**Report on the current situation of the ethics committee at University of Belgrade**

### 1. Introduction

The main standards and principles necessary to establish the high level of ethics at University of Belgrade are regulated by legal framework in line with Law on Higher Education of Republic of Serbia. The core bylaws which regulate the rights, duties, organization and functioning of established ethics bodies are defined by Regulations of the University of Belgrade. The ethics implementation at University of Belgrade is supported and governed by series of bylaws: *The Statute of University of Belgrade, The Regulation of Ethical Committee, The Code of Professional Ethics, and The Regulations for determining the nonacademic behavior in preparation of written works.*

### 2. National legal framework in the partner country

From the year 2000 higher education institutions in Serbia became involved in the European trends of reforms and harmonization in the field of higher education known as Bologna process. Considerable reformatory activities have been launched since Serbia signed Bologna declaration in September 2003 and the last changes of the legislation on the higher education were adopted in October 2016. In accordance with the Bologna process, Serbia has undertaken a series of reforms aimed at improving the quality of higher education and enhancing its international competitiveness. These reforms include the introduction of a new higher education system, the establishment of a new accreditation system, and the implementation of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The reforms have been implemented in line with the principles of the Bologna process, which aims to create a harmonized and flexible higher education system across Europe.
with The Law on Higher Education of Republic of Serbia, the professional body of each independent higher education institution has to adopt a Code of Professional Ethics. The Code of Professional Ethics (The Law on Higher Education of Republic of Serbia, Article 55) defines ethical principles governing higher education; publication of scientific results; attitude towards intellectual property; relations between teachers and associates, other employees and students; acts of a higher education institution and teachers, associates and students in legal transactions, and in the attitude towards the public and the media.

3. Bodies responsible for ethics at your university

The Board for Professional Ethics is established and it operates based on the article 57, Statute of the University of Belgrade. The members of the Board are elected by the Senate, based on the Rector’s proposal. The obligations of the board are directed toward implementation of the procedure for identifying violations of the Professional Ethics Code.

For the purpose of maintaining the dignity of the University and further developing moral values of the academic community and according to the Law on Higher Education and the Statute of the University of Belgrade the Professional Ethics Committee has been established.

The Professional Ethics Committee makes sure that the Code of Ethics is being honored by teachers, associates and students of the University. The Code of Ethics is passed by the University Council at the proposal of the Professional Ethics Committee. The Council also adopts the Professional Ethics Committee Book of Rules, which closely defines the composition and the function of the Committee.

The Committee has nine members. Each Faculty Group, as well as student representatives and founders, are represented in the Committee. Members’ term of office is three years, except for the student representatives, whose term of office is one year.

4. Institution’s own legal framework

The Statute of the University of Belgrade defines the following: the structural organisation, activities and operation of Belgrade University (hereinafter referred to as: the University), the status of higher education institutions operating within it, the structure, authorities and method of decision-making in the university bodies and entities, establishment and undertaking of university studies, the status of teaching staff, associates and other university employees, the status of students, scientific and development research, as well as other issues relevant for the University (The Statute of the University of Belgrade, Article1). In accordance with The Law on Higher Education of Republic of Serbia and Statute, the University of Belgrade has adopted the following bylaws to improve the ethics implementation: Regulations of Ethical Committee, The Code of Professional Ethics, and The Regulations for determining the nonacademic behavior in preparation of written works (Please find the documents attached).