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Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Erasmus+: Higher Education - International Capacity Building

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Ms Ivanka Popovic Univerzitet u Beogradu Studentski Trg. 1 PO Box 122 RS – 11000 Beograd

Email: <u>Ivanka.Popovic@rect.bg.ac.rs</u> predrag.stevanovic@mfub.bg.ac.rs

Subject:

585927-EPP-1-2017-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Technical Implementation Report of the project - Statement on the use of the previous pre-financing instalment

Dear Ms Popovic,

We would like to inform you and your project partners that we have carried out the assessment of your Technical Implementation Report submitted on 15 April 2019 and we are pleased to inform you that it has been approved.

Our assessment looks at the partnership's performance as regards the efficient implementation of the project. It takes into account the Technical Implementation Report but also the desk monitoring conducted by the EACEA since the start of the eligibility period and, where applicable, the field monitoring visits carried out so far. The project implementation should not only respect the CBHE requirements but it should also be in line with the original proposal included under Annex I of the Grant Agreement.

In this context and in accordance with the Grant Agreement and with the Guidelines for the Use of the Grant, your project implementation has been qualified as FAIR (please refer to the Categories of qualification below). The Comments and recommendations sheet in Annex of the letter provides more detailed feedback.

We would like to draw your attention on the fact that we have requested some additional information to be provided by <u>9 September 2019.</u>

If the information requested by the Agency is not received by the deadline set or lacks the quality and details required, the Agency may invite the project coordinator for a meeting at the Agency's premises in Brussels. The meeting's objective will be to discuss the project's weaknesses and challenges and to agree on the areas that require improvements and a close follow-up by the project coordinator.

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) Office: J-59 04/ 033- BE-1049 Brussels - Belgium

Phone: (32-2) 299.49.15 - Fax: (32-2) 299.45.30

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus_en E-mail: EACEA-EPLUS-CBHE-PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu In addition, we remind you that your project is now online on the <u>Erasmus+ Project Results Platform</u>, so as to ensure transparency and visibility of EU funding. We invite you to update your project data and to upload your project results. Please note though that these results will become publicly available only after the validation of your final report by the Agency.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your "Statement on the use of the previous pre-financing instalment" received on 15 April 2019.

We take this opportunity to remind you that in order to receive your second pre-financing instalment you will have to submit at your best convenience a "Request for Payment and Statement of the Costs incurred". Please note that the second pre-financing will be paid only if your "Statement of the Costs incurred" shows that 70% of the previous pre-financing amount has been spent.

Please note that the eligibility of the costs incurred (excel file) will only be verified at Final Report stage (art.II.24 and II.25 of the Grant Agreement). Therefore this feedback letter does not imply the approval of the costs declared in this reporting exercise.

Should you require any further information, please contact Giulia Moro (Tel: +32 2 29 51658, e-mail: Giulia.Moro@ec.europa.eu. We also encourage you to regularly consult our Erasmus+website https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/beneficiaries-space en .

Yours sincerely,

Ralf RAHDERS Head of Unit

Copy: NEO BiH: office@erasmusbih.com

NEO ME: erasmusplus@ac.me

Annex: Comments and recommendations

Categories of qualification:

Very good (at least 75 pts out of 100): the project is implemented in accordance with its original work programme and timetable; the report provides all the information and evidence needed and there are no particular concerns or areas of weakness.

Good (between 74 and 60 pts out of 100): the project progresses in accordance with its original work programme and timetable but some improvements could be made; the report gives clear information on all or nearly all of the evidence needed.

Fair (between 59 and 50 pts): there are weaknesses and concerns in the project implementation; although the report gives some relevant information, details are lacking and/or the information is unclear; there are several areas in the implementation that must be improved during the second half of the project.

Weak (less than 50 pts out of 100): the project is not respecting its original work plan/timetable and/or is not fulfilling the CBHE requirements; the report fails to address important aspects of the project implementation that cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information; in accordance with article 1.10.6 of the Grant Agreement and section 3.5.2.2 of the Guidelines for the Use of the Grant, the maximum grant will be reduced at final report stage if no substantial improvements are observed during the second half of the project.



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Project Implementation Report COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Number:

585927

Project Title:

Strengthening Capacities for Higher Education of Pain

Medicine in Western Balkan Countries HEPMP

Coordinating Institution:

University of Belgrade

Information related to the WP2 'Development of joint curricula for Pain Medicine study program' only refers to the progresses registered at University of Belgrade. No information is given about the other Partners in the project. Please send us detailed complementary information by 09/09/2019. In order to have comparable data, please use the Table of Achieved/Planned results. Please include detailed information in relation to the accreditation procedures in each of the Partner Country.

In relation to the information given about WP2 we took note of the delay registered at University of Belgrade due to the change of internal regulation and the adaptation of the project work plan.

Please send us the revised version of the project work plan by 09/09/2019.

The project foresees the development of Life Long Learning courses in Pain Medicine (WP3). The report refers to activities implemented in Serbia where two courses were accredited (course for doctors and health workers was accredited by the Regional Medical Chamber decision of the Health Council no. 153-02-449 / 2019-01, filing number. A-1-700 / 19; the Faculty of Medicine the University of Kragujevac have accredited course titled Fundamentals of pathophysiology, evaluation and treatment of acute pain by the Regional Medical Chamber decision of the Health Council no. 153-02-449 / 2019-01, document number A-1-281 / 19).

On the project web site only information on the course of University of Belgrade is available. Activities in Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro are mentioned as 'to be carried out' but all with a deadline in August 2019.

Please send us detailed information concerning the progresses of WP3 (all activities) and update the web site with the relevant results by 09 September 2019.

Equipment purchased has been concluded only in Serbia. We strongly encourage taking all necessary steps to conclude the purchases in Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro before the start of the academic year 2019/2020 as those equipment items are meant to be used by students enrolled in the study programs.

Quality assurance and control manual has been developed but it lacks of measurable indicators, which will serve as a reference framework for the quality control and quality assurance team when assessing the quality of the implemented project activities.

Please send us a revised version by 09 September 2019.

Given the specificity of the project, we would strongly recommend to include an external evaluation

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of the content of the new study programs and their effectiveness in connection to the employability opportunity in the different partner countries for the future graduates.

Dissemination and exploitation plan seems to be a very theoretical document and lacks a dissemination plan (where project activities, outputs and results are linked to target groups, dissemination channels and methodologies). Concerning 'exploitation', the document includes only the definition of 'exploitation' but neither actions not plans are included in view to reach out to this important dimension.

Please send a revised Dissemination and exploitation plan by 09 September 2019.

The project web site is active and updated. We acknowledge with pleasure that a Forum page is integrated where professionals can exchange opinions. We recommend planning activities to promote this forum as it seems that no many posts/debates were registered.

In view to render the web site more attractive to general public you might consider adding a page dedicated to project results.

Ensure that information about the project progresses and results are available also on the project partners' web sites.

It is difficult to assess the project's impact at this stage as the report does not offer complete information to what concern curriculum development and LLL courses development in Higher Education Institutions other than University of Belgrade.

However, the general impression taking into consideration the information at our disposal (project application, field monitoring visits and intermediate report) is that the project impact is moderate for two main reasons. Firstly, not a particularly high number of students planned to be enrolled in the new/updated study programs (only 10 students enrolled per Partner Country Higher Education Institution) will not have a quantitative impact on HE in each Country. The qualitative impact may be higher once the first students graduate from the program.

Secondly, the impact may be increased in terms of quality if numbers of graduates correspond with the labour market needs. To this end a close cooperation and involvement of the private sector representatives (in particular pharmaceutical companies) is a key success factor. The consortium enjoys the participation of the Clinical Hospital Center Dr Dragisa Misovic which is involved in project activities; unfortunately, there are not any of the non-academic partners from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

The project also includes five associated partners, all of them being primary health care centers, two located in Serbia, two in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and one in Montenegro. Participation of these associated partners should be enhanced in view to be of real contribution to the impact of the project.

We recommend intensifying the external communication and the involvement of non-academic partners and to explore the real needs of the market; it will help orient the employability opportunities for future graduates.