



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Erasmus + project No. 585961-EPP-1-2017-1-AL-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP (2017 -2926/001 -
001)

“GRaduates Advancement and Development of University capacities in Albania”

Event title:	NEO monitoring visit
Event date:	08 January 2020
Event Venue:	Agricultural University of Tirana

MINUTES 15 - EVENT REPORT

Participants:

Agriculture University of Tirana	AUT-UBT
Polytechnic University of Tirana	PUT
University of Arts	UArts
European University of Tirana	UET
POLIS University	U-POLIS
Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Counsel"	UNIZKM
Albanian University	AU
Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Tirana	CCIT
Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	MESY

On 8th January 2020, a monitoring visit was organized by the staff of the Erasmus+ office in Tirana in the framework of the GRADUA project implementation, postponed due to the difficult situation that our country went through due to the November 2019 earthquake.

The purpose of the visit was to monitor the implementation of the project, identify potential problems and recommend solutions.

The meeting was opened with the welcoming speech of the representatives of Erasmus + office, Mr. Olti Pengu and Mrs Erida Curraj. They briefed the participants on the purpose of this meeting and their willingness to listen to any problems encountered and suggest solutions to these problems.

Further on, the speech was followed by the project coordinator, Ms. Aurora Hoxha who made a presentation of the results of the 2 years work of the coordinating staff and partners in the project implementation. She was mainly focused on the achievements so far such as student registrations on the platform, although one of the partners, exactly TU did not have the required achievements. Furthermore she shared with the attendees the fact that, thanks to the GRADUA platform, it was possible to employ 3 graduates and implement 8 professional internships. The registration and interest of the companies, although in the early stages of the population is very satisfactory, as there are currently 62 companies registered on the platform.

The meeting was further organized as a question-answer discussion between Erasmus + office staff and partners.

Among the questions that were most discussed were those related to the ways of disseminating the platform to students and companies, among which were noticed in official partner links, internal rector decisions to push students to enroll, information seminars, social networks etc.

The financial issues and the problems of transferring funds from the coordinator to the partners were another part of the discussion. The project coordinator explained that from May 2019 until October 2019, all public universities have been in the process of applying and receiving a draft number / code of legal obligation required by the Ministry of Finance. The financial issues and the problems of transferring funds from the coordinator to the partners are another part of the discussion. As a result of this process, the transfer of the second tranche to the partners were delayed by the coordinator. This undoubtedly led to delays in the second phase of reporting, leading to a delay in the project audit process planned for December 2019.

Another issue regarding the financial aspect was that the equipment procurement process, for which the Erasmus + office staff was informed that it is already a successfully closed process, conducted centrally by the coordinator through Public Procurement and with participation of every partner agency at every stage of the process. From April 2019, students will be able to register on the platform through these devices.

During the discussions it was emphasized by the attendees the fact that the coordinating staff was correct with its commitments to partners in both reporting, communication and management, but not only, as it had often planned and organized activities ahead of the time planned in the project proposal.

On the other hand, the engagement of the majority of partners has been correct, although slightly more work is required from the University of Tirana in student enrollment and the University of Arts in the dissemination of the project, especially in the preparation of dissemination materials.

Finally, all partners recognized that already with concrete employment results to be presented to students who will be graduated on the eve of graduation, it is hoped that there will be more motivation for them to increase the number of registered students during the last year of implementation project.

The final part of the meeting consisted in a visit by NEO staff to the equipment lab purchased by the project from the AUT coordinating institution. These devices are set at the Career and Alumni office, as the platform-generated product will no doubt be a valuable tool for the information that this office needs to prepare and report as well as assist in their daily work.