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Concluding Statement

Dortmund, Dec. 07. 12.2013

Dear Mr Milentijevic, dear Ivan,

as requested here are my brief comments concerning the collaboration during KNOWTS, the results from the work and the project management. I would like to do this mainly from the perspective as External Expert and try not to mash up with a similar statement from TU Dortmund. As I have not been actively involved in the project form September 2011 to January 2013, my statement is limited in this respect.

Here are my comments:

1. The collaboration between the project partners was largely driven by a strong personal commitment to the project goals. The European partners could bring in a considerable range of experiences, hence presenting best-practices for the scope of action for Serbian universities.
2. The meetings and workshops which I have attended were comprehensive in their scope. The final conference summarized the broad spectrum of analyses from different Serbian stakeholders.
3. I understand that the management of the project had to consider and accept political restrictions. Furthermore, the management had to handle the complexity of an inter-university project where each university has a different background, a special experience in Technology Transfer and a different structural and financial starting point. Nevertheless, the management activities were conducted in line with the project proposal.
4. The National Platform is a comprehensive description of the status quo of the Higher Education situation (facts & figures), the Serbian economic status and the pressure from external factors. The recommendations are a comprehensive summary of objectives and instruments. It is left to the universities to transfer the many options into a sustainable strategy to leverage potentials.
5. Concerning the local activities I can refer to University of Nis. The setup of a Technology Transfer Center in Nis has been a first significant step towards a

sustainable transfer system. Success will take time and a lot of further energy (it is a marathon, not a sprint). It is essential to carefully monitor the success and fine-tune the approach if and whenever necessary.

6. To summarize: The project brought together relevant stakeholders, has raised awareness of the urgent need to leverage the scientific potentials for business development and, last but not least, set the ground for a long-term action plan with the foundation of Technology Transfer Centers at University of Nis as one important milestone.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jesse".

Dr. Norbert Jesse