



1st FOSTERC Monitoring Activity, 20 June, 2017

National Institute for Higher Education
and
Belarusian State University – Minsk (Belarus)

AGENDA

Monitoring Activity Objectives:

1. To learn about the activities realised and products developed till the date
2. To observe if the project has encountered any problems in operational and financial implementation

Internal meeting FOSTERC Objective:

3. To discuss the informal feedback of the monitoring activity
4. To review project coordination and financial issues

Venue: Belarusian State University, Faculty of International Relations, room 520.

Address: Leningradskaya street, 20 (see [Google map](#))

Language: English

11:00	Monitoring activity opening	
	✓ Brief meeting of the NCP with the Rector of the Belarusian State University	<i>NEO & Rector of BSU</i>
11:30	Implementation	
	✓ Activities implemented /output achieved	<i>NEO, BSU, NIHE, UPV</i>
	✓ Quality assurance measures	<i>All Attendees</i>
	✓ Publicity, Visibility & Exploitation Obligation	
	✓ Budget	
	✓ Equipment	
12:00	Impact and Sustainability	
	✓ Expected impact at the individual level	<i>NEO, BSU, NIHE</i>
	✓ Expected impact at the institutional level	
	✓ Expected impact on the HE Sector & Society	
	✓ Sustainability	
12:30	Relevance	
	✓ Relevance of project objectives to needs of the partner countries and target groups	<i>NEO, BSU, NIHE</i>
	✓ Promotion of the EU horizontal policies	
13:00	Partnership and Cooperation	



- ✓ Project management *NEO, BSU, NIHE, UPV*
- ✓ Ownership and involvement of partners
- ✓ Partnership agreements *All Attendees*

14:00 Lunch

15:00 PROJECT COORDINATION

- ✓ Discuss the way of conducting surveys (WP3) *Project Coordinator*
- ✓ Discuss draft of training workshops (WP4) *BSU*
- ✓ Discuss equipment proceed

16:00 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- ✓ Review financial reporting *UPV, BSU*
- ✓ Review **NEW** document CBHE Joint Declaration
(instead of Staff Convention)
- ✓ Reporting Individual Travel Report
- ✓ Reporting Working Days - Time Sheet

17:00 Closing Meeting



Additional information requested in situ – 20 June in Minsk

Sustainability

FOSTERC project is intrinsically sustainable because it is appropriate within its broad overall objective, addressing national priorities and the evolving needs within the participating stakeholders, **providing solutions that will be replicable across other Belarusian non-participating Higher Education Institutions and other non-partner countries.**

The consortium covers Higher Education Institutions from four EU countries – Spain, Lithuania, Poland and Finland – and eight Belarusian Higher Education Institutions from different geographical areas representing well the Belarusian context.

Moreover, the project has as a full partner the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus and the National Institute for Higher Education, both will encourage more for a discussion of a broad range of policy makers and other stakeholders in the policy making process integrating FOSTERC's evidence into policy and reducing possible "structural" barriers (political, economic, social, cultural).

Till today (month 8 of the project), working plan is being implemented on schedule. It has been totally developed WP1 "Mapping teaching and learning outcomes in BY universities" and WP2 "Planning the empirical framework of the project". WP3 is developed throughout conducting graduates surveys in all those Belarusian participating universities. WP8 "Quality of the Project", WP9 "Dissemination activities and results" and WP10 "Project Management and Coordination" are running since the beginning of the project.

Till now, the capacity building involved throughout the development of the project activities are having impact on the skills of academic and administrative Belarusian staff. In the next months, staff of Belarusian partners will attend training activities at home and EU visits (WP4 "Training workshops for each Belarusian participating university" and WP5 "Training visits of Belarusian partners to EU universities"). These capacity building processes will have a long-term impact on the skills of academic and administrative staff. Moreover, the support and follow-up of the EU partners to Belarusian participating universities in the way of description of learning outcomes from the beginning will guarantee that at the end of the project, Belarusian participating Higher Education Institutions will be able to develop full pedagogical models based on competencies.

The approaches described above could be also replicated in any other non-partner Higher Education Institutions and it is quite likely that the culture of learning outcomes based on competencies development expands for the whole Belarusian Higher Education System. Furthermore, the interaction with local authorities, employers and other relevant actors in the nation will help for a better understanding of the relevance of the modernisation and internalisation of Belarusian Higher Education and its impact on the labour market and society.

Finally, the FOSTERC consortium is interacting with worldwide research groups and forums to set up cross-fertilization of ideas and concepts and together give continuity and extent the scope of the project and to establish a permanent network of FOSTERC project.



Impact

Description of the overall progress made to date:

Note: Information and reports are available at the FOSTERC webpage <http://fosterc.webs.upv.es/> INTRANET section with the following credentials:

User name: project.fosterc@gmail.com

Password: =1234UPV

WP1. Mapping teaching modes and learning outcomes in Belarusian universities

Tasks

Task 1.1 Design of the structure of the report (a template design)

Task 1.2 Compilation of Belarusian participating universities reports describing and analysing the current situation and the trend toward curricula defined by learning outcomes in each university.

Task 1.3 Organisation of the seminar in Minsk (30 March 2017)

Deliverables/results/outcomes

D1.1 Case studies in Belarusian participating universities.

Based on the Task 1.1 each Belarusian participating university wrote a report in Russian and English on the current situation of teaching and learning approaches and the trend toward curricula defined by learning outcomes. These reports were presented during the seminar in Minsk on 30th March 2017 at the Belarusian State University.

D1.2. Limitations in the implementation of the Bologna Process.

The National Institute of Higher Education (NIHE – P15) prepare two general reports “Implementing Bologna Tools by Belarusian Higher Education Institutions” and “Competency-based approach implementation in the system of higher education in the Republic of Belarus”. Both documents are available at the FOSTERC web page.

D1.3 Seminar on challenges and needs in Belarusian HEIs

This seminar was the first public seminar of the project open to all Belarusian universities and stakeholders. It was celebrated on 30 March 2017 at Minsk.

WP2. Planning the empirical framework of the project

Tasks

Task 2.1 Sampling. Identification of respondents' candidates according to the target population, and description of the sample characteristics.

Task 2.2 Design of master questionnaires

Task 2.3 Developing guidelines for documentation of surveys

Deliverables/results/outcomes

D2.1 Questionnaire of HE graduates (English and Russian version)

D2.2 Questionnaire to teachers in HEIs (English and Russian version)

D2.3 Questionnaire of employers (English and Russian version)

WP8. Quality Plan

Tasks

T8.1 Reporting on project evaluation

Deliverables/results/outcomes



D8.1 Quality Plan

D8.2 Evaluation Report

An evaluation report has been made only for the first seminar on 30th March 2017 in Minsk.

WP9. Dissemination & Exploitation

Tasks

T9.1 Dissemination activities

T9.2 Exploitation strategy

T9.3 Management of research data

Deliverables/results/outcomes

D9.1 Dissemination Plan

D9.2 Exploitation Plan

D9.3 Data Management Plan

D9.4 Project Website

WP10. Management

Tasks

T10.1 General Coordination and project management

Grant Agreement signed and stamped

Bilateral Partnerships Agreements signed and stamped

T10.2 Administrative and financial management

Joint Declaration for the first 6 months (15/10/2016-14/04/2017)

Time Sheets

Individual Travel Reports

Supporting Documents

Deliverables/results/outcomes

D10.1 KoM celebrated on 15-16 November 2016 in Valencia (Spain)

D10.4 Meetings minutes

After the development of reports in WP1, the organization of the first seminar in Minsk and the first contacts established for defining the sample of data collection, it could be said that the **impact at individual level** in the PCs is as follow:

- Number of direct beneficiaries in the PCs: academic staff from HEIs: 3949
- Number of direct beneficiaries in the PCs: administrative staff from HEIs: 110
- Number of direct beneficiaries in the PCs: HE students: 7032
- Number of direct beneficiaries in the PCs: Non-HE individuals: 40 Belarusian employers; members of the BSRUN Network.

Impact at institutional level.

The participating Belarusian organization will benefit of the FOSTERC project in a better understanding of the curricular development, defining learning outcomes based on fostering competencies. Our proposed mixed methods approach reflects the objectives of FOSTERC project, consisting of qualitative and quantitative analysis, questionnaire surveys, training workshops and EU visits, defining student-centred teaching models based on competencies, implementing full pedagogical models in some study programmes of Belarusian HEIs, updating and integrating teaching methodologies, and improving quality assessment of Belarusian HE throughout the recognition and validation of competencies.



Impact on the HE sector.

These approaches will be conducted for each Belarusian participating university. As FOSTERC covers 8 Belarusian HEIs from different geographical areas with a broad view of cultural diversity and representing well the Belarusian context, each analysis of project activities will produce important results in its own right, but will also provide input to both participating and non-participating Belarusian HEIs. Therefore, the impact of the project is expected to be the desired one increasing synergies and complementarities among all Belarusian HEIs.

Impact on the society as a whole. FOSTERC is aimed at promoting the modernization and internalization of Belarusian HEIs, providing to society as a whole:

- A comprehensive picture of the current situation of teaching and learning approaches of the Belarusian HEIs and the process of moving towards the implementation of the Bologna process;
- A better understanding of the curricular development focusing on learning outcomes;
- A better matching on the Belarusian HE with the social and economic demands;
- An increasing use of learning outcomes when describing and defining qualifications and curricula;
- Quality assurance assessments tools for Belarusian HEIs enhancing its relevance for the labour market and society

All information and data collected throughout the project will help for a better understanding and elaboration of that.

Budget Used

The percentage of staff cost used to date for Belarusian partners represents around 6.5% of the total staff cost budget and for the EU partners represents around 8.8%.

The percentage of travel cost and cost of stay used to date for Belarusian partners represents around 9.7% and for EU partners around 5.3%.

The percentage of equipment cost used to date for Belarusian partners is 0.0%. During the last meeting on 20 June 2017 in Minsk, it was decided that Belarusian partners will start with the process of equipment purchasing and will proceed with the tendering process documentation.

The percentage of subcontracting cost used to date for Belarusian partners is 1,6% and EU partners 11,6%.