

Dear Giulia,

I would like to thank you and the EACEA team for providing us with a feedback on the HEPMP Progress report and on the feedback deadline extension. We regret our project being qualified as *fair* and I will try to report on all counts that were marked as inadequate. The HEPMP project teams took note of the reasons behind that assessment and made significant progress in ensuring that all project outputs are visible and clearly connected with project activities.

I would like to provide you with additional information you requested in hopes of showing that we are well on track with our project activities. Following the reception of the EACEA feedback I made sure that all partners receive it and provide their own comments to it. We also organised the Board Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of September to, among other, reflect on our implemented activities in light of the EACEA feedback and receive a feedback of the External Evaluator who evaluated our activities and outputs and provided us with her feedback.

First of all, I would like to ensure you that all of our outputs will be published on the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform. We also plan to send the Request for Payment and Statement for the Costs incurred as the documents are being drafted.

Regarding the activities in the work package 2 I will use the Table of Achieved/ Planned results as requested the Progress Report feedback.

<b>Title and reference number of the work package (WP)</b>	WP2 Development of curricula for PM study program
--	---

<b>Indicators of achievement and or/performance as indicated in the project proposal</b>	5 interventional pain medicine training accreditation certificates for HCW from Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina Three trainings for teaching staff 50 students enrolled by M28 20 completed the study programme courses by M36 50 teaching staff participated in implementing study programmes by M36
--	---

### Activities carried out to date to achieve this result:

Activity N°	Activity Title	Start date	End date	Place	Description of the activity carried out	Specific and measurable indicators of achievement
2.1.	Training of existing teaching staff from PCs at PgCs	15 January 2018	14 July 2018	RS, BH, ME, IT, HR, SI	<p>The first training of teaching staff was held from 12 March until 16 March 2018 at <b>University of Ljubljana</b> at Faculty of Medicine. The lectures about acute postsurgical pain treatment were organised at the department of anaesthesiology and reanimatology. Medical doctors, specialists of anaesthesiology and perioperative intensive medicine who are involved in the acute pain service at the University Medical Centre Ljubljana were the main speakers and organizers of practical work at the hospital. At the hospital the teaching staff join the doctors to the rounds at the surgical departments. The project partners had the opportunity to learn a lot about the possibilities of the postoperative pain relief, the different techniques from peripheral and central blocks and different drugs as well as how to evaluate pain with the use of visual analogue scale and other scales and questionnaire.</p> <p>During the visit, the project partners visited the Pain Management Centre. The host presented the organisation of work through lectures provided by the experts working at the Centre.</p> <p>The second training of teaching staff was held from 26 May until 29 May 2018 at the <b>University of Rijeka</b> at Faculty of medicine. Lectures were dedicated to definition of pain and basic mechanisms of pain occurrence, types of pain, receptors and pain signalling, methods of pain measurement, characteristics of pain during childbirth and their treatment. 15 teaching staff from the PCs HEIs was trained</p> <p>The training of teaching staff of PCs was held in Florence from 13 September until 17 September 2018 at the University of Florence in Department of Health sciences. This was the third meeting organized in a Programme Country of the HEPMP project. The main objective of this meeting was to introduce the highest academic and clinical offer that University of Florence has in terms of Pain Therapy. With 126 Degree courses organized in 10 Schools, with a population of about 51.000 enrolled students, the School of Medicine is the responsible for the training, assessment, practice and continuing professional development of specialist medical practitioners in the management of pain. It supports a multi-disciplinary approach to pain management, with the Pain Medicine Unit existing since 1970, as well as Postgraduate school in Anesthesiology, Intensive Care and Pain therapy. The Careggi Teaching Hospital cooperates together with the University</p>	<p>Detailed documentation for each training is available on the project website:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The University of Ljubljana training: <a href="#">Participant list: Reports</a></li> <li>2. The University of Rijeka training: <a href="#">Participants list: Reports:</a></li> <li>3. The University of Florence training</li> </ol>

					<p>of Florence, providing care for more than 3,500 outpatients with acute, chronic, and cancer pain problems. They have “Hub and Spoke” model where patients are treated with complex assistance. This model ensures the continuity of care of the patient from the hospital to their home, including the whole set of health care facilities and professionals dedicated to supply palliative care and pain control at all stages of the disease and for any type of patient. At this meeting it was trained 18 teaching staff from PCs.</p> <p>In order to ensure cost effectiveness, the project management boards meetings were held on the margins of the meetings.</p>	<p><b>Participants lists:</b> <b>Reports:</b> are available <a href="#">here</a></p>
2.2	Development of HEPMP contents and Teaching material	15 May 2018	14 September 2018	RS, BH, ME, IT, HR, SI	<p>The development of the teaching material for study programmes are ongoing. To date a <a href="#">monograph</a> that will be used as a teaching material at all partner HEIs has been developed and is available on the project website. <b>Please note that this output is a product of entire consortium and will be used by all project partners, so it is not one institution’s output.</b></p> <p>It was published in cooperation with Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts which increases its relevance and significance.</p> <p>It will be a crucial basis for the modernisation of study programmes at all partner HEIs. Should be noted that all programmes will undergo internal accreditation in order to ensure sustainability and exploitability of this project output.</p> <p>In addition to the modernisation of study programmes at the School of Medicine, the University of Belgrade existing program of subspecialisation of Pain Medicine has been modernized and aligned to the EFIC (European Federation of Pain) program. The new part of lectures of Pain medicine at undergraduate studies as part of Anaesthesiology program has been introduced at the School of Medicine, the University of Belgrade through the Surgery course that is taught on the 5<sup>th</sup> year of study.</p>	<p>Published teaching material</p> <p>Published project monograph</p>
2.3	Preparation and submission for accreditation of study program	15 June 2018	14 August 2018	RS, BH, ME	<p>The University of Belgrade is in the process of preparing material for the internal accreditation of the study programme that is scheduled for June 2019. The accreditation procedure is mandated to follow pre-set internal schedules.</p> <p><b>A new module of lectures of Pain medicine at undergraduate studies as a part of Anaesthesiology program was accredited at the University of Belgrade. The added value of the project previously announced, the Simulation Centre (SC), is established and has already taken students and received positive feedback. Information about the SC have been widely disseminated. Please feel free to visit the presentation about the SC on the project <a href="#">website</a>.</b></p> <p><b>The University of Kragujevac developed curriculum for the pain medicine course for national accreditation lasting 15th weeks and for 70 students. The curriculum has national accreditation.</b></p> <p><b>The University of Tuzla to date worked on the submission for accreditation of study program. The idea is to modernise existing undergraduate curriculum.</b></p> <p><b>The University of Banja Luka implemented new curriculum at the undergraduate level: Pain medicine.</b></p>	<p>Documentation for accreditation of the UB study programme</p>
2.4	Enrolment of students at study program	15 October 2018	14 November 2018	RS, BH, ME,	<p>5<sup>th</sup> year students enrolled at the School of Medicine University of Belgrade was the part of pilot implementation of the modernised study programme as a quality measure for upcoming implementation of study programmes at other HEIs.</p> <p>Material is available on the project website:</p> <p><a href="http://hepmp.med.bg.ac.rs/?p=2381">http://hepmp.med.bg.ac.rs/?p=2381</a></p> <p>The main goal of the pilot programme is to ensure that the modernised courses will meet the highest quality standards and follow the principles of the student-centred learning.</p> <p><b>The first enrolment on undergraduate students at the University of Kragujevac is expected in December 2019 and on Universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the beginning of 2020.</b></p>	<p>Pilot programme students enrolled</p>

2.5	Implementation of study programs	15 October 2018	14 October 2020	RS, BH, ME	In order to evaluate developed teaching material and lessons learned within WP 1 the new material have been pilot introduced to 5 <sup>th</sup> year medicine students at the University of Belgrade.  Study material as well as satisfaction survey results are available on the project website	Material is available on the project <a href="#">website</a> :
-----	----------------------------------	-----------------	-----------------	------------	---	--

### Activities to be carried out to achieve this outcome (before the end of the project)

Activity N°	Activity Title	Start date	End date	Place	Description of the activity to be carried out	Specific and measurable indicators of progress
2.2	Development of HEPMP contents and Teaching material	15 May 2018	14 September 2018	RS, BH, ME, IT, HR, SI	The development of new study programmes took a bit more time than expected due to internal procedures at participating HEIs. New deadlines, agreed at the level of the consortium, will be met without jeopardising the project outputs. The partner HEIs will finalise the teaching material and integrate published Monograph into their curriculum in the second half of 2019.  The book titled <i>Pain Medicine</i> will also be developed and published by the end of year and it will be used as a mandatory textbook at the postgraduate Pain Medicine studies. <b>Please note that the teaching material has been developed and is being used. The publishing of the Pain Medicine book is in process, but the material is being used.</b>	Developed teaching materials
2.3	Preparation and submission for accreditation of study program	15 June 2018	14 August 2018	RS, BH, ME	Other HEIs will follow the same activity during the second half 2019. <b>The University of Kragujevac</b> will implement accredited study programme starting with December 2019. Other curricula have gone through changes to incorporate the pain medicine topics. The plan for the end of the year is to prepare and submit for accreditation the study program of Physician subspecialty in PM, implement the courses for students in Pain Therapy, Acute Pain (Included in the Syllabus of Subject Resuscitation 2 Basic Studies, Chronic pain, (Included into syllabus of the subjects Surgery Basic Studies), while the plan for 2020 the UNIKG plans to implement courses for students in Neuropatic pain , (included into syllabus of the subjects Neurology Basic Studies) and to enrol students in study program of Physician subspecialty in PM. <b>The University of Banja Luka and the University of Tuzla</b> will implement new and accredited study programme in Pain Medicine in 2020. All the material has been developed and institutional accreditation procedures are ongoing. <b>The University of Tuzla</b> plans to complete the process of introducing new study program, the Medicine Pain; after the Senate's decision to implement it. For the introduction of a new study program at the undergraduate study of the Faculty of Medicine in Tuzla, the initiative is submitted to the Scientific-teaching Council of the Faculty of Medicine. The accreditation procedures are as follows: the council considers the proposal and puts it to the vote. If most of the council members are in favour, the decision to introduce a new study program is adopted. The decision of the Scientific Council is forwarded to the Senate of the University of Tuzla. If the Senate gives a positive opinion, a new study program is introduced into the curriculum. In May, the coordinator of the HEPMP team of the University of Tuzla submitted a request to the Scientific and Academic Council of the Faculty of Medicine in Tuzla for the introduction of a new study program, Pain medicine as elective subject, for the undergraduate study of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Tuzla. At a session on May 23, the Scientific Teaching Council made a positive decision, which was forwarded to the Tuzla University Senate. The decision of the university senate in Tuzla is awaiting. The accreditation procedure at the <b>University of Banja Luka</b> is as follows: the introduction of a new study program at the undergraduate study of the Faculty of Medicine in Banja Luka, the initiative is submitted to the Scientific-teaching Council of the Faculty of Medicine. The council considers the proposal and puts it to the vote. If the majority of the council members are in favour, the decision to introduce a new study program is adopted.	q

					The decision of the Scientific Council is forwarded to the Senate of the University of Banja Luka. If the Senate gives a positive opinion, a new study program is introduced into the curriculum. Current progress is: in July, the coordinator of the HEPMP team of the University of Banja Luka submitted a request to the Scientific and Academic Council of the Faculty of Medicine for the introduction of a new study program, Pain medicine as elective subject, for the undergraduate study of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Banja Luka. At a session on October, we expect that Scientific Teaching Council made a positive decision. At <b>the University of Montenegro</b> accreditation procedure includes Faculty of Medicine - University of Podgorica, Medical Chamber of Montenegro, Ministry of Education and Science Faculty consultations were made. The proposal was submitted to the Teaching Council of the School of Medicine to see what forms of pain therapy training would be planned.	
2.4	Enrollment of students at study program	15 October 2018	14 November 2019	RS, BH, ME	Following the internal accreditation at least one generation of medical students and those attending subspecialisation course will be enrolled both study programmes during the project span. As stated, the University of Kragujevac will implement accredited study programme starting with December 2019 and the University of Banja Luka and the University of Tuzla will implement modernised and accredited study programmes in 2020.	Students enrolled at the accredited study programmes.
2.5	Implementation of study programs	15 October 2018	14 October 2020	RS, BH, ME	The enrolled students will complete study programmes during the project lifetime. As stated, the University of Kragujevac will implement accredited study programme starting with December 2019 and the University of Banja Luka and the University of Tuzla will implement modernised and accredited study programmes in 2020.	Study programmes implemented.

The work plan has been updated and is attached to this email. Please note that this is an outcome of an exercise conducted during the last Board Meeting and is the output of all project partners.

Regarding the progress in the Work Package 3 I would like to report that significant progress has been made while the website includes all relevant information in a separate segment dedicated to [LLL courses](#). Please note that each course was heavily disseminated among professionals and is being followed by the promotional flyer, agenda and advertised on the HEPMP project website as well as institutional websites.

**The University of Belgrade** implemented the [first LLL course](#) on Chronic Pain in March 2019, while the [second LLL](#) course *Radiotherapy modalities for pain management* is to be implemented on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the Institute for Oncology and Radiology, Belgrade, Serbia.

**The University of Kragujevac** [one LLL course](#) on Acute pain and is preparing practicum *Pain Medicine* that will be published by the end of 2019. The second and the third LLL courses for primary care physicians will be accredited in October 2019. The manual in *Pain Therapy* to be used for the upcoming LLL courses covering that topic was developed and will be printed in November 2019.

In 2020 the following LLL courses will be accredited and implemented by the UNIKG team:

- The LLL course in pain medicine for primary care physicians
- The accreditation of LLL course for primary care physicians
- The implementation of LLL course for primary care physicians
- The implementation of highly specialized courses for interventional pain management
- The implementation of LLL course for primary care physicians

**The University of Tuzla** accredited and implemented the LLL course in [Acute pain](#) – significance and treatment by the Medical Chamber. It was also video streamed so that it reaches the highest number of health professionals and disseminated via local TV station.

**The University of Banja Luka** accredited and implemented two LLL courses: [Acute pain](#) and [Chronic pain](#).

**The University of Montenegro:** the first course in palliative medicine is planned for November 2019, while the rest of LLL courses will be implemented in 2020.

Regarding the **equipment** taking into account your acknowledgment that the equipment has been purchased for both HEIs in Serbia, I would like to report that the **University of Belgrade** and the **University of Kragujevac** are already utilising equipment for teaching students. The **University of Tuzla** met some obstacles in purchasing equipment as the new government was to be formed that stopped all purchases over the central vault system. This fact hindered the equipment purchase for **both Bosnian HEIs**. However, I am happy to report that all the obstacles were successfully overcome and the equipment had been purchased and installed at both universities. The **University of Montenegro** also completed the equipment purchase. Please note that the slight delay will not hinder the implementation of the project activities as students enrolled in modernised study programmes will have the equipment at their disposal from the first day of their studies.

Please find enclosed to this report a revised version of the Quality Assurance and control manual with measurable indicators.

Even though it was not envisaged by the project application (as the HEPMP application envisages that the external expert conducts the monitoring and evaluation of the work of Quality Control board, as well as Management board and the implementation of the deliverables of work packages that are shown in the logical framework) we took note of your additional request and asked our external evaluator to look into the *content of the new study programmes and their effectiveness in connection to employability of the future graduates*. While we regret to see that it was not clear from the progress report that the modernised curriculum is fully in line with the latest developments in the pain medicine in the EU and that you feel that additional expertise is needed I have to state that the HEPMP project consortium has no doubt in our Programme Country partners when it comes with the quality of their expertise. Still, we did ask our external evaluator to look into the employability of the graduates. The summary of the Expert's findings (more further elaborated in the report produced for and presented at the Board Meeting in September 2019) that were, among other, based on the output of the [Tempus project CONGRAD](#) that conducted a survey on graduates in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia and looked into their employment and overall employability of graduates, is that medical graduates are primarily and predominantly employed by the state with limited possibilities for fresh graduates to be employed in the private sector which implies that any intervention aiming at increasing the employment opportunities in this sector would have to be significantly larger than an intervention into curriculum and LLL courses. When it comes to employability of graduates, where this project aims at intervening, the fact that it does either develop curricula on undergraduate and postgraduate level or it modernises relevant study programmes in order to encompass the latest developments in pain medicine in Europe backed by the Programme Country partners, ensures the significant increase in employability of graduates and the overall quality of their future work. The impact of the project should not be neglected when it comes at increasing knowledge and skills of medical professionals through LLL courses which will live long after project ends.

The project forum available on the project website is going to be vastly disseminated in the second half of the project by all project partners.

Our project partners are making sure to disseminate the project information on their websites.

Regarding the impact of the implemented study programmes and in addition to the WP2 table, please note that the intervention in curricula includes both undergraduate and postgraduate students so we cannot but disagree with the assessment that our project lacks impact. The modernisation of undergraduate study programmes and intervention into Surgery curricula (at UBG but also UNIKG and UNITZ and UNIBL) will ensure that students facing the need to apply knowledge from pain medicine will be equipped to do so. While we cannot influence the number of medicine students that are studying at partner HEIs we can and we are ensuring that the coverage of students is at the highest possible level. The number of students included in the modernised study programmes is significantly higher than 10 as only at the University of Belgrade modernised courses on the undergraduate level at the 5<sup>th</sup> year of medical studies attend 500 students. Also, intervention in postgraduate courses (i.e. the modernisation of subspecialisation) additionally increases the impact of the project and ensures that postgraduates receive knowledge that is much needed in their field.

Regarding the involvement of the non-academic partners, two courses are planned to be held at the Clinical Hospital Center Dr Dragiša Mišović. Colleagues from the participating Programme countries will be speakers at those courses aiming at increasing internal capacities of the Hospital that will later be in position to pass that knowledge to other medical professionals and medicine students. As direct consequence of the Centre's participation a Centre for Pain will be established within the Hospital that will start working in 2020.

During the preparation of the first course in Banja Luka the HEPMP project team had the support of a pharmaceutical company that sponsored the printing of a handbook on acute pain. In the future, this activity may also be supported by a letter of intent if the pharmaceutical company has this in its business rules. Associated partners participated through the organisation of trainings and LLL courses for their doctors by the HEPMP project partners. All project partners are working on connecting with pharmaceutical companies to increase the employability of graduates through that cooperation. The memorandums of understanding are being negotiated from the start of the second half of the project.

I hope this information answers your feedback in full, but please let us know shall you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Project coordinator,

Prof. Dr Predrag Stevanović