

NEWSLETTER

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Embedding Quality Assurance in Doctoral Education

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

In an attempt to bridge the gap between the current state of affairs in Bosnian-Herzegovinian (BiH) higher education (HE) and research and European good practice, the project *Embedding Quality Assurance in Doctoral Education* (EQADE) is primarily targeted at installing more effective quality assurance (QA) structures in designing and offering doctoral programs at all public universities in BiH. The project specifically focuses on quality management and administration of doctoral education at the level of universities and development of consistent quality standards in doctoral education on a university-wide basis and on the level of BiH. In order to introduce and establish a new system of III cycle study programs, aligned with Bologna Principles, ENQA Standards in QA and, most importantly, Salzburg Principles, the project methodology relies on the following three phases which roughly correspond to respective project years:

1. phase – the first project year is largely dedicated to building institutional capacities of 8 BiH universities for (a) enhanced promotion of doctoral education and research and (b) accepting and installing new modes of developing and delivering doctoral

education. This phase entails maximal engagement of university stakeholders, both internal (administrative staff, teaching staff, management and students) and external (ministries of education, BiH Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance (HEA), etc.).

2. phase – the second project year will mostly focus on the conceptualization, formulation and acceptance of quality standards and procedures in doctoral education within the BiH academic community. This project phase presupposes active participation of HEA and involved ministries of education for the purpose of assuring wider acceptance of standards and their official adoptions by relevant public authorities. Furthermore, dissemination of project results, or more concretely, promotion of standards will play a large part in this project phase and the aim will be to better prepare the overall BiH academic community for future external program evaluations and accreditations in doctoral education.

3. phase – the final project year will be devoted to “testing” the previously developed methodologies and structures through the preparation and external evaluation of 8 new PhD programs.

WIDER AND SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVES PROJECT OUTCOMES

Wider Objective:

Promotion and support to development of state of art doctoral education at public universities in BiH in line with Bologna Process action lines and Strategy for Development of Science in BiH 2010-2015.

Specific Project Objectives:

1. Integration and more **efficient management of doctoral education** at 8 public BiH universities by the end of 2013
2. Formulation and adoption of **Quality Standards in Doctoral Education** at university and state level by the end of 2013
3. **Development of one doctoral program per university** (8 pilot projects) aligned with adopted procedures and quality standards by the end of 2014.

Principal outputs and outcomes of the project:

1. Development of university capacities for quality doctoral education
2. Establishment of preconditions for quality PhD education and research
3. Formulation of Quality Standards in Doctoral Education
4. Development of 8 new PhD programs in BiH (8 pilot projects)
5. Monitoring and Quality Control
6. Dissemination
7. Sustainability
8. Management of the project

IMPLEMENTED PROJECT ACTIVITIES - KICK-OFF MEETING IN HEIDELBERG

An initial meeting of the Consortium Committee of the project took place on November 15 – 16, 2011 at the University of Heidelberg. The Consortium Committee consisted of representatives of the Medical Faculty of the University of Heidelberg (HMF), WUS Austria, University of Palermo, University Dunarea de Jos of Galati, Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Srpska, HEA and all 8 BiH public universities.

At the first day of the meeting, representatives of partner institutions delivered short presentations on their institutions, providing an overview of and general information on their respective institutions, with a special focus on their doctoral education systems. Furthermore, the meeting participants had the opportunity to hear about two successful examples of PhD programs at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade, delivered by prof. Predrag Minić, and the Hartmut Hoffman-Berling International Graduate School of Molecular and Cellular Biology in Heidelberg, presented by the head of the PhD program, prof. Elmar Schiebel.

The second day of the meeting served as a valuable opportunity to discuss future project implementation, partner responsibilities, financial aspects and all technical details pertaining to the project conduct.

The primary outcome of the 1st consortium meeting, as foreseen in the project application, was a consolidated project work plan.



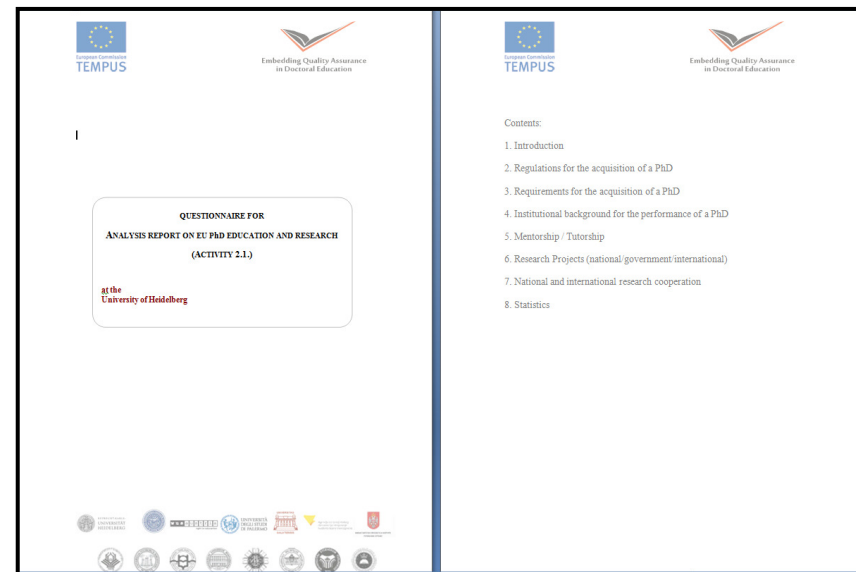
IMPLEMENTED PROJECT ACTIVITIES – ANALYSIS REPORT ON EU PhD EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (ACTIVITY 2.1.)

Due to heterogeneous approaches to PhD education across Europe, review and analysis of current situation in PhD in EU will serve as a good starting point for the re-conceptualization and restructuring of doctoral education at BiH universities as it will highlight clear goalposts and good practice models. The research results will be presented in reports which will be distributed to BiH universities and which will be used for the definition of university Road-maps (Activity 2.3).

Accordingly, within this activity, EU partner institutions (University of Heidelberg, University Dunarea de Jos of Galati and University of Palermo) were responsible for conducting research and analysis of current PhD offerings, how PhD education is managed as well as identification of main trends in doctoral education across Europe.

The content of the report, along with the instructions on what it should look like, was developed by HMF and WUS Austria, and subsequently sent to the EU partner institutions.

By February 2012, all three EU partner institutions submitted the finalized reports.




IMPLEMENTED PROJECT ACTIVITIES – UNITS FOR DOCTORAL EDUCATION STAFFED (ACTIVITY 1.2.)

Within Activity 1.2., and based on their internal resources, the management structures of 8 BiH public universities nominated/employed two staff profiles for their Units for Doctoral Education (UDE):


- 1) **Administration / Coordination staff** - responsible for providing administrative support to efficient management of PhD education
- 2) **Promotions Officer** - staff responsible for promotion of PhD education and research

HMF and WUS Austria defined the key competencies of both staff profiles (e.g. computer literacy, experience in scientific research, strong management, research and analytical skills, communication skills, English language fluency etc.) and sent them to the BiH public universities.

Accordingly, by March 2012, all 8 universities nominated the two staff profiles for their UDEs.

Job Description – Unit for Doctoral Education	
 Promotions Officer Embedding Quality Assurance in Doctoral Education	
Department:	
1. Job title: Promotions Officer	
2. Purpose of the job: Responsible for promoting and "embedding" PhD education and providing assistance to the Administration/Coordination staff as well as supporting policies within ongoing TEMPUS projects related to the embedding of quality assurance in doctoral education .	
3. Main tasks and responsibilities: The Unit for Doctoral Education (UDE) Promotions Officer will be responsible for promotion of PhD education and research, as well as providing ongoing support to the Administration / Coordination staff in efficient management of PhD education. The UDE Promotions Officer will work on the tasks and activities foreseen within the ongoing TEMPUS project "Embedding Quality Assurance in Doctoral Education" under the direct guidance of the UDE Coordinator. The UDE Promotions Officer will assist the UDE Coordinator, university management and academic staff in formulating University Roadmaps, which will define concrete steps in order to create a positive environment for creation of new doctoral programs, based on institutional research capabilities to the aim of initiating modern (integrated) research education aligned with BiH society needs. The UDE Promotions Officer will represent the university within the ongoing TEMPUS project. In the framework of this project, the UDE Promotions Officer will participate in trainings and workshops at his/her home university and other European universities. The UDE Promotions Officer will assist the UDE Coordinator and the university in the preparation of relevant project material and documentation.	
13. State of knowledge	Minimum state of knowledge to fulfil his/her tasks
Education	Doctoral degree
Professional experience	Mandatory: Work experience at university (either on scientific or on business administrative level) Experience in scientific research Preferable: Work experience in project management Work experience in promotional activities Work experience in networking

Special knowledge or skills	Knowledge of and experience in working with the local media Knowledge of the Bologna Process Knowledge of BiH and international PhD structures Knowledge of internal matters of university structure Research management skills
	Existing network within the science/supporting community High ambition and ability to get things done High progress to final High relational and communicative competence English language fluency Computer literacy (MS Office)
Necessary training	The UDE Promotions Officer will be trained on Salzburg Principles, PhD promotion tools, EU trends in doctoral education, research and quality assurance processes and instruments in doctoral education at his/her home institution and EU partner institutions.
Date	Job holder _____ Superior _____

Job Description – Unit for Doctoral Education	
 Administration / Coordination staff Embedding Quality Assurance in Doctoral Education	
Department:	
1. Job title: UDE Administration / Coordination staff	
2. Purpose of the job: Responsible for providing support to the quality assurance (QA) office and to the more efficient management of doctoral education at the university of Responsible for supporting and coordinating all activities foreseen within the ongoing TEMPUS project related to the embedding of quality assurance in doctoral education .	
3. Main tasks and responsibilities: The Unit for Doctoral Education (UDE) Administration / Coordination staff will be responsible for providing administrative support to the efficient management of PhD education. The UDE Administration / Coordination staff will work on the tasks and activities foreseen within the ongoing TEMPUS project "Embedding Quality Assurance in Doctoral Education". The UDE Coordinator will assist the university management and academic staff in formulating University Roadmaps, which will define concrete steps in order to create a positive environment for creation of new doctoral programs, based on institutional research capabilities to the aim of initiating modern (integrated) research education aligned with BiH society needs. The UDE Coordinator will represent the university within the ongoing TEMPUS project. In the framework of this project, the UDE Coordinator will participate in trainings and workshops at his/her home university and other European universities. The UDE Coordinator will assist the university in the preparation of relevant project material and documentation.	
13. State of knowledge	Minimum state of knowledge to fulfil his/her tasks
Education	Doctoral degree
Professional experience	Mandatory: Work experience at university (either on scientific or on business administrative level) Experience in scientific research Preferable: Work experience in industry and micro-environment Work experience in project management Work experience in networking Knowledge of the Bologna Process

Special knowledge or skills	Knowledge of BiH and international PhD structures Knowledge of internal matters of university structure Research management skills Research and analytical skills Existing network within the science/supporting community High ambition and ability to get things done High progress to final High relational and communicative competence English language fluency Computer literacy (MS Office)
Necessary training	The UDE Administration / Coordination staff will be trained on Salzburg Principles, PhD promotion tools, EU trends in doctoral education, research and quality assurance processes and instruments in doctoral education at his/her home institution and EU partner institutions.
Date	Job holder _____ Superior _____

IMPLEMENTED PROJECT ACTIVITIES – EVALUATION REPORTS ON BiH PhD EDUCATION (ACTIVITY 2.2.)

Within this activity, scientific affiliations at 8 BiH universities were to conduct thorough evaluation of all current PhD offerings at their institution, research capacities (available competent mentors, infrastructure, funds, etc.), cooperation with industry, international partnerships and bi and/ or multi-lateral agreements in order to collect institutionally scattered data into one centralized focal point –

Unit for Doctoral Education.

HMF and WUS Austria developed the evaluation questionnaire as well as the content for the report and sent them to the BiH public universities.

By March 15, 2012, all 8 public universities submitted the filled out questionnaires. The provided data was, hence, analyzed and presented in the Evaluation report on BiH PhD education.

Evaluation report on PhD education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Activity 2.2.)									
I. Requirements for the acquisition of a PhD									
No.	Name of the University	Faculty	Department	Chair	Program	Degree	Institution	Country	Date
1	University of Sarajevo	Faculty of Science	Department of Chemistry	Chair of Organic Chemistry	PhD in Chemistry	PhD in Chemistry	University of Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2012
2	University of Tuzla	Faculty of Education	Department of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	Chair of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	University of Tuzla	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2012
3	University of Banja Luka	Faculty of Education	Department of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	Chair of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	University of Banja Luka	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2012
4	University of Mostar	Faculty of Education	Department of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	Chair of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	University of Mostar	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2012
5	University of Bihac	Faculty of Education	Department of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	Chair of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	University of Bihac	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2012
6	University of Zenica	Faculty of Education	Department of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	Chair of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	University of Zenica	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2012
7	University of Drenovci	Faculty of Education	Department of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	Chair of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	University of Drenovci	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2012
8	University of Srebrenica	Faculty of Education	Department of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	Chair of Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	PhD in Pedagogical and Psychological Studies	University of Srebrenica	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2012

IMPLEMENTED PROJECT ACTIVITIES – PROJECT MEETING

A meeting within the project took place on March 15, 2012 at the Rectorate of the University of Sarajevo. It was attended by the representatives of WUS Austria, HMF and BiH public universities.

One of the primary aims of the meeting was to discuss Activity 1.1. *Units for Doctoral Education opened and equipped* and Activity 1.5. *Artificial Business Intelligence (ABI) procured*. It was agreed that BiH universities should consider the options and make their decisions on the adequate software (for the support of research/literature, scientific database, etc.) and send their ideas by April 15, 2012. Some of the submitted proposals for equipment included the following: research database, access to publications, equipment for distance conversation / video-conference, programs such as EndNote, SPSS. OriginLab, GraphPad, high definition web cameras, computers, projectors, etc.

The meeting also served as a valuable opportunity to discuss future actions and activities to be implemented during the 1st project year.



IMPLEMENTED PROJECT ACTIVITIES – UNIVERSITY STAFF TRAINED ON SALZBURG PRINCIPLES (ACTIVITY 1.3.)

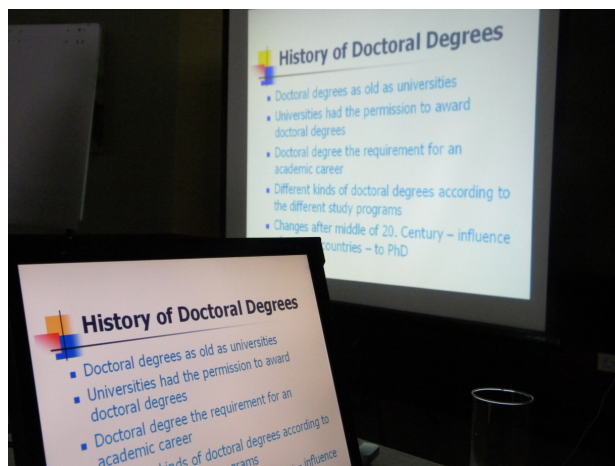
A Seminar on Salzburg Principles, as the widely accepted guiding principles to quality PhD education, was held in Mostar on May 24 and 25, 2012. At the seminar, lecturers from EU partner institutions presented to BiH representatives (UDE staff) how their universities work to incorporate Salzburg Principles and how they organize and manage PhD education and research. Additionally, a session on Road-maps was held for BiH representatives during the seminar. The seminar was also attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Srpska, HEA, Springer Verlag and Elea d.o.o.. Seminar participants had the opportunity to hear about PhD education and research at the EU partner institutions, namely, at the University of Heidelberg, the University of Palermo and the

University Dunarea de Jos of Galati in Romania.

What can be considered as one of the highlights of the seminar was the introduction of the Springerlink platform - the world's most complete online collection of STM books, journals and reference works, which was given by Mr. Cem Üzümlü from Springer Verlag.

Presentations on the Analysis according to the Salzburg Principles, the Salzburg Recommendations and Dublin Descriptors, as well as the Standards for PhD education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in Europe were also delivered at the seminar.

At the last day of the event, university representatives had the opportunity to give an overview of implemented and current activities at their institutions, with a focus on the current issues and challenges.



CONCLUSION

Preliminary results of the still running EU Tempus project 158853 Tempus – 1 – 2009 (*EU standards for accreditation of study programs on BiH universities, ESABIH*), where in the meantime 33 study programs in BiH were evaluated, have shown that on the one hand education at BiH HEIs mainly fulfils Bologna process related standards but that on the other hand standardization of research work and especially PhD study programs at these HEIs needs a further great support. The focus of the EQADE project aims to this initiative using 8 universities with different study programs as pilot HEIs for the instalment not only of PhD programs with a certain level of standardization and quality but also with the intention to generally introduce a level of international comparable research programs at those universities. Although the project is just running for 7 months, the three meetings with the different representatives of the project partners and especially the last meeting in Mostar have shown that the representatives of all 8 pilot HEIs based on extensive analysis procedures have recognized the problems and are willing and engaged for a fruitful cooperation. With this engagement driven by the knowledge that changes and developments in research and especially in PhD studies not only in

the 8 pilot HEIs but generally in BiH are a necessary requirement it should be possible to fulfil the ambitious aims of the EQADE project in the remaining 2 ½ years.

The process of integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the international community assumes acceptance and introducing completely new different standards in all areas. Regarding higher education, University of Tuzla has to do many reforms such as organization, management, and innovation in study programs and scientific-research field, as well. University of Tuzla consists of 13 faculties: Academy of Drama, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Faculty of Economy, Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Sport, Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Mining-Geological-Civil Engineering, Faculty of Technology, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Science and Faculty of Pharmacy. At all faculties 44 study programs are organized. Main goal of University of Tuzla is to achieve high standards and be a part of European Higher Education Area. Mission of the University of Tuzla is transferring the most advanced knowledge and skills to current and future students who will contribute to improvement in all areas of life. We hope the TEMPUS project „Embedding Quality Assurance in Doctoral Education–EQADE“ will be a step helping and supporting to get our goals. We expect to gain experience in organizing doctoral studies according to Bologna and Salzburg principles, it will help us to install high quality standards in PhD study.

University of Tuzla



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right to education



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Agencija za spolni i spolnog obrazovanja i osposobljavanja
Izvanredno Visne Učionice



MINISTARSTVO PROSVETE I NAUKE
REPUBLIKE SRBIJE

