Enhancing the quality of distance learning at Western Balkan higher education institutions

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List of partner organizations

- University Macerata, Italy
- Université Paul Cézanne, Aix-Marseille 3, France
- University Primorska Faculty of Management Koper, Slovenia
- The European Foundation for Quality in eLearning, Brussels
- Council of Higher Education, Podgorica, Montenegro
- Ministry of Education and Sciences, Podgorica, Montenegro
- University Mediterranean, Podgorica, Montenegro
- University Montenegro, Podgorica, Montenegro
- National Council for Higher Education, Belgrade, Serbia
- Ministry of Education, Belgrade, Serbia
- Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance, Belgrade, Serbia
- University of Kragujevac, Serbia
- FYR Macedonia
- Ministry of Education and Sciences, Skopje, FYR Macedonia
- University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, FYR Macedonia
- University FON, Skopje, FYR Macedonia
- University of Nis, Serbia
- University of Belgrade, Serbia
Motivation behind the project

• The number of higher education institutions in Western Balkan beneficiary countries that have adopted some form of online teaching is increasing, but the quality varies substantially

• Students often face the problem of not knowing what they can expect in courses or study programs marked as “online”
Joint WB Initiative

• Uniformity of e-learning methodology, quality standards and harmonization of the national accreditation systems with the European quality assurance system

• National Ministries of Education, Councils for Higher Educations, Accreditation agencies and quality assurance bodies in Western Balkan beneficiary countries are considering developing standards for the assessment of quality in open and distance learning
**Wider Project Objective**

- The DL@WEB project has been designed to improve the quality and relevance of distance education (DL) at Western Balkan higher education institutions and to enable easier inclusion of partner country institutions into European Higher Education Area.

- This project is highly supported by Ministries of Education, National Councils for Higher Education and Commissions for Accreditation in all three partner countries.
Specific Project Objectives

• To improve, develop and implement accreditation standards, guidelines and procedures for distance learning study programs according to EU practices at national levels in Serbia, Montenegro and FYRM

• To establish the framework for improving DL quality assurance and eLearning methodology on HE institutional level in WB countries

• To provide training for relevant members of HE educational and public authorities responsible for accreditation and evaluation of DL programs and trainers involved in DL from each partner country
# The list of developing activities leading to the expected project outcomes

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1. Review and analyze existing European DL pract. and princ. for QA and accreditation of DL study programs in HE

- (DEV) 1.1 Analysis of existing European practice and principles for quality assurance in DL
  - Report can be found: http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=11rep1

- (DEV) 1.2 Analysis of the policy level documents addressing internal/external accreditation of DL study programs in HE
  - Report can be found: http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=12rep

- (DEV) 1.3 e-Learning Benchmarks: review on benchmarking methodology and quality monitoring tools
  - Report can be found: http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=13rep
2. Establish the framework for improving DL quality assurance and eLearning methodology on HE institutional level in WB PCs

- (DEV) 2.1 Analysis of existing WB practice in DL and cross-matching with European practices and standards
  - Report can be found:
  - [http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=21rep](http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=21rep)

- (DEV) 2.2 Define eLearning methodology and QA issues for content, delivery and support processes
  - Report can be found:
  - [http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=22Sevaq](http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=22Sevaq)

- (DEV) 2.3 Stakeholders seminars (feedback, advice, and validation)
  - More information:
  - [http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=62stakesem](http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=62stakesem)
3. Improvement and development of regulations for DL in HE in WB countries

- (DEV) 3.1 Tuning of existing legal framework for HE in WB countries to specify DL
- (DEV) 3.2 Improvement and development of accreditation standards, guidelines and procedures for DL study programs in the WB region
- (DEV) 3.3 Improvement of the university regulatory documents and procedures to include specific reference to DL option in study programmes
4. Retraining-training of HE education auth. involved in DL from each partner country who would act as assessors and trainers

- (DEV) 4.1 Training of members of Accreditation Commissions and HE public authorities
  - More information: [http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=41train](http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=41train)
- (DEV) 4.2 Training of official reviewers for DL study programs
- (DEV) 4.3 Training of trainers for university academic and administrative staff that will instruct further in DL in HE
  - More information: [http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=43train](http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=43train)
- (DEV) 4.4 Seminars organized by the national authorities in education to mark the start of implementing improved standards in PCs
5. Quality control and monitoring

- (QPLN) 1.1 Internal quality monitoring, assessment and control
  - More information: http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=51iqcm

- (QPLN) 1.2 External quality control and monitoring
  - More information: http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=52ar1

- (QPLN) 1.3 Inter-Tempus coaching
  - More information: http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=53itq1
6. Dissemination

• (DISS) 1.1 Establish and maintain interactive project website in English and local languages
  • [http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs](http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs)

• (DISS) 1.2 Organize workshops, round tables and special sessions for dissem. of intermediate and final results in each PC
  • More information:
    [http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=62diss](http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=62diss)

• (DISS) 1.3 Start up annual regional conference "E-learning and knowledge society"
  • More information:
    [http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=63conference](http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs/content.php?news=63conference)

• (DISS) 1.4 Start up online journal “eLearning and Quality of instruction”
Project website:
http://www.dlweb.kg.ac.rs
Facebook profile
7. Sustainability

- **(EXP) 1.1 Development of sustainability strategy of relevant project results at the national levels**

- **(EXP) 1.2 Build capacity for securing adequate resources for the quality assurance of DL in WB region**
  - EU Foundation on Quality in e-Learning EFQUEL

- **(EXP) 1.3 The initiatives for start-up Balkan academic distance education network – BADEN**
  - [http://www.badennet.org/sr/home](http://www.badennet.org/sr/home)
EFQUEL is a membership organization with more than 100 member organizations from academia, business, public services and consultancy in more than 25 countries, EFQUEL provide a unique forum for information, research, innovation, exchange of best practices and networking for members.

All seven DL@WEB university partners from Western Balkan have become lifelong EFQUEL members (obtained EFQUEL memberships). By joining EFQUEL they become a part of the largest European network of organizations and professionals dedicated to quality in the field of technology enhanced learning.
Balkan distance education network established at the end of 2011
BADEN website:
www.badennet.org

BADEN is epprobe’s national partner
BADEN has signed an agreement with the Learning Agency Network from Brussels and became epprobe’s national partner for WB region. Epprobe is the first international quality label for eLearning courseware.

BADEN News
BADEN listed at MyEuropa network portal
BADEN is listed as a member of eEurope. EEurope is an initiative that gathers organizations and individuals from all over the Europe, helping them in organizing and sharing knowledge about European projects in various domains. BADEN is continuously expanding its network and disseminating information about project results. Also, BADEN is being announced as potential project partner and it continuously gets informed about current activities of other members via e-mail subscription.

BADEN got certified reviewers
BADEN got its first accredited head reviewers: Suzana Lojkovska and Tanja Stojanovic have successfully completed epprobe’s course and become courseware head reviewers.

E-Learning News
EUCEN: Testing of the new online courses of the IMPLEMENT project
USDLA: An Instructional Media Selection Guide for Distance Learning
Winter School 2010: Web 2.0 tools in classroom
European eLearning portal relaunched with new features
Winter School Application

The Future of Education: EPIC 2010
Top universities join free online teaching platform
eDX: A platform to deliver courses online
CrossKnowledge presents the results of the first e-learning ecoremoter in Europe

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E Learning Events
The Third international conference eLearning 2012
27-28
The third international conference eLearning 2012 will be held at Metropolitan University 27-28 September 2012. More information at official site:
http://ecourses.metropolitan.ac.rs

Second regional and local Moodle Meet
17
Second regional Moodle Meet is organised by Moodle network Serbia and MR Open in New Sad on 17 November 2012. At the same time this event will be Second Serbian Moodle Meet. More information

SouthCHI 2013 Conference
13
3rd International Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems
Thank you!