

FUNDING PROGRAMME: ERASMUS+

SUBPROGRAMME: Key Action 2: Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices
Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education (CBHE)

PROJECT TITLE/ACRONYM:

Establishment of Leather Hubs in Russia and Mongolia / LEATHUB



CONTRACT NO.: 598715-EPP-1-2018-1-TR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: 995.950 euro

INCDTP'S BUDGET: 45.567 euro

PROJECT STARTING DATE: 15/01/2019

PROJECT ENDING DATE: 19/07/2022

WEBSITE: www.leathub.eu

PARTNERS:**Coordinator:**

- Ege University, Turkey

Partners:

- C.G.S. di Coluccia Michele & C. S.A.S. (CGS), Italy
- Creative Thinking Development (CRE.THI.DEV), Greece
- National Research and Development Institute for Textiles and Leather – Division: Leather and Footwear Research Institute (INCDTP – ICPI), Romania
- University of West Attica (UNIWA), Greece
- Instytut Przemysłu Skorzanego w Łodzi (IPS), Poland
- Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), Lithuania
- Eastern Siberia State University for Technology and Management (ESSUTM), Russian Federation
- The Federal State Education Institution of Higher Professional (BSAA), Russian Federation
- Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Buryatia (TPP RB), Russian Federation
- Mongolian University of Life Sciences (MULS), Mongolia
- Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST), Mongolia
- Mongolian Leather Industry Association (MLIA), Mongolia

**GENERAL OBJECTIVES:**

The LEATHUB project is devoted to bridging the gap between the leather industry and the universities by enhancing the collaboration at a research and development base to accelerate the pace of applied research in advanced industries in leather sector; drive down the cost of advanced industries technologies and accelerate their deployment; contribute to workforce development not just at the Ph.D. level but at all levels, and boost exports and enable the specific regions in Russia and Mongolia to compete effectively in global markets, which in turn will ensure a vibrant national economy. **The main general objective of the project is the establishment and operation of 4 training and innovation centers (Leather Hubs)** which will act as intermediary between innovation seekers (industry) and the innovation providers (research teams in the universities, laboratories, spin-offs).

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Establishment of the Leather Hubs at ESSUTM and BSAA in Russia and at MULS and MUST in Mongolia;

- Training of specialists in EU countries for Leather Hubs;
- Creation of an effective common model of Leather Hubs in the region;
- Creation of an accessible information database of innovations and research results in Russia and Mongolia;
- Enabling the Leather Hubs to support real research and development needs in the leather sector;
- Transfer of cooperation experience from EU university and enterprises into High education system of Russia and Mongolia and to enterprises;
- Cooperation between representatives of enterprises and researchers;
- Development of economic thinking and interest to use innovations and research results from entrepreneurs in the leather sector.

NOVELTY ELEMENTS:

Firstly, LEATHUB project responds to one of specific needs of the region for a professional profile able to work with an interdisciplinary approach that integrates knowledge and expertise in R&D in the leather sector on one hand, and in innovation-driven business on the other hand. Currently, the region appears to lack integration in these fields, resulting in difficulties in bridging the gap between the HEIs and the leather industry.

LEATHUB project is among the first projects in which private business and public academic institutions work together to bridge the gap between them in the leather sector in the region. The creation of the 4 Leather Hubs in Russian and Mongolian Universities is proposed through LEATHUB is totally new for the region. The establishment of the 4 Centers sets a strong basis for the facilitation of B2B collaboration concerning the production of high quality and environmentally friendly leather products. These centers offer services necessary to raise awareness for the benefits of using innovative approaches and technologies in the leather sector. Specialized training courses and seminars to all interested parties (researchers, businesses, university staff, authorities) as well as customized support for the successful R&D services addressing the real needs of the companies, are two innovative elements of LEATHUB.

EXPECTED EXPLOITABLE RESULTS:

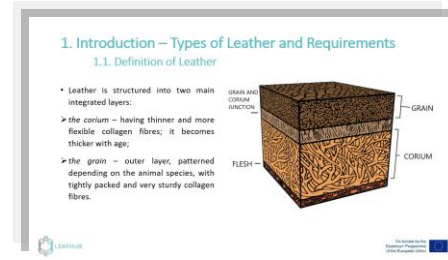
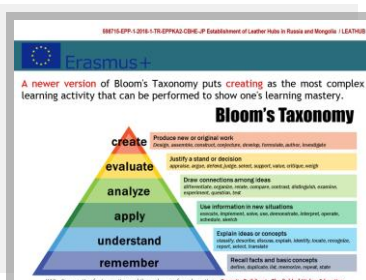
- 4 training and innovation centers (Leather Hubs), 1 in each Mongolian and Russian university involved in the project;
- 2 training modules & curricula for training specialists in the "Skin and Fur Technology" profile for life-long-learning courses;
- 1 online Platform for Transferring Research and Innovation through project-based research and development, accessible at <https://my.leathub.eu/>
- 1 database including information on innovations and business practices in the leather sector, available on the project website;
- 1 sustainability plan, describing the strategy that will support the sustainability of the outcomes of the LEATHUB project after its lifetime;
- 1 Capacity Building Plan aiming to establish the operation of the Leather Hubs within the 4 universities so as to support the improvements of Leather Sector companies in the two countries and to become a self-developing and self-sustaining industry;
- 1 Quality Plan to ensure project quality and efficiency;
- 1 Dissemination Plan focusing on promoting innovation culture, linking universities with the leather industry and fostering the entrepreneurial attitude of young people in the sector.

OBTAINED RESULTS:

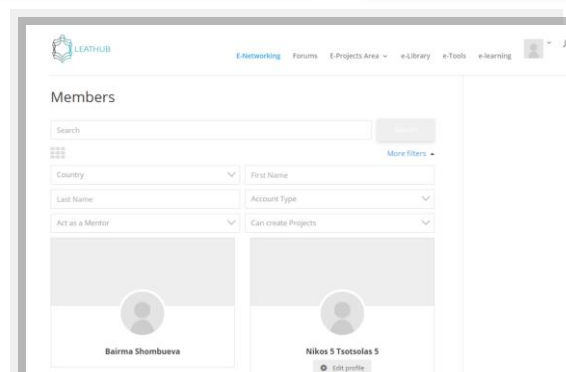
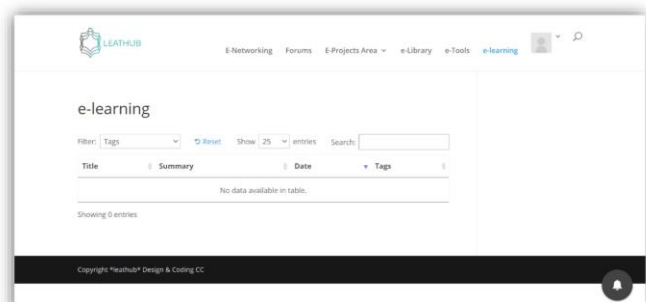
- **four training and innovation centers, equipped with modern analytical and testing equipment,** established in four universities in Russia and Mongolia, which will provide training services for tanneries, support the design and the implementation of research and development services from the university according to the specific needs of the companies, and also implement research on the use of environmentally friendly technologies for tanning raw materials and recycling of collagen-containing waste;



- **training material structured into 4 units**, tailored to the needs of the leather sector in Russia and Mongolia, and **training sessions** held online (due to Covid-19 restrictions):
 1. Unit 1: Sustainable Business Model for Hubs
 2. Unit 2: Operation of Hubs and e-platform
 3. Unit 3: Bologna Process
 4. Unit 4: Specialized Training



- **e-Platform** to serve as a one-stop support point for new business ideas in the leather sector in Russia and Mongolia where entrepreneurs can find e-courses, search e-libraries for innovative business practices, participate in e-networking for reaching potential partners and receive specialized consulting through peer-to-peer e-forums as well as by using the e-tools section.



DISSEMINATION, PATENT APPLICATIONS, AWARDS:

Scientific communications: 2

1. Mutlu, M.M., Ozgunay, H., Morandi, A., Papakonstantinou, D., Tsakalou, L., Albu, L., Deselnicu, V., Tsotsolas, N., Zaruga, I., Gajewski, R., Valeika, V., Jankauskaite, V., Shombueva, B., Shalbuev, D., Achituev, V., Yampilova, Z., Ertanov, P., Labarova, S., Aktamova, A., Zedbazar, E., Byamba, I., Byambadorj, T., Lodoi, U., Tugjjav, B., Ganzorig, B., LEATHUB: Establishment of Leather Hubs in Russia and Mongolia, The 5th International Leather Engineering

Congress "Innovative Aspects for Leather Industry", October 10-11, 2019, Izmir, Turkey

2. Gurău, D., Providing Innovation Solutions to the Leather Industry Through Training, Technology Transfer and R&D Services - ERASMUS+ LEATHUB Project "Establishment of Leather Hubs in Russia and Mongolia", presented in the "Textile Strategy for Innovative Higher Education by Advanced Materials & Skills Development" National Workshop, February 27th, 2020, Bucharest, Romania

Other:

1. LEATHUB Project presentation, *Leather and Footwear Journal*, 2019, vol. 19, no. 2, pp. 151-155

2. Participation in MODEXPO International Fair, 26-29 September 2019, ROMEXPO Bucharest

3. Participation in NEXT SEASON Fair, 03-05 September 2019, ROMEXPO Bucharest

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