

Oranim and Partners Win Erasmus+ Grant for Teaching Excellence

All too often, institutions of higher education invest in research at the expense of teaching excellence. Oranim is part of an international partnership to make teaching excellence in higher education a top priority.



Oranim partnered with fifteen other institutions in Israel and Europe to submit a winning proposal, TEACHEX, for promoting teaching excellence in higher education. The consortium of institutions is led by IDC Herzliya. Erasmus+ (a European Union program that supports international partnerships in education, training, and youth work) gave the consortium a three year grant to implement their plan.

The plan focuses on improving the quality of teaching in institutions of higher education through:

- **Centers of Teaching Excellence (CTEs):** Partner institutions will either establish new centers or expand existing centers using the ideas and resources generated by the partnership.
- **Professional Development:** Professional development will become an integral part of quality assurance processes in higher education institutions.
- **Best Practices Guide:** A guide will be produced to disseminate best practices for promoting teaching excellence in Israel and abroad. One focus will be active education, such as project and problem based learning, case scenarios, and use of technology.
- **Diversity in the Classroom:** Multicultural approaches to teaching and learning will be developed and promoted.
- **Digital Self-Assessment Tools:** Tools will be developed for self assessment as part of the quality assurance process.

Oranim will play a key role in the dissemination of project results through roundtables, an international conference, a website, and social media.

Sustainable Long Term Change

The vision is for TEACHEX to make sustainable long term change in teaching which will benefit students and faculty. The CTEs will serve as permanent structures within each institution that will build on lessons learned during the project and use materials developed. Yearly “train the trainer” sessions will be organized. CTEs will also reach out to other institutions through marketing campaigns designed to share knowledge and tools developed through this project. A TEACHEX mobile app will be developed as a teaching and learning resource. Through these means, TEACHEX aims to transform the way institutions of higher education approach teaching, so that students get the excellent teaching that is so crucial to their education.