

От Alba-Chiara.TIBERI@ec.europa.eu
Тема Tempus 543861-BG-2013-JPCR: feedback on NEO field monitoring visit- October 2014
Дата Пет., Декември 12, 2014 7:10 pm
До slavka@ecad.tu-sofia.bg
Копие A-Tempus-Project-Management@ec.europa.eu,MarissaG@che.org.il,dinag@che.org.il

Dear Slavka,

I would like to share with you and the project partners the main conclusions and results of the field monitoring visit that Ms Marissa Gross Yarm, NEO Director, and Ms Dina Gallero, NEO Assistant, have carried out at the Hebrew University on 22 October 2014.

Let me start by thanking on their behalf all the project representatives that were present at the meeting for the time devoted to the discussions and the detailed information they provided on the project progress to date.

The monitors reported the following main findings and conclusions:

- The project remains very relevant to the higher education system in Israel in terms of the modernization of the field of nanotechnology, development of high-tech learning technologies, and increasing efficient collaboration between Israeli universities.
- The partners are implementing the academic activities according to schedule. The needs analysis survey was sent to companies in order to see what their preferences are regarding nanotechnology courses and qualifications required by the industry in future work force. Interest has been expressed by many stakeholders who took the survey.
- The partners have finished preparing the courses syllabi and some courses are already being recorded during this semester. Important materials that were not available for students and researchers, for example work inside a clean room, will be available on the platform.
- The partners show flexibility with addressing problems and demonstrate a real commitment to the success of the project and to expanding the collaboration with each other. Furthermore, communication between the Israeli and the European Partners and the coordinator is very good and the Israeli partners express satisfaction with the coordination.
- Cooperation and collaboration between the partners is extremely successful and can serve as a basis for expanding their working relationship to different areas.
- The project is building the partner institutions' capacity to provide e-learning courses and develop new learning technologies. New knowledge, best practices and technologies are being provided to them that they did not all possess in the past.
- Collaboration between the institutions has also had a positive impact on the departments/centers and the institutions.
- Dissemination has begun to an extent, including through the use of the questionnaire. Interest has been expressed by the industry for the courses and by other departments and institutions to utilize the server/platform that is being built in the project. Involvement of Elbit Systems LTD and additional stakeholders from the industry increases the project's ability to strengthen university-business collaboration.
- As initially there was a problem at the Technion with the management of Tempus funds, the Technion has not been as involved in the project and has not implemented the activities. It appears that the problem will be solved in the near future, which will hopefully increase their involvement.
- Unfortunately, the partners have had severe problems finding appropriate equipment that meets the rule of origin. Overall, this has created a severe delay in the procurement of equipment and the implementation of objectives related to this equipment. Partners are trying to be creative and flexible in terms of finding alternative methods to solve the problem in the meantime. The partners have submitted a request for derogation from the rule of origin, which if approved, can hopefully enable the project to proceed as scheduled.

The monitors made the following recommendations:

- The equipment issue must be solved as soon as possible to ensure that the

project is able to prevent further delays and enable the implementation of all activities. The project coordinator and partners should maintain contact with the EACEA regarding the derogation to the rule of origin and investigate other manners in which to purchase the necessary equipment. On this point, as you know, the Agency is currently assessing the request based on the complete documentation submitted at the beginning of December. A final decision should be taken before the end of the year.

- Work to ensure that the Technion is integrated into the project in the manner agreed upon with the EACEA. Once all new mandates are signed, effort should be made to encourage the Technion's involvement in all elements of the project. On this issue, we would like to remind you to send as soon as possible all the required documentation to the Agency in order to finalise the procedure for the addition of the Technion Research & Development Foundation Ltd (i.e. the mandate, the endorsement letters from the partners and the formal request by the Coordinator).

- As strong interest was expressed by the industry as a result of the questionnaire, the partners should develop a dissemination plan for the industry as well and consider ways to integrate industrial stakeholders to make the project more sustainable.

- Discussions should be held on the usage of the platform for other fields and institutions and connected to the dissemination and sustainability strategies of the project.

Finally, we would like to underline that we appreciate the commitment of the Israeli partners and their dedication to the success of the project - as reported by the monitors. We are also pleased to learn that this project is actually unprecedented in terms of the widespread university collaboration it has generated within the country.

We kindly ask you to share this feedback with all the project beneficiaries and to inform us, with your intermediate report, on how you have taken on board the recommendations of the field monitoring.

We wish you the best of success in the continuation of your activities.

Kind regards,

Chiara

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Project Adviser

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