicálvaro Campus Welcome

The warm welcome extended by the URJC not only confirmed but also quickly cemented the rapport between the two institutions.

In addition to getting to know each other and strengthening ties, the first meeting prioritized discussion of the results of the latest e-tandem with over 30 pairs of students from both universities (170 students in total to date), also resolution of problems and also the setting of joint goals based on the educational optimization of the project within the EULiST alliance.

In this regard, aspects related to the enrollment, certification, cost, and acknowledgement of the language courses of both centres and, their role in the curriculum of the LUH and URJC university courses were clarified.

Furthermore, and in light of the differences in the academic calendar, dates for the e-tandem of the 2024/25 winter semester were discussed, and it was suggested that tentatively September/October would be ideal for a visit (Erasmus+ Mobility) to the LLC by the URJC counterparts and the most feasible time frame for an academic trip for future e-tandem project participants.

In the same vein, it was mutually agreed that it would be of great interest to work closely in projecting this EULiST bilateral collaboration abroad, through presentations at academic and international conferences (ASELE, LASIG, CERCLES, AKS...) and joint publications on the project.

It was very interesting to see at first hand the facilities and resources available at the URJC University Language Centre (CUI) and on the Vicálvaro Campus and to get to meet other Language Centre colleagues and lecturers, and as a result expand the network of contacts in the academic community.

Day 2 (27.02.24) – Expansion and implementation of the project (future prospects)

Due to the tight schedule, the second day was spent dealing with internal matters concerning both institutions. In addition to keeping to their lecture schedule during the semester (lectures were ongoing in February at the URJC), the URJC team put the finishing touches related to the technical aspects and logistics of the round table planned for the third day (28.02.24).

On the other hand, the LLC team informed their Management about the first joint objectives regarding obtaining financial support (DAAD, EULiST, Movilidad Erasmus...) to further expand the project and strengthen internal cooperation at LUH. For example, with the Internacional Relations Office (Hochschulbüro für Internationales – HI).

Apart from finalizing arrangements for the round table, Markus Auditor (EULiST Central Coordinator) was contacted to bring him up to date.

Day 3 (28.02.24) – Discussion on the autonomy of foreign language learning through tandem methodology. (Hybrid format round table)

11:00 to 14:00 Tilman Klinge (URJC) moderated a round table discussion focused on the e-tandem Project between the LLC and the URJC, its development, results, and academic acknowledgement (integration in the curriculum of language courses and their accreditation).

Participants in the panel discussion included the EULiST Central Coordinator (Hannover), Markus Auditor, and experts in face-face, online-digital and tandem foreign language teaching from other Spanish and German universities:

- *URJC Language Centre (CUI):*
 - Laurence Chapuis
 - Judith Dadey
 - Tilman Klinge
 - Matteo Re
- *LUH Leibniz Language Centre (LLC):*
 - Klaus Schwienhorst
 - Verónica Morgade Cuña
 - Fátima García Manrique
 - Monika Schelm
- *Oviedo University:*
 - Lennart-Thorsten Koch
- *Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg:*

- Christina Bolívar

Regarding the points discussed, strong emphasis was placed on the difficulty of obtaining accreditation recognition (ECTS) and financial support for projects of this kind and for methodologies in the teaching of foreign languages by the institutional bodies of each university. In addition, the role of the teaching staff and the importance of offering students advice on the learning process, especially in face-to-face tandem formats, were included in the discussion. Also highlighted were the advantages that the students themselves had indicated in their reflection portfolios and, as a matter of course, the possible improvements or aspects to be addressed.

Day 4 (29.02.24) – Móstoles Campus and Fuenlabrada Campus

As the EULiST International Staff Week organized by the URJC was being held that week, the Móstoles and Fuenlabrada campuses were included in the itinerary to meet up with some of the LUH colleagues in attendance and to reach out to other universities. These two visits provided the opportunity to see the facilities, educational programmes available and the workings of these two huge campuses.

Day 5 (01.03.24) – XVIII CERCLES 2024 Conference (Durham University)

One of the joint objectives established during the URJC visit regards ensuring visibility of this bilateral project within the framework of the EULiST European university alliance.

Consequently, on that Friday, a paper was drafted and submitted for the upcoming CERCLES Conference (12.09.-14.09.2024) entitled *Madrid-Hannover Connection: LUH and URJC EULiST Project to foster learning autonomy in the curriculum through the integration of tandem elements. A talk in two languages (Spanish and German) by Verónica Morgade Cuña, Fátima García Manrique and Tilman Tobias Klinge.*

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The successful outcome of the EULiST meeting at the URJC is outlined in the following objectives and points:

- Expansion of the project and possible integration of other (synchronous / asynchronous) scenarios and learning tools (Self Directiv Learning, virtual classrooms, digital newspaper, EFE courses, ...).
- International academic projection of the project through scientific publications and presentations at joint conferences (a first paper sent to CERCLES)
- Planning of an academic mobility stay abroad for the participants of the tandem integrated

in the Spanish (LLC) and German (URJC) language courses.

- Exploration of internal and external funding sources for further development of the project.
- Initial contact established for EULiST cooperation regarding French language courses between the URJC and LLC.