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Erasmus +
European Project with Serbia
University of Social Sciences, Poland, May 2018, 21st and 20nd

Written report of the study visit in Lodz, Poland

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

EACEA 586029-EPP-1-2017-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP

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Republic of Serbia National council for higher education

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EUROPEAN PROJECT WITH SERBIA 2017-2020
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National Council for Higher Education	Serbia
NiCat	Serbia

Main targets of the project :

- Improve the skills of higher education graduates in Serbia according to the needs of employers,
- Increase the employability of graduates and their motivation to study,
- Improve access to higher education for students from low-income families

The host of the study visit taking place on 21st-22nd of May, 2018 was the Polish partner of the DualEdu project – University of Social Sciences (UoSS).

University of Social Sciences is the largest private educational institution in Poland, with more than 20 years of experience. UoSS provides high-quality education to students from all over the world. The University offers a wide range of Bachelor's and Master's programs in major cities in Poland and in the branch campus in London. Its offer also includes MBA and PhD studies and a unique American Master's degree program in cooperation with Clark University. UoSS is headquartered in Lodz.

15 guests from Serbia took part in the meeting in Poland. They represented: University of Belgrade, University of Novi Sad, The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering of Applied Studies, Belgrade Metropolitan University, University of Kragujevac, NiCAT Cluster, State University of Novi Pazar.

21st of May, Monday, Lodz, University of Social Sciences - Presentation of the Polish Model of Dual Studies

On the first day of the visit (21st of May, 2018) the University of Social Sciences organizes in Lodz a Seminar for the presentation of good practices and exchange of experience on conducting studies in cooperation with employers.
The Seminar took place at the UoSS headquarters in Lodz, at 98 Kilinskiego Street. In addition to the representatives of Serbian institutions participating in the DualEdu project, the Seminar was attended by speakers from Poland invited by UoSS. They represented Polish universities providing dual education and companies participating in this type of higher education programs. Among the invited speakers there were representatives of WSB Universities in Chorzow, WSB University in Dabrowa Gornicza, State School of Vocational Education in Leszno, SITECH Company in Polkowice, LINK Sp. z o.o. The University of Social Sciences presented its model of practical higher education and cooperation with business and also the model of diploma projects realized by students in enterprises, on the example of Capstone Projects, prepared as an element of the Clark University study programme.

- The Seminar was opened by Joanna Szczecińska, Head of International Office in UoSS. She greeted the guests of the meeting, presented the goals and agenda of the study visit. Then she introduced the invited speakers.
- Łukasz Prysiński, Vice Dean in UoSS, gave the speech: *Cooperation with the economic environment as a way to improve the quality of education in the University of Social Sciences.* He presented to guests from Serbia a brief history of UoSS and explained how cooperation with business and practicality of education allowed the University to become a leader among Polish non-public universities. He also discussed the fundamental forms of cooperation between the UoSS and representatives of the business environment.
- Professor Krzysztof Krysieniel, representing WSB Universities in Chorzow, presented the speech: *Dual studies in Poland - main problems and challenges (Dualno studiranje u Poljskoj - glavni problemi i izazovi).* He familiarized the participants of the meeting with the legal framework in which dual education takes place in Poland. He drew attention to the basic legal problems related to

this issue, characterized the possibilities and limitations of the Polish model of dual studies resulting from the adopted system solutions.

- Professor Katarzyna Szczepańska-Woszczyna, as a representant of WSB University in Dabrowa Gornicza, presented speech: *Dual studies - strategy, quality, models – case study of the WSB University.* She presented three models in which her University conducts dual education in cooperation with enterprises. She shared the experiences of recent years related to the practical implementation of these models. She pointed out the advantages and disadvantages of individual solutions presented in her speech.
- Wioletta Cichla from Sitech Sp. z o.o. presented speech: *Dual studies in SITECH Company. Benefits for the organization.* She presented the most important aspects of dual education from the perspective of the employer. She discussed the benefits for the company resulting from cooperation with universities. She described the most important aspects related to the work of students in the company.
- Agnieszka Kociałkowska from State School of Higher Vocational Education in Leszno presented the speech: *The concept of dual studies in PWSZ Leszno.* Referring to the practice of the School of Higher Vocational Education in Leszno, she characterized the main steps in the implementation of dual studies, starting from establishing cooperation with the enterprise, through building an agreement on dual studies, creating the education program (curriculum), recruitment of students, implementation of education program at the School and in the company, evaluation of the curriculum and students' work.
- Adrian Wilisz, LINK Sp. z o.o., gave a presentation: *Educational program - specialization „Coordinator of Autonomous Vehicles" in the Logistics field of studies in UoSS*. As a former student of UoSS, and currently the coordinator of the specialty of studies carried out in the enterprise, he presented the main assumptions and objectives of this educational program.
- Łukasz Prysiński, from the perspective of the academic teacher of UoSS and Clark University, presented the speech: *Capstone Projects - Assumptions, problems, benefits.* He discussed the most important methodological assumptions and rules for the implementation of diploma group projects in enterprises. He presented problems and opportunities related to the implementation and evaluation of this type of education method.

The speakers' presentations during the Seminar allowed the participants of the meeting to gather basic information related to the implementation of dual studies in Poland. But also to compare different models of such education used by Polish Universities. A valuable source of information on the Polish model of dual studies were presentations of representatives of enterprises cooperating with universities. They allowed to get to know the employers' perspective and basic problems and benefits resulting from participation in dual education programs.

The first day of the meeting ended with a joint dinner. It was attended by representatives of the Serbian Universities and members of the DualEdu project team on behalf of the UoSS.

22nd of May, Tuesday, Study Visit to the Company

On the second day of the meeting, guests from Serbia visited the Hortex Production Plant in Skierniewice. Thanks to the kindness of Mr. Radosław Płotkowiak - the Plant

Director and, at the same time, the UoSS student, the guests learnt about the practical aspects of student projects developed and implemented in the workplace (Capstone Projects).

HORTEX Production Plant in Skierniewice focuses on the production of frozen food for domestic and foreign markets in retail packaging. The production plant also produces fruit concentrates. In total, about 75 million frozen packages and approx. 140,000 tons of vegetables and fruits are produced and processed annually in the HORTEX plants in Poland. In recent years, the plant in Skierniewice has been modernize. Significant financial outlays for its modernization, improvement of product quality and safety as well as environmental protection are regularly incurred.

The main aim of the study visit at Production Plant in Skierniewice was to familiarize with various forms of making higher education more adaptive to the needs of employers and the labor market. It was equally important to learn about various forms of cooperation between universities and enterprises as part of the implementation of dual forms of higher education. The visit enabled the participants to learn about the perspectives of entrepreneurs and students participating in various forms of education in the company.

The study visit agenda included:

1. Presentation of the HORTEX company, its profile of business; presentation conducted by Mr. Radosław Płotkowiak, Plant Director
2. Visiting the production hall, getting acquainted with the practical aspect of production carried out in the plant
3. Presentation of the specifics of the work on the Capstone Project implemented in the enterprise, from the perspective of the UoSS / Clark University student (advantages and potential difficulties resulting from student work on the Capstone Project, the specifics of project work) – Radosław Płotkowiak.
4. Discussing the implementation of the results of the Capstone Project in the Hortex Production Plant in Skierniewice – Radosław Płotkowiak.

Presentation of the theoretical aspects of dual studies in Poland, as well as practical examples of this kind of offer for students, enabled the gathering of experiences useful in creating legal and system solutions for the Serbian system of higher education.

List of Serbian visitors

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8	Jakovljević	Živana	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	zjakovljevic@mas.bg.ac.rs
9	Jovev	Ljubisa	Bachelor of Science, IRVAS International doo	ljubisa.jovev@irvas.rs
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11	Matkovski	Bojan	Master of Sciences, Department of Agro-Economics and Agro-Business	bojan.matkovski@ef.uns.ac.rs
12	Mišković	Žarko	Asst. Prof. Dr. Project administrator	zmiskovic@mas.bg.ac.rs
13	Petrović	Vera	Prof. Dr., Director	vera.petrovic@viser.edu.rs
14	Savić	Mirko	Full Professor, member of CAQA	savicmirko@ef.uns.ac.rs
15	Stanišić	Nenad	Ass Prof. Faculty of Eco, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs	nstanisic@kg.ac.rs