

WP5 Quality Assurance Committee

Monitoring report on self-assessments from Work Packages, April 2017

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The first assessment reports for Work Packages were due for submission on 30th March 2017. Reports were received from all WPs within 1 week of the deadline. Two reports were resubmitted following review as they contained broader information about the partner contributions, rather than solely focusing on the work package activities.

Summary of findings:

WP 1 has completed their tasks and D1.1 and D1.2 appear on target for completion on time. The difficulty in inter-comparability of the databases and approaches to crisis management in the different countries necessitated individual country reports accompanied by a comparison document. Furthermore, understanding the specific arrangements and details of Masters curricula is more complex than expected. The WP leader proposes to use the EU Bologna standards for the development of new Master Curricula in WB countries to ensure some consistency.

WP2: Many of these activities are yet to begin and are on target with the indicators. WP2.1 the definition of the aims, specific competences and learning outcomes, as well as teachers' competencies in the WB is in progress. Additionally, WP2 is waiting on WB partners to design curricula (WP2.2) and EU partners to draft syllabi for the study visits (WP2.3). No problems or difficulties are currently foreseen. These aspects are on the agenda for discussion at the upcoming meeting in Vienna, April 2017.

WP3: This WP has drafted and delivered a Survey of citizens' and public sector awareness which is reported to have gone smoothly and collected 300 responses per WB HEI. These data are in the process of being analyzed and reported on by the deadline of 14th April 2017. Advanced activities in relation to WP3.3 has begun, specifically participation in preparation of documentation for the purchasing of equipment.

WP4 activities are not scheduled to start until later in 2018 as the curricula are implemented, apart from participating in workshops and meetings which has taken place satisfactorily.

WP5: The Quality Control Plan was drafted and accepted following minor amendments at the first Quality Assurance Committee. The plan has been presented to partners and the expectations for reports and the deadlines clarified, therefore it is hoped that the teething problems concerning the scope of the self-assessment reports will not be repeated.

WP6 has created the website and additional promotional materials ensuring that project dissemination is underway right from the first couple of months of the project. Materials have been created, printed and have begun to be distributed to all partners – although partners have requested additional copies of the leaflets to better facilitate local dissemination. The Dissemination plan was also delivered on time in this period.

WP7 has successfully delivered the sustainability plan on time, however the majority of the tasks for this work package in terms of student/staff mobility and curricula accreditation are in the future. However, work has

begun to facilitate these activities with deadlines set for creating the inter-institution agreements and discussions about the accreditation processes.

WP8: Strong leadership has been shown in the project so far and the WP leaders have provided clear support and guidance to project partners. This WP has developed and delivered project management tools (e.g. the management portal) and guidance (e.g. reporting guidance, contingency Plan) and any issues have been considered and dealt with in a professional and timely manner. WP8 has been very effective in keeping the project on track and ensuring the effective delivery of outputs.

Conclusions, recommendations and potential issues

1: In general, the reports show that the Project is proceeding well, and all objectives that should have been completed by WPs at this stage have been delivered. WP Leaders have demonstrated very strong commitment to the achievement of targets, and have clearly worked hard and harmoniously with colleagues from project partners to attain this. There has been no comment about any partners failing to deliver their contributions or fulfilling responsibilities.

2: The activities undertaken in the preparatory phase of the project appears to have been thorough, and has had strong leadership from WP1. This provides a solid foundation for the building of Master's Curricula and in particular identifying the needs and content from such studies. It is expected that this learning will be consolidated and enhanced by the study visits planned in the next 6 months as part of WP2/3 and planning for these appears to be on track. There is a recommendation that Bologna specifications for Master's curricula should be used. Although the structures of the different Masters Curricula do not need to be identical for each of the countries, they should be defined within the parameters of the Bologna requirements. If possible, therefore, it would be useful therefore to WP1 to report on these requirements if possible

3: The project is entering an important phase of implementation and ensuring the validation of programmes and it is clear that this will take commitment and effort from each project partner to ensure that institutional support and infrastructure are in place to successfully complete these activities. Importantly, it should be ensured that the project deadlines for these are respected and that the WP leaders and Coordination/ Management Group are ensuring that the tasks are being completed in a timely manner and offer assistance and guidance as problems arise. However, there are no immediate concerns related to this due to the strong project leadership shown in the first six months.

Considering WP7, a potential issue relates to accreditation. It would be helpful to understand what accreditation means in the context of the NATRISK project. Does it mean accreditation in one country or all of them? If there are any shared curricula, how will accreditation be carried out in this situation? Perhaps this needs to be clarified quite in order to ensure that the process proceeds as smoothly as possible.