

## PICASP Legacy

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The challenge that PICASP project has been called to face has been specifically to find a way for the valorization of such a great Cultural Heritage, which is almost unknown in Europe. Therefore the project started soon with a survey, during all the first year, of the existing courses in Cultural Heritage, Cultural Tourism and Management of Tourism, in order to understand how to implement in the young generations the knowledge as well as the proudness of ‘their heritage’.

The survey of the existing courses has been done mainly by Polish, Azerbaijani (ATMU) and Kazakhstani (UIB) partners within the WP1. The information has then been implemented with suggestions and advice from all the partners. This work package has been the most difficult, not only because it was the start of the project, but because it has been developed completely during covid pandemic situation and therefore all through online meetings. (Fig.1)

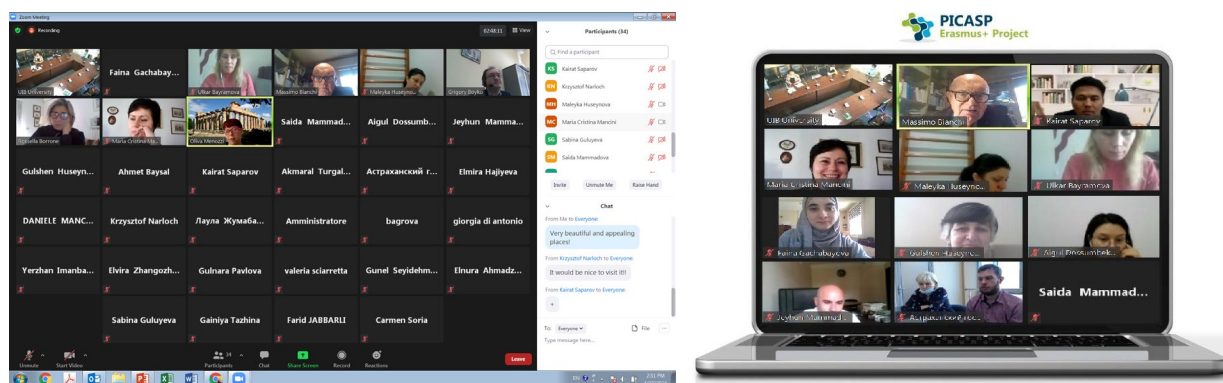


Fig.1 Picasp Meeting Online during Covid 19

The local universities, in both countries, have been fundamental, in the following two years, to implement courses of different typologies in these fields of interest. These activities have been developed within WP2, which has been a very ‘choral work package’, and all the courses have been adapted to the specific needs of every Caspian partner. Both in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan the local universities, which have been involved in PICASP project, have implemented and even introduced ex novo long term courses, as BA and Masters, and also short intensive open source courses, as the

numerous MOOC courses. These courses are presented in the following section (section 2-Results of the Caspian Partners) of this volume, offering also the possibility to use the links to access to each item directly and understand their great value and their use. (Fig.2)

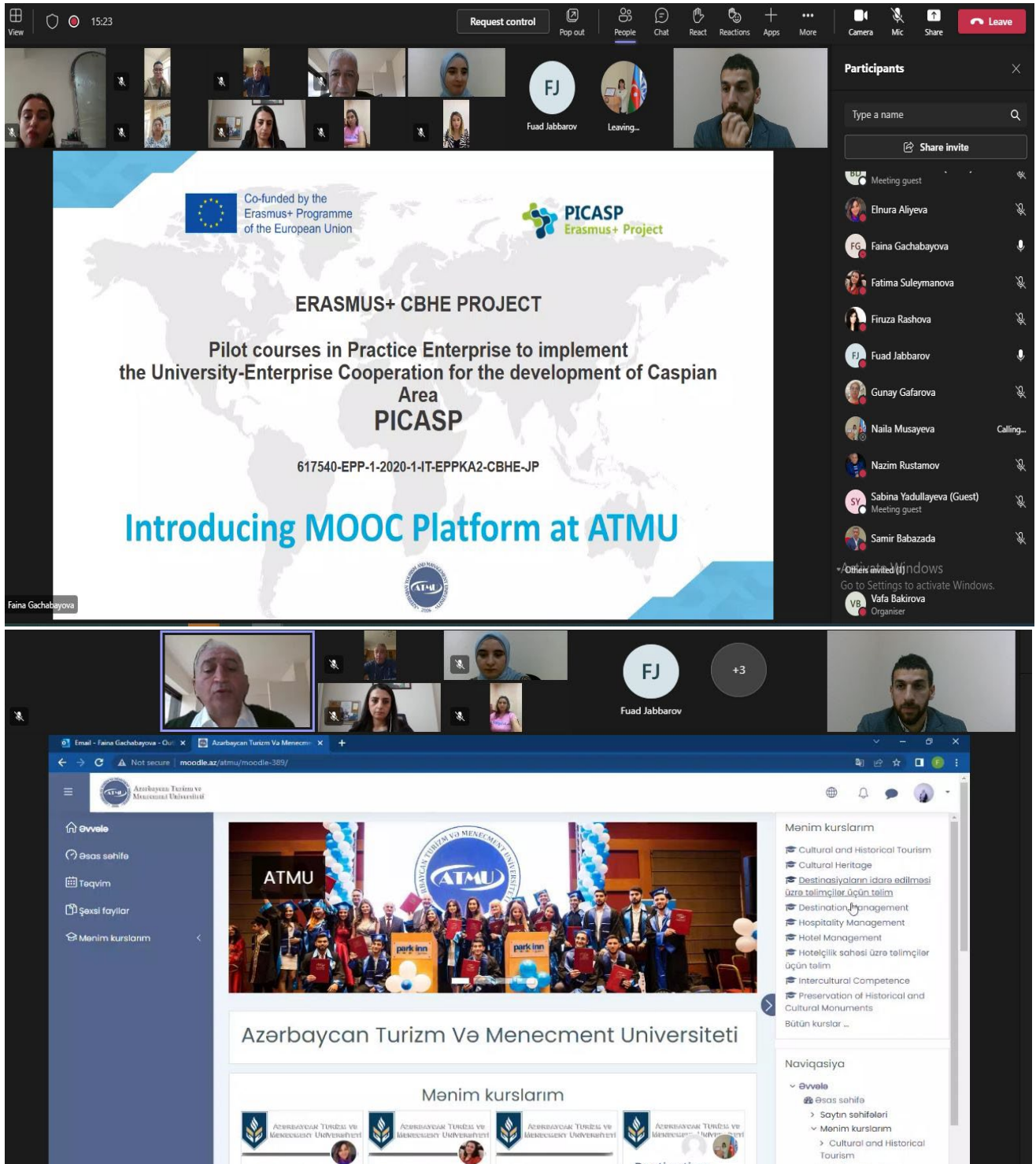


Fig.2 MOOC Courses Presentation

Moreover, within PICASP, for University students also practical laboratories in PE (Practical Enterprise) have been organised, in order to offer the possibility of a training in action, following the methodology of learning by doing. These projects of the students, during the last year of PICASP, have been analysed and several interesting projects have been selected to be presented to PICASP members during the final events in Kazakhstan (in November 2024) and in Azerbaijan (in December 2024) and then to be published as presentations in this volume (see the Section 2-(section 2-Results of the Caspian Partners, Students Presentations, which are presented by country and by university). The students have done a great job and have contributed enormously in creating touristic tracks for their regions, as well as in arising the curiosity for these countries. The choice in this volume to use the original presentations of scholars and students, in combination with the reports, has been taken to show as much materials as possible and also to use directly the materials used throughout the project and arranged as every student and scholar has planned, without any external intervention. (Fig.3)





Fig.3 Students Presentation

Together with the Universities, also MIRAS association has been fundamental for the development of practical training in Cultural Heritage, as well as for developing agreements in the form of memorandum to be signed with Caspian Universities. The memorandum aims to foster the development of scientific and practical knowledge

among university students and to implement projects promoting social responsibility. (Fig.4)

Thanks to these examples of memorandum, further agreements can be signed in future by MIRAS, which opened this way, and with other associations and institutions. Moreover, the agreements already existing between MIRAS and universities are now a practical base for further future collaborations in field work contributing to the sensitization of students and in the arising the local awareness and proudness for heritage, both cultural and natural. (Fig.5)



Fig.4 Archaeological expedition to the Zargarpalan Hamam (bathhouse) Atmu University e Khazar University



Fig.5 Khazar University's Rector, Assoc. Prof. Irada Khalilova, the chairman of the social organization's board, Fariz Khalilli signed Memorandum

The intent of this volume is specifically to present the results of the Caspian partners and the scientific audit (see in this volume section 3- Scientific Audits) concerning presentations and organisation during the two final events in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

Therefore PICASP is now concluding its 'life of European project, but is leaving an important and huge legacy to Caspian universities, students, schools and even tourists. The idea now is to continue with future applications and projects with this consortium, but in any case what has been done has already opened new roads to follow for the Caspian partners, as well as new practices and protocols, which can now be applied variously. Moreover, the intent to arise curiosity in Europe toward Caspian Cultural Heritage and Cultural Tourism has been another important goal of the project, which can be promoted also through these three volumes.