

Dear Rhonda,

As you already know, as part of our on-going monitoring of Tempus projects, a field monitoring visit to your project 'Curriculum Reform for Promoting Civic Education and Democratic Principles in Israel and in Georgia' has taken place on 13 June, 2017. It was carried out by the National Erasmus+ Office in Israel represented by Kathrin Theurillat and Dina Gallero.

The visit took place at the David Yallin College, where the monitoring team could also meet representatives from the Givat Washington College, Gordon College, Sapir College and Sakhnin College. We would like to thank the members of the project team that were able to be present for the time they devoted to the discussions and for having provided us with updated information on the progress made towards the achievement of the project objectives.

It was positive to note that the project has made progress in the activities or outcomes in the following areas:

The project is running smoothly and according to its work plan (except for the SMS activities that were delayed due to the missing documents).

The main activity of the project so far has been the development of the academic courses. To date, all planned modules for the 5 courses have been developed. A template of Bologna learning outcomes was used as a guide, in order to facilitate their adoption by other departments and institutions in the partner countries and beyond. The project has decided to develop full course which are made up of several modules which allows the partner institutions to either pilot the whole course or take modules within the courses and integrating them into their existing courses.

- The partners are also producing online materials that will complement in-class learning. These materials are developed in English, which will assist in reaching and impacting many more students in various countries.

- Centers will be established in the next few months, 4 in Israeli institutions and 5 in Georgia. While most partners are establishing new Centers, some HEIs already have such Centers in place and thus their activities will be mainly to enrich the Centers' work though including the activities developed by the project. The Centers that are being established are supported by the management and will serve as hub for promoting and advancing active citizenship in and beyond the campus.

A dissemination plan was developed by the consortium members and includes various elements. To begin with, a website was designed for dissemination purposes and includes all information about the project and its progress. The website portal also includes a closed section for the partners only that includes a working area for the working groups and a section for financial management. Furthermore, the partners are disseminating the projects at various levels: within their own institutions by organizing Faculty-Training Workshops to disseminate the content of the courses developed, provide tools to teach the courses and using the innovative pedagogical methods developed.

A QA plan has been developed and approved by the consortium in the last consortium meeting.

Senior management are heavily involved in the projects as a direct result of the relentless work and personal meetings conducted by the coordinator from the beginning of the project, to date.

Top students in IL and GE will be trained through workshops to lead civic involvement activities in and outside the campus. 9 student unions involved in the project and students will take an active role in civic activities within the society through projects.

Communication between the partners is open and transparent and joint collaboration between them is clearly visible.

While we are pleased to learn about all these positive achievements, we note that there are some weaker elements in the project, such as the following;

- Regarding the Special Mobility Strand, the project could start the planned activities in a delay of two semesters because the necessary documents were received in a five months' delay. Even after receiving the documents, technical issues caused further delay of SMS activities. After solving these difficulties and implementing some mobilities, the project faced additional technical problems with the mobility tool and a lot of time, energy and efforts were spent to deal with these issues. Thanks to the coordinator's decision to place an experienced mobility manager from one of the EU partners to coordinate the SMS, the team had a professional person in place to deal with all the problems.

The project includes a train the trainer program which, as mentioned above, was postponed and began a year after its original plan, due to a delay in receiving the required documents. To date, one session of mobilities was held in Krakow, where 11 faculty members travelled from 7 partner institutions.

We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with the following recommendations in order to improve the project implementation;

- To work closely with the mobility manager to make up for delays in the project.
- To make every effort to make up for delays in the train-the-trainer programme
- To the consortium to ensure that the quality assurance mechanisms are included in the sustainability plan in order to ensure good QA mechanisms for the future assessment of the academic courses and the other activities.
- The partners are recommended to work on the exploitation of the project to additional relevant institutions in Israel and Georgia that have already shown interest in adapting some of the projects outcomes.

We kindly ask you to inform us in your Intermediate Report on how you have followed up these issues.

Otherwise, we congratulate you on the achievements to date and wish you the best of success with future activities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me of the National Erasmus+ Office in Israel with any questions you might have or clarifications you might require.

We would be most grateful if you could forward this feedback to the other partners on the project and particularly those who participated in the field monitoring visit.

We wish you a successful continuation of your activities.

Best wishes,

Róisín Mc Cabe

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