



511044-2010 (feedback from monitoring visit on 19/04/2011)

Dear Prof. Antonijevic,

As part of our ongoing monitoring of Tempus activities in Serbia, a field monitoring visit took place on the 19th of April 2011 at the Faculty of Chemistry, University of Belgrade. Marija Filipovic-Ozegovic and Sofija Dukic of the Serbian National Tempus Office met and discussed the progress of activities with the local project representatives.

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

The visit confirms that the project management structure is functioning well. The teams of teachers are proceeding with first activities and each of the institutions from Serbia is aware of its share of activities thanks to good communication flows with the coordinator. Institutions are represented by its top management and conditions seem to be in place for securing sustainable results, once they are achieved.

Even if the consortium is aware of the workplan and try to respect it, a delay has been noticed with initial activities in DEV package 1 aimed at setting benchmarks for the master programmes in Chemistry and related fields (act.1.2). However the participants seem to be aware of it and they are making efforts to finalize activities by June 2011, knowing that further activities will depend of the quality of achievement of the DEV package 1.

It appears that during these first months the project made impact mainly on the departmental and faculty level, focusing on teaching staff. The involvement of student representatives and representatives of non-academic partners -potential employers of Chemistry graduates, has been almost non-existent in the course of the activities so far, which may lead to a conclusion that project is too much academic-centred, which a remaining legacy of the previous period.

The project has a good potential on improvement of cooperation with industry and the way continuous courses are done. This would be dependent on how (if) industry representatives are involved in curricula design.

Following the visit findings, we would like to make the following recommendation and kindly ask you to take them on board during the next implementation of the project:

- Project partners in Serbia may find it useful to discuss with the coordinator, once again, the appropriate prioritization of project objectives as there is a need to understand better the importance of defining, at the outset, learning outcomes and competences for all master programmes in line with best EU practice (not only Environmental Chemistry one);
- Project partners should make every effort to proceed with finalisation of activities in DEV package 1 meant for establishing and adoption of recognized national benchmarks for Chemistry related Master programmes;
- Representatives of all Chemistry chairs/departments should be involved into study visits to the EU partners that are planned in 2011 (not only those representing Environmental Chemistry); Participation of university academics from different chemistry departments should

be better balanced. These departments should be given a chance to get actively involved into the project; so far only the representatives of environmental chemistry departments are involved and listed as key persons;

- Workshops following the study visits should be organized in a way to gather a good number of teaching staff at Master programmes; they should be instructive, providing practical advices on how to define learning outcomes in line with the established benchmarks;
- Changes should be introduced in the work-plan (due to initial delays), primarily concerning the time for (re)accreditation of new programmes and enrolment of students;
- Representatives of the non-academic partners and students need to be involved in teams for benchmarking curricula process; only in such way the academic, employer and professional networks can jointly guide further project development;
- Students and non-academic partners may also comment and add to the findings of the existing master programmes analysis;
- When contacting labour market representatives and industry, the HE institutions from Serbia should seek to establish structured institutional contacts; they may involve representatives of industry into decision-making bodies at HE institutions, those in charge of designing study programmes; contacts of individual academics, no matter how successful, cannot guarantee sustainable institutional cooperation in a longer run and provision of practical placements for students;
- The consortium should find a way to improve participation of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial planning who can also assist in finding practical placement for students or mediate in contacts with employers.
- Project web-page should be updated and all relevant materials produced through the projects uploaded there; useful documents produced in European Chemistry Thematic network can also be uploaded so that local teaching staff can use it;
- HE institutions in Serbia should follow the example of the University of Belgrade and link the project web-page to their web-pages;
- Partners need to make a plan for promotion of project results from the very beginning among members of the teaching staff (e.g. at Faculty and University Senates) but also and in the wider public, following achievement of every concrete result;
- Mobility plan should be designed.

Please ensure the dissemination of this feedback to your project partners and do not hesitate to contact us or the National Tempus Office in Belgrade in case further information is needed.

We wish you a successful continuation of your activities.

Best regards,

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