

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Erasmus+: Higher Education - International Capacity Building

Brussels, **Ö 7 MAI 2019** EACEA/A4/RR-am D(2019)008742 File code: 2015-2991 (561644)

Ms Ivanka Popovic Univerzitet u Beogradu Studentski Trg. 1 PO Box 122 RS – 11000 Beograd

Email: Ivanka.Popovic@rect.bg.ac.rs

Subject: Final Report nr. 561644-EPP-1-2015-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP (2015-2991)

Dear Ms Popovic,

Please find below the result of the assessment of the Final Technical Implementation Report and the Financial Statement of the above-mentioned Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education (CBHE) project.

As result of this assessment, and in accordance with the Grant Agreement and with the Guidelines for the Use of the Grant, your project implementation has been qualified as "Good" (please refer to the Categories of qualification at the end of this letter). The comments below provide more detailed feedback on the content and financial outcome of the project.

1. Final Technical Implementation Report

The REFEEHS project results remain highly pertinent to the HE sector in Serbia as they have addressed a pressing need – namely improving competencies of health science graduates and teaching staff. In this respect, the project is in line with both the national and EU priorities and legislation. Firstly, ReFEEHS has contributed to the achievement of the objectives of the Strategy for Development of Education in Serbia 2020 and it is complementary to anticipated legislative changes such as the Law on Regulated Professions and Recognition of Professional Qualifications (RPRPQ Law) and the regulation on students' professional practice. Secondly, the project results and deliverables are also compliant with (i) the objectives of the EU Education and Training (ET) 2020 Work Programme, (ii) the principles and recommendations of the New Skills Agenda for Europe and (iii) the goals of the EU Strategy in Development – namely goals 3 (health and well-being), 4 (quality education and life-long learning), 8 (productive employment and economic growth) and 9 (integration and innovation). In terms of EU legislation, the aim of the ReFEEHS project is to modernise health curricula in accordance with the EU Directive 2013/55 as well.

The overall implementation of the project has been satisfactory and according to plan as evidenced by the fact that the project goals have been successfully achieved while unforeseen delays and obstacles have been properly dealt with. In more concrete terms, we have noted that:

✓ All the project activities focusing on the reinforcement of experiential education in health science professions resulted in the update of the existing Student professionals practice/clinical placement courses in Medicine, Pharmacy, Dental medicine and Nursing at each of the

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participating RS universities. Around 2500 students from the four health science disciplines at RS universities attended new/updated courses.

- ✓ The Interprofessional education course (IPE course) was developed, approved and implemented as the new joint elective course for health sciences students. The first group of 136 students from all health disciplines attended the new elective IPE course.
- ✓ The new elective course on Public Health was developed and approved by the Curriculum committee/Academic Council at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade as a didactic course complementing students professional practice placement.
- ✓ The Teaching Certificate in Health Professions Education (TCinHPE) was approved as a CPD course for academic staff and teacher practitioners by the Senate of the University of Belgrade as project coordinator. The first cohort of 40 participants was enrolled, of which 38 successfully completed the program during the project lifetime.
- ✓ Institutional agreements related to pharmacy students' professional practice involving around 180 pharmacies and more than 200 teacher practitioners were established during the project lifetime.

The Agency has also noted that the project consortium has cooperated in a proper and efficient fashion with no major obstacles. The project has relied on a strong partnership with demonstrated experience for the successful implementation of its goals. In this vein, the distribution of roles has clearly reflected the specific type of expertise of each stakeholder involved. We have also positively noted the involvement of relevant professional societies and governmental bodies such as the Institute of Public Health. Ultimately, the success of the project has been driven by a sound management and a strong sense of commitment among all the stakeholders involved.

Last but not least, it must be highlighted that your website and dissemination materials are useful and informative and you have ensured coherence in their visual identity. Furthermore, your commitment to maintain the website after the project lifetime will ensure its impact in the long run. On a positive note, the Agency would like to highlight your efforts to disseminate the project through other channels in order to increase its outreach. However, we also encourage you to make a coordinated use of your social media platforms with the goal of maximizing the impact of the project in the years to come. In this respect, you should also make sure that all of these platforms are correctly linked to the website.

On an individual level, the impact of the ReFEEHS project is evidenced by the improvement in the students' competencies after the realization of the Students' Professional and Clinical practices. On a positive note, it must also be noted that the feedback received from all the involved stakeholders and the External Evaluator does reflect a high level of satisfaction with the project outcomes.

On an institutional level, the impact of the project is reflected in the improved teaching capacity, quality assurance of experiential education as well as the increased administrative and managerial capacity developed through project coordination and administration.

The success of ReFEEHS is further evidenced the introduction of a six-month experiential education/students professional placement in the new Pharmacy curricula or the impact of project outcomes in neighbouring countries in particular due to the initiation of professional practice research initiatives in Bosnia-Herzegovina and North Macedonia.

2. Financial Assessment

Please note that the Agency's financial analysis is based exclusively on the documents that were submitted to the Agency. If after having considered our comments carefully you wish to contest the final amount of the grant, the amounts contested by you must be *identified individually and accompanied by the corresponding supporting documents*.

Each supporting document should be numbered and its reference number recorded in a list detailing all the supporting documents provided with their respective amounts indicated, and showing as the result the total amount contested. If there are several documents to justify a single cost, the total of the various amounts must be given. Absence of supporting documentation to justify the declared costs will mean that the corresponding amounts remain ineligible.

In order to be accepted for further review, your observations - presented as indicated above - must be signed by the legal representative of your institution and be sent by post or by email at the latest within 60 calendar days following the dispatch of this letter.

Following the Agency's analyses of your observations a second and final letter will be sent to you, finalising the assessment exercise. Further observations or appeals will *not* be accepted.

We will consider that the absence of any observations from you within the above-mentioned deadline of 60 days is equivalent to your formal, unconditional and irrevocable agreement to the amounts mentioned in the Agency's assessment below.

Summary

On the basis of the above analyses, the total eligible costs have been calculated as follows:

BUDGET HEADINGS	AWARDED BUDGET (in €)	DECLARED EXPENSES (in €)	CONFIRMED EXPENSES (in €)	INELIGIBLE (in €)	ELIGIBLE (in €)
Staff Costs	316.780,00	314.200,00	314,200,00	0,00	314.200,00
Travel Costs	78,330,00	74,730,00	74.730,00	0,00	74.730,00
Costs of Stay	113.280,00	122,400,00	122,400,00	0,00	122,400,00
Equipment Costs	225.001,00	225,251,45	225.251,45	00,0	225,251,45
Subcontracting Costs	69.346,00	66,148,06	66,148,06	0,00	66.148,06
Special Mobility Strand	0,00	0,00	00,0	00,0	0,00
TOTAL	802.737,00	802,729,51	802.729,51	0,00	802,729,51

Declared co-financing: € 86.170,24

According to Article I.3 of the Grant Agreement, the Executive Agency shall reimburse 100% of the eligible actual costs and eligible unit costs. Therefore, the amount of the final grant is € 802.729,51.

Consequently, you may expect a payment of $\in 80.266,21$. This amount represents the amount of the final grant of $\in 802.729,51$ minus the amount of pre-financing already paid of $\in 722.463,30$.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that, in addition to the means of redress referred to in the agreement, the following means are available for challenging this decision.

If you believe that this decision is affected by an error or irregularity, you may request a review of the Agency's decision, clearly stating the reasons for disagreement, preferably within one month of receiving this letter, by writing to the following address:

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
Mr Ralf RAHDERS
Unit A4 - Erasmus+: Higher Education - International Capacity Building
J-59 04/033
1, Avenue du Bourget
BE-1049 Brussels
EACEA-EPLUS-CBHE-PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu

If you believe there has been a maladministration you may also lodge a complaint to the European Ombudsman in accordance with and under the conditions laid down in Article 228 TFEU within two years of becoming aware of the facts on which the complaint is based (see http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

Ralf RAHDERS Head of Unit

Cc (by email): Ljiljana Tasic, ljiljana.tasic@pharmacy.bg.ac.rs

Very good (at least 75 pts out of 100): The consortium has achieved its objectives and delivered the expected results in full, as outlined in the Grant agreement. All the results and outputs are of very good quality. No major concerns or areas of weakness have been identified during the project implementation phase. Impact on partner countries institutions and/or Higher education systems, sustainability and exploitation of results are fully addressed.

Good (between 74 and 60 pts out of 100): To a large extent, the consortium has fulfilled its objectives and delivered (most of) its expected results as outlined in the Grant agreement. Most of the results and outputs are of good quality. Some concerns or areas of weaknesses may have been identified in the project implementation and/or its final results. Impact on partner countries institutions and/or Higher education systems, sustainability and exploitation of results are satisfactorily addressed.

Fair (between 59 and 50 pts): The consortium has fulfilled some of its objectives and delivered some of its expected results outlined in the Grant agreement. The quality of some results and outputs are acceptable. Weaknesses and concerns have been identified in the project's implementation and/or delivering of its final results. Impact on partner countries institutions and/or Higher education systems, sustainability and exploitation of results are not satisfactorily addressed.

Weak (less than 50 pts out of 100): The consortium has not fulfilled its objectives in terms of project implementation and/or delivery of expected results as outlined in the Grant agreement. This may apply to the low quality of most of the results and outputs, serious weaknesses in the project's implementation, lack of impact on partner countries institutions and/or Higher education systems, and /or sustainability and exploitation of results not addressed.