

QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT **M9 2020**

Recommended length: KISS (keep it short & simple)

Erasmus + Sustainable Development of BLUE Economies through Higher Education and Innovation in Western Balkan Countries - BLUEWBC

TEMPLATE

Title of the project: BLUEWBC

Report date: _____

These reports will be used by PM to generate the periodic reporting to EACEA/EU

- 1. Work progress and results** (*per active work package please provide a short status update, results and hyperlink to results, max ½ page per WP, per Quarter.*)

WP 1 (UV):

Status update:

Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VILNIUS TECH) participated in the discussions with project partners on the GAP analysis. Due to COVID-19 it was impossible to visit partner countries and to examine current situation, thus all the activities were taken online.

UoM participated in the realization of dev.1.1, dev.1.2 and dev.1.3. Main activities implemented were focused on the analysis of the strategic framework for Blue Economy in Montenegro, faculties and courses at the University of Montenegro related to the Blue Economy, sustainability and entrepreneurship. Afterwards, UoM team performed online survey of different categories of project stakeholders and gathered feedback we summed up within the GAP analysis report (dev.1.2).

In regards to the reporting on actions and models for I&E (dev.1.3.) UoM prepared report on the I&E oriented curriculum development, introducing I&E concept into the curriculum, I&E oriented teaching/pedagogical methods, introducing blended learning approach for I&E education, I&E oriented extra-curricular activities, establishment of BLUE Hub: Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Centre, familiarization with creative SME initiatives in Blue Economy (Tourism, Fishery, Aquaculture, Shipping, Transport, and Biotechnology), establishment of student competition for the best Blue Economy idea and business plan, engagement of stakeholder in I&E education.

After the kick-off meeting guidelines and the communication from the Lead Partner of WP1, UV, the Coordinator of UT organized the work group for WP 1 in FEUT, composed by 4 teacher/researcher staff. The work load was divided for the three different tasks of WP 1, regarding report required from FEUT. The first report (DEV 1.1) delivered by FEUT to UV

contains an overview of curricula related to IE. This report has been part of a continuous process within Albanian partners: we have sent our part to UV and then reflected all the feedback and comments properly and within deadlines to the UV. After finalization, UV has sent the report to project leader and shared with all partners and has also been part of discussions and comments during the online meetings (07/05/2020).

The work for DEV 1.2, "Gap analysis", led by the University of Vlora, was assisted also by the working group from FEUT who has given its contribution with relevant information and analysis, to identify the weak points in the institutions of higher education in Albania which will then orient methodological aspects for improving curricula. The results of this work, which materialized in the form of a report from UT were integrated with other information from Albania and Montenegro and were presented and discussed at the next meeting held online, on June 22, 2020.

Regarding Dev 1.3 "Reporting on models and actions for I&E", in order to better orient the staff of the two Albanian universities for the improvement and conclusion of this report, partner countries such as Lithuania and Norway organized on 08 July 2020 another online meeting, to give their expertise. The FEUT staff also contributed to the drafting of this report.

Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, hereinafter CEM, participated in the support of preparation of the analysis for the strategic framework for Blue Economy in Montenegro, sustainability and entrepreneurship. CEM participated in the preparation of the online survey of different categories of project stakeholders (dev.1.2), dissemination of the survey towards the business community and entrepreneurs as well as in collecting the survey results.

CEM participated in the finalization and realization of the necessary data as well as data processing obtained from the targeted business community.

CEM supported P2 UoM partners in preparation of the I&E oriented report.

Delay: Yes /No

No delays, but among the activities planned related to WP1, in DEV 1.2 was the meeting of partners at the University of Vilnius, Lithuania which was not possible to be physically organized due to the situation of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Action (If delay happened):

With the approval of all partners it was decided to have an online meeting. The meeting took place online on 07th May 2020 using the Zoom platform, where, among others, the draft report for DEV 1.1 was submitted.

Results (including hyperlinks)

Report 1.1, Report 1.2 and Report 1.3.

WP 2 (VGTU)

Status update:

VILNIUS TECH has prepared a Methodology for establishing and updating curricula. The methodology has been distributed to all partners and received feedback. Partners agreed that the corrections will be made after developing the guidelines.

On 23rd October VILNIUS TECH has organised an interview with the representatives (academic staff, university administration, students and business representatives) from

Montenegro. The discussion on current situation in Montenegro, university-business collaboration and existing study programmes was led and interview minutes prepared. On 27th October similar interview was organised with universities from Albania. Meeting minutes prepared.

Based on the GAP analysis and interview results Guidelines for learning development were prepared and shared to the partners for the review. Guidelines include an overview of the current situation, SWOT analysis, recommendations for the study programme development/upgrade and best practice examples from partner universities.

After the review and completion of methodology and guidelines, the preparation of course catalogues is planned.

In regards to the WP2 UoM team started up analysis of proposed existing courses at undergraduate and postgraduate master programmes at the University of Montenegro. UoM team members also considered possibility of development of some additional multidisciplinary courses which could be held in cooperation between staff members from the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality and Faculty of Maritime Studies Kotor.

Dev 2.1 "Development of methodology for creating and improving curricula" is led by the University of Lithuania. During this period of the project, coordinator of UT has sent kick-off e-mail to the FEUT team that will participate in WP 2. Internal communication among the team has been in place during September as well as discussion on courses to be impacted by the project. Teaching staff and researchers has investigated further for need for improvement in courses to be included in the methodology and guidelines. Till October 15th FEUT team also responded to request for participation and organized some participation elements, in online meeting that was organized by VGTU on 27th October 2020.

CEM had active communication in the preparation and support of the online meeting organized by the partner institution P6 VGTU.

CEM prepared for participation in the (WP2 i DEV 2.1) online zoom meeting scheduled on the 23th October 2020 in organization of the partner institution P6 VGTU from Lithuania.

Delay: Yes /No

A slight delay due to delays in WP1 (GAP analysis was completed in M8).

The meeting foreseen at UT was not possible to be organized because of COVID 19.

Action (If delay happened)

A 4 month delay in WP1 caused shorter period of the WP2 activities, but we managed to complete activities in shorter time. Online meeting with all relevant participants was organized later than M9.

Results (including hyperlinks)

WP 3 (UoM)

Establishment of I&E centres at Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs

Status update: As a lead partner for WP3, UoM initiated communication with representatives of P1, P3 and P4 on the procurement of equipment for I&E centres during the Kick-off meeting in Aalesund. From the early beginning of the project partners agreed upon the necessity to modify original list of the equipment to be procured. Reasons for such

a decision coming up from changes on the maritime market due to worldwide economic and COVID/19 crisis, as well as the growing impact of IIoT, prototyping technologies and other innovative solutions. Furthermore, other project partners including VGTU, assisted in the process of defining new hardware and software for all three PC HEIs through the presentation on the technologies and equipment used in the field of I&E. For the moment, P2, P3 and P4 are preparing equipment list and specification for the P1 to submit it to the Project Manager in Brussels for pre-authorisation.

Besides, UoM team analysed procedural aspects of the development of I&E centre on institutional level. Preparation procedure will be initiated up to the end of the first project year.

Within WP3, UoM participated in bilateral meeting at the University of Tirana regarding finalization of equipment specification.

The lead partner in this WP is the University of Montenegro. During the end of August and beginning of September UoM send e-mail to kick off the activities of WP 3 with UT and UV and UT started organization of works to be done regarding the list of equipment and their specifications. UT team has started with the analyses of our needs for I&E centre in the new and updated situation, for list of equipment, which will be submitted to the lead partner of the WP3. Despite the fact that for UT are defined in advance in the project the types of equipment needed for IE centre, we have sought opinions and suggestions from all partners during September 2020, who based on their experience to give ideas for equipment that can be even more efficient. In addition, staff from UT has done research in identification of the most appropriate equipment for students of tourism and has done several internal meetings to discuss their findings. During this time, UT staff has maintained continuous communication with UoM and UoV regarding the technical specifications and procurement process.

To coordinate the work with UT and UV, UoM called a physical meeting with Partner countries HEIs, held on October 12th, 2020 in Tirana (Faculty of Economy, UT). Teacher/researchers of FEUT have prepared arguments for I&E centre in UT, management staff have dealt with all the organization and agenda. Technical staff supported arguments regarding financial issues and procurement procedures and administration staff have taken minutes of the meeting as well as participant lists and other administrative issues. It was agreed among partners that some minor changes or replacement in equipment can be done compared to the application list, according to tourism student's needs, but written justification will be needed and sent to the project coordinator (NTNU), who gives the approval and send the final list to EACEA. It was also agreed to use a joint procurement process led by UoM for procurement of equipment.

Status update:

Delay: Yes / No

Action: (If delay happened)

Results (including hyperlinks)

WP 4 (UNIST)

Status update:

Delay: Yes /No

Action: (If delay happened)

Results (including hyperlinks)

WP 4 I&E program and training of teaching staff and students has not started yet. Estimated start date is 15/01/2021 as planned.

WP 5 (UoM)

Status update:

Delay: Yes /No

Action: (If delay happened)

Results (including hyperlinks)

WP 6 (NTNU)

Status update: Q1:

During the kick-off meeting in Aalesund the project agreed to establish a Quality Board consisting of one member from each partner. The work with developing a quality plan was initiated. NTNU in the capacity of Project Coordinator took the responsibility of Quality Board leader role.

The quality of the project results is monitored by project partners (reviewing and providing recommendations for improvements of the deliverables) and sharing the to stakeholders for further review.

Delay: Yes /No

Action: (If delay happened)

Results (including hyperlinks)

WP 7 (UT) Dissemination and exploitation

Status update: UT is the leading partner of this WP. During the first 9M of the project the work has been concentrated in finalizing DEV 7.1 Dissemination & Exploitation Plan and DEV 7.2 Website of the project.

Related to DEV 7.1: The first presentation and instructions for drafting a dissemination plan (DEP) were given at the kick off meeting, which is the first document produced in this WP. Immediate tasks were the opening the Facebook page and starting work on the project website. The draft DEP (dissemination and exploitation plan) was delivered in 31st of March. While the Fb page was opened in February 2020, which was approved by the partners and was updated with the activities organized so far.

Partners gave feedback on DEP and an improved version was submitted for discussion together with other activities undertaken by partner countries related to WP7 during the online meeting held on 07 May 2020. During this period, UT has maintained constant contacts with all partners, contributing to the required tasks, as well as requesting inputs and their approval regarding each step taken, in order to meet the deadlines, set at each meeting. The finalization of the DEP was done after all comments and suggestions were received from partner institutions and was confirmed by the lead partner.

Related to Dev 7.2: During the period May - June 2020, UT engaged the working group first of all regarding the procurement process for website designing and development. E-mail communications with lead partner and involved partners especially with UoM, have supported UT with clarification of issues regarding procurement procedures and different questions, such as budgeting, criteria and logo of the project as part of web-site procurement and not dissemination products and materials. After preparation of criteria and request for

procurement sent to UT Rectorate and implementation of procurement procedure according Albanian law and financial procedures for budgets lower than 25000Eu, the next step was the contact with the winning company of the procurement. Some meetings were organized with the company, physical and online (because of the Pandemic), to agree with website design and development. Communication with partners during this phase was also regarding domain of the website, if .com or .eu .

In the online meeting on June 22, 2020, issues related to WP 7 were discussed again, emphasizing the need to finish as soon as possible the project logo and website. Finalized website link was sent to partners via e-mail.

After finalized website launching took place in September 2020, we continued communication with partners for minor changes, especially regarding partner logos and needed links for I&E centres, while taking compliments for the output of design and development.

The information about the project, including the link to project website is on VILNIUS TECH website.

Since the beginning of the project WP7 – Dissemination and Exploitation activities have been started and the University of Tirana is a Lead partner on this WP. On behalf of the Consortium, we have adopted Plan of Dissemination and Exploitation of Results (DEP). UoM delegated members responsible for the dissemination and exploitation activities. They made significant efforts on establishment of working group and strategy for dissemination and exploitation of project results up to now. Monitoring visit of National ERASMUS+ representatives was organized on 5th June 2020 at the premises of the UoM.

Also, UoM supported Lead partner P4 in the Project web site development process. Besides, UoM supported preparation of official information for Mrs. Moro based on the request titled “609693-FMR-BLUEWBC-Montenegro-2020 – Information about recommendations of National Erasmus+ Office in Montenegro”.

Additional information about realized promotional activities of the BLUEWBC project by UoM could be found at <http://www.pfkotor.ucg.ac.me/nauka/projekti/erasmus+-programme-bluewbc>, <https://www.ucg.ac.me/objava/blog/1271/objava/81421-dekan-pomorskog-fakulteta-kotor-ucestvovao-na-tribini-pod-nazivom-kotor-2020-posljedice-i-oporavak-nakon-covida-19>, <https://www.ucg.ac.me/objava/blog/1271/objava/80799-pomorski-fakultet-kotor-nosilac-aktivnosti-od-znacaja-za-razvoj-i-inovacije-u-privredi-i-pomorskom-obrazovanju>, <https://www.ucg.ac.me/objava/blog/1271/objava/84285-povezivanje-sa-predstavicima-pomorske-privrede-i-ukazivanje-na-znacaj-plave-ekonomije-u-crnoj-gori> as well as at the official Facebook page.

CEM has participated in the Monitoring visit of the National ERASMUS+ representative that was organised on 5th June 2020 at the premises of the UoM.

As a part of the dissemination and exploitation activities, CEM has been active in the promotion of the project publicizing and advertising the information concerning the project and its activities on their official website as well as in the official Chamber magazine “Glasnik”.

Examples of our official website and magazine posts with the topic of the activities from the project:

<https://www.privrednakomora.me/projekti-aktuelnosti/monitoring-sastanak-bluewbc-projekta>

Monthly magazine of Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Glasnik, January 2020, page 62:
https://www.privrednakomora.me/sites/pkcg.org/files/multimedia/gallery/files/2012/09/glasnik_januar_2020_w.pdf

<https://www.privrednakomora.me/projekti-aktuelnosti/zapocet-projekat-razvoja-plavih-ekonomija-na-institucijama-visokog-obrazovanja>

Monthly magazine of Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Glasnik, March 2020, pages 86 and 87:

https://www.privrednakomora.me/sites/pkcg.org/files/multimedia/gallery/files/2012/09/glasnik_mart_2020_www_0.pdf

Monthly magazine of Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Glasnik, June 2020, page 92:

http://www.privrednakomora.me/sites/pkcg.org/files/multimedia/gallery/files/2012/09/glasnik_jun_2020_www-c.pdf

*notice: We have noticed that P8 CEM and P10 IEC partners, even though very active in the dissemination and exploitation activities, are not included in the detailed project description final version document (pg 69, WP7)

Delay: Yes /No

Small procedural delays in launching tendering procedures, which are managed by the UT Rectorate, but at the end we managed to have the website launched in September 2020.

Action: (If delay happened)

Communication with Lead partner, NTNU, and all other partners to provide information on each step of the procedure and any delays.

Results (including hyperlinks)

Information published. DEP, Website <http://bluewbc.eu/>, facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/BLUE-WBC-101342178137886>, online meeting minutes.

<https://www.vgtu.lt/for-business/knowledge-and-technology-transfer-centre/research-technology-and-inovation-projects/blue-wbc/318125?lang=2>

WP 8 (NTNU)

Status update: Q1:

Project management organised the signing of agreements and distribution of grants leading up to the kick-off meeting. As a part of starting up the Project leader and Partner UoM participated in a dedicated E+ meeting in Brussels in January with the purpose of helping the PM setting the project in motion.

The project official starting date was set to 15th January.

Kick-off meeting was arranged in Aalesund 18-19th February 2020, with all participant present except the Maritime Directorate of Albania.

Here the Management group was established consisting of the HEIs and P7 NTNU Ocean Training representing external parties/industry partners. Partners initially engaged in discussions on planning of WPs and tasks. Also reporting procedures was established, including timesheet reporting. A meeting schedule was established in line with the tasks outlined in the application.

During day two of the meeting it was split in two groups where one group reviewed and clarified the project plan including the D1.1 State of the Art in I&E in Blue Economies, while the other group started to look into the immediate deliverables and dissemination activities.

As part of the visit to Aalesund a tour of the building complex was organised including a visit to the Future lab where simulators are used to project a development into the future.

During Q1 VILNIUS TECH has established internal project management and implementation board, designated members to project management board, assigned project financier. Also,

VILNIUS TECH representatives have participated in project partners meeting in Aalesund and meetings which were organised online.

UoM supported preparation procedure of the Partnership Agreement for the BLUEWBC project. Team member participated together with P1 representative in an ERASMUS+ Capacity Building in Higher Education Grantholders' Meeting in Brussels on 27th and 28th January 2020.

Two staff members participated the Kick-off meeting held in Aalesund on 18th and 19th 2020 together with other project partners in order to agree all implementation mechanisms, financial, communication and management strategy, and to discuss further activities.

Periodical internal meetings was organized at UoM in order to consider ongoing activities, individual tasks, achieved results, following steps.

According to the internal rules of the UoM in combine with EACEA rules and project workplan, UoM prepared and realized staff costs payment, travel costs and costs of stay payment. Accountancy and document keeping was organized in line with the EACEA and internal provisions, and all evidence together with the supporting documents was uploaded on the Teams private channel for UoM.

Delay: Yes /No

No. But towards the end of Q1 the Covid 19 pandemic caused a lockdown and imposed travel restrictions so that the PM did already at this stage see that visiting Lithuania for the upcoming tasks, 8.2 Management board meeting and 1.2 Gap analysis would be difficult.

Action: (If delay happened)

No delay in this quarter, but the MB could see that delays would be likely if Covid-19 situation continued.

Results (including hyperlinks)

Contracts signed. Minutes of meeting. D 1.1 ready for internal review. Grant 1st installment distributed to partners.