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at 3:19 PM

To: anetaspaic@gmail.com

Cc: neo@ac.me, EACEA-EPLUS-CBHE-PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu

Dear Mrs SPAIC,

As part of our on-going monitoring of Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education activities in the Partner Countries, a field monitoring visit took place at the faculty of law at University of Montenegro on 08 November 2017.

Mrs Vanja Drljević and Mr Ranko Lazović from the National Erasmus+ Office in Montenegro, met and discussed the progress of activities with you, CBHE project coordinator and local representatives of the project; academic and administrative representatives of the universities, in particular Vice Rectors, Heads of department of the Montenegrin institution.

We would like to thank all representatives for the time they devoted to the discussions and for having provided updated information on the progress that is being made towards the achievement of the project objectives.

Please find below the outcomes of the visit:

Implementation of the project is following the dynamic of the project, the way it was foreseen in the application. Despite some minor delay, at the very beginning of the project, the project is being realized in accordance with the plan.

Multilateral partnership agreements are signed, and transfer of funds is regular.

The core of the project relates to the modernization of study programme at Law faculty. Since the process of reaccreditation was done before the beginning of the project, no new accreditation of the programme is foreseen, but revision and upgrade of the already existing curricula. Yet, reform of curricula needs to remain in the focus of the project.

The project seems to be well institutionalized, at both faculty and university level. The project team has been established at the University of Montenegro (UoM), taking into account that as many participants as possible should be involved in the project realization, which is quite reassuring. Non-academic partners are an added value, their role in the realization of activities, and dissemination should be stronger, and not limited to the activities strictly foreseen by the project.

One of major project activities is focused on the capacity building of teaching staff at the Faculty of Law, thus raising the level of quality of legal profession in general; training of academic staff has started and will continue in the second and the third project year. Three study visits have already taken place at EU partner universities, being combined with academic staff training. However, there is discrepancy in the interest for study visit at certain EU partners.

The tendering procedure for purchase of equipment has been conducted and all planned equipment (hardware, databases and literature) has been purchased and installed.

Web page of the project has been created and contains all project related information, all the documents produced, and all activities to be performed. However, web page is linked neither to Faculty nor to the University web page.

Dissemination of the project started with the kick-off meeting. Article has been published at the University web site, and in media on the occasion. Articles on the project were published in various daily newspapers, which is positive, enabling wider audience hear about the project

future benefits for the society. However, at the web page of UoM, article published omitted mentioning of curricula reform to be performed within the project, limiting the project more to technical issues, such as equipment etc,

When publishing project related information, UoM should take care to report on the project adequately, and that content contains relevant and correct information on the project itself.

Based on the above mentioned, the following recommendations are proposed:

It is quite reassuring that many teaching staff, both younger and older staff, are involved in the project activities. It is also positive that activities are timely. As regards training in EU countries, balanced participation of teaching staff should be enhanced. For Montenegrin context, former Yugoslav countries are additional value of the project, given that education system background is very similar, and still these countries have experience as EU member states, so their experience should be used as much as possible.

Non-academic partners from Montenegro should be more involved in the project. Managers of these institutions should be also invited to the meetings, so as to be sure that the project is understood correctly, and that practice of EU countries could be used, and trainings opportunities, and cooperation modalities between university and business sector becomes reality and common issue, especially important for legal profession. Presence of non-academic partners is well appreciated. However, more substantial role of non-academic partners and pro-active approach is needed.

Although not officially included into the project consortium Ministry of European Affairs, as well as Ministry of Justice is important to be on board during the project implementation phase, especially in the period to come, and especially in dissemination activities of the project. Law faculty has already involved Ministry of European Affairs in some of local activities, which is well appreciated.

Given the strong international character of the project and the high quality partnership, it is recommended to encourage students to exploit mobility opportunities (in particular International Credit Mobility).

Web page of the project should be linked to web page of the University of Montenegro

We would kindly ask you to actively follow these recommendations during the implementation of the project and to provide us with information on how you have followed these issues in your Progress Report.

Please ensure the circulation of this feedback to all your partners.

We wish you a successful continuation of your activities.

Giulia MORO
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European Commission
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Erasmus+: Higher Education – International Capacity Building (Unit A4)

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