

Editorial

Some exciting events have taken place since the beginning of the year. Before we enter the holiday season for celebrating Easter we would like to draw your attention to these events and give you an outlook on what is coming up in the next months!

In January we have started into the new year with a call for our **PATTERNS Lectures** programme, which is launching its 4th edition starting this year. The programme aims to develop university courses in the fields of artistic research, art history, cultural theory and cultural studies. The fourth edition of the programme focuses on new artistic and activist practices, new social movements and their significance for the recent cultural history in Central and South Eastern Europe. The programme PATTERNS Lectures furthermore aims at critical methodologies as well as innovative and interactive teaching practices. It encourages international academic exchange by enabling lecturers to go on study visits and the organization of guest lectures by international colleagues. The submitted applications are currently being screened and 12 new courses will be selected by a jury in April.

February was also the launch of a new EU project called "**NURSLING** - National Qualification Frameworks: Guidelines for Development and Recognition of Qualifications". NURSLING aims at linking Uzbek higher education to real needs of economic and social development in the country. The project aims to do so inter alia by supporting the creation of a National Qualification Framework in Uzbekistan. We have kicked-off the project with the coordinator and all project partners in Tashkent from 22-26 February.

In March we hosted a workshop for curriculum development in Graz in the frame of the project "**MLS4Eng** - Professional Development Courses for Engineering Management and Leadership Skills" and implemented field visits to our partners in Serbia within the frame of the project "**ideaLAB**: Fostering students' entrepreneurship and open innovation in university-industry collaboration".

To those of you celebrating Easter this week - we wish you a nice holiday!

Enjoy reading!

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Information on Impressum

Thematic Article

New APPEAR call open until 31 May 2016

The overall objective of APPEAR (Austrian Partnership for Programme in Higher Education & Research for Development) is to strengthen the institutional capacities in higher education, research and management in the addressed countries (Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Cape

Verde, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Bhutan, Nepal, Palestinian Territories, Georgia, Armenia, Republic of Moldova) through Academic Partnerships with Austrian higher education institutions and scholarships as a contribution to effective and sustainable reduction of poverty.

APPEAR encourages professionals and higher education institutions to share their knowledge and experiences with each other, to design innovative projects targeting the objectives and expected results and to improve the general standards in higher education, research and management.

The programmes focuses on the following areas:

- Water supply and sanitation, rural development, sustainable energy, environment and natural resources; in this field a consideration of the Nexus approach (water - energy - food security) is welcome;
- private sector development;
- poverty reduction, peace building and conflict prevention, governance and human rights, gender equality;
- and strengthening of skills in social sciences as an instrument to systematically analyse the reasons of poverty and to empower capacities in social science research.

APPEAR is guided and financed by the Austrian Development Agency, the operational unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) to implement a new strategy 'Higher Education and Scientific Cooperation' in support of Higher Education and Research for Development on an academic institutional level in the priority regions of the ADC.

The APPEAR office - based at the [Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research \(OeAD\)](#) and supported by the [World University Service Austria \(WUS Austria\)](#) - is in charge of designing the programme details and to administer all relevant programme procedures.

The call is open until **31 May 2016**, for further information click [here](#).