

REPORT

on the meeting held on 22th February 2011 in Nis
of the project

TEMPUS Project No. 511332 – TEMPUS-1-2010-1-RS-TEMPUS-SMGR

Strengthening Student Role in Governance and Management at the
Universities of Serbia in line with the Bologna Process (SIGMUS)

Participants:

1. Prof. **Vera Marković** - contact person, University of Nis (UNI)
2. Prof. **Vesna Lopičić** - Vice-Rector of UNI
3. **Nenad Jovanović** - UNI student, member of the national team HERE of Ministry of Education,
4. **Milos Nesić** - UNI student, president of the Student Parliament, University of Niš,
5. **Misa Živic** - UNI student, president of SKONUS
6. **Ivan Gaćeša** - UBG, EVO portal
7. **Vladimir Antonijević** - student UBG, contact person for SKONUS
8. **Milan Popović**- student Vice-Rector UBG
9. **Aleksandar Tolić** - President of Students' Parliament UBG
10. **Diana Jagodić** - student Vice-Dean TF Čačak, UKG
11. **Kristina Davidović** - contact person for SAB - Student Alliance of Belgrade,
12. **Milica Filajdić** - President of Students' Parliament FASPER's - Student Alliance of Belgrade,
13. **Marina Zivić** - contact person for the Sinidunum University (SU)
14. **Milena Joksimovic-Pajević** - contact person for the Megatrend University (MU),
15. **Emilija Lipovsek** - lecturer, representative of ADSAS,
16. **Mario Spasić**- President of SKASSS and representative in the National Council for Higher Education,
17. **Amina Kurtanović** - Student Vice-Rector of the State University of Novi Pazar (SUNP)
18. **Srdjan Jovanović** - President of Students' Parliament of Faculty of Law UNS
19. **Aleksandar Sofić**- President of Students' Parliament of FTN, UNS,
20. **Danilo Čeman** - President of the Students' Parliament of the University of Novi Sad (UNS)
21. **Goran Rodić** - Student Vice-Rector UNS, SKONUS,
22. **Vladimir Maricic** - student UNI, SPUN,
23. **Marija Milenkovic** - University of Nis, the scorer

Start of the meeting: 13:00

AGENDA:

13:00 to 15:00

- **Opening and Keynote – Prof. Vera Marković SIGMUS Project Coordinator of UNI,**
- **Opening speech by Vice-Rector of the University of Nis – Prof. Vesna Lopičić**
- **Short presenting the meeting participants**
- **Presentation of the current version of the questionnaire and information on received proposals / suggestions**
- **Discussion about received proposals / suggestions and formulation of the questions in the questionnaire**

15:00 to 15:30

BREAK / COCKTAIL

15:30 to 17:00

- **Continued discussion**
- **Adoption of the final version of the questionnaire**
- **Agreement on further activities and administrative matters**

The participants, student representatives, students and administrative staff, were welcomed by Prof. Vera Marković, the SIGMUS coordinator of the project for the University of Niš and Prof. Vesna Lopičić, Vice-Rector of the University of Niš.

Prof. Vera Marković opened the meeting of **SIGMUS Tempus** project stating the goal of the project which is **strengthening the role of students in the management of universities in Serbia in line with the Bologna process**. Besides the primary objective, the project includes a package of specific goals and activities which are divided according to work packages. The first work package activities belong to UNI and are devoted to the analysis of the current situation in terms of organizing students and their participation in the management of higher education institutions. Accordingly, the first working meeting was dedicated to obtaining the final version of the questionnaire which will be used to carry out comprehensive surveys of universities and colleges in Serbia.

Prof. Vesna Lopicic, Vice-Rector of UNI, said that the Rectorate of UNI gives maximum support to Tempus projects, and that the application period for Tempus projects has just finished, and Niš has about 30 applications participating as a coordinator or as a partner on the project, with the tendency of involving students in all projects, so they will have the opportunity to be engaged in other Tempus projects in addition to SIGMUS. The initiation and setting of the base of the SIGMUS project was started by the students, who will benefit of this project as well.

Nenad Jovanović, UNI student and member of the national team HERE of Ministry of Education, presented the current version of the SIGMUS questionnaire, which can be find on:

<http://evo.rs/SigmusAnketa.do?code=szheokdewwti49>

and which is modified through discussions and adjustments of proposals at this meeting. The final version of the questionnaire will be filled out by the higher education institution and the official student representatives. Data collected from the survey, will show, by using comparative analysis, the real conditions, challenges and problems the students are faced with. In order to raise the quality, solve problems in a timely fashion and strengthen the role of students in the management of universities in Serbia, in accordance with the Bologna process, the SIGMUS questionnaire should be clearly and precisely defined, with a set of comprehensive, specific questions. The SIGMUS questionnaire will be separately filled by students and representatives of the administration of higher education institutions. Each university / higher education institution will have their contact person and their code, so it will be easier to access the state, monitor and solve specific problems.

SIGMUS questionnaire consists of several parts, within which there is a group of questions with clear guidelines for their completion. Through discussion, taking into account the opinions delivered before the meeting, the following changes were adopted to improve the quality of the questionnaire:

- Nenad Jovanovic's proposal was to set up an official e-mail address of the project through which correspondence will be conducted with all persons responsible for the questionnaire.
- proposal of Prof. Vera Marković that the first page of questionnaire should have SIGMUS project logo and a short introductory text: "This questionnaire has been developed within the project Tempus Project No. 511332-TEMPUS-1-2010-1-RS-TEMPUS-SMGR, Strengthening Student Role in Governance and Management at the Universities of Serbia in line with the Bologna Process ". Singidunum University is in charge for logo and web site design of project.
- In the part I of the questionnaire *Students in NNV* the proposals of Prof. Radojka Krneta from the University of Kragujevac were accepted: For completing surveys at the university level, there was a reformulation of the affiliation with the institution; accepted marking VU - A higher education institution. Supplement the survey will be carried out with the names of all registered higher education institutions, and if some fail, the expert team who is in charge of the site layout will made late registration of higher education institutions.
- Reformulation of question 6 was adopted in unit *Students in NNV*.
- In the part of questionnaire called *The Dean's Collegium*, which is completely added by the proposal of Kristina Davidović, the clarification of terms and relevant bodies Dean's Collegium universities was made, and then next questions ware adopted:

1. How many Dean's Collegiums ware held at your institution (draft reply: weekly, biweekly, monthly, and I do not know);

2. Number of students who participate in the Dean's Collegium,

3. Whether students are regularly invited to the Dean's Collegium (a) regular, (b) often, (c) rare.

- In the part of questionnaire called *Other bodies of Higher education institution* 3th question was deleted.
- In the part of questionnaire called *Student's Questions* next proposal's were approved: question 1 *Who can participate in elections for the Student Parliament?* (provided answers: (a) a list of student organizations, (b) an independent list, (c) the independent candidates).
- After question 2 a new question was added: *Do students have access to the results of other polls conducted by students?*

- Next question is rephrased to: "*During the election process of lecturers, is the assessment of students on their pedagogical work taken into account?*"
- Next question is reformulated to: *Where the student representatives address, if problem is unsolvable at the VU?*, with the correction of the offered answers.

It was pointed out that the SIGMUS questionnaire will be applied to private colleges Singidunum, Megatrend and the Integrated National UNP as well. However, taking into account their different structure in the organization of management, representatives from these colleges will be obliged to, if needed, to prepare additional reports indicating the features specific for their universities.

After the Cocktail break the second part of the discussion began at 15:30 with following results:

- From the proposal of Natasha Sajlović, the question 2 was adopted: *The management staff of VU motivates students to participate in decision-making processes* with the following structure of answers: (a) I agree completely, (b) agree partly, (c) disagree, and (d) strongly disagree. This issue belongs to the part ***Student Questions***
- Under the proposal of Ivan Milosević a reformulation of question 2 was adopted: *Are the student council members equally entitled to vote at meetings like the other members?* The possible answers: yes and no.
- In the part Student Questions next question was adopted: "*Do you finance capacity building and training of student representatives and the authorities?*" If the answer is yes, then comes the proposal of possible answers - training, conferences, seminars, competitions.
- Proposals of Ivan Milosevic are not accepted in the part Student Questions.
- Concerning the proposals of Milena Joksimovic-Pajević in the part Student's Questions, a reformulation was made and the following proposal was adopted "*Are the students invited to the NNV sessions?*", with offered answers: yes, always, rarely, never, sometimes. Question 3 was deleted. The following question 4 was adopted: "Does the elections for parliament held every year?", the answers will be yes or no. If the answer is yes, next question will appear: "*When they were held?*" with the possibility of choosing between the answers from 2006 to 2010 year. In addition, a reformulated question was adopted "*List the number of students who went out to the last elections for the Student Parliament?*"
- Taking into account the suggestions of Vladimir Antonijevic, the following questions were adopted in the part Student's Questions: "*Is the electoral system parliamentary, majority or mixed?*", "*Does Students' Parliament has a budget?*" (Possible answers are yes or no), "*Is there an umbrella representative body of student representatives in Serbia?*" (possible answers yes or no), "*Are students aware that there is a European student union?*" (answers yes or no).

Conclusion and end of the meeting at 17 h.

Nis, 22th February 2011

V Markovic

Prof. Vera Markovic