Montenegrin Higher Education System – Challenges for the future cooperation with Nordic-Baltic countries

“Nordic-Baltic Erasmus+ Contact seminar in Western Balkans”

Belgrade, November 3-4, 2015

National Erasmus+ Office, Montenegro, Ranko Lazović
Outline of presentation

- Main features of Montenegrin HEIs
- Major reforms in HE field performed/ongoing
- Statistic on participation of Montenegrin EU programmes
- So far cooperation with Nordic-Baltic HEIs
- Areas for potential cooperation
- Challenges
HEIs in Montenegro

University of Montenegro – public university, as of 1974 (20 000 students)
University Mediteran – private university, as of 2006 (2000 students)
University Donja Gorica – private university, as of 2010 (2000 students)

Fields covered: economics, law, political sciences, tourism, languages, engineering studies, natural sciences, biotechnology, humanities, academies, tourism, maritime studies, medicine, pharmacy, architecture, …
Higher Education Structure

- **Doctoral Studies 3 Years - 180 ECTS**
  - 8. Year
  - 7. Year
  - 6. Year

- **Master Study 1 Year - 60 ECTS**
  - Undergraduate Study 4 Years - 240 ECTS

- **Specialist/Master Study 1/2 Year - 60/120 ECTS**
  - Undergraduate Study 3 Years - 180 ECTS

- **Specialist/Master 1/2 Year - 60/120 ECTS**
  - Undergraduate Study 3 Years - 180 ECTS

**Academic Study**

**Applied Study**
Some figures on Montenegrin HE system

- students enrolled in 2015/2016 academic year at public and private universities - 4779
- 3 accredited universities
- 10 accredited individual faculties (9 private and 1 public)
- 354 study programmes accredited by Council for Higher Education
- Accommodation: 1,992 places in student dormitories (5% for vulnerable social groups); including meals
Council of Higher Education responsible for accreditation of HEIs
(Re)accreditation of an institution, or a study programme performed by a foreign accreditation organization authorized to determine validity and quality of study programmes and harmonization with the professional needs of the country.
Decision on engagement of a foreign accreditation organization is made by the Ministry, upon previous opinion of the Council of Higher Education.
Self-evaluation report prepared by HEI
Council of Higher Education issues certificate on the reaccreditation for the period of maximum five years;
In accordance with the self-evaluation report and performed evaluation process, report on reaccreditation has been prepared.
The report submitted to the HEIs conducting self-evaluation, to the Ministry and Council of HE.
In accordance with the report of foreign accreditation agency on reaccreditation of HEI
Funding of Higher Education in Montenegro

- State Budget
- Tuition fees
- Donations, international projects ...
Ongoing reforms in HE

Analysis of situation in the area of the recognition of foreign educational credentials HERIC project – External evaluation of all higher education institutions

A feasibility study for establishing the system of career monitoring of university graduates (Tracer Study)

Fostering links between HE and the labour market through the Governmental programme on professional development
Participation in Tempus programme

**TEMPUS III and IV (2001-2013): Number of selected applications in which the country is involved as coordinator/partner**

- **64 projects in total**
- **Tempus III – 23**
- **Tempus IV – 41**
Participation of HEIs in EU programmes

TEMPUS programme

Administrative capacities at HEIs considerably improved
Improvement of teaching methodologies
Modernization of equipment
Improvement of cooperation between HEIs from Montenegro and WB region, and HEIs from EU member states
Closer cooperation achieved at local level between HEIs, and increased participation of non-academic partners
Involvement of employers in the creation of curricula in accordance with the labour market needs
Increased participation of students and students organizations
Better preparedness of academic community for the next phase of participation in Erasmus + programme
Participation of Montenegro in Erasmus+ programme
KA1 – International Credit mobility (1st call)
ICM 1st call - Participation of Montenegrin HEIs -32 projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mobility</th>
<th>Outgoing</th>
<th>Incoming</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participation of Montenegro in Erasmus+ programme
KA2 – Capacity building in higher education (1st call)

- 4 projects selected within 1st call
Opportunities for cooperation within Erasmus+

1. Capacity building in Higher Education – regional allocation for projects (February 10, 2016)
2. International Credit Mobility – Bilateral projects – programme and partner countries (February 2, 2016)
3. Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (February 18, 2016)
4. Jean Monnet (February 2, 2016)
5. “conditional” participation in other parts of E+
### Priorities – Categories/Themes for CBHE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Curriculum Development</th>
<th>Governance and Management</th>
<th>Higher Education and Society</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Subject Areas</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Improving quality of education and training</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Improving Management and operation of HEIs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Developing the HE sector within society at large</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## National priorities for Joint and Structural Projects
### Erasmus+ KA2 - Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>National priorities- Montenegro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Teacher training and education science; Law; Life sciences; Mathematics and statistics; Computing; Engineering and engineering trades; Agriculture, forestry and fishery; Health; Personal services; Others (Multidisciplinary, Interdisciplinary)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| B        | - Learning and teaching tools, methodologies and pedagogical approaches including learning outcomes and ICT-based practices (inter alia, flexible learning paths, blended courses, virtual and real mobility, practical placements etc.)  
- Multidisciplinarity/Interdisciplinarity |
| C        | - Governance, strategic planning and management of higher education institutions (including human resources and financial management)  
- University services such as support services for student and staff mobility, such as student counselling and guidance, social services, academic affairs, libraries, etc.;  
- Internationalisation of higher education institutions (including recognition mechanisms and mobility, international relations capacities)  
- Quality assurance processes and mechanisms; |
| D        | - Lifelong learning, continuing education  
- University-enterprise cooperation, employability of graduates |
### Regional priorities (WB) for Joint and Structural Projects
**Erasmus+ KA2 - (CBHE)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Regional priorities Western Balkans (Region 1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Teacher training and education science; Physical sciences; Engineering and engineering trades; Agriculture, forestry and fishery; Health; Transport services; Environmental protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>- Learning and teaching tools, methodologies and pedagogical approaches including learning outcomes and ICT-based practices (inter alia, flexible learning paths, blended courses, virtual and real mobility, practical placements etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>- Governance, strategic planning and management of higher education institutions (including human resource and financial management); - Internationalisation of higher education institutions (including recognition mechanisms and mobility, international relations capacities); - Access to and democratisation of higher education (including the disadvantaged groups of people and regions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>- Non-University sector at tertiary education level; - University-enterprise cooperation, entrepreneurship and employability of graduates; - Qualification frameworks and recognition of qualifications; - Definition, implementation and monitoring of the reform policies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges for future cooperation with Nordic-Baltic HEIs

- Curricula reforms (Economics, Law, Sports and Physical Education, Biotechnology, Tourism, Arts, Languages - Interpreting…)
- Sustainability of funding (adequate model of financing)
- Improvement of capacity of Council of Higher Education
- Further improvement of quality assurance system; increased students’ and academic mobility (internationalisation); improvement of accommodation infrastructure; university facilities’ infrastructure; innovation of curricula; provide adequate student support services, counseling and guidance, flexible learning paths and alternative access routes, including recognition of prior learning, development of learning outcomes;
- Reinforcement of Center for Doctoral Studies in Montenegro
- Work to enhance employability, lifelong learning through improved cooperation with employers, especially in the development of educational programmes;
- Development of research capacities;
What to take into account when planning projects

Do not forget to consult national strategic documents
Pay attention to national and regional priorities
Consult so far implemented projects
Prevent overlapping
Add innovative elements to your projects
Contact details

National Erasmus+ Office
Web page: neomontenegro.ac.me
E-mails: neo@ac.me
Thank you for your attention