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ELEVATING THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN MOLDOVA
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Minutes

Elevate Project 1st Consortium Meeting, Moldova
(24 March 2017)

Date: 24 March 2017 (Friday)

Place: Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Senate Room

Participants:

Dr. Olesea SIRBU, ELEVATE project coordinator
Dr. Grigore BELOSTECINIC, Rector of Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
Dr. Rodica CRUDU, ELEVATE project Manager
Anastasia STRELNIUCOVA, ELEVATE project Assistant
Diana BRAGOI, ELEVATE project Manager
Nadejda GUTU, ELEVATE's assistant for financial issues
Larisa BUGAIAN, Technical University of Moldova
Cristina COCIUG, State Agrarian University of Moldova
Valentina PRITCAN, Alecu Russo Balti State University, Moldova
Svetlana MELNIC, Alecu Russo Balti State University, Moldova
Srgiu CORNEA, Cahul State University, Moldova
Nadejda IANIOGLO, Comrat State University, Moldova
Roza DUMBRAVEANU, Ion Creanga State Pedagogical University of Moldova (Rectors' Council member)
Mihail GAVRIULIUC, State University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Moldova (Rectors' Council member)
Corina RAILEAN, International Institute of Management "IMI-NOVA" (Rectors' Council member)
Victoria TCACENCO, Academy of Music, Theater and Arts of Moldova (Rectors' Council member)
Viorica CALUGHER, State University of Physical Education and Sport (Rectors' Council member)
Liudmila PAVLOV, Ministry of Education of Moldova
Nadejda VELISCO, Ministry of Education of Moldova
Dorin FESTEUI, Buckinghamshire New University
Audra DARGYTĖ BUROKIENĖ, Mykolo Romerio University
Loreta PAUKŠTYTĖ, Mykolo Romerio University
Andreja ČURIN, University of Maribor
Jasmina KLOJČNIK, European Policy Development and Research Institute Maribor
Natalia TIMUS, Maastricht University
Claudia MELINTE, National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova

Item 1: Introduction (Dr Grigore BELOSTECINIC)

Dr Grigore BELOSTECINIC makes a presentation about Higher Education in the Republic of Moldova. He described the current situation of higher education in Moldova, pointing out the current level of internationalisation of Moldovan HEIs according to the number of international students. Dr Grigore BELOSTECINIC has pointed out the fact that Academy of Economic Studies and the Republic of Moldova in general currently doesn't have the internationalization strategy and the following fact brings out the

urge and necessity of its elaboration and adaptation.

Item 2: Introduction (Dr Olesea SIRBU)

Dr Olesea SIRBU introduces herself as a ELEVATE project coordinator and expresses the purpose of the 1st Consortium Meeting. She makes an overall description of the ELEVATE project, presents the project's objectives and outcomes, presents the Project coordination team and introduces the consortium. Additionally, Dr Olesea SIRBU expresses her pleasure to establish a fruitful cooperation with the project partners. Mr Dorin FESTEUI, representative of Buckinghamshire New University talks about the importance of the ELEVATE project and its objectives. Mr FESTEUI proposes to extend the objectives of the project itself by adding the value to its actions.

Item 3: Timetable (Dr Olesea SIRBU)

Dr Olesea SIRBU presents the events and activities that have already been realised and the ones that are currently in the process of its realisation. She talks about the closest activities and closest events that have to be organised within the 1st year of the project. She talks about the mobility Maastricht, asking Natalia TIMUS about the discussing the date and travel arrangements, which have been established for the 1st week of July via Brussels.

Item 4: Work Packages (Dr Olesea SIRBU)

Dr Olesea SIRBU presents the work packages and appoints partners responsible for its realisation and describes the deliverables of each Work Package. She started off with the presentation of the preparatory WP1 that includes the creation of online benchmarking tool and questioners to be completed by the Partners for creation of data collection. Dr. Olesea SIRBU has notified the consortium that all the information regarding the online benchmarking tool and questionnaires will be included in the following Circular Letter.

The activities within WP2 include the upcoming mobility to Maastricht. Dr. Olesea SIRBU discusses with Natalia TIMUS the arrangements of the mobility. After the discussion has been stipulated to move the mobility from June to July, the working language of the mobility remains English, Dr. SIRBU will send the draft programme a month prior. In the following mobility must participate Group 1.

The activities within WP3 include training seminar in Slovenia, University of Maribor. Dr. SIRBU discusses with Andreja ČURIN the arrangements of the mobility, putting the date between the last week of 27 November – December 3rd. The mobility to Mykolo Romerio University envisaged in the following WP is also discussed. Audra DARGYTĖ BUROKIENĖ talks about the convenient date for the mobility, which is the 2nd part of October. Dr SIRBU notifies the partners that the draft agenda and topics for the training will be sent out till June. The dates of the mobilities could still be modified.

WP4 includes the training in Buckinghamshire New University organised for the Group 2, dedicated to international relations office where Dorin FESTEUI will share the experience in attracting millions to their university. Topic will be dedicated to fundraising, capacity building, writing project, attracting investments. The date will be decided later. The arrangements seminar on internationally related competences of graduates relevant to employers envisaged in the following WP are being discussed with Valentina PRITCAN and Svetlana MELNIC. Svetlana MELNIC proposes to combine the seminar with international conference organised in October each year. The precise date will be decided.

WP4 Quality plan is presented. Dr Olesea SIRBU is asking the consortium to be constructive and insert all comments and recommendation in the evaluation, which will be done in the end of April. The Quality control will be summarized and sent to each Partner. Quality officers and quality coordinator who will keep in touch with EPDRI will be addressed in the following Circular Letter.

Dr Olesea SIRBU talks about WP6 Dissemination on national and international levels. She discusses with the consortium the content of the project' webpage, which will include general information on the ELEVATE project, the objectives, outcomes and moreover a forum for the discussion. Dr Olesea SIRBU

notifies the consortium that the logo of the project and European Commission has to be on the webpage of the Partner University, all logos will be sent in advance. She requests the Partner Universities to send the logos of their institutions in appropriate formats (TIF, EPS, PNG (transparent background)) in order to be included in promo materials. She mentions that final brand book will be available in drop box where templates of the promo materials will be available. The Moldovan Partners will have to organise the dissemination events and use the following promo materials.

Item 5: Fine-tuning meeting (Dr Olesea SIRBU)

Dr. Olesea SIRBU presents importance of realisation of fine-tuning meetings and composition of National Policy Task Force (NPTF) members. The NPTF members are informed about their role in realisation of WP2 activities, which plays a crucial part for the implementation of the whole project. The Liudmila PAVLOV and Nadejda VELISCO, members of the NPTF and representatives of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova present in short the existing legislative framework on internationalization aspects, paying attention that at the moment is one of the most important matters for MECRM and asks all of the Project partners to be involved in advancement of national legislative framework. Partners discuss on specific legislative acts that has to be elaborated within the project and constitute a great importance for ME.

Item 6: Partnership Agreements (Dr Olesea SIRBU)

Dr Olesea SIRBU announced that all Partnership Agreements were signed and sent in time to EACEA within 6 month. The Cahul State University of Moldova is asked to bring the original copy. Regarding the EU Partners, only Mykolo Romerio University has provided the original copy of the document, the rest will be exchanged during the mobilities.

Item 7: Budget (Dr Olesea SIRBU)

Dr Olesea SIRBU presents to the Consortium budget planned for the project altogether with co-funding and appoints the transparency principal. She states that the project was designed as structural and in accordance with the needs of the Academy. In the tales are seen the figures for each university. The subcontracting costs are bigger in the Academy of Economic Studies because of translation of the materials elaborated. Dr Olesea SIRBU explains that all Moldovan Partners are designed to have equipment and explains that the equipment costs for Academy of Economic Studies are bigger because of simultaneous translation. In order to procure the equipment the Academy will have to organize national acquisition (tender). She notifies the consortium that the Circular Letter will include equipment issues and the technical specifications for each partner.

Dr Olesea SIRBU is asked about registration procedure. She explains that this time the procedure is very long and she will engage in this after the event.

Item 8: Financial issues (Dr Olesea SIRBU)

Dr Olesea SIRBU discusses the payment of staff cost. She explains that the partners will have to elaborate the report on the job done. Staff cost will receive people who have contractual relation to institution, in other words are employed. In some cases several people can be employed within the project as an expert for a specific period (time frame). Dr Olesea SIRBU discusses with Audra DARGYTĖ BUROKIENĖ about the contractual issues with Ilona KAZLAUSKAITĖ. The following matter will be resolved later.

Dr Olesea SIRBU talks about financial issues regarding the staff cost. She states that the milestones for the period will be send before the reporting period by her in order to send the budget. The days are allocated in a free way and partners are free to use all categories according to the job done. The individual timesheets will be as well introduced and different timesheet is made for different category.

Dr Olesea SIRBU asks EU partners about the organisation of travels. They agree on the arrangement of travels being made by the Academy. She points out that all PDMs will be sent one month before the travel in Moldova Leis (MDL) for several travels altogether which means that each partner covers their own cost of stay.

Dr Olesea SIRBU explains the matter regarding the co-financing, which can be covered by eligible budget

lines: electricity, etc.

It has been agreed with EU partners that each Partner keeps original copies of the documents (boarding passes, etc.) and sends the scanned version to the Academy. The attendance lists for each day of the mobility will be made.

Item 9: Closing (Dr Olesea SIRBU)

Dr Olesea SIRBU closes the Consortium. She expresses her gratitude to every one present today and fact so many problems have been resolved and discussed today. She asks the Consortium to not hesitate to send any questions and announces that Circular letter will be send including all relevant information discussed today.

The Consortium Meeting is finished.