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Introduction

As part of the DIRNA project, a study tour was organized to the University of Jyväskylä in Finland. The aim of the training in Jyväskylä was to share information between the project partners – the study tour included presentations and activities from various stakeholders associated with the University of Jyväskylä, situated within the Faculty of Information Technology, Open Science Center and the Finnish Institute for Educational Research. In order to establish and maintain open access institutional repositories, it was viewed as important that the Azerbaijani partners can build understanding of open access publishing, institutional repositories and the organizational structures and practices that are essential for research and teaching activities within the University of Jyväskylä. Additionally, the training included a tour of the University Library Lähde.

Objectives of the Study Tour in Finland

- Understanding the role of ICT in supporting research and teaching processes in a Finnish university
- Learning about the institutional practices related to open access publishing
- Building understanding of open access repositories (OARs)
- Identifying similarities and differences in open access processes across various institutions
- Promoting collaboration and sharing of ideas between the Azerbaijani, Finnish, Turkish and Italian partners

Visit to University of Jyväskylä, Finland

The University of Jyväskylä (*Jyväskylän yliopisto, JYU*) is a Finnish higher education institution situated in Central Finland. It was originally founded in 1863, becoming the first Finnish-speaking teacher training college ('Jyväskylä Teacher Seminary'). In 1937, the institution was named the College of Education and was given the ability to grant doctoral degrees. Finally, following the establishment of scientific research and teaching activities, the organization was named the University of Jyväskylä in 1967.

The University of Jyväskylä consists of six faculties (Faculty of Information Technology, Jyväskylä University School of Business and Economics, Faculty of Education and Psychology, Faculty of Mathematics and Science, Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) and five independent institutes (Open Science Centre; Finnish Institute for Educational Research; Open University; Centre for Multilingual Academic Communication and Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius). The University Services support the faculties and the departments, and the university-level management includes three entities (University Collegium, University Board and the Rector). JYU has 2 800 employees, of which 900 are researchers. There are approximately 14 300 students, and an additional 21 500 at the Open University. The University provides education on bachelor, master and doctoral level.

The study tour in Finland for the DIRNA project was organized in the course of three training days, from 22nd to 24th of April in 2024. The training included altogether 20 participants from the partner institutions: 14 from the Azerbaijani universities and 2 from each partner in Finland, Türkiye and Italy. Thus, the training provided invaluable opportunities for the project partners to build understanding of topics related to open access publishing, as well as the establishment and administration of institutional repositories. Because the

study tour in Finland was the last training held outside Azerbaijan, the participants could also reflect the experiences related to the previous study tours, and identify differences and similarities as compared with their own institutions. The training also included a project meeting between the partners, in which the current topics related to the execution of the project were discussed.

The training in Jyväskylä started with an introduction to the University of Jyväskylä as a higher education institution, given by Dr. Kati Clements. This included discussing Finland and the Finnish education system, as well as the city of Jyväskylä as a venue. The presentation was followed by a tour of the University of Jyväskylä library (*Lähde* building), which gave the participants an overview of the library as a facility, as well as the services provided for both students and the staff. For example, the well-being of the library visitors have been promoted in the design of the building by providing a variety of spaces for different needs, including rooms for quiet work, breaks and rest. Although the information services provided by the library rely on ICTs, physical books are still a visible part of the space, and the building itself is actively used by students for individual and group work.

The training included discussing the themes of digital well-being and the role of AI in education together with the personnel from the Faculty of Information Technology. Both topics have become increasingly important within the higher education context, especially during the recent years. Dr. Saana Mehtälä provided an introduction to the term '*technostress*' (= stress related to technology use), as well as its implications to individuals' leisure and work time. The participants had the opportunity to reflect on their own stressful experiences with ICT use, as well as the strategies to address the various challenges that arise in their everyday life. Together with Dr. Kati Clements, doctoral researcher Antti Ruonala gave a presentation on embracing the educational possibilities of AI, including practical exercises that helped the

participants see what can be done using modern AI software. Finally, our collaborators in the Finnish Institute for Educational Research provided the participants with information about the Innovative Learning Environments (ILE) network and their projects related to education and technology.

A central part of the training in Finland were the sessions organized by the Open Science Center (OSC). The first session was provided by the service manager Arto Ikonen, who discussed the structure and the functions of OSC. This was followed by presentations from the OSC information specialists Sanna Toivola and Anna Salmi, focusing on the topics of open access publishing and research data management services. It was established that the OSC has been actively promoting open science for more than 10 years, and their OA services follow the university's publishing policy. Online repositories and systems related publishing were also introduced, including the university's digital repository *JYX* and the *Converis* research information system.

The university library's discovery service *JYKDOK* is based on the *Finna.fi* search service, but has been modified to suit the needs of the university. JYU is also part of the Finnish National Electronic Library (FinELib) which negotiates agreements with publishers. In relation to research data management services, it was established that there are various data management requirements that relate to legislation, funding, organizational policies and how individuals carry out their day-to-day tasks. For example, metadata management is an increasingly important topic in open science, requiring collaboration on different levels of the organization. Thus, in JYX, it is possible for researchers to provide the metadata related to their datasets as well.

Conclusions

The training in Finland was viewed as very useful for the Azerbaijani participants, including a structured program and engaging educational materials. The Turkish, Finnish and Italian partners also had the opportunity to reflect the differences and similarities in the practices used in all three institutions, and could evaluate the significance of specific organizational processes and the features of the online repositories. In general, the training provided the participants with a snapshot of the Finnish culture and education system, focusing on the characteristics of the higher education context and, specifically, the practical activities carried out at the University of Jyväskylä. Thus, the study tour addressed the key elements of the DIRNA project, focusing on the topics of open access and institutional repositories, and shedding light on themes that are central for modern ICT use in higher education.

Outcomes and Best Practices of the Study Tour in Finland

- Participants' increased understanding of...
 - The role of ICT in supporting research and teaching processes in University of Jyväskylä
 - Institutional practices related to open access publishing
 - Practical functioning of specific institutional open access repositories and research information systems/search services (JYX, Converis, JYKDOK)
- Participants' awareness of the Finnish higher education context and how open access publishing is promoted and supported on different levels of the institution
- Active participation to discussions and practical exercises to connect the topics discussed to the participants' own life
- Exchange of idea between Azerbaijani, Finnish, Turkish and Italian partners to solidify understanding of OA publishing and OAIRs





