



Dragana Cvetkovic Ilic <rewbcuni@gmail.com>

561586- Feedback from the Monitoring Visit in RS April 2017

3 messages

Belen.ENCISO@ec.europa.eu <Belen.ENCISO@ec.europa.eu>

Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 4:38 PM

To: rewbcuni@gmail.com

Cc: EACEA-EPLUS-CBHE-PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu, neo_serbia@erasmusplus.rs

Dear Ms Cvetkovic Ilic,

As part of our on-going monitoring of Erasmus+ activities in the Western Balkan region, the following monitoring visits of your above mentioned project took place on 19 April 2017 at the University of Nis.

Representatives of the National Erasmus+ Office in Serbia had the pleasure of visiting you at your Serbian partners at the University of Nis and of discussing the progress of the project activities with your team and with representatives of your partner institutions.

First of all we would like to thank all the participants in this meeting for the time they devoted to the discussions and for having provided updated information on the start of the project and on the progress that is being made towards the achievement of the project objectives.

The monitoring visit in Serbia confirmed the results of the Interim Report assessment. The project activities are generally being implemented according to the original plan and the main outputs foreseen for the first half of the project have been achieved. There are however significant delays identified at two partner higher education institutions (the University of Belgrade -UB and University of Montenegro-UOM). However, the University of Belgrade team expressed readiness to intensify the implementation of the project activities and produce all the outputs envisaged in the project application.

The monitoring team noted a clear link between preparatory and implementation activities. The quality of reports produced within the preparatory work packages seems to be at the acceptable level, although they could have provided more detailed information on obstacles in implementation the Human Resource Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R) and respective action plans. Having one partner (University of Kragujevac - UNIKG) being awarded with the HR Excellence in Research Label (HRERL) and three partners being in the process of amending the submitted documents, the project's relevance and impact remain at high level even more so considering the number of researchers trained within the project. The project management seems to be efficient and based on democratic procedures and the financial management running smoothly.

Following recommendations are to be taken into consideration for the second implementation phase of your project:

- The project must respect the visibility requirements, and ensure that all project outputs available on the project website contain the Erasmus+ logo and disclaimer.
- As significant delays in the implementation of the project activities have been measured at the University of Belgrade (UB) and the University of Montenegro (UOM) the project coordinator should ensure that the UOM and UB receive all the support needed for the implementation of the activities. The UNI also needs to keep track on the UOM's spending of the unit costs bearing in mind that many of the UOM's activities are delayed.

- As the University of Nis (UNI) already holds the HR Excellence in Research Label the UNI activities should be focused on utilising the project resources for the implementation of the Human Resource Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R) and respective action plans.
- The equipment purchased must be clearly connected with the project objectives. Particularly, the project partners who opted not to equip the HRD centres should ensure that the final project report explains the connection between installed equipment and the project objectives.
- Having identified that implementation of HR strategies is questionable at most partner HEIs within the Final Report on the Work of the Universities Centres and HR offices at WBU, the project consortium should identify obstacles to each partner HEI and propose measures to overcome them. Provided that the consortium opts for defining joint minimum standards for all participating HEIs, those standards should be formulated as soon as possible and discussed with the management of each WB HEI.
- The project consortium should consider establishing connections with the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MESTD), National Council for Higher Education (NCHES) and Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (CAQA) in order to impact the national level advancement procedures and criteria.
- All project partners should work more intensely on the development of institutional procedures for identification of the plagiarism in PhD thesis. Additionally, a sustainable funding plan for the plagiarism software should be developed at all participating HEIs to ensure that the software will be available after the project implementation period.
- The project coordinator should ensure that only outputs resulting directly from the project activities are reported as the project outputs.
- Faced with the obstacle of achieving the set progress indicators for the number of researchers trained within the project, the project consortium should jointly develop alternate strategies on how to attract the required number of researchers. The consortium might also consider surveying researchers to explore which training topics would best fit their interests and needs. The overlap with the existing trainings and courses should be avoided.
- The project consortium should develop strategy of the internal monitoring and evaluation of the project results based on the defined progress indicators. It should also ensure that the quality reports are being produced every six months, as defined by the project application. Reports envisaged within activities 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 should also reflect on the quality assurance procedures and indicators and provide recommendations for sustaining the quality of upcoming activities.
- The monitoring activities implemented by the NEO and the EACEA should not be considered as the project activities nor reported as such.
- The project partners should intensify dissemination activities in the second half of the project, especially those aiming at promoting the HR Excellence in Research Label (HRERL) and sharing the experience in the application process. To that end, the project consortium could consider translating the most important news and outputs from English in order to make it accessible to wider public and develop guidelines that would be of use to HEIs applying for the HRERL.
- The Dissemination and Exploitation Plan (D&EP) updated with planned activities for the second half of the project should also comply with the visibility standards defined by the Grant Agreement and the Erasmus+ Programme Guide. The sustainability of the project results should most significantly detail fading strategies for plagiarism software and awards for researchers.

Please ensure the dissemination of this feedback to your project partners and do not hesitate to contact the me or the National Erasmus+ Office in Serbia

We wish you a successful continuation of your activities.

BELÉN ENCISO

Project Officer

**European Commission****Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)***Managing programmes and activities on behalf of the European Commission*

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Dragana Cvetkovic Ilic <rewbcuni@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 9:06 PM

To: Vladimir Pavlovic <vlada@pmf.ni.ac.rs>

Dear Belen,

zahvaljujem se na feedback sa Monitoring posete u RS koji ce biti prosledjen svim partnerima. Sve sugestije i primedbe cemo se truditi da implementiramo u daljoj realiyaciji projekta.

Srdacan poydrav, Dragana

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Vladimir Pavlovic <vlada@pmf.ni.ac.rs>

Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 1:36 PM

To: Dragana Cvetkovic Ilic <rewbcuni@gmail.com>

Dear Belen,

Your feedback from the monitoring visit to RS is very much appreciated and it will be forwarded to all the partners. We will do our best to have all the suggestions or remarks implemented in the further realization of the project.

Best regards, Dragana

From: "Dragana Cvetkovic Ilic" <rewbcuni@gmail.com>**To:** "Vladimir Pavlovic" <vlada@pmf.ni.ac.rs>**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017 9:06:38 PM**Subject:** Fwd: 561586- Feedback from the Monitoring Visit in RS April 2017

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