

### **Track 3: Intercultural Dialogue in a Changing World**

#### **SPACE students right on time! Intercultural Comparative Study on Time Management Perceptions**

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This study represents a virtual intercultural communication project within the SPACE network, between four institutional members: Constantin Brancoveanu University from Pitesti - Romania, Polytechnical Institute of Porto (ISCAP) - Portugal, Vilnius Law and Business College - Lithuania and Innsbruck University (School of Business) - Austria. The study interviewed 150 students/master students from each of the four participating European universities on the topic of time management. It was conducted following the assumption that perceptions and representations over time management vary highly due to social and cultural factors. The results showed there are significant differences regarding both the attitude towards managing time and the time spent for activities that go into a day and the different career preparation activities that respondents chose. Romanian students spend a great amount of time for their jobs or looking for a job. Also, they think career preparation activities mean almost exclusively experiences given by having a job and not by taking an internship or attending additional classes/modules. Portuguese students spend most of their time attending classes and studying individually. They prepare for their career by attending additional classes/modules and are the least interested in searching for a job and going to job interviews. They differentiate from the other students as they spend a lot of time shopping, socializing and with their families. Lithuanian students spend the greatest amount of time doing internships and consulting professional networks. They can be considered 'champions' of watching TV, working on the computer and text messaging, activities which they prefer to attending classes and studying individually. Austrian students spend most of their time (in a day's frame) going to the university and studying as well as spending time on the computer and with their friends, watching TV and doing sports. Career preparation holds a medium to a high importance and mainly means attending additional classes/modules and internships. Finally, the study compares these results to the socio-cultural variables described by SPACE's Country Profiles and opens the way for universities and higher education institutions to a future analysis of the connection between student time management and different cultural patterns.

**Friday 8 October 9:00 – 10:30**