



Fostering Internationalization at Montenegrin HEIs through Efficient Strategic Planning – IESP

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Activity no.	Dev. 6.6 Exploring possibilities for continuation of the cooperation with the EU partners
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The *IESP consortium* responds to the needs of the internationalization aim of the project. Most of the project partners, demonstrate sufficient knowledge, experience and operational capacity to deliver the projected outcomes. The cooperation within the IESP project is proof that sustainable partnerships can help raise the profile of the Montenegrin HEIs.

Continuity of IESP achievements will be ensured through different modalities agreed between the consortium members already at the Kick-off meeting. During this meeting each partner presented their institution, giving insight into their education and research strengths, cooperation possibilities and interests. Already at this point initial agreement was made to consider cooperation of the IESP coordinating institution – the University of Montenegro with the same consortium of EU universities on a capacity building project application, which in turn, was prepared on one of the IESP topics aimed at raising the international standing and visibility of Montenegrin universities and attracting more incoming students. By teaming up with the colleagues from the University of Cadiz, University of Ljubljana, and the University Cote d'Azur, in August 2020 the University of Montenegro was approved for funding the Erasmus + application for the project *Development of regional joint master program in Maritime environmental protection and Management - MEP&M - 619239-EPP-1-2020-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP*. The importance of this initiative is even bigger as this will be the first joint master programme at the University of Montenegro and at the same time the first master programme provided in English language. Applying for and obtaining a grant for this project the University of Montenegro actually already started the implementation of the strategic objectives that have been defined in the Internationalization Strategy developed through IESP project.

Additionally, increasing the knowledge in the internationalization field of the HEIs, the partnerships will impact the technological solutions, practices, theoretical aspects and new project ideas. A continuation of the related activities is to be expected and makes project partnerships sustainable. It will positively affect the participation in newly program calls, providing a concrete integration with EU policies in the domain of HE, and obtaining specialized human resources that will be competitive at national, regional and





international level. The popularization of such effective collaborations will increase a public appearance of Montenegrin HEIs and hopefully will provide students' enrolment.

The idea for the repeated project collaboration and partnerships from the IESP project were provoked by two things:

- 1) Partner countries HEIs need to foster international recognition and systemic development approach (accreditation of interdisciplinary joint master program in English, upgrade of institutional resources, the introduction of new teaching methods, etc.), and
- 2) Transfer the best practices from programme countries HEIs to partner countries institutions to build up project capacities and contribute EU pre-accession progress for Montenegro and Albania.

The sustainability of cooperation within the project consortium is ensured also through signing of Inter-Institutional Agreements for credit mobility within KA107 programme.

The University of Montenegro has signed the IIAs with all three EU partner institutions: the University of Ljubljana, the University Cote d'Azur and the University of Cadiz. Some of the mobilities have been implemented, but due to the Covid 19 outbreak, most of them will be realized in the period to come, when the objective circumstances allow this.

The calls for applications within the IIAs have been published at the web site of the University of Montenegro.

<https://www.ucg.ac.me/objava/blog/19379/objava/87522-konkurs-za-univerzitet-u-ljubljani-masinstvo-rok-12-oktobar-2020>

<https://www.ucg.ac.me/objava/blog/19379/objava/90769-konkurs-za-razmjenu-za-univerzitet-u-ljubljani-arhitektura-rok-2-novembar-2020>

<https://www.ucg.ac.me/objava/blog/19379/objava/87545-konkurs-za-univerzitet-u-kadizu-sve-oblasti-rok-12-oktobar-2020>

<https://www.ucg.ac.me/objava/blog/19379/objava/62969-konkurs-za-razmjenu-za-univerzitet-azurna-obala-francuska-rok-za-prijavu-13-02-2020>

The University of Donja Gorica has made an agreement with all three EU institutions for signing the IIA, but the suspension of the application in the year 2021 due to the pandemic will not allow for these plans to be realized.

The University Mediterranean has also considered signing the agreements with EU partners. As soon as the conditions are created for this the plans for signing the agreements will be resumed.





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