

## Report about collaboration activities between the Technical University of Liberec, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (TUL) and Ostfold University College, Faculty of Engineering (OUC)

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During the time period from September 2014 to August 2015, there were totally 10 workshops which took place at the TUL and OUC. The first workshop was organized at the OUC. The dean of the faculty of Mechanical Engineering together with Vice –Deans presented the TUL and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering programmes. The study programmes and research capacity were demonstrated. During the next workshop, the main part of the work presentation was introduced by students from both institutions. Besides that, several meetings between leaders of both institutions were organized in order to evaluate the collaboration and suggest further steps in the future.

The last workshop was organized at the OUC in July 2015 in order to summarize other activities of the institutional collaboration after the finishing of the joint project. The first step was to sign the bilateral agreement about institutional collaboration for other activities after the project finished. Based on the discussion conditions and type of collaboration, activities were suggested and formulated. The future collaboration will include mainly the exchange of academic staff and students. The exchange will be carried out on the basis of e.g. the Erasmus program and other domestic funds provided by each institution. Both institutions had a similar statement that especially student and academic staff exchange is the most valuable type of collaboration.



Besides institutional collaboration procedures, the educational and personal systems in both institutions were discussed. It is interesting to see significant differences in the organization of the human resources. In contrast to the Norwegian conditions, the TUL generally provides worthwhile working conditions for education and research activities in respect of human capacity. On the other hand, the TUL possess higher laboratory capacity for research in regards to equipment. It is because of huge investment into the research laboratories carried out in the last decades thanks to European projects.



During workshops the students and academics from TUL could visit some factories collaborating with the OUC in the educational projects.

Generally, it was inspiring to see how this collaboration between student groups and industry is running well. It can be caused by the fact that the OUC is a typically local educational organization having strong collaboration with the local industrial representatives. However, the TUL students involve deeper theoretical knowledge into the student projects and works and the proportion of the research in the student work is higher than in OUC's students. This fact is especially visible if the master and bachelor study programmes are compared to each other.

From this perspective, it is highly valuable to continue in the collaboration and even to intensify the other contacts.

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