



Co-funded by the
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The challenges of implementing international projects in the context of Kosova Higher Education System

Project name: Increasing the Financial Autonomy and accountability at public higher education institutions in Kosova

Content

- Objective of presentation
- The impact of the international projects at the newly established universities
- Difficulties
- Methods applied to overcome the challenges

Objective of presentation

- The aim of the presentation is to give an overview about the impact and the lessons learnt from three projects financed by the European Commission through TEMPUS program, implemented at two newly established universities:
 - *Strategic Support for the Development of Sustainable QA Structures at the Newly Public Founded University in Kosova, University of Prizren*
 - *Network for Post Graduate Masters in Cultural Heritage and Tourism Management in Balkan Countries”*
 - *Strategic support on establishment and development of sustainable structures on quality assurance, international relations and student support services at the newly founded Public University Haxhi Zeka in Kosova*

The impact of the international projects at the newly established universities

- Development of model study programs: Case of the Master Program in Cultural Heritage and Tourism Management
 - First Master program at the UHz (introduction of the 2nd cycle for the 1st time at UHZ)
 - Creating the basis for the development of other Master programs
 - Linking with the local economy
 - Educating staff in the study fields which are deficit for the country
 - Internationalization of the study program through co-lecturing by the international professors and co-mentorship
 - Further building skills of the local professors by joint development of syllabus, study visits, and workshops

The impact of the international projects at the newly established universities

- Support to build the university structure. In both universities the following three office, where firstly established and supported:
 - Establishment of the International Relations Office – Coordinator (further upgraded to Vice – Rector);
 - Establishment of Student Support Services (firstly the project has specialized it in offering career and counseling services) ;
 - Establishment of the Quality Assurance Office
 - The staff of the three offices specialized to conduct their work through capacity building at the EU partner countries and on-going
 - Development of strategic documents (on QA) & action plans
- Development of training modules on competence based teaching

Further project outcomes

- Support to management structures and Capacity Building
- Development of training modules for teaching and administrative staff
- Strengthening the information technology system
- Modernization of university library
- Development of tools for:
 - Quality control
 - Sustainability
 - Dissemination
 - Management of the project

Challenges? – Solutions?



Difficulties

- Frequent change of the management structure
- Sometimes incompetent persons as part of the management
- Late appointment of the Team for drafting the QA Strategy
- Equipment purchase – different requests for equipment purchase
- Low number of staff with regular contracts

Difficulties

- Lack of experiences in establishment of relations with the regional companies
- Lack of motivation by the staff to follow – up on further institutional development
- Lack of experience in developing the study programs (student workload, ECTS, LO...)
- Lack of experience in writing the SER and accreditation process
- Visa issue
- Visits to the EU project partner institutions sometimes perceived as touristic visits

Methods applied to overcome the challenges

- Study visits
- Trainings
- Workshops
- Hands on trainings
- Advice on daily basis
- Daily support via emails
.....by the EU and local project partners

Thank for your attention!

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