

Subject: **544543-TEMPUS-1-2013-RS-TEMPUS-JPCR (feedback from monitoring visit in March 2014)**

From: Antonella.GIORGIO@ec.europa.eu

To: milutin.djuricic@vpts.edu.rs

Cc: projects@tempus.ac.rs

Dear Prof Djuricic,

As part of our on-going monitoring of Tempus activities in Serbia, a monitoring visit of your above mentioned project took place on 20 March 2014 at the Business and Technical College of Applied Studies in Uzice. Representatives of our local Erasmus+ Office had the pleasure of visiting your institution and discussing the progress of project activities with you and other partners' representatives.

First of all we would like to thank the Serbian project 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.

We can conclude from the visit that the project "Modernization and harmonization of Tourism study programs in Serbia" remains highly relevant in the current Serbian context where the importance of tourism development is high in the strategic planning agenda. The project is moving ahead towards the defined objectives and the first project activities have been carried out according to the schedule. In this respect it is good to read that the analysis of current study programs in Serbia has already been completed and adopted by the Steering Committee and that the market analysis of present needs for qualified workers in Serbia as well as the report on current valid EU practices are advancing as scheduled. The pertinence of the student feedback for these reports should not be underestimated and therefore we invite you to liaise with the relevant student representatives bodies in order to include their opinion in these analysis.

The monitoring team reported appropriate quality control procedures and project management structures. We are particularly pleased to learn that a Financial Project Management Manual has been developed for the use of the consortium. Also, the Serbian partners highlighted the sound and efficient communication within the consortium. In particular, positive feedback was received in what concerns the project coordination and the cooperation with the European partners.

We note positively that the project team has decided to reschedule the purchasing of the equipment to an earlier moment. We note as well that the project give much attention to dissemination issues and we are pleased to see that several activities have been carried out in this field, including awareness raising activities about the importance of tourism and tourism education and the development of a project website with pertinent information on the topic.

It would seem that the project has experienced some difficulties involving the Tourist Organisation Leskovac in the project activities. We would like to encourage the consortium to try to adjust the role and participation of this partner in the project and to reflect upon the opportunity to replace it by a new partner that could eventually take over the role and responsibilities allocated originally to the Tourist Organisation Leskovac.

An additional difficulty identified by the monitoring team concerns the decision on the degree of modernization that the first cycle study programmes should undergo and the potential risk of internal

factors influencing the accreditation process. We would like to recommend you to base the decision on the degree of modernization that the curricula should undergo on the results of the comparative analysis with existing EU benchmark standards, the Serbian labour market feedback, the student feedback and any other relevant official strategic documents in the area of tourism adopted at the state level. In this respect, we would warmly like to encourage you to go ahead with the modernization of the 6 study programmes according to the labour market needs and learning objectives and their (re)accreditation, as foreseen in the project application.

Furthermore, and in relation to the above, we would like to recommend that each of the Serbian higher education institutions develops and implements a dissemination plan aiming at raising awareness among its teaching and administrative staff (different departments and colleges) about the project goals, the planned results and its benefits for the institution as a whole.

Finally, as regards sustainability, the project will need to adopt concrete plans to ensure the sustainability of the project results. Besides accreditation of the study programmes, one important element for the attractiveness and sustainability of vocational study programmes is the adoption of adequate models of student internship programmes. Long-term cooperation with representatives of the labour market in the tourism sector should be sought and officialised into agreements for internships and opportunity of employments in the future. We would like to recommend you to seek for non-academic partners' and Alumni students' opinion from the very outset of this cooperation.

Please ensure the dissemination of this feedback to your project partners and do not hesitate to contact us or the National Erasmus+ Office in Serbia in case you need any further clarifications. We also kindly ask you to inform us in your intermediate report on how you have followed up these recommendations.

We wish you a successful continuation of your activities.

Best regards,

Antonella Giorgio
Project Officer

[cid:image001.png@01CF76A0.85F40340]
European Commission
Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)
Managing programmes and activities on behalf of the European Commission.
Erasmus+: Higher Education – International Capacity Building (Unit A4)
BOUR 02/11
Office Address: Rue Colonel Bourg, 135-139, B-1140 Brussels
Postal Address: Avenue du Bourget, No.1-1140, B-1149 Brussels
B-1140 Brussels/Belgium
Tel: +32 229 93218
Fax: +32 229 94530
E-mail: antonella.giorgio@ec.europa.eu
<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu><<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/>>]