



Modernization and harmonization of Tourism study programs in Serbia

544543-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-1-RS-TEMPUS-JPCR

<p>Work package 6</p>	<p>QPLN 6.3</p> <p>Monitoring visits by externally appointed peer review and representatives of TEMPUS office</p>
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Report on Monitoring visits by externally appointed peer review and representatives of TEMPUS office

On September 9th, 2015, professor Mihalis Koniordos, PhD from Piraeus University of Applied Sciences (former name Technological Education Institute of Piraeus), paid a visit to Higher Business School of Professional Studies in Leskovac. Professor Koniordos acts as an external auditor on TEMPUS project Modernization and harmonization of Tourism study programs in Serbia *544543-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-1-RS-TEMPUS-JPCR*.

The aims of prof. Koniordos's visit were the following:

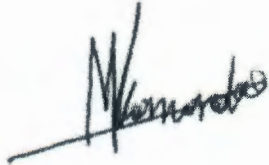
- Familiarization with HBSL management, teaching and non-teaching staff;
- Familiarization with the HBSL's team responsible for project implementation, their tasks and duties in the course of project's realization;
- Discussion on the dynamics of project implementation and willingness of HBSL's management to support the project team when necessary;
- Evaluation of HBSL's study programs accredited in the course of the project (undergraduate vocational studies – Tourism and hospitality; Management of food technology and gastronomy and postgraduate vocational studies – Business economy and management);
- Familiarization with the School's quality control system;
- Identification of possible obstacles and offering recommendations for preventive corrective measures.

During my visit to Higher Business School of Professional Studies in Leskovac, I had the opportunity to meet the School's management. Talking with them, I gained an impression that the TEMPUS project MHTSPS 544543, is extremely important for them and that it is the School's top priority. School's management, whose head is Professor Milena Marjanovic, PhD, fully understands the obligations that the School has on the project. Moreover, they showed interest in participating in other similar projects. HBSL, as one of the biggest higher education institution of vocational studies in this part of Serbia, has an important role. Besides its educational influence and importance, this institution is important for the economic development of the region through the implementation of several projects in cooperation with the public and private sector.

This project, together with the outcomes of accredited study programs (undergraduate vocational studies – Tourism and hospitality and Management of food technology and gastronomy and postgraduate vocational studies – Business economy and management), can be considered a developmental project in the area of management of tourism destinations and gastronomy tourism. In relation to this, not only HBSL but numerous business entities (tourism enterprises) have shown great interest in the project outcomes. This interest for the project has led to a cooperation of these business entities with HBSL on the realization of project activities. After talking with HBSL management team, I had the opportunity to meet HBSL's project team. My first impression was that, HBSL's project team, with Dragan Stojanovic as its coordinator, is extremely well organized. By analyzing the structure and number of HBSL staff members involved in the project realization, I came to a conclusion that the project tasks are well distributed and that the coordinator shows great knowledge in project team management.

The very good cooperation with the HBSL's project team and Prof. Dragan Stojanovic offered me the motivation to extend the cooperation with them via Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (E+ ICM)".

All information on the external editor's visit to HBSL (Serbian and English version) can be found on the project page (part of HBSL's official web site).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Koniordos', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Koniordos
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