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“GRaduates Advancement and Development of University capacities in Albania”

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| Event title: | Dissemination, Management Meeting and IT and secretariat staff training |
| Event date: | 06-09 November, 2018 |
| Event Venue: | Polytechnic University of Tirana “Silvano Pedrollo” |
| Event Address: | “Mother Tereza” Square, No.4 |

ANNEX ON THE MINUTES No.7 - EVENT REPORT

Participants:

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| Agriculture University of Tirana | AUT-UBT |
| University of Tirana | UT |
| University of Arts, Tirana | UART |
| Polytechnic University of Tirana | PUT |
| University of Medicine Tirana | UMT |
| European University of Tirana | UET |
| POLIS University | U-POLIS |
| Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Counsel" | UniZKM |
| Albanian University | AU |
| Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna | UNIBO |
| University of Siena | UNISI |
| Universitat de Barcelona | UB |
| ISCTE - Instituto Universitariò de Lisboa | ISCTE-IUL |
| Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Tirana | CCIT |
| Consorzio Inter-Universitario AlmaLaurea | ALMALAUREA |
| Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth | MESY |

Steering Committee Meeting

During the meeting held in the framework of the Gradua project, organized at the Polytechnic University of Tirana on 6 November, the Steering Committee meeting was organized in a parallel session. The meeting was moderated by Prof. Assoc. Dr. Remzi Keco, Agricultural University of Tirana. Prof. Keco made a presentation about the project progress.

One core issue that was raised, was institutional and logistical set up related to the database, to ensure sustainability. When the Project was written, the Ministry of Education and Science had IT capacities (eg. IT experts employed and part of the Ministry structure) who could play a crucial role during and after the project implementation, whereby locating the database at the Ministry could be a suitable solution for a number of reasons. However, due to institutional reform, all IT staff from the Ministry of Education and Science and from other ministries too, have been shifted to and centralized under one single institution (AKSHI), impairing the capacity/functionality of the Ministry of Education and Science also in the context of this project implementation.

Prof. Keco offered the commitment of Agricultural University of Tirana to host the database during the project implementation and afterwards, however, suggested that it would be more appropriate that this service be carried out by a specialized public institution, such as RASH (Academic Network of Albania Interinstitutional ICT Research Centre), which already provides the service of data record keeping for students for several universities, including Agricultural University of Tirana.

While Agricultural University of Tirana representative emphasized the positive experience with RASH, a representative from Polytechnic University of Tirana, stated that they had some difficulty in relation to RASH in the context of the implementation.

The representative of the Ministry of Education and Science (Dr. Redi Shtino), insisted that the ministry was committed to host the database, and a solution would be possible. He stated that within 15th of November, he would provide a more informed answer to this issue.

Overall, discussants emphasized the importance of having the Ministry of Education and Science on board at all stages, since it is a key player and it is also required in the context of a structural support program. But the option of involving an additional public institution/partner could be considered.

The representative from Portugal, Mrs. Elsa Cardoso, highlighted the experience in Portugal, where they had an agency which was between the Ministry of Education and Universities, serving to both.

The meeting was closed without fully agreeing on the partner institution that could host the platform, but all partners will send their suggestions to the coordinator in written form. Another meeting will be considered to conclude with a final decision of hosting the platform.
