

FINAL REPORT SUMMARY: HIGHER EDUCATION (SCENARIO 2)

Background and Introduction

The STAND-EQUAL Final Report is fairly generic, repeating many of the original commitments towards innovation and confirming that all planned objectives were achieved in relation to: investigating and reporting on how gender equality is addressed in existing national and European quality standards for higher education; developing gender equality guidelines to support Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in effectively addressing gender equality; developing a digital badging system, award processes and criteria as well as a Gender Equality Alliance to reward excellent or outstanding practice via digital badges.

Results

The STAND-EQUAL Final Report mentions a number of deviations from the original workplan but are considered as ‘insignificant’ or ‘unavoidable’ and part of delivering a complex and progressive transnational project: [see summary table overleaf](#).

Partner Engagement and Cooperation

The STAND-EQUAL Final Report confirms that partners were active, and that, in most cases, individual partner contributions were ‘as planned’ in delivering the planned tasks and outputs. There is reference made, however, to the appointment of a new lead partner digital guidelines production and of associated budget changes related to this redivision of tasks and responsibilities. One high-level staff member from each organisation was engaged in the Steering Committee, which came together in virtual partner meetings (22) and face-to-face partner meetings (2) in M4 and M15. The final face-to-face partner meeting was eventually held virtually. Meeting attendance levels averaged 75% across all partner organisations, with one partner showing inconsistent attendance levels, which was a contributing factor to the change in WP leadership. Basecamp was used between meetings for continued partner exchange.

Impact

The STAND-EQUAL Final Report confirms that all performance indicators were met or surpassed, including:

- Extended Consultation: 10 events; 4 countries; 210 participants
- Mapping and Internal/External Validation: 2 events involving participants from 5 countries; 26 participants
- Transnational Partner Meetings: 2 meetings, 75% average attendance
- Dissemination Workshops: total of 12 events engaging 320 participants in total; 67% of participation target met; 67% feedback; 77% average satisfaction
- Multi-actor Guidelines: Multi-actor and multi-language guidelines; PDFs in an eventual 4 languages with SV translation considered unnecessary
- Digital Media: 7 video content files each in 4 languages, including EN but not SV
- Gender Equality Alliance: 1 informal alliance including Memorandum of Understanding with 5 online meetings held
- Digital Badging: 1 technical and costing report; badging platform selected and tested; quality review criteria agreed among partners.

Sharing and Promotion

The STAND-EQUAL Final Report confirms that all planned activities/tools/channels were used to actively engage and inform key stakeholders via a process of continuous promotion, including: dedicated website; partners’ social media profiles, dissemination and validation events, and relevant digital publications.

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WP1: Project Management (€50,000)

Actions were delivered 'mostly as planned with a few insignificant or unavoidable changes' and included regular meetings of the STEERING COMMITTEE (reviewing progress, sharing experience, planning future actions), QUALITY ASSURANCE (internal peer review; external evaluation; validation involving quality standards agencies; changes to leadership roles), BUDGET MANAGEMENT (six-monthly reporting on expenditure and time spent) and RISK MANAGEMENT (review of emerging risks during partner meetings; agreement on risk management or prevention actions). Satisfaction score: 9.

WP2: Mapping Gender Equality Measures and National and European Quality Standards (€65,000)

Actions were delivered 'mostly as planned with minimal changes and deviations' including: Consultation of Key Stakeholders through 10 focus groups in 5 partner countries (210 participants) helping to document the state-of-development and implementation of gender equality measures for students and staff; Mapping Gender Equality Measures to National and European Quality Standards plus Focus Groups for Internal/External Validation involving national and European quality standards agencies from 7 different countries (12 participants in focus group 1; 14 participants in focus group 2); hosting of first partner meeting to agree on stakeholder engagement and research plans; Dissemination Workshops engaging 78 key stakeholders in 4 national (virtual and streamed) events: 65% of targeted participation rate. Satisfaction score: 9.

WP3: Digital Guidelines and Mixed Media Resources for Improving and Enhancing Gender Equality in HEIs (€80,000)

Actions were delivered 'mostly as planned with minimal changes' including: Partner Collaboration and Co-creation of Curriculum and Digital Learning Content (PDF Guidelines in EN-LV-ES-BG but not in SV); Video Storyboards and Filming of Videos (7 videos in EN and 3 additional partner languages: LV/ES/BG); hosting of a second partner meeting to review findings and agree on content for guidelines and videos. Dissemination Workshops engaging 160 key stakeholders in 4 national (virtual and streamed) events: 67% of targeted participation rate. Satisfaction score: 9.

WP4: Gender Equality Alliance and Digital Badges for Recognising Excellence (€55,000)

Actions were delivered 'mostly as planned with a few insignificant or unavoidable changes' including: Creation and Operationalisation of Alliance, which was eventually agreed to be an informal alliance of project partners with a rolling Chair and Secretary, relying on a signed Memorandum of Understanding from all partner institutions to confirm the goals and functionalities of the alliance, as well as confirming key roles and responsibilities for individual alliance members, and options for future expansion; Technical and Cost Overview of Digital Badging Options were circulated to all partners to agree on the most appropriate choice of digital badge platform and provider; Selection Criteria were also discussed and agreed among partners (in a series of 5 online meetings) to facilitate future digital badge awards. A final project meeting was planned to be held face-to-face but was eventually held virtually due to expensive flights costs for some partners. The meeting was still valuable and allowed progress to be reviewed and for continuing promotion and alliance/digital badging responsibilities to be solidified. Dissemination Workshops engaging 82 key stakeholders in 4 national (virtual and streamed) events and promoting final project achievements: 67% of targeted participation rate. Satisfaction score: 9.