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Themenschwerpunkt des Seminars „Hinsehen“ – Kritische Perspektiven auf die globalisierte Welt (SoSe 2025):

“Startup Bootcamp in Vilnius [Language: english]: 5-Day Innovation Sprint – From Idea to Impact”

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Background to the seminar series:

The positive promises of globalization are above all innovation, growth, prosperity and peaceful trade. However, many people doubt the blessings of globalization. In the eyes of many people, politics and the economy cannot solve the major challenges that currently exist. It therefore seems necessary to take a closer look at the realities of people's lives in Europe and investigate their causes. This is precisely where the seminar comes in. “Hinsehen” means taking a close look at people's living conditions and the changes they undergo. This concerns different areas, such as the world of work, the rules of competition, dealing with property, external effects, security and the enforcement of rules of the game or the division of labor between the public and private sectors. Such an approach inevitably requires disciplinary openness. The event is therefore deliberately open to members of all faculties and all levels of education (Bachelor, Master, PhD). The ultimate goal of the event is to develop positions and proposals on the rules of societies in a globalized world that meet with acceptance and strengthen democracy.

Thematic focus in summer 2025:

The European Reform University Alliance (ERUA) sees an answer to societal challenges in the promotion of an entrepreneurial spirit: “The general objective... is to foster within the ERUA universities an entrepreneurship spirit in social sciences, with the potential collaboration of STEM disciplines, in order to address societal challenges.... In doing so, we deliberately focus on cooperation between the participating ERUA universities”. Together with students from our ERUA partner universities, we will work on societal challenges in a boot camp at Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius. Each university will be represented by six students.

Short description:

During this intensive week-long Startup Bootcamp, students from various European universities will collaborate in teams to navigate all stages of startup and innovative venture building. They will progress from ideation, testing, prototyping, and validation to pitching their solutions to a professional jury.

Throughout the 5-day Startup Bootcamp, students will:

- Day 1, May 26th: Analyze and validate real-world problems.

- Day 2, May 27th Refine and choose a problem using assumption-based validation and other methods.
- Day 3, May 28th Leverage technologies such as AI and no-code tools to build a Minimum Viable Product (MVP).
- Day 4, May 29th Validate their MVP using the "go out of the room" method for real-world feedback.
- Day 5, May 30th Prepare a pitch deck and present their solution to a professional jury.

There will also be online preparation meetings. In addition to workshops and mentorship sessions, students will engage in social activities and take an excursion to explore the Lithuanian startup ecosystem, where they will meet with local startups and unicorns, further enhancing their entrepreneurial experience.

Objectives:

1. Encourage students to practically apply management methods, such as design thinking and lean methodologies, in an international context.
2. Develop students' entrepreneurial mindset.
3. Strengthen students' abilities to work in international teams within a digital environment.
4. Increase students' intercultural competence through international collaboration.
5. Improve students' communication, problem solving, analytical skills as well as increase emotional intelligence.

Please note: The bootcamp takes place during the exam week after the first block of the summer semester (May 26-30 May). This was unavoidable. In this respect, participation is particularly suitable for candidates who do not write exams after the first block (e.g. final-year candidates, ENS students, etc.).

Funding:

Students can be funded via Erasmus and will be supported to achieve funding.

Assignments (individual and group work):

6 ECTS are achieved through active participation and involvement in the whole seminar and the successful innovation journey in connection with the defined bootcamp including all assignments.

Application for Seminar-Participation:

With a short letter of motivation (max. 250 words) OR a video (one minute) in which you explain why you want to get involved in ERUA and show a characteristic or skill of yours that is particularly valuable for participation in the event and in the group work, you show us that you are the right person for this Innovation Journey! Please also attach a CV (max. 1 page)!

Generic motivation letters created solely by LLMs (e.g. GPT, BARD, or LLaMa) are unfortunately not very meaningful. An authentic letter of motivation should always come from you. However, LLMs can support you as competent sparring partners if you work with them transparently and creatively. So let us know which creative prompts you have used or whether you have dispensed with LLMs.

Please note that the application deadline is **Feb. 20th**, because registration for the course in Vilnius must be completed in February. For application modalities please check the homepage of the Chair of International Management. **Early application is now possible and encouraged! Once we received 6 good applications, the list will be closed!**