

Dear Prof. Milentijevic,

As part of our ongoing monitoring of Tempus activities in Serbia, a field monitoring visit took place on the 1th of April 2011 at the Rectorate of the University of Nis. Together with Marija Filipovic Ozegovic and Sofija Dukic of the Serbian National Tempus Office, I had the pleasure to meet and discuss the progress of activities with you and the other local project representatives.

We would like to thank you for the time devoted to the discussions we had with your team and the other Serbian partners representatives (including the students), and for having provided us with updated information on the financial management of the project and on the progress that is being made towards the achievement of the objectives.

I apologise for the delays of sending this report, however we had before to wait for some information from the EU Delegation in Serbia concerning the IPA project "Education and Information Centre of the Intellectual Property Office" at the University of Belgrade, in order to be able send you a complete feedback (as here below explained). And after that I have to admit that I was very busy with the selection of the new Tempus projects, so sorry again for this delay.

On the basis of the monitoring visit, we got the confirmation that the project has started well as and most of the activities were performed according to the project work plan and all the partners have been participating in the project activities so far.

We positively noted that there have been some positive developments in the content part of the project since the first monitoring visit was carried out, in particular:

- We appreciated that the most of the recommendations we sent you after the first monitoring visit have been taken into consideration during the following implementation and all the material is now available on the website;
- The involvement of the students into the project activities seems now to be less vague, even if it is not clearly defined yet. However, it appears that some positive actions have been taken or will be take in this direction, such as the intention to offer the courses related to the project management through this project.
- The support given to students and the beginning of their involvement in the project is a very good result that should be enlarged to other partner universities.

It is positive that the representative of Chamber of Commerce and the City of Nis are actively involved in the project activities and we really hope that they will be represented in the National advisory board as well.

Unfortunately it is not clear if the project is fully supported by the Ministry, which is one of the preconditions for its long term sustainability.

Based on the information we received from the EU Delegation in Serbia, it appears that there might be some overlapping between this Tempus project and the IPA project Education and Information Centre of the Intellectual Property Office at the level of University of Belgrade. As it is very important to avoid any double funding, it is recommended that the coordinator liaise with the team from University of Belgrade which participates in these projects and the EU Delegation in Serbia. The Tempus project should be indeed complimentary to the IPA project and not overlapping.

Further to our monitoring visit findings, we would suggest you the following recommendations:

- To create university boards for knowledge transfers as bodies that will increase and facilitate implementation of project activities and increase the impact of the project through networking with university senates, councils and relevant centres.
- The starting points for knowledge platform should take into account the local and regional needs and relevant national legislation, not just the EU documents as it is mentioned on the project website.
- The involvement of students at University of Nis is very positive, but it should be enlarged at other partner universities.
- The funding of University of Belgrade from this Tempus project has to be clearly diversified from the funding obtained through IPA project which supports knowledge transfer centre at this university as well.
- To include representatives of faculties from social sciences subject area in the National advisory board as well as representatives of the industry that are partners in the project.
- To widen the project teams with representatives of students and faculties from social sciences subject area. This recommendation, that was also communicated through the last monitoring feedback we sent you, is really important for widening of the project impact.
- To improve the dissemination of the project, starting from partner universities and then through involvement of other higher education institutions into the dissemination activities.

We kindly ask you to forward 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 and we thank you again for your hospitality in Nis.

Best regards,

Antonella Giorgio

Project Officer

UNIT P10 – TEMPUS & Bilateral Cooperation with Industrialised Countries

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