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**University of Montenegro**

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Datum / Date 30.06. 20 21

**Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)**  
**Mr Ralf Rahders**  
**Head of Unit A4**

**Cc: Ms Giulia Moro, Project Officer**

**Subject: Official request for extension of the implementation period for the project no: project no. 609675-EPP-1-2019-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP**

Dear Mr Rahders,

We are writing in order to officially request extension of the implementation period for the Erasmus+ project "**Fostering Internationalization at Montenegrin HEIs through Efficient Strategic Planning**" - **project no. 609675-EPP-1-2019-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP**. The project started on 15 November 2019 and should run until 14 November 2021. During the past year and a half, in spite of the ambitiously designed work programme, most of the project activities have been implemented according to the original plan, with slight deviations resulting mainly from the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. In January this year we submitted the Progress report with a detailed account of the implemented activities.

Currently we are in the stage of project implementation when the activities and results achieved in the previous two years are yielding major outputs. The three Montenegrin universities adopted Internationalization Strategies with the accompanying Action Plans and are implementing them. The equipment procured within the project is being used for the capacity building purposes, not only within activities organized as foreseen by the IESP project, but also for the purpose of another complementary project funded by the Erasmus+ programme. The supporting documentation for the internationalization process has been developed. A number of trainings for academic and administrative staff organized on the topics of relevance for the internationalization process at Montenegrin universities helped build the capacities for better integration of Montenegrin HEIs in EHEA and ERA.

One project activity though is taking longer than foreseen by the original proposal, and that is accreditation of the pilot summer schools in English language to be provided by the University of Montenegro. Following the trainings organized by EU partner institutions, the programmes of the two interdisciplinary summer schools comprising development of the course content and the learning outcomes, procedures of student recruitment, procedures of dealing with the application process, and an arrangement of housing for the students have been developed with the support of professionals from the



business sector. The two summer schools will be offered by the Faculty of Maritime Studies Kotor and Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management in English language with ECTS. As previously emphasized, the two faculties have completed all the work needed for preparing the summer schools and initiating the procedures of their accreditation. The procedure of qualification development has also been completed by the Sectoral Committee of the Ministry of Education. The next step is the process of accreditation to be conducted by the Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education of Montenegro – ACQAHE. Before submitting the request for accreditation of two pilot summer schools to ACQAHE, the University of Montenegro has to conduct its internal procedure for the approval of the two summer schools programmes. This means that it is not very likely that the accreditation process can be completed this summer so that the schools as such are offered to foreign students.

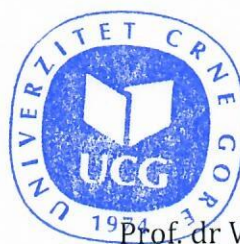
For this reason we are writing to inquire about the possibility of having an extension of the eligibility period, which would allow us to follow up the process of accreditation and offer the summer schools to incoming foreign students, which also represents an important tool for promoting our project results. The project extension would also be an opportunity to follow-up and capitalize on the project activities and measure their impact on the internationalization processes of Montenegrin HEIs.

We would be very grateful if you could extend IESP project (609675-EPP-1-2019-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP) for 1 year from November 15 2021 to November 14 2022.

We emphasize that the proposed extension would not have any implications on the project budget. Enclosed you can find the updated work programme.

We hope you understand our reasoning and will consider granting extension of the project eligibility period to allow us to capitalize on the project achievements.

Sincerely,



Acting Rector

Prof. dr Vladimir Božović