

## **Agenda: LBS2ITS Panel Discussion**

**Date:** December 04, 2024

**Time:** 12.10 – 12.50

---

**Moderator:** Prof. H.R. Pasindu, University of Moratuwa

### **Panelists**

1. **Mr. M.K.G.S.P.K. Jayasekara**  
Director General (Planning) of the Higher Education Division
2. **Prof. Hans Neuner**  
Head - Engineering Geodesy, Technische Universitaet Wien, Austria
3. **Prof. Vassilis Gikas**  
Professor, National Technical University of Athens, Greece
4. **Prof. Udo Becker**  
Senior Professor, Technical University of Dresden, Germany [Online]

### **12.10 – 12. 25 : Round 1: Long-Term Sustainability**

**Focus: Exploring strategies to ensure the project's impact goes beyond its duration.**

#### **Questions for Panelists:**

1. **Prof. Vassilis Gikas (NTUA, Greece):**
  - Based on your experience, what role can EU universities play in mentoring Sri Lankan universities to develop proposals to EU grants such as Erasmus+, How to find EU Partner Universities?
2. **Mr. M.K.G.S.P.K. Jayasekara (Ministry of Higher Education):**
  - How can the Ministry work with Sri Lankan foreign missions to network with EU universities for potential collaborations? Could this include presentations on Sri Lankan universities' capabilities and linking them through the UGC, NRC, or NSF to expedite partnerships?
3. **Prof. Hans Neuner (TUW, Austria):**
  - What mechanisms can be adopted to maintain strong collaborations between Sri Lankan and EU universities post-project, particularly in research and innovation and developing proposal to obtain grants?
4. **Prof. Udo Becker (TUD, Germany) [Online]:**
  - How can joint degree / short course, student exchanges, and co-organized international conferences help sustain the momentum and build global visibility for LBS2ITS outcomes?

---

### **12. 25 – 12. 30 : Round 2: Addressing Procurement and Visa Challenges**

**Focus: Practical solutions to streamline processes and facilitate collaboration.**

#### **Questions for Panelists:**

1. **Mr. M.K.G.S.P.K. Jayasekara (Ministry of Higher Education):**
  - Could there be greater flexibility in procurement procedures for foreign funds (such as Erasmus+) grants to mitigate delays, reduce inflated costs, and address challenges in purchasing equipment and air tickets?
  - What steps can the Ministry take to address delays in Schengen visa processing for Sri Lankan academics under Erasmus+ programs? Could a ministry-level intervention reduce uncertainty and expedite approvals?
2. **Prof. Vassilis Gikas (NTUA, Greece):**
  - From your perspective, how can EU institutions and Sri Lankan counterparts collaborate to mitigate visa challenges for academic exchanges?
  - What examples of flexible procurement practices and effective method of purchasing equipments have you seen that could inspire solutions for Erasmus+ projects in Sri Lanka?

### **12.30 – 12.40 : Round 3: Industry Engagement and Open Discussion**

**Focus: Engaging industrial partners to scale and sustain project outcomes.**

**Questions for Industrial Partners (Audience):** (Volunterly audiene can ask question or give comment based on following)

1. How can your organization contribute to the ongoing adoption and use of LBS tools, technologies, and learning materials developed through LBS2ITS?
2. What initiatives can ensure the long-term relevance and impact of LBS2ITS project outcomes?
3. How can industries collaborate with universities through joint research, knowledge-sharing platforms, or innovative models to address real-world challenges?

### **12.40 – 12.45 : Panelist Responses (1 Minute Each):**

- **Mr. M.K.G.S.P.K. Jayasekara**
- **Prof. Hans Neuner**
- **Prof. Vassilis Gikas**
- **Prof. Udo Becker**

---

### **12.45 – 12.50 : Conclusion**

By **Moderator: Prof. H.R. Pasindu**

#### **Join Zoom Meeting Link**

<https://learn.zoom.us/j/91736622913?pwd=SBNBEgynWZirholpdnWp7hamUNTMvI.1>

**Meeting ID: 917 3662 2913**

**Passcode: 17s#JjZB**