

External reviewer recommendations

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Strengthening of master curricula in water resources
management for the Western Balkans HEIs and stakeholders

Project number: 597888-EPP-1-2018-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Relevance

The project activities specified in the project proposal correspond to the project objectives and addressing real problems and needs. They were realized delivering outcomes relevant to the objectives.

The target beneficiaries, as defined within the project proposal have participated in planned activities and organized events (seminars, training, etc.), and other measures were taken to support the project realization.

Relevance can also be confirmed by a relatively high number of participants, quality of presentations, and evaluation reports of these events.



Efficiency

Transformation of the project inputs to outputs is **confirmed** by well-documented reports for realized project activities and delivered outputs. No severe deviations have been noticed in project executions and project plan, besides small delays due to the Covid pandemic, which is expected.



Effectivity

All delivered main outputs **match** the wider and specific objectives defined in the project proposal **achieving the main project goal** by including a high number of participants in the organized events.



Impact

My overall impression about the **project** is that it **fulfilled the expectations with a great impact**, although a relatively large number of participants was involved in project realization. All planned outcomes are being delivered or are in progress according to the initial project plan without deviations. **Planned comparison of the situation before the project and after project realization can confirm the quality assessment of project deliveries and their impact besides the quantity measures specified in the management reports and delivery results.**



Sustainability

As the curricula accreditation process is finalized and all training material delivered and courses initiated, I believe that the project consortium will continue to deliver courses with the support of the local and national government bodies, industry, and the University management ensuring financial and social sustainability.

Overall conclusions

The planned and realized project activities correspond to the project objectives and deliveries have outstanding quality. A small number of activities are still in progress according to the project plan and corrective measures from provided recommendations, giving evidence of excellent quality management.

Recommendations for which an action is planned to be realized

- In addition, I recommend the Universities plan to add subjects on resource management of other environmental resources, including renewable energy resources or waste management within the scope of the studies as electives or branches of currently defined studies. Also, I recommend adding knowledge and skills of modeling and simulation within WRM.
- Some of the generic competencies are neither covered by mandatory nor by elective subjects, and they need to be specified, or relevant clarification where these competencies will be achieved.



Recommendations for which an action is planned to be realized

- Although a comprehensive strategy for implementation of course innovation is developed and specified in the report WP2.3, still the report targets details on the developed curricula and does not present what is the innovation achieved. The document should more clearly specify what is new (method of achieving competencies, the program itself) and what is the benefit of the invention to justify the innovation, instead of presenting just the study program details. This needs to be updated, also, with a possible list of social, technology development, environment or other benefits.



Recommendations for which an action is planned to be realized

- There is no report of how many handbooks were printed or distributed, and/or promoted to relevant staff working in governmental institutions for WRM.
- Although not directly planned, I strongly recommend organizing LLL courses within developed curricula and training material.
- Within the WP3 there is no specific action that plans realization of LLL courses in WB, although the state-of-the-art in EU is well documented, needs for WB are analyzed and training material developed. I would encourage additional activities outside the project scope to organize such courses. This would be a great add-on value to the project to cover the third specific objective of the project.



Recommendations for which an action is planned to be realized

- I recommend raising the awareness level at a wider community, including other WB countries, by inviting them to dissemination or training events. This will improve the regional cooperation and overall visibility of the project results and outcomes.
- I recommend the Universities to plan adding subjects on resource management of other environmental resources, including renewable energy resources or waste management within the scope of the studies as electives or branches of currently defined studies.



Recommendations for which an action is planned to be realized

- I strongly encourage the last report to include a comparison of the situation before the project start and the situation after finishing the project, such as the number of experts in WRM, number of job positions, number of held LLL courses, and improvement of competencies of existing employees in WRM. This would give sufficient answers on the project impact and quality of project results.
- I recommend that the event organizer and project coordinators also report on the selection criteria for all participants on realized activities, to ensure that the main target audience is communicated.



Recommendations for which an action is planned to be realized

- I would suggest more efforts to be set in enabling work positions for prospective students, as this will be a motivator for students to study the proposed master curricula. This can be achieved by initiating a development strategy on a national or local level that will organize administration or institutional support of WRM.
- Four WB countries are included in the project. I strongly recommend including also North Macedonia and Albania, at least in the dissemination phase.



Recommendations with clarified requirements

- In addition to planned actions, realize one-to-one meetings with government officials and initiate activities with support to sustainability of project results
- Provide evidence of support of the national ministry of education
- Provide evidence of support by attaching documents – the document on your website reflects management (including risk management) and does not reflect financial sustainability
- The register of companies for WRM in WB countries is developed, but no competencies and responsibilities are associated with each company.