

Mr Klaus Haupt

EACEA

Erasmus+ : Higher Education-International Capacity Building (Unit A4)

Head of Unit

Bourg 02/17

1, Avenue du Bourget

BE-1049 Brussels

Concerns : project 517200-TEMPUS-1-2011-BE-SMGR

Dear Mr Haupt

Hereby we kindly ask you for the prolongation of the project mentioned above until 14/07/2015.

In the meantime we also add a reviewed activity plan, an adapted LFM and a reviewed budget plan.

The reasons for this request for prolongation can be explained by :

1. The main reason why the project goals cannot be reached until 14/10/2014 are legal discussions regarding the degree of integration of the 8 schools. The 8 schools have been very intensively cooperating on an integrated model for ICT, student services, international cooperation and quality assurance. Common bodies for cooperation in those 4 fields have been created and will be in the coming months fully operational. The 8 Southern Serbian colleges agreed to form "a university of colleges" which would share responsibilities in the four indicated fields. However, the actual law on higher education foresees a fully integrated Academy of Applied Sciences (one legal entity), but does not foresee yet any framework/ modalities for the further organisation of the units within the new Academy. E.g. To what extent is local autonomy still possible, given the regional implementation of each school ? Will the Academy be subdivided in departments, faculties, study fields ?
On Friday September 5th there was already a very important meeting with prof. Luzanin, Assistant Minister for Education. The meeting was attended by representatives from the NTO/NEO Serbia and representatives from the colleges involved in the ECBAC project. The main conclusion was that it is obvious that within the next months more contacts are needed in order to further develop the practical framework/modalities to implement the first Academy of Applied Sciences of Colleges.

We use this opportunity to thank also the NTO/NEO in Serbia for all efforts and support in helping to solve this difficult issue.

2. The prolongation will give the the student representatives of the eight colleges and one representative of SKASSS the possibility to visit the student organisations in the three EU partner countries in the academic year 2014/2015.

This would give the following added value to the project: the student representatives will get acquainted with the role of student services in the EU partners countries, as well as with the role of their respective Student Associations. Bearing that in mind, they will be able to apply the examples of good practice within their Student Conference and improve their strategy regarding student organisations and their roles and functions with respect to the possibilities of real and tangible participation of students in the life of higher education institutions.

3. The prolongation will create the opportunity to further develop and implement the strategic long-term business and marketing plan. Since so much effort has been put in the negotiations with the KASSS and the internal development of the "university of colleges", no time has been devoted to this particular issue until now. You will find a new realistic timeframe in the revised work package 7. A round table with the districts representatives involved in the project is planned for November 2014.
4. The prolongation will create the opportunity to develop stronger foundations regarding the four established common services as well as to put them into practice.
5. We regret that the purchase of the actual Tempus equipment is seriously delayed due to the following issues:

1/ Is the KASSS going to be a project partner or not? In case they had joint the project a considerable amount of the equipment money would have been assigned to them: 18 000 euro. This amount has now been reallocated to other partner country universities.

2/ the integration of the academic curricula of KAHO into KU Leuven. This included a great change of the book keeping system and the internal accounting/ procurement rules.

The eight schools of the ACAS have just started the tendering procedure for the purchase of 8 servers, 32 computers, 8 digital printers and the necessary apps for Eduroam.

The other three universities (Belgrade, Uzice and Subotica) have been asked to purchase equipment related to their new tasks of career guidance in the project (see work package 3).

6. The prolongation will create the opportunity to organise the three planned student fairs during the academic year 2014/2015. It is not possible to organise these three fairs before 14/10/2014 because preparation and organisation take almost a full year.
Furthermore, we want to involve the other three universities (Belgrade, Uzice and Subotica) more actively in Work package 3 related to student services and career guidance.

We plan the following three student fairs :

- 1) the first student fair is to take place in Cuprija and it should be organised by the Cuprija Health Centre
- 2) the second student fair is to take place in Nis and Nis Chamber of Commerce is to take active role in its organization
- 3) the third student fair is to take place in Belgrade and it should be organised by the colleges from Belgrade, Uzice and Subotica;

Student fair 2 and 3 is also linked to a dissemination conference, as described in Activity 6.4 and the student fairs are also an ideal occasion to stress the cooperation with the work field.

7. We have developed a completely revised Revised Work Package 5 : Capacity building for the vocational higher education in Serbia and for the Student conference of Applied Sciences(SKASSS) We have reviewed the work package 5 taking into account that the KASSS has already been created prior to the start of this project and is not willing to join officially the project, although they will further support the project. Therefore we have reviewed this work package in view of a wider perspective as a contribution of the project to the further development of the vocational higher education in the colleges in Serbia in order to underline the particularities in comparison with the universities. It is obvious that also for this broader perspective the ACAS members will be cooperating with the KASSS, the CAQA and the National Council. Work Package 5 includes also the further capacity building of the SKASSS.

8. Administrative delay

Due to the health problems during the pregnancy and the maternity leave after the birth of the child the absence of Ellen Matthijs (project management assistant of Geert De Lepeleer) caused a delay in the administrative project follow-up. Several attempts have been made to find a suitable replacer, but at two occasions the selected candidate declined at the last moment the temporary job offer because they had found another job with a longer term perspective.

Furthermore we kindly ask the approval for the revised budget in which more particularly we have moved:

- 5000 euro from travel costs and subsistence to other costs. This 5000 euro is meant to pay the costs of SKASSS when travelling to meetings in Serbia en EU. Since the travel cost is the only cost planned for the SKASSS, we prefer to arrange this via subcontracting rather than to start the procedure to add them as full partner. As soon as possible after the approval of this prolongation, we will address the official request for the approval of the subcontracting.
- 5000 euro from other costs to staff costs. This 5000 euro is meant to pay the staff members of the eight colleges who have been teaching in the language course. This cost was originally planned as subcontracting cost (external supplier).

As a consequence the original budget for other costs remains unchanged and 5000 euro move from staff to travel costs.

This gives the following new budget distribution :


<u>Project costs</u>	ORIGINAL	ADAPTED
I Staff costs	283689	288689
II Travel costs and costs of stay	290244	285244
III Equipment	122360	122360
IV Printing and Publishing	13900	13900
V Other costs	28140	28140
VI Indirect costs	51683.51	51683.51
Total eligible costs	790016.31	790016.31

Project finance

Co-financing	79001.64	79001.64
Total from Tempus grant	711014.67	711014.67
Total project finance	790016.31	790016.31

We thank you very much in advance for your approval and we sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused

Yours sincerely


Geert De Leppeleer 12/9/2014

Project coordinator

Annex 1 : Reviewed activity plan

Annex 2 : Reviewed LFM


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