



## Erasmus+

### ForHeal project kicked-off in Vientiane

The ForHeal project was kicked-off in Vientiane on Monday, November 20, 2017. First, the European partners met and to tweak the last kinks in the project and discussed the way to approach the proposed actions in an efficient manner. In the afternoon, all partners met at the campus of the National University of Laos, and devised an implementation plan and issues that could arise during implementation for the respective higher education institutions (HEI) pairs. Each Lao HEI has a distinctive goal in the project, as they were at a different step on the way towards a forestry Master of Sciences study program. Thus, each of the European partners had to tailor their advice and recommendations to the needs of the Lao partner they were teamed up with. Even so, the kick-off provided a good common ground towards improving the state of Lao higher education.



### University graduate profile defined by Lao forestry professionals

On Tuesday, November 21, 2017, all project partners met with multiple stakeholders in Laos to discuss and workshop the desired forestry MSc. graduate profile. Stakeholders of all trades were present at the workshop, be it participants from forestry enterprises, NGOs, government bodies, and others. After a plenary session, where the project was introduced to the participants, these were divided into groups, where they could work on the skills and competences they expect to see in a graduate of a forestry MSc. study program. The participants identified both hard and soft skills of the graduates need to be improved to make them truly desirable on the job market.



### Lao partner universities visited by European partners

After the common workshop ended, the European partners visited their respective Lao partners. There, the workshops continued in a more focused manner, giving a more audible voice to the local employers in what they would like to see in forestry MSc. graduates. More on the needs identified by each European partner in the next newsletter.