

## MISSION REPORT

**Novi Sad, 25/26.02.2012.**

The national conference of the Students' Union of Serbia was held on 25. – 26.02.2012. year at the University of Novi Sad. The main reason for holding this meeting was the elections for new board 2012/2013. At the assembly gathered more than 80 students from university centers of Serbia. The conference was organized by SUS - Student Union of Serbia, full member of the ESU - European Students' Union and the only representative of students from Serbia in ESU.

Conference "Step Forward" summarise SUS projects, analyse problems that are encountered and the ways in which it was resolved, and the planning of further steps in the implementation of activities in 2012. year. A dynamic conference program includes lectures related to higher education and its promotion and interactive workshops where participants of the conference had the opportunity to develop their skills in the field of informal education.

This meeting was also organized for management, coordinating purposes having in mind that the activities within the SUS work package of the SIGMUS project.

Participants discussed about:

- 5.4. Creating a team of student mentors from all Serbian Universities, establishment of Student Mentors Pool (SMP)
- 5.5. Preparing, printing and distribution of guidelines related to SMPs' rights and responsibilities
- 5.6. Training of local student mentors at all Serbian Universities

### **5.4. Creating a team of student mentors from all Serbian Universities, establishment of Student Mentors Pool (SMP)**

In the first part of the meeting, participants discussed some practical issues related to creating a team of student mentors from all Serbian Universities. The SMP Program, a service provided by the each Faculty, offers first-year students another valuable source of guidance on all aspects of the studying experience. Through the program, students select mentors from a pool of hundreds of senior students or alumni. A designated board member maintains a list of the available mentors who is also the contact person for mentorship queries from the part of the students. A prospective mentor decides how long time he or she will be available as a mentor in the pool. With diverse backgrounds in a variety of industries and functions, these volunteers provide important insights to students.

### **5.5. Preparing, printing and distribution of guidelines related to SMPs' rights and responsibilities**

There are a number of ways in which SMP teams can be expected to assist new students with their successful adjustment and integration to the university environment during the orientation/commencement period. The main role of the Mentor is to: welcome new students, share with them experiences of settling into University, inspire and motivate commencing students to engage socially and academically while at university. Mentors are expected to commit to the following: attendance at and participation in the training offered, learning about services and facilities within the university in order to impart this information to new students, assistance with specific orientation activities, etc.



Strengthening Student Role in Governance  
**SIGMUS**  
and Management at the Universities of Serbia

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## 5.6. Training of local student mentors at all Serbian Universities

The student mentors are recruited under the auspices of Universities. Assistance is sought from staff within each of the Faculties - in publicising the program and encouraging students to volunteer to become an Mentor. If students are accepted into the program, they are invited to attend one two hour information session and one day of training. Upon the successful completion of this training they are considered to be part of the SMP Program. Students must attend training in order to participate as an SMP Mentor and previous mentors are expected to participate in refresher training.

Throughout the two days participants with the help of experienced trainers from the NGO sector planned specific measures and undertakings to be in 2012. taken towards improving student standards and improve the quality of teaching and communication between students and university staff.

One of the key issues is the conference cooperation of student organizations and the student representatives to the economy as one of the most important aspects. SUS is aware that cooperation of economic and academic sector, through mechanisms of social responsibility, is benefit to both parties. Through its work, SUS has shown how young and motivated students can present as a competitive labor market, with very little help from officials of the commercial sector.

As part of different multi-disciplinary training program of members through Serbia, SUS has demonstrated the importance of informal education as something that is complementary to higher education. Current knowledge and experience will be used for future planning activities in this field for the purpose of increasing the number of students trained in Serbia in 2012. year.

The rest of questions discussed on this occasion were related to administration and finance issues in order to ensure a smooth realization of planned activities.

This meeting was very successful, and some very important conclusions have been made.

Sincerely,

Nenad Bucevac

Students' Union of Serbia,

Belgrade, Serbia.