

Report on the implementation of the first year of the programme submitted by the project coordinator to the Steering committee Held in Turin on June 21, 2008

The project's activities started as soon as the countersigned contract was received from the Commission. A consortium meeting was held in Belgrade. The senior management of BBA hosted and actively participated to the meetings.

At the institutional level, consultations with the local Tempus office were held, and its recommendations were taken into account. The Steering Committee was established, together with the Total Quality Management Board (TQM) that was established to monitor the quality of the developed material. Rules governing the project implementation already set out in the application were confirmed, and a communication protocol was agreed upon.

Contacts with similar Tempus projects under way at the moment in Serbia have been established with the Faculty of Agriculture at the Belgrade University involved in the project JEP-40067-2005 "Higher Education in Agribusiness Management and Economics in Serbia"

With respect to the implementation of the programme, a full review and confirmation of the application was carried out. The only acknowledged changes were the reallocation of one mobility flow foreseen for 1 student in year 1, and the recognition of the impact on staff costs resulting from the decrease of the recognised amount for equipment.

One of the most crucial topics discussed was the curriculum for the new master. Much attention has been devoted to the criteria to be applied in defining a profile of a product that is consistent with the PC environment and the newly enacted University law.

The development of adequate teaching material was thoroughly investigated, and the guidelines governing this type of activity were defined. A system of learning partnership will be established between BBA professors and their EU counterparts that will start from the preparation of syllabi to the completion of the teaching notes. Similar approach will be followed in the preparation of the Quality control procedures.

Given the central relevance of development of adequate teaching material, it was decided that the number of teachers travelling to Turin for this purpose will be raised from 12 to 15, and that funds required financing the additional flows would be made available through the cancellation of 1 student study visit.

In the light of BBA's determination to proceed with a pilot course to start from Nov. 2008, a schedule for the visits to Turin was discussed. It was decided that the process would start by establishing for each RS professor an email contact with the designated IT mentors. A draft syllabus would be made available. Such syllabus would be refined and finalised in Italy together with the preparation of the teaching notes. Likewise retraining in quality held in Seville will be supplemented by intense communication through the Internet.

A intensive workshop for the implementation of the ECTS system at BBA was held by Prof. Adame, the contact person from the University of Seville to the BBA professors

Contacts with the country's stakeholders were launched by Prof. Hanic and the project's expert, Prof. Culahovic. This is considered the start of a relationship intended to be maintained all throughout the project. It is believed that this will provide favourable opportunities to obtain agreements with future employers for scholarships, job placements or joint university-enterprise tutorship

According to the agreed work plan, activity started to unfold.

One of the first events that has occurred in the structure of the project's management has been the appointment of Prof. Dr. Zvonko Brnjas to the position of coordinator of the

Serbian partner operations. Prof. Brnjas has shown a strong determination and commitment and it is believed that the project will greatly benefit from this appointment. The Steering Committee unanimously approves.

Purchase of **equipment** to support BBA was carried out. The first part is assigned to the upgrading of the information and processing system supporting the postgraduate courses of BBA. It consists of server, router, PC notebooks and printers. This equipment will significantly improve the communication and access to Internet for students and teaching staff. It will also improve the process of teaching, training and testing as a result of adequate IT supports

Intensive communication continued to be held in the crucial area of **curriculum definition**, and a gradual refining of what is likely to become the final product was achieved.

The process of **teaching material update** started with the visits of three professors. Three additional ones are expected to arrive within the conclusion of the first academic year (June)

In the same fashion the mobility towards Seville foreseen by the plan in the area of actions directed to the enforcement of the **ECTS** system and to the implementation of **quality improvement** have been carried out.

Development of the project's **website** started, with the preparation of a prototype. This was made available on the net, and benefited from the contributions of all parties involved. At present it already starting to outline a good representation of the project's activities, and is being continuously improved in its graphic appeal.

Activities in the field of **dissemination** and **sustainability** continued. Several representatives of universities have already participated to the inception meetings held in Belgrade. A very successful meeting with such Universities and with Serbian stakeholders was held in the first months of the year. The outcome was the establishment of a Club of friends of BBA. It is believed that such group will play a beneficial role in supporting the project's sustainability through agreements with future employers for scholarships, job placements or joint university-enterprise tutorship

It can be said that basically the project is on target. A very challenging year is ahead of us. The development of teaching material must be completed, the quality issues and the ECTS approach must be completed, the relationship with dissemination partners and stakeholders must be strengthened, the project end Conference will have to be held. Finally, the major achievement of the launch of the Master's prototype will have to be accomplished. This will be the ultimate test about the project's sustainability.

In this framework it will be important to pay due attention top some remarks made by the Commission to submitted first report

Issues raised by the EU reaction to the first report

- Concerns about the Accreditation. Information requested on the state of play of the discussion which the consortium and the BBA management have been conducting with the relevant authorities.
- Concern about the financial independence. Information requested on the efforts to get commitments from the private sector (Scholarships, job perspectives, etc) to enable more students to subscribe courses.
- Request for information on the process achieved in defining a profile of the master that is consistent with the partner country environment and the newly enacted law on higher education.
- Request for a more detailed description of the outcomes.