

Jean Monnet Action: The Enhancement of Knowledge on European issues

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Abstract

The deliberations on the future of the European Union rose after the new EU enlargement 2004. More than ever, the demand appeared to strengthen the knowledge on European integration issues. The Jean Monnet Action, launched in 1990, has contributed widely to the establishment of the "European" disciplines within the university programmes. Universities emerges as the main instruments to disseminate the knowledge on European integration studies to European citizens in academic and nonacademic as well as local and international level through the teaching, reflection, debate, and through the far reaching influence of the activities of the European Centres of Excellence and the Jean Monnet professors. In order to consolidate the knowledge on European issues Jean Monnet Action extended its activity organising Jean Monnet conferences and grants for young researchers, supporting teaching and research activities, national associations and networks of lectures as well as major institutions.

KEY WORDS: European Eunion, European Integration, Jean Monnet Action, Jean Monnet Project.

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Introduction

The acceleration of the European construction process has progressively strengthened the interest in European integration studies. With reference to the request of universities to adapt their curricula and to include the European integration studies, the Jean Monnet Action was launched in 1990 as European Union initiative.

The Jean Monnet Action targets those social science disciplines in which community developments are an increasingly important part of the subject studied: Community law, European Economic integration, political and social studies as well as the history of European construction.

In the new member states after the new EU enlargement in 2004 the Jean Monnet Action provides a response to the need for knowledge about European integration and to the call for assistance expressed by universities in these countries to boost their own academic resources. It aims to prepare the new generation of European affairs specialists. The goal of universities throughout the world is to give greater visibility, at both international and national levels, to scientific resources and academic activities in the field of European integration and European Union developments.

Scientific problem: After the new EU enlargement 2004, more than ever, it is important for the universities to strengthen the European studies through the European teaching activities within their university programmes. Therefore the demand appears to analyse the Jean Monnet Action as one of the EU initiatives for the enhancement of knowledge on European issues.

Goal of the research - to analyse the Jean Monnet Action as instrument for enhancement of knowledge on European issues taking into account the activity of this Action in Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe.

Research objectives:

- To analyse the origins of Jean Monnet Action;
- To study the types of activities of Jean Monnet Action;
- To analyse the evolution of Jean Monnet Action in Lithuania
- To study the Jean Monnet Action in Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe.

Research methods:

- Comparative *analysis* of scientific literature, documents and reports.
- *Case study analysis* - as a method for empirical research - analyzing the activity of Monnet Project in Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe.

1. The origins of Jean Monnet Action.

The Jean Monnet Action "European Integration in University Studies" is a European Commission project, - Directorate General for Education and Culture -, undertaken at the request of the universities, whose aim is to facilitate the introduction of European integration studies in universities by means of start-up subsidies.

The Action is launched in the member states of the European Union and was extended in 1993 to candidate countries, Poland and Hungary, and in 1997 to the Czech Republic. In 2001 the Jean Monnet Action was extended to all candidate countries applying for EU membership and to universities anywhere in the world. At the moment, it covers 48 countries throughout the world.

The Jean Monnet Action has the following aims:

- stimulating academic excellence in the field of European integration studies through the support for new teaching, research and debate activities at university level;
- fostering academic reflection on current policy priorities in the field of European integration via centralised high-level conferences and thematic groups (bringing

together Jean Monnet professors, policy-makers and civil society in Brussels) and support for decentralised reflection activities all over the world.

- supporting major institutions active in the study of European integration.

The Jean Monnet Action offers grants in the form of co-financing as defined in Article B3-304 under heading 15.02.01.01 of the General Budget of the European Union: „This appropriation is intended to finance measures taken by the Commission by virtue of its institutional prerogatives. It is intended to cover expenditure on academic activities relating to European integration¹ in universities, such as the Jean Monnet Chairs, which are designed to consolidate the European Union by encouraging universities, both inside and outside the Union“.

Currently, the Jean Monnet Action finds its legal basis in Action 3A of [Decision No 791/2004/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 establishing a Community action programme to promote bodies active at European level and support specific activities in the field of education and training².

2. Types of activities of Jean Monnet Project

Subsidies awarded in the framework of the Jean Monnet Action represent co-financing for these types of activities³:

- **Jean Monnet conferences** *organised by the European Commission in Brussels on current policy priorities in the field of European integration.* The Jean Monnet Action actively fosters academic reflection on current issues of European integration. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture has over the past few years established a tradition of consulting the academic world in order to reflect on the future of European integration. This reflection often culminates in a major international conference with the participation of policy-makers, civil society and academics. To prepare the academic reflection on the occasion of such conferences, the Commission calls in particular on the network of Jean Monnet professors and centres. On many occasions, the independent and critical considerations of the members of the Jean Monnet network have provided the policy-makers with new insights and concrete policy suggestions. Conference results are made available to the public via the Jean Monnet website and in the form of a publication.

- **Support for teaching activities:**

- * **European Modules:** *a short programme of studies concentrating entirely on European integration, of at least 30 hours duration in one of the four priority disciplines of the Jean Monnet Project.*

European Commission grants for a Jean Monnet Chair may not exceed 75% of the total cost.

- * **Permanent Courses on European integration:** *courses concentrating entirely on European integration (average 40 hours) and offered at undergraduate or postgraduate level with as many hours per academic year as a permanent annual course, according to the procedures of each country;*

- * **Jean Monnet Chairs and Jean Monnet Chairs "ad personam:** *a symbolic term corresponding to a full-time teaching post. All statutory courses and teaching activities must be entirely devoted to the subject of European integration (between 180 and 250 hours*

¹ The term *European integration* studies is taken to mean the study of the *construction* of the *European Community* which led to the European Union and the institutional, legal, political, economic and social developments related to this process, i.e. "the study of the phenomenon of the integration process initiated in Western Europe after the second World War, in particular by the Robert Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950 and the treaties establishing the European Communities, the Treaty of Paris 1951 and the Treaties of Rome of 25 March 1957" (Vademecum, 2004).

The following are not regarded as European integration studies:

- teaching activities involving comparison between several Member States,
- teaching activities focusing on the national approaches of one or more Member States.

² Official Journal of the European Union L 138/31 of 30.4.2004.

³ Education and training. Jean Monnet Action: Understanding European Integration. Available at: (http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/ajm/index_en.html)

per academic year, depending on the university system). The "Chair" supported by the Jean Monnet Project includes, at least in part, compulsory teaching as part of basic courses. The Chair is linked to a title holder who devotes 100% of his/her teaching time to European integration issues.

* **Jean Monnet European Centres of excellences:** a Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence is a clearly labelled framework or structure specialising in European integration, and pooling scientific, human and documentary resources for European integration studies and research within one or more universities.

At the moment, there are 100 created Jean Monnet European Centres of Excellence in all over the world. According to the Jean Monnet Action Technical Assistance Office data in 2004 there were 86 Jean Monnet European Centres of Excellence in all over the world (see Figure 1).

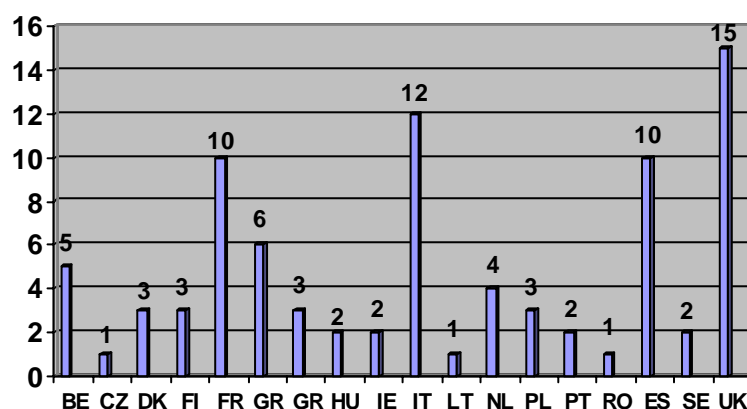


Fig. 1 Number of Centres of Excellences in the EU (source: Jean Monnet Action. Technical Assistance Office. Centres of Excellences. Statistics. http://www.icp-ajm.org/docs/poles_statistics.pdf)

- **Support for research activities:**

* The Jean Monnet Action **supports the creation of transnational research groups**, set up in partnership between national European Community Studies Associations (ECSAs), Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence and/or Jean Monnet Chairs. The objective is to facilitate joint research work involving researchers, with a view to achieving results which can contribute to the debate on regional integration and European construction.

The activities targeted include seminars, debates, meetings, joint study, reflection or research projects, and projects aiming to disseminate information and publications, also using multimedia and the Internet.

Jean Monnet Research Groups must involve a consortium of at least three national ECSAs, Jean Monnet European Centres of Excellence or Jean Monnet Chairs from at least three different countries. Only proposals from national ECSA associations, Jean Monnet European Centres of Excellence or Jean Monnet Chairs will be considered. One of the partners has to act as lead organisation for project coordination and must designate a national ECSA association president, Centre of Excellence representative or Jean Monnet Chair as the project coordinator and main contact for the European Commission.

* The European Commission **supports the organisation by universities and research centres** all over the world of colloquia, seminars and roundtable discussions around the results of university research on the process of European integration. Such reflection activities often result in publications which can also be co-financed by the European Commission.

The meetings must be open to or specifically aimed at researchers. They may take the form of summer schools provided that these fall within the period of eligibility. Preference is

given to projects organised at international level by partnerships between universities, academic research centres and associations of university lecturers from several countries.

- **Grants for young researchers.** The European Commission supports transnational research activities carried out by researchers. More in particular, the European Commission provides grants to universities, institutions or associations organising the mobility of researchers who are seeking to enhance their research by spending a period at a host university in another country. The researchers must be in possession of a degree giving access to doctoral studies or may be post-doctoral.

- **Support of national ECSA and networks in the field of European integration:** *activities which will bring together, at a national level, Jean Monnet and non-Jean Monnet professors, scholars and researchers working in the field of European integration and promote, at a national level, initiatives of specific value to the setting up of European integration studies within the framework of the Jean Monnet Action.*

The Jean Monnet Action is run in strict consultation with the university authorities by means of co-operation with *the European University Council for the Jean Monnet Action*, an independent academic body which supports the Commission in the implementation of the programme, the selection of the projects submitted by the universities, the academic follow-up of the successful projects and the organisation of activities with the network of Jean Monnet professors.

The *European University Council for the Jean Monnet Action* is composed of representatives of university institutions (Vice-Chancellors/Rectors) elected by the Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences and representatives of professors specialising in European integration studies, elected by ECSA-Europe (European Community Studies Association), which brings together the national associations of European integration studies.

The Jean Monnet network has also been enlarged through its links with the ECSA (*European Community Studies Association*). In order to ensure the implementation of the project in each country the Jean Monnet Action functions in co-operation with the national ECSA's. These are university associations of professors, scholars and researchers specialised in the field of European integration. Throughout the world the 49 national associations which make up the ECSA network regroup more than 6000 professors, scholars and researchers working on European integration issues and as many more independent university partners, well informed in community affairs.

- **Support for major institutions** in the study of European integration (such as the College of Europe, the European University Institute, the European Institute of Public Administration, the Academy of European Law and the Centre International de Formation Européenne).

The Jean Monnet Action today constitutes of a vast network of 1800 professors specialising in European integration studies. More than 250 000 young people benefit each year from Jean Monnet teaching activities. Almost 750 universities now offer Jean Monnet teaching programmes within their curricula, resulting in the setting up of over 2500 academic projects in European integration studies during the period 1990-2004. These include 100 Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence, which offer a dynamic framework for the promotion of the diverse activities of the Jean Monnet professors which go beyond the university boundaries, 650 Jean Monnet Chairs and 1700 Permanent Courses and European Modules.

3. The evolution of Jean Monnet Action in Lithuania

After the announcement of European Commission to launch the Jean Monnet Project 2001 for candidate countries Lithuania set up its first activity by the Jean Monnet Project. There were launched the first European Modules: European Union Institutional Law and European Union Substantial Law at the Law University of Lithuania in 2001. And in the same time

there were launched the first Jean Monnet Chairs: Jean Monnet Chair of the European Union Law at the Vilnius University and the Jean Monnet Chair: European Economic Integration and Globalisation at the Vytautas Magnus University. In 2002 the activity of Jean Monnet involved and other universities of Lithuania too: there were launched Jean Monnet Chair at Kaunas University of Technology, the first Permanent Courses at Kaunas University of Technology, Law University of Lithuania and Vilnius University; European Modules at Kaunas University of Technology and Vilnius University. Particularly important fact, that there were launched the ECSA network in Lithuania at Vilnius University in 2002. In consideration of the development of the Jean Monnet Action in Lithuania (the development of Jean Monnet activity in Lithuania is given in the Table 1) we can maintain that universities of Lithuania actively participate in Jean Monnet Action renewing themes and applying for new projects constantly.

Table 1

The development of Jean Monnet Action in Lithuania

Project types	2001	2002	2003	2005
PO			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence;</i> charged by Prof. Dr. Habil. Kestutis Krisciunas at Kaunas University of Technology	
CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>European Economic Integration and Globalisation;</i> charged by Prof. Violeta Pukelienė at the Vytautas Magnus University; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>European Union Law;</i> charged by Assoc. Prof. Skirgaile Zalimienė at the Vilnius University.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>European economic integration: Knowledge based economy;</i> charged by Prof. Dr. Habil. Kestutis Krisciunas at Kaunas University of Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jean Monnet Chair at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science. European Economic Integration</i> charged by Prof. Jonas Cicinskas at the Vilnius University		
CO		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Common Market Law: Practical Importance to Lithuania;</i> charged by Dr. Algis Junevičius at Kaunas University of Technology ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Unijon européenne et les droits de l'homme;</i> charged by Prof. Justinas Zilinskas at Law University of Lithuania <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Social Policy in the European Union;</i> charged by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Leta Dromantienė at Law University of Lithuania; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Economics of European Integration and follow-up courses EMU and EU International Market</i> charged by Prof. Doc. Algirdas Miskinis at Vilnius University.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The meaning of Constitutional Treaty of EU to society of Lithuania</i> charged by Dr. Algis Junevičius at Kaunas University of Technology ;
MO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>European Union Institutional Law;</i> • <i>European Union Substantial Law;</i> delivered by Prof. Dr. Saulius Katuoka at the Law University of Lithuania.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evolution of European Integration;</i> charged by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Leonas Zitkus, at Kaunas University of Technology ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>EU Labour and Social Policy;</i> charged by Doc. Dr. Romas Lazutka at Vilnius University.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The modules of European management</i> charged by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Leonas Zitkus, at Kaunas University of Technology ;
XA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Multidisciplinary ECSA: National ECSA Network Activities</i> 		

		charged by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Skirgaile Zalimiene at Lithuanian European Community Studies Association		
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4. Jean Monet Action in Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe.

In reference to the data of Jean Monnet Action in Lithuania the biggest base of this activity is being established in Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe. During the year of 2002-2005 there were launched all teaching activities of Jean Monnet Action:

Jean Monnet Chair, which discipline is *Economics of European Integration: Knowledge based Economy*.

Activity:

- Lectures, seminars and preparation of study materials for master students of European Integration programme;
- Research;
- Education of Ph'D students;
- Academic exchange;
- Enlightenment activity.

Jean Monnet Chair ad personam, which discipline is *EU internal market law: practical significance for Lithuania* and *The meaning of Constitutional Treaty of EU to society of Lithuania*.

Activity:

- Lectures for master students of European Integration and bachelors of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Jean Monnet teaching Modules, which discipline is *Evolution of European Integration* and *The modules of European management*.

Activity:

- Lectures for bachelors students of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The base involves big academic and not academic force of specialists in European integration affairs which are brought together and **oriented towards European citizens in local, regional and international level to promote the development of knowledge and competences in European integration issues, that will enable each citizens actively participate in all spheres of social and economical life.**

In the following **Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence is significant element of consolidation between all Jean Monnet teaching activities.** According to the instruction of European Commission **it is a framework specialising in European integration, pooling scientific, human and documentary resources for European integration studies and research.** A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence is thus designed to bring together, at university and regional level:

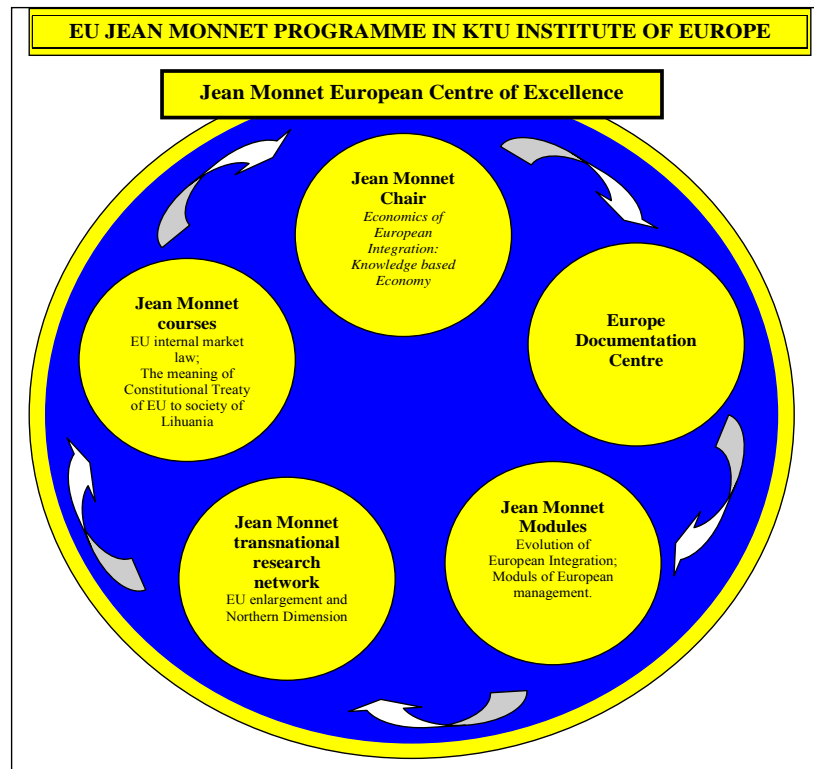
- Jean Monnet professors and other academics involved in teaching European integration at their universities;
- Existing European documentation centres;
- Postgraduate courses on European integration;
- Research projects on European integration;
- Institutes or centres specialising in European integration already existing within universities;
- Academic personnel and local resources in the field of European integration;
- Non-academic experts on Community affairs.

A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence responds to three main objectives:

- to enhance the **visibility of scientific and physical resources relating to European integration available within a university and region;**
- to develop synergies between all available resources; and

- to have **an impact at local and regional levels by organising the debate on European construction in a manner that is open towards civil society.**

In 1990 and 2005, the Jean Monnet Action has funded 105 Jean Monnet Centres of Excellences⁴. Pursuing the participation in Jean Monnet Action Kaunas University of Technology set up the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, which is called as Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence (JMECE), in 2003. There is the first multidisciplinary Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in Baltic States. The centre incorporates all teaching activities acting under the Jean Monnet Project in the KTU Institute of Europe (see picture 1).



Picture 1 EU Jean Monnet Programme in KTU Institute of Europe

The defined mission of the JMECE of Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe is to promote the partnership of universities, students, teachers, academic and non-academic community in the field of European Integration studies. The centre is acting as a connective instrument involving the experts of European integration affairs in academic and not academic level as well as in local, regional and international level and spreading the information and knowledge not only within the university but also for all civil society about the main and topical questions in European studies engaging and inviting people in flexible, interesting and mutual convenient way.

The JMECE implements wide and versatile activity in order to touch each citizen:

- continues academic seminar: European integration;
- awards for the best research products in European Integration;
- academic issues in European Integration;
- academic and practical conferences, seminars;
- Northern Dimension Network activity;
- open lectures in “Knowledge - based economy”;
- days of the Ambassador;

⁴ Education and training. Jean Monnet Action – Understanding European Integration. Available at http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/ajm/index_en.html

- videoconferences in European Integration.

The information about the constantly activity of JMECE is spreading and announcing wide to all over the country through the mass media, official invitations, advertisements in websites of local and regional Universities, electronic and paper version newspapers. The cooperation with governmental and nongovernmental institutions as well as institutions of European Commission allows to inform and to involve all civil society including academic and not academic community, delegates of business and civil servants as well.

JMECE is acting widely within the University arranging academic and practical conferences, seminars, celebrating the important days of the EU – involving to this activity teachers, researchers and students of Kaunas universities as well as secondary schools. JMECE is a partner of international research “Network on Enlargement and the Northern Dimension of EU” attending and organizing international conferences and meetings. However mostly of activities of JMECE are directly focused to regional development through teaching, through the reflection and debates.

4. 1. Continues academic seminar

The most active activity of JMECE is continues academic seminar analysing the actual Lithuanian community questions in the field of European integration, studying the cultural, political and economical future of the enlarged EU as well as analysig the perspectives and experiences of the Lithuania membership in EU. It's working as a periodical coffee-club introducing 9 meetings each academic year once per month. Meetings are based on introductory lectures and moderated discussions involving several groups of interest:

- **academicians:** teachers and researchers, Ph'D and master students;
- **practitioners:** local, district and regional administration, businessmen;
- **not academic community:** local and regional community, students of third age university as well.

The seminar is being organized as multifunctional activity for society to develop and to improve their knowledge in Europe studies through the discussions, debates and not formal meetings. The main goal of the seminar is to attract people to knowledge having discussions with academicians and practitioners and making not only formal meetings in topical themes but also having coffee-club style debates involving all groups of interests. The second task of the seminar is not only to spread the information for local and regional society but also to improve the knowledge inviting academicians from local, regional and international level in order they could share their knowledge between them. Particularly big advantage from these debates appears for young researchers having the opportunity to present their works and to get the comments and father guidelines for their research. The students of the Third Age University appear as an essential part of interest group of the seminar. The successful activity of the seminar is based on the **outcomes** of the seminar which directly linked to all groups of interest:

- **hot topics related to Lithuania's integration into EU are being presented and analyzed** by professors, Ph'D and master students, practitioners as well;
- about 150 listeners and participants from academic and not academic community, administration of the city, district and regional, businessmen and students of Third Age University as well are taking part during the whole session. Approximately 90 of them are regular participants **have been receiving the certificates** of JMECE which are being delivered in the end of the academic year.
- The “**Academic JMECE Awards**” are being introduced for the best research products in the field of European integration presented during the seminar and prepared as papers. The competition attracts about 30 participants each year and final papers of competitors are being evaluated by high level commission of academicians mostly rectors of Universities of Lithuania. The winners are being granted by awards and certificates of JMECE. There are 2 awards for teachers/researchers, 2 awards for

Ph'D students and 2 for master students.

- As the result of the competition for the “Academic JMECE Awards” and result of the seminar presentations the **annual academic issue** is being introduced, compiled, edited and printed each year covering all reviewed papers presented during the seminar. The destination target of the annual academic issue is researchers, students, secondary schools, libraries and interested groups in local and regional level.

Actual topics, cooperation between academic and not academic community, participating of practitioners in the process of the seminar and properly designed outcomes involve big part of local and regional community forming a regular base of interests group which attends all other activities of JMECE. The base of participants of JMECE is being fixed in the confidential contact list of JMECE members' base and being renewed constantly. This base helps to spread the information in paper and electronic form and to inform the interest group about the nearest events or changes of the schedule promptly and in time.

4.2. Open lectures in “Knowledge - based economy”

During 2002/2006 academic year Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence offers the **Jean Monnet module “European Economic Integration: Knowledge – based Economy”** evaluated by 3 euro credits. This module is being delivered every semester as open lectures for all the students of Kaunas universities. Therefore during the year 2002/2006 the Jean Monnet module attracted 24 council workers from local and district municipalities; 26 students from Third Age University; 20 participants of the Science and Technology Park in Kaunas city and 11 servants of Science Departments from regional Universities of Lithuania.

The Jean Monnet module covers the globalization, technological development and economical changes and analyzes the concept of Knowledge based Economy, introducing:

- the vision of knowledge based society,
- evolution of knowledge;
- the role of information and knowledge in the new economy;
- the place of information technologies in economics and society;
- the role and place of innovation and technology diffusion;
- human capital development and realization;
- Lifelong learning;
- Enhancement and development of entrepreneurship;
- Interests of Lithuania and EU in the changing world.

81 participants attended all session of lectures have got the certificates of Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence.

4.3. Days of the Ambassador;

JMECE arranges „Days of the Ambassador”. It is a **meeting of University leaders, academic and non-academic community, as well as delegates of business and members of Kaunas Municipality with the Ambassadors**. After the meeting disputes last about the mutual important and interesting item actual problems with cup of tea and glass of wine creating informal atmosphere for discussions. The JMECE during the year 2003/2006 arranged 12 meetings – 4 per year. There were meetings with H. E. Ambassador Michael Graham contemporary Head of Delegation of European Commission in Lithuania, the Ambassadors of Check Republic, Finland, Hungary Republic, Kingdom of Spain, the United Kingdom, Austria, the Kingdom of Belgium and Republic of Latvia. The meetings attracted about 450 participants in total. **The discussions let to change the views on important problems and questions, to encourage and to develop the cooperation between the universities and the municipalities from Lithuania and foreign sides.**

4.4. Actualities through the videoconferences

JMECE next to seminars, conferences and days of Ambassadors is constantly following the **hot topic of Lithuania and EU as well as actualities of the world** and with reference to this is **regularly organizing the moderated discussions and debates which are directly being transmitted by Internet to distant learning centres which are established in the regions of Lithuania**. Periodically organized videoconferences responding to regional actualities are the activity of JMECE directly focused on regional development. With the help of partner - Kaunas University of Technology Distance Learning Centre which has 18 distant classes' computer network in the country - the conferences from Kaunas studio are being transmitted to all the Lithuania. During the year 2003-2006 there were organized 9 videoconferences – 3 per year introducing the activity of European Parliament, discussing about the future of EU, analyzing the subsequences of free movement of persons for Lithuanian labour market and Lithuanian people life, the support for energetic development of Lithuania strengthening the EU power safety. With a big success and interest of society there were organized three conferences on the theme of support of EU Structural Funds, one conference about the establishment of Euro and essentially important conference about precautionary provisions against the Birds Flue.

The conferences are hold in cooperation with ministries of the Republic of Lithuania, with local and regional municipalities, public institutions as well as Universities. Destination targets are the administrative staff, academic and not academic society in large of Kaunas, Vilnius, Panevezys, Siauliai, Kedainiai, Alytus, Utena, Marijampole and other cities of Lithuania as well as abroad.

As the conferences were organised by the way of distant learning it was usable and convenient for various groups of interests involving people having physical problems to reach the distant studio in the region or people who are busy and cant leave their work place. The transmission of the conference was directly available through the Internet for every citizen. In total about 1000 participants took part in the videoconferences. All records of videoconferences with slides of PowerPoint presentation and other material are available on the web-site (www.euroi.ktu.lt) and are open to use and spread for everybody who is interested in this information.

Jean Monnet Action in KTU Institute of Europe through the activity of JMECE made the learning opportunities available to various groups of interest. In practice it means that citizens attending these activities could find each individual learning pathways, suitable to their needs and interests at all stages of their lives. With reference to the above analysed activity of JMECE it can be declared that Jean Monnet Action involves the big amount of activities including seminars, conferences, debates and discussions as well as distance learning opportunities which are directly addressed to citizens in local and regional level offering people the most convenience and interesting ways of learning in the field European integration.

Conclusions

- The Jean Monnet Action “European Integration in University Studies” is an EU initiative which was undertaken at the request of the Universities, to facilitate the introduction of European integration studies. It was launched in 1990 and from 2001 it is open to all universities from throughout the world.
- Jean Monnet Action is directly addressed to European citizens and has the specific aim to enhance the knowledge on European issues. It targets those social science disciplines: Community law, European Economic integration, political and social studies as well as the history of European construction.

- Jean Monnet Action has a wide spectrum types of activities: organising Jean Monnet conferences and grants for young researchers, supporting teaching and research activities, national associations and networks of lectures as well as major institutions.
- In 2001 Lithuania set up its first activity by the Jean Monnet Project and recently the universities of Lithuania actively participate in Jean Monnet Action renewing themes and applying for new projects constantly.
- The biggest base of the Jean Monnet activity is being established in Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe. During the year of 2002-2005 there were launched all teaching activities of Jean Monnet Action.
- Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence (JMECE) was launched in 2003 at Kaunas University of Technology Institute of Europe. It is the first multidisciplinary Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in three Baltic States working as a significant element of consolidation between all Jean Monnet teaching activities acting under the Jean Monnet Project in the KTU Institute of Europe.
- The JMECE at KTU Institute of Europe promotes the partnership of universities, students, teachers, academic and non-academic community in the field of European Integration studies implementing the wide and versatile activity: organizing continues academic seminar: European integration, offering the awards for the best research products in European Integration, publishing the academic issues in European Integration, arranging the academic and practical conferences; attending the Northern Dimension Network activity; delivering the open lectures in “Knowledge - based economy”; organising the days of the Ambassador as well as arranging the videoconferences in the field of European Integration.
- Jean Monnet Action involving various kinds of implements offers the most convenience and interesting ways of learning in the field European integration to European citizens in academic and nonacademic as well as local and international level through the teaching, reflection, debate, and through the far reaching influence of the activities of the European Centres of Excellence.

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