

Report on the implementation of the TEMPUS project "Enhancing university autonomy in Moldova" (EUniAM), situation in August 2014

Results achieved during the period October 2012 to August 2014:

1. An action plan and the project management bodies were determined.
2. A workshop called "Concepts and approaches to university autonomy" was organised; 53 people participated.
3. Communication tools were developed to disseminate the results of the completed activities and announce the planned activities:
 - a. The web page of the project (<http://www.euniam.aau.dk>), in Romanian and English;
 - b. The Intranet, on the Moodle platform, as the internal communication tool;
 - c. The booklet introducing EUniAM project.
4. Four reports on the current situation of university autonomy in Moldova are developed, the components studied are: organizational, academic, human resources and financial.
5. Dissemination of reports was conducted by placing them on the EUniAM website, sending the reports to all the partner universities, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance, the creation of a forum site, final discussions at the roundtable of 25/09/2013 (51 participants).
6. As a result of discussions, the internal feedback and the feedback from experts from the partner universities, the reports were revised and the consolidated report is under development. It will be placed on project's web site (<http://www.euniam.aau.dk>) on September 15, 2014.
7. Five study visits to EU partner universities were made. During the visits there were held meetings with representatives of universities, ministries, associations of universities, rectors' unions, student associations, funds for financing education, science, etc. They were attended by 76 decision-makers, including the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Education, representatives of ministries, rectors and vice-rectors, heads of departments. There were made presentations at workshops for all visits and individual reports of participants in internships, with own reflections on the visits and everything learned, which are placed on the website (<http://www.euniam.aau.dk>).
8. In November 2013 an international conference "A quest to (Re)define University Autonomy" was organized, the objective was to present and discuss possible interactions between the various internal and external beneficiaries of a modern university in terms of institutional autonomy. The conference was attended by 112 people, including 17 people from the EU and 95 partner universities from all universities in Moldova.
9. The Inter-university Multimedia Centre, placed at TUM, is equipped, with 8 satellite centres at partner universities in Moldova (cost of equipment - 220,000 euros).

10. A team of 5 people reviewed the materials delivered during study visits in partner countries, reports of the participants on the reflections after the study visits; materials on the website of EU universities; other legislative materials and documents placed on the Internet related to UA in partner countries; EU general documents on EU educational system. After this, they visited the EU partner universities to flesh out details, take part in concrete discussions with university management. The ultimate goal of this work package is conducting a benchmarking exercise on best UA practices from EU universities.

Activities planned for September 2014 - August 2015:

1. Completing the benchmarking report regarding the best practices of EU universities on university autonomy (September 15, 2014).
2. Dissemination of reports through the following activities:
 - a. Organization of 3 workshops in Chisinau (October 7, 2014), in Cahul inviting participants from Comrat University and University of Tiraspol (October 8, 2014), in Balti (October 9, 2014);
 - b. Dissemination of these reports on the website, forum, sending them directly to universities. Publishing articles on the situation in Moldova and EU partner countries.
3. Developing legislative proposals on enhancing university autonomy in Moldova; dissemination and initiation of public debates on these proposals.

Larisa Bugaian, Vice Rector of TUM, coordinator of the EUniAM project