

MISSION REPORT

ON THE STUDY VISIT TO THE STUDENT UNION OF THE BOKU VIENNA

September 29 – October 01, 2013

List of TEMPUS SIGMUS delegates from Serbia:

1. Vera Markovic, University of Nis, contact person, teaching staff representative,
2. Radojka Krneta, University of Kragujevac, contact person, teaching staff representative,
3. Miloš Nešić, President of the Student parliament of the University of Niš
4. Goran Cvetković, Vice-President of the Student parliament of the University of Niš
5. Vladica Maričić, Secretary of the Student parliament of the University of Niš
6. Nikola Ivković, Student vice-rector of the University of Kragujevac
7. Nedeljko Mišić, President of the Student parliament of the University of Kragujevac

REPORT:

Above listed delegates visited the Student Union of the BOKU University Vienna from September 28 to October 01, 2013, within the scope of the Tempus project SIGMUS.

Having in mind that cultural and social linking of students within the European HEA is of the big importance, on the first day of the stay, a visit to the cultural and historical sights of Vienna was organized by the host contact person Florian Weinberger (AG).

During the second and third day of the visit, a series of meetings, presentations and discussions were held according the agenda. The main speakers from the host institution were:

1. Florian Weinberger (AktionsGemeinschaft), contact person of the Student Union BOKU
2. Janine Wulz (GRAS - Green and alternative students Wien), former chairperson of Austrian student Union
3. Thomas Fussenegger (AktionsGemeinschaft), member of student parliament
4. Matthias Koppensteiner, Chair of Student Union of BOKU
5. Stephan Steinbach, Fachschaftsliste Österreichs, officer of international affairs.

The visiting student representatives from University of Nis and Kragujevac gave also short presentations about their work within student bodies.

The presentations and discussions were focused mainly to the student organizing issues, decision-making power of students at the university level and how to improve the situation in this area.

From the aspect of the sustainability, following questions were interesting for the discussion: How to transfer the information and knowledge between the old and new student representatives and how to provide the continuous work in student organizations? How to motivate students for their participation in the university governance and management? Are there some benefits for student representatives, for instance ECTS grant? To what extent are the students interested in their participation in Higher Education reform? What are the criteria for candidates for student representatives and do they include some specific personal characteristics and skills? How the principle of equal access to the student leader positions is applied and to which extent the gender issues, involvement of students with special needs, involvement of students from different social groups, etc. are considered? Such and similar issues were discussed during the meetings.

Funding issues are also of the big importance regarding the sustainability. Having that in mind, the student representatives from the host institution shared their experience about the financing of student organizations with the Serbian student representatives.

Further points of interest for discussion were student e-services, carrier services, alumni networks, etc. and how they are organized in Austria. Examples of some specific activities which are coordinated by student organizations were described.

The experience of the student representatives of BOKU Vienna was very useful for Serbian student representatives, and this experience will be disseminated at home universities in order to enhance student organizing.

In addition, Campus tours were organized for the visitors to see different facilities at the BOKU University.



Prof. Vera Markovic,
Contact person of the University of Nis, Serbia



Prof. Radojka Krneta,
Contact person of the University of Kragujevac, Serbia