



UNIVERSITY  
OF NIŠ



## PROJECT KNOWTS TEMPUS-JPHES-158881 Workshop on Knowledge Transfer Experiences

### M i n u t e s

**Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

The Workshop started at 10:30 AM, with 33 participants. The List of Participants is attached to the Minutes.

#### **1. Opening of the Workshop**

- Welcome speech by Rector of the University of Niš, Prof. Dr. Miroljub Grozdanović
- Welcome address by the Mayor of the City of Niš, Mr. Miloš Simonović
- Opening speech by State Secretary for Science and Technological Development, Prof. Dr. Miloš Nedeljković

#### **2. Presentation of the project KNOWTS TEMPUS-JPHES-158881**

The general idea, organization and envisaged outcomes of the Project were presented to the auditorium by Prof. Dr. Ivan Milentijević, project coordinator.

#### **Coffee break**

During the break, a short press conference was held in order to introduce the public media with the KNOWTS Project activities.

#### **3. EU experiences in knowledge transfer, part I**

The chairman of this session was Prof. Dr. Claudio Moraga. The following participants presented their institutions:

- Prof. Dr. Peter Kopacek, Vienna University of Technology, Austria
- Dr. Norbert Jesse, Technical University of Dortmund, Germany
- Ms Ester Boldrini, University of Alicante Spain
- Mr. Timothy Dee, Canterbury Christ Church University, UK

#### **Coffee break**

#### **4. Colloquium on knowledge triangle in Serbia – What Serbia really needs?**

Moderators: Prof. Dr. Veljko Malbaša and Prof. Dr. Ivan Milentijević

Speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Miloš Nedeljković, State Secretary for Science and Technological Development
- Mrs. Branka Totić, Director of Intellectual Property Office Serbia
- Mrs. Marija Filipović Ožegović, National Tempus Office Serbia
- Prof. Dr. Ladislav Novak, University of Novi Sad
- Prof. Dr. Viktor Nedović, Assistant Minister at Ministry of Science and Technological Development

Prof. Dr. Miloš Nedeljković:

- Serbia is at the very beginning in the process of knowledge transfer
- The new Law introduces changes for which not only procedures should be developed, but they require awareness and culture of the people
- New funds for financing innovation that were initiated through the Ministry of Science are not operative and they should be revived, possibly through redirecting other funds
- Current budget funds for addressing innovations should be combined with private resources (approval of the venture capital funds)
- In accordance with the Law, introduction of the TTO Offices (Technology Transfer Offices) is obligatory for all universities
- Universities are lacking control over their own staff – professors can go to the patent office and independently of their home institution register a patent with 100% rights to its benefits. Therefore, a greater control is needed in this area, as the Law on Intellectual Property says that patents belong to the institution. In this respect, there is a need to introduce a contract between the innovator and the institution, with guaranteed 50% of the invention benefits going to the inventor
- In creating the innovation system, there are three main points of reflection: public-private fund, TTO and a special clause related to intellectual property
- The idea of the project is to establish TTOs at all universities in Serbia. The Ministry shall most probably pay taxes for intellectual property and salaries for the employed in such offices. The problem is to find professionals who have sufficient knowledge in law, economics and engineering (we do not have this type of education) and communication skills as well.

Mrs. Branka Totić:

- There is a complementary IPA national project dealing with building a TTO at the University of Belgrade. It is based on the experience of the Oxford Technology Transfer Center, with the aim to develop intellectual property rules
- The Belgrade TTO would be supported by one expert from the Intellectual Property Office for the period of one year
- The TTO shall start as a kind of a consulting agency. For the beginning, spreading of technology and knowledge will be expected together with raising knowledge about rights and obligations in the sphere of intellectual property. This may lead to the commercialization of patents.

Mrs. Marija Filipović Ožegović:

- For TEMPUS, it is very important that TTOs shall be made at the universities
- This project is in a very favorable position compared to other projects, as it offers a great potential for the exchange of know-how from EU partners
- Complementarity and synergy of the two national initiatives is very important
- Sustainability is not achieved only through the employment of professionals but through further operation of such centers. In this respect, the support of the Ministry in obtaining salaries is crucial
- Strategies for engaging more students: There are no qualified persons now, but the role of students was not taken into account. Innovation/education/research cannot go without students, and really good students facilitate the exchange of knowledge and transfer of technology
- Composition of the Advisory Board is a substantial issue, since it is now the period of elections for the National Council for Higher Education and Scientific Councils, so it would be best to wait until this transition is over
- It would also be very important to have wider teams as active participants in the project, as it would widen the project impact.

Prof. Dr. Ladislav Novak:

- In support to the observation related to students, the University of Novi Sad is trying to establish students' spin-off companies
- The relations between universities and non-academic partners in exchanging know-how are also of importance.

Prof. Dr. Viktor Nedović:

- The cooperation with Chambers of Commerce (under the FP7 program) is necessary in order to help not only research institutes but SMEs as well in different programs, as 17% of the total FP7 belongs to the SMEs participation
- Inclusion of students in the projects shall be supported by the Ministry.

Closing remarks of this session were:

- Serbia is at the very beginning in the process of knowledge transfer
- The new Law introduces changes for which not only procedures should be developed, but they require awareness and culture of the people
- Current budget funds for addressing innovations should be combined with private resources (approval of the venture capital funds)
- The idea of the project is to establish TTOs at all universities in Serbia. The Ministry shall most probably pay taxes for intellectual property and salaries for the employed in such offices. The problem is to find professionals who have sufficient knowledge in law, economics and engineering (we do not have this type of education) and communication skills as well.
- Composition of the Advisory Board is a substantial issue
- The TTO shall start as a kind of a consulting agency. For the beginning, spreading of technology and knowledge will be expected together with raising knowledge about rights and obligations in the sphere of intellectual property. This may lead to the commercialization of patents.
- The cooperation with Chambers of Commerce (under the FP7 program) is necessary in order to help not only research institutes but SMEs as well in different programs, as 17% of the total FP7 belongs to the SMEs participation