

Report on the state of implementation of the TEMPUS project “Enhancing University Autonomy in Moldova (EUniAM)”, September 9, 2015

1. It was determined the action plan and project management bodies.
2. It was organized a workshop on “Concepts and approaches on university autonomy” with the participation of 53 persons.
3. There are developed communication tools of the planned activities and those already carried out:
 - a. the project website (<http://www.euniam.aau.dk>), in Romanian and English;
 - b. the intranet on the Moodle platform is the internal communication tool;
 - c. the EUniAM project booklet is developed.
4. There are developed 4 reports on the current situation of university autonomy in Republic of Moldova on the components: organizational, academic, human resources and financial.
5. Dissemination of reports was performed by placing them on the EUniAM website, by sending the reports to all universities, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance, by the creation of a forum on the website, and final discussions at the roundtable of 25.09.2013 (53 participants).
6. Following the discussions, and after receiving internal feedback and from partner universities experts, reports were revised and published in book format (300 in Romanian and 100 in English. The electronic format of the reports can be found on the project website <http://www.euniam.aau.dk>).
7. There were made 5 study visits to EU partner universities. During the visits, meetings were held with representatives of universities, relevant 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 relevant ministries, rectors and vice-rectors, heads of departments. Presentations made during all visits and individual reports of the participants, with reflections on those seen and learned, are placed on website (<http://www.euniam.aau.dk>).
8. In November 2013, the International Conference “A Quest to (re)define university autonomy” was organized, the aim of which was to present and discuss possible interactions between different internal and external beneficiaries of a modern university in the light of university autonomy. It was attended by 106 people, including 11 people from the EU partner universities and 95 from all universities in the Republic of Moldova.

9. It is developed and published the first version of the book “Re-Discovering University Autonomy” at the Publishing House Palgrave Book with contributions from project partners and other professors from Europe, Asia, America.
10. It is equipped the Multimedia Interuniversity Center, located at TUM, with 8 satellite centers at partner universities in the Republic of Moldova (the cost of equipment – 220 000 euro).
11. A team of 5 people analyzed the materials delivered during study visits in partner countries, reports of the participants on the reflections after the study visits; materials on the websites of EU universities; other materials and legal documents in the Internet related to university autonomy in partner countries; general EU documents on the EU educational system.
12. After this preparation, these people visited EU partner universities to flesh out details, have actual discussions with those responsible for university management. The ultimate goal of this work package resulted in the drafting of the report/benchmarking report on best practices at EU universities regarding university autonomy.
13. The report was published in a book form “Comparative analysis of institutional academic autonomy in Denmark, Lithuania, Romania, Scotland and Sweden” (660 pages). The book is distributed among partner universities, other universities in the higher education system, the Ministry of Education, libraries.
14. The dissemination of this report on best practices in the EU was carried out also through other activities:
 - a. Placing reports on the EUniAM website, opening a forum on the website, sending them directly to all universities in Moldova;
 - b. Organization of 3 workshops – seminars on “Comparative analysis of EU experience on university autonomy” in Chisinau on October 7, 2015 (65 participants), Cahul – October 8, 2015 (73 participants) and Balti – October 9, 2015 (59 participants). Representatives of partner universities also attended, with presentations, these workshops;
 - c. Publication of 5 articles on best practices in the newspapers *Făclia* and *ECONOMIST*;
 - d. Organization of a press conference at Infotag that resulted in a great dissemination on the websites of mass media.
15. The activities of the work packages 2 and 3 were the basis for formulating legislative proposals on the strengthening of university autonomy in Moldova. Along with teamwork, to complete these proposals and develop a best practice guide, the external expert Mr. John Reilly was involved extensively, who, having

- an extensive work experience in the university area, provided a great support on highlighting the need of institutional reform at ministerial and institutional level and roadmaps.
16. As an outcome of the discussions held within the task force mission team, discussions with representatives from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance, Trade Unions and student representatives, businesses, there were developed the first drafts of the legislative proposals for the restructuring of the university institutional system, aimed at enhancing the system and continuous development of university autonomy.
 17. The discussion of these proposals began with a preventive meeting with the Minister of Education, Ms. Maia Sandu, and the head of the Department of Higher Education, Mrs. Nadejda Velisco, who, in principle, agreed to start discussions.
 18. Were conducted a series of activities to disseminate proposals:
 - a. 3 round tables “Public debates of legislative proposals on enhancing university autonomy in higher education sector in Moldova”, held in Chisinau (May 26, 2015, 33 participants), Cahul (May 27, 2015, 23 participants) and Balti (May 28, 2015, 17 participants). Participants in the discussions were rectors, vice-rectors, deans, students, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance. Ms. Minister, Maia Sandu, as a reply to mass media on radical proposals for restructuring the university system said that they largely correspond to the strategic reform directions of the ministry;
 - b. Placing on website and opening a forum on the project website <http://www.euniam.aau.dk> of the legislative proposals;
 - c. Organization of a press conference, which provided a tremendous impetus for discussions on the media websites.
 19. Feedbacks were analyzed on the legislative proposals and the final report was written on the restructuring, rationalization and modernization of higher education sector in Moldova in order to strengthen university autonomy.
 20. The good practice guide was completed on enhancing university autonomy in EU universities in the light of those practices which would support the enhancement of university autonomy in Moldova.
 21. The external expert Mr. John Reilly, UK, analyzed the Education Code Nr. 152 of 17.07.2014 and provided comments on its improvement in the light of international practices.

22. It was published, in book form, the Report on the restructuring, rationalization and modernization of higher education sector in Moldova, which includes legislative proposals for the restructuring, rationalization and modernization of higher education sector in Moldova in order to enhance university autonomy, comments on improving the Education Code Nr. 152 of 17.07.2014 and the guide of best practices.
23. EUniAM project completion conference was organized, entitled ‘Sustainability actions to support the restructuring, rationalization and modernization of higher education in Moldova’ attended by 56 people, who represented all project partners, including the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova. The conference was also attended by the representative of the EU Delegation to Moldova and representatives of the Erasmus+ Office, Moldova (<http://www.euniam.aau.dk>).
24. Project sustainability is and will be achieved by following:
- Support to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance in implementing the measures on financial and organizational autonomy;
 - Assistance to the Council of Rectors in restructuring activities of the institutional university system;
 - Dissemination/implementation of the institutional proposals proposed in the Guide of best practices;
 - Dissemination of proposals and discussions with members of the new institutional governance body – the Council of Institutional Strategic Development;
 - Dissemination of legislative proposals and of the Guide of best practices on the website, forum, distribution of the edited report to the project partners and other stakeholders.

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