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University of Belgrade

Implementation of Dual Education in Higher Education of Serbia

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Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

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DISCUSSION FORUM

GENERIC AND FLEXIBLE MODEL OF DUAL HIGHER EDUCATION IN SERBIA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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Abstract	This report represents the minutes of the Discussion Forum on the proposed generic and flexible model of dual higher education in Serbia.

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Work package:	WP 2: Flexible and generic Dual Higher Education Model (DHEM) for Serbia
Activity:	2.3. Discussion Forum on the proposed DHEM model with key stakeholders and policy makers
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VERSIONING AND CONTRIBUTION HISTORY

Version	Date	Revision description	Partner responsible
v.1.0	25/12/2018	Creation of the first draft	UB (Zivana Jakovljevic)

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Activity Date: 18/12/2018

Organizer: University of Belgrade and Belgrade Metropoliten University

Location: University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, room 211

Present: 14 participants from Serbian project team and 27 key stakeholders' and policy makers' representatives

Report:

Discussion forum opened at 10:15 on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 by Prof. Dr. –Ing. Radivoje Mitrovic (UB). The venue of the meeting was at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, room 211. He emphasized that the project team had the opportunity to get direct insight into the dual higher education (DHE) in France, Spain, Austria and Poland and that the goal of these forum is to, based on EU experience, create Serbian attitude and strategy for DHE and to make a legal framework for its implementation.

Prof. Dr. –Ing. Nenad Zrnic (UB), project coordinator informed participants that he was interviewed by National Broadcasting Agency regarding DualEdu project, and that interview was broadcasted this morning. Furthermore, he gave an overview of the project activities and he emphasized that at this point we are at the project milestone where the DHE model for Serbia and corresponding legislation should be created. In addition, he informed participants about activities that Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MPNTR) as project participant is conducting regarding the Law on Dual Studies Model in Higher Education. MPNTR created working group with 25 representatives from HE institutions, industry, Ministries, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, National Employment Service… Working group coordinator is Prof. Dr. Gabriela Grujic, and Prof. Zrnic is a member. The draft of the Law on Dual Studies Model in Higher Education is created, however there are some issues regarding the harmonization of the Law with Accreditation Standards. Furthermore, the amendments to the Law on Higher Education and Labor Law will be necessary. MPNTR is dedicated to these activities and the plan is to prepare the Law for the next school year. However, due it is realistic to start implementation from 2020/2021. MPNTR is willing to adopt all suggestions made by DualEdu project team. Law draft already integrated some materials that are the results of DualEdu.

Prof. Dr. –Ing. Dragan Domazet (BMU) made a presentation of the generic and flexible model of dual higher education in Serbia (DHEM) draft. The goal of the model is not only to facilitate generation of legislation framework, but also to facilitate the implementation of DHE. Namely, based on DHEM, the agreement between HE institution and company can be rapidly and easily created. The model contains two phases: (1) The model of the legal framework of dual higher

education in Serbia (LF-MDHE) and (2) The generic and flexible model of dual higher education in Serbia (GF-MDHE). The first model specifies 15 attributes, and the second one 38 attributes – important features for specific DHEM generation. He presented all 15 attributes of LF-MDHE: (1) Status of the student, (2) Legal relationship between the student and the companies, (3) Legal relationship between the HEI and the company, (4) Educational programs and specification of competences of dual students, (5) Evaluation of acquired competences, (6) The approach to DHE implementation, (7) Roles and responsibilities for the implementation of MDHE, (8) Accreditation of Dual programs, (9) Supporting documents required by officials for accreditation of dual programs, (10) National organizational structure to support DHE, (11) Regulatory framework to support collaboration and partnerships between different universities for DHE, (12) Financing of DHE, (13) Tuition fees for Dual programs, (14) Eligibility criteria for the company to hire dual students, (15) Incentives for companies. Regarding national organizational structure to support DHE, he emphasized that it would be beneficial to create Regional institutions for DHE since Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and National Employment Service do not have this kind of activities in their portfolio.

GF-MDHE is intended for generation of specific dual education models by companies and HE institutions. It is flexible since companies have different needs and it is necessary to provide easy adaptation to these specific needs. It should be general in order to cover wide needs and requirements of different companies. It is a generator of specific models, and it covers two basic organization modalities: series and parallel. Prof. Domazet presented 38 different attributes of GF-MDHE.

Finally, he emphasized that the next step is to harmonize draft model with new ideas and to finalize the document. However, the document should not be locked until the end of the project and it should be changed when appropriate/necessary in accordance with new experiences. He expects that after this Forum, activity 2.1 will finalize and further work on WP 3 and WP 4 will be enabled.

At 11:35 the discussion started.

Prof. Mitrovic (UB) stated that the draft model is comprehensive and that it includes all experiences from visited EU countries. We have all prerequisites to create flexible Law. Some of recommendations will be included into the Law, and other into the sublegal acts at MPNTR and University levels such as rulebooks. Implementation is a very important issue; however, due to the dynamics in the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and universities, it is realistic that it will start from 2020/2021 school year even if the Law is voted this year.

Prof. Dr. –Ing. Vesna Mandic (UKG) stated that it is good for a project that MPNTR recognizes the importance of dual education. During project proposal we were careful and we suggested the amendments to the existing laws, but it is excellent that a special Law on DHE will be made. DualEdu project within WP 3 has its own working group that is independent of MPNTR working group. She suggested to organize a daylong meeting in January at the project level, regardless

of WP 3 working group, and to define the proposals/recommendations to the MPNTR about Law on DHE. Furthermore, she suggested that project team adopts suggested DHEM, but to keep it alive til the end of the project and to adjust it in accordance with experiences during implementation. Nevertheless, there exist the room for DHE in the current Law on Higher Education through internship, exercises (as a rule 1/3 of classes per course are allocated to exercises that can be carried out in industry), and individual student work through seminars, master and bachelor works. While waiting for 2020 student enrollment, project team can exploit these opportunities. Nevertheless, we should all have high quality and valuable diploma as a landmark.

Prof. Zrnic (UB) agreed with Prof. Mandic with respect to the meeting in January, since the Law can go the the public discussion by the end of February 2019. It is necessary to act rapidly and proactively.

It has been agreed to organize Serbian project partners meeting on January 11th, 2019 at Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade/

Prof. Mandic suggested to invite to the meeting the members of Ministry group that are at the same time members of partner institutions.

Ms Marija Ozegovic (Erasmus+ Office) expressed her satisfaction that the project team has made a constructive model that answers a number of questions. She emphasized that during the Prof. Domazet's presentation she questioned whether the paradigm would be changed. If the re-packing within the existing programs is to be carried out (where the student would spend part time at industry) than it would require some changes in theoretical contents of a course as well. It is good that some kind of pilot will be implemented; it cannot be absolute pilot since accreditation standards will not change. She also emphasized that the question whether the competencies of students that finished DHE and classical HE would be the same should be answered. Furthermore, the question is will DHE be facultative or mandatory and will the state carry on financing classical academic studies programs at the institutions that implement DHE. Finally, MPNTR will have to analyze the effects of DHE and it would be good that project team takes part in this analysis although it is not planned in project proposal.

Prof. Mitrovic stated that although that it seems that DHE in academic studies is problematic, with a little bit of creativity it can be implemented in these studies as well. Employer's council should be exploited and, e.g. some elective courses can be replaced with combined contents.

Prof. Domazet added that academic studies in general have more theoretical contents, but that in the case of engineering disciplines this is questionable, where a number of theoretical works can be carried out based on practical problems.

Prof. Dr. Vera Petrovic (VISER) informed participants that companies Roaming and SBB are interested in implementing DHE with VISER. She also emphasized that the project team should

influence MPNTR to make the Law as flexible as possible and to make adjustments to the specific needs of schools as easy as possible.

Prof. Dr. Mirko Savic (UNS) stated that the introduction of DHE elements into existing programs would be problematic from accreditation perspective since the programs are changed in the essence. Thus, we should start from new programs that are separately accredited. Prof. Zrnic (UB) added that even small changes in existing programs require complicated procedure that assumes consent of a large number of university bodies.

Goran Mladenovic (NiCAT) suggested applying agile methodologies with several cycles during Law creation. It would be good to have different small scale programs during pilots' implementation. If professors enter DHE implementation with a lack of inspiration and companies with a lack of long-term strategy, than we will not have large effect.

Prof. Mitrovic (UKG) informed participants that KaPK gave standards for mentors from companies for project-research work and master works in Master Professional Studies (MPS). Furthermore, he emphasized that MPS students after finishing studies are obliged to have internship in companies and that documents that regulate these internships can be utilized as a basis for contracts and other documents that define relationship between students and companies in DHE.

Dr. Dusica Semencenko (Mihajlo Pupin Institute) informed participants that EduLab project (Danube Transnational Program) team developed another flexible dual education model and she informed DualEdu team that this model can be found at EduLab project site. They had the opportunity to get acquainted with dual education models from Hungary and Slovakia that are based on automotive industry. Enrolment to these studies is announced at national level. In these models dual students have the same courses as classical students; this leads to significant overload, however, according to evaluations DHE students show better results.

Ivana Kovacevic, advisor for dual education development at Chamber of Commerce and Industry, member of EduLab, member of working group for DE in secondary schools stated that this working group also had some doubts regarding over-regulation at the Law and its effect on the flexibility of the models. However, to preserve quality, the Law on dual education in secondary schools had to regulate a large number of things. Nevertheless, DualEdu is in better position since higher education does not have minors' related issues. Furthermore, Law on dual education in secondary schools had transition period and its application will begin in 2019. She invited DualEdu team to participate at the final conference of EduLab that will be held on January, 15th 2019 in Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Terazije Square.

Prof. Zrnic informed DualEdu team that the meeting for formulation of recommendations for Ministry work group on the Law on Dual Studies Model in Higher Education will be on January 11th 2019 at Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade.

The forum finished at 12:50.