



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Erasmus+ : Higher Education - International Capacity Building

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**Subject: Project Number 543861-TEMPUS-2013-BG-JPCR (2013-4516)
Intermediate Report on implementation of the project (IR) - Statement of the
costs incurred**

Dear Ms TZANOVA,

We would like to inform you and your project partners that we have carried out the assessment of your Intermediate Report submitted on 30 June 2015 and we are pleased to inform you that it has been approved.

We would like to congratulate the project team on the results achieved during this first period of project implementation. Based on the information provided in the report, we note that the project is progressing smoothly toward the achievement of the set objectives.

In particular, we are pleased to learn that 20 new courses (instead of the planned 18) have been developed (with learning outcomes defined, syllabi developed and course content selected) and that training seminars for teachers have been carried out on Bologna process, ECTS, video-recording and e-learning materials development, as planned.

We understand that there are delays in the development of the e-learning courses (Activity 4.1) and the video-recording of lectures/practical assignments in nanotechnologies (Activity 4.2). As a consequence, the pilot implementation of the courses is also delayed by one academic year (Activity 5.1). The postponement of the above activities was mainly caused by the late purchase of equipment, due to the long search for eligible items and the subsequent procedure for the derogation to the rule of origin (only completed in December 2014). In this respect, the report mentions that a six-month extension would be needed to achieve all the project's objectives. However, based on the report (see "tables of planned outcomes") we understand that, despite the postponement of some deliverables, all the activities can be finalised by the end of the eligibility period (including the pilot testing postponed by one year). Therefore, in case you wish to submit a request for extension as preconized in the report, a clear indication of the activities affected by the delays and that cannot be finalised by the end of the contractual period should be provided. A revised work-plan covering the period of extension should also be submitted.

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As concerns the management of the project, the described overall management structure seems to be efficiently implemented, with a good participative approach, clear division of tasks and good quality assurance policy in place. However, based on the report, it would appear that the development of the courses is done by each responsible partner in isolation. We would be grateful if you could elaborate a bit more on how the course development activities have been carried out, in the Final Report.

Nevertheless, on the general cooperation amongst partners, we have to mention that the NEO feedback after the field visit was very positive, underlying the good knowledge exchange amongst partner and active involvement of all EU partners as well. Moreover, we understand that internal communication is very good as well as local coordination.

As regards dissemination, several tools and initiatives are developed by the consortium (e.g. project website, short project websites on each partner's extranet in the language of the country, links to the Web pages on partner's domain, Facebook page and Youtube). We also appreciate the proactive attitude of the partners to disseminate the project activities and results in several events.

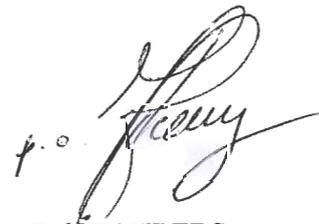
A good sustainability strategy is described in the report and it is mainly based on the continuation of the delivery of the e-learning courses, the collaborative use of the e-learning materials by the Israeli universities and high schools and the collaboration with the EU universities (including for students' exchange). We understand that the newly developed courses are already academically credited and can be easily integrated in the regular study programmes. Also, the staff members have acquired the capacity to regularly review these courses (as nanotechnology is a fast developing sciences). In this regard, we would be interested in receiving information in the Final report, on how the sustainability strategy is implemented and, in particular, on the decision taken by each Israeli partner university regarding the adoption of these courses (which ones will continue to be implemented in which university) as well as any arrangements taken to ensure that they are updated on a regular basis.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the "Statement of the Costs incurred" received with the Intermediate Report and to remind you that in order to receive your second pre-financing instalment you will have to submit at your best convenience a "Request for Payment and Statement of the Costs incurred". Please note that the second pre-financing will be paid in full only if your "Statement of the Costs incurred" shows that 70% of the previous pre-financing amount has been spent.

Should you require any further information, please contact A. Chiara Tiberi (Tel: +32 2 29 99581, e-mail: eacea-tempus-project-management@ec.europa.eu). We also encourage you to regularly consult our Tempus website <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus>.

We wish you a successful continuation of your activities.

Yours sincerely,



Ralf RAHDERS
Head of Unit

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