Dear Prof Jovanovic,

As part of our on-going monitoring of Tempus activities in Serbia, a monitoring visit of your above mentioned project took place on 06/06/2014 at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Marija Filipovic-Ozegovic, Ivana Babic, Sofija Dukic from the Serbian 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 and relevant documents indicating management decisions and content related issues.

We can conclude from the visit that there is a clear institutional approach and awareness of the responsibilities undertaken and the project management structure is well established.

We take note that Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Belgrade (FVMBG) has submitted a modified curriculum for re-accreditation, whereas the Department of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Novi Sad (DVMNS) has initiated activities related to WP 1 only recently. It seems that there have been some novelties in the project environment as compared with the project application: the idea of establishing a completely new study programme in Organic Livestock Production (OLP) at the Educons University turned out not to be feasible (due to the lack of competent teaching staff) and it has been decided to introduce new modules at the 3rd and 4th year of the existing undergraduate programme in Ecological Agriculture.

Defining competences of five specialist courses (WP 2) has been delayed due to some external changes in the project environment. The activities in the WP 4 have been delayed for six months. The monitoring visits confirms that at this moment, it is not possible to predict when the national survey on veterinary profession will be undertaken. Due to these delays, it will be necessary to intensify the work in the continuation in order to catch up and finish the project within three years as planned.

We are pleased to know that the project shows good sustainability preconditions at FVMBG and DVMNS. However, Educons University will need to invest significant efforts in capacity building so as to be able to develop and implement the new module in Organic Livestock Production.

Although the project entered into the 7th month of implementation, we have been informed that the project website has not yet been activated. This, in a way, negatively affects spreading information about the project in its wider environment. It is therefore highly desirable to establish project web-site as soon as possible and to make a selection of documents available on it.

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

- FVMBG and DVMNS should take into consideration the results of the national survey on the veterinary profession when modernizing their curricula, once the survey is conducted;
- FVMBG should publish an open call for student mobility, in accordance with pre-defined criteria;
- Educons University should work on strengthening its capacities to develop and implement the new undergraduate module in Organic Livestock Production; consequently, the project team should be broadened; furthermore, it needs to be clarified in which town the teaching will be taking place;

- The project team should consider preparing a manual of good-practice examples in relevant subjects, based on inputs of those members of staff who were on study visits in the EU;

- An internal quality control group that will peer-review the outputs of the activities undertaken should be appointed;

- Project web-page should be launched as soon as possible and all relevant documents made available on it;

- University partners should start disseminating project results as soon as possible, especially through information sessions geared towards secondary school pupils;

- It would be useful to establish contact with the project 517153-2011 CONGRAD; the results of this project could be used as a good starting point during the next self-evaluation phase;

The project should consider initiating preparation of a sectorial qualification framework for veterinary profession, based on identified competences and quality standards in line with EAEV.

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

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)
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