

INTERIM REPORT

AUGUST 2005

Nazorg Pristina Summer University

Organised by the University of Pristina

AND THE ACADEMIC TRAINING ASSOCIATION



UNIVERSITETI I PRISHTINËS
UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA

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Content

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Section 1: Context | 3 |
| Section 2: Main Aims and Target Group | 4 |
| Strategic project goal | 4 |
| Wider objectives | 4 |
| Project objectives | 4 |
| Target Group | 4 |
| Section 3: Activities planned and carried out; | 5 |
| Discrepancies between expected and actual results; | 5 |
| Problems and proposed solutions. | 5 |
| Proposal Writing & Fund Raising | 5 |
| PSU Committee | 5 |
| Developing the course programme, the selection of visiting and co-professors and information project manuals provided to them | 6 |
| Performance of visiting and co-professors | 8 |
| Setting up a web based application system | 8 |
| Re-opening of the PSU Office | 8 |
| Opening and functioning helpdesk | 8 |
| Recruiting logistics officers, interpreters, and translators | 9 |
| Preparing forums programme | 9 |
| Preparing recreational programme | 9 |
| Promotion, Preparing and distributing programme brochure, posters and flyers..... | 9 |
| Arranging accommodation | 10 |
| Purchasing and transportation reading material & teaching equipment | 10 |
| Selecting students | 11 |
| Organising PSU Pre-Training..... | 12 |
| Preparing welcome packets..... | 13 |
| Certificates and ECTS | 13 |
| Section 4: Project and Management Performance | 14 |
| 4A. Project Performance | 14 |
| 1. Project performance according to Indicators of Progress as mentioned in the project proposal: | 14 |
| 2. Project performance according to Outputs, as mentioned in the project proposal:..... | 15 |
| 3. Other project performance indicators: | 16 |
| 4. Project performance in relation to risks and assumptions: | 16 |
| 4B. Management Performance..... | 17 |
| Section 5: Proposals for Financial or Substantive Changes to the Project | 18 |

Section 1: Context

The programme in short and preceding developments

Between 2001 and 2004, the Academic Training Association (ATA) and the University of Pristina (UP) successfully implemented four multi-ethnic summer universities. These comprised of 30 course modules annually, in each of which 750 students from Pristina and the wider Western Balkans participated. Previous editions have proven to be an enormous success in furthering regional cooperation and inter-ethnic reconciliation. In fact, the PSU brought Serbian participants and speakers back to the UP, for the first time since the end of the conflict in 1999. This has been widely hailed as extremely significant breakthrough in the field of inter-ethnic relations in Kosovo. Furthermore, the PSU assisted the UP to adopt the Bologna Action Lines and to raise the quality of the curriculum. Over the years, thousands of students - many from the wider Western Balkans – took part in the programme. The armed conflicts in SEE contributed to ethnic polarization. The Education sector – on a regional level - is one of the most ethno-politically sensitive and is segregated by language and ethnicity. The PSU counters this process by providing a meeting ground for students and academics from SEE. The PSU also supports the process of Europeanisation in education through the Bologna Process, which envisages the creation of an European Higher Education Area (EHEA) in 2010. Finally, the project at hand has proven to significantly improve the quality of Higher Education. In the summers of 2005-7, the UP will organise 5th – 7th edition of the PSU with limited assistance of ATA. It was proposed that the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides (limited) support until 2007, complementing the contribution of local donors such as the University of Pristina, the Ministry of Education as well as private donors such as the Pro Credit Bank. The PSU 2005-2007 programme will be smaller in order to guarantee future (financial) sustainability. 15 courses will be organised for a total of 400 students, of which 75 from the wider Western Balkans, i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia.. Scholarship places will also be made available to students from the University of Mitrovica. Public discussions, lectures etc. will be organised on prominent issues in Kosovar society and in SEE. The PSU has become a well known tradition amongst academics throughout the region and enjoys extensive media attention. The PSU will continue to strongly contribute to the improvement of inter-ethnic relations in the SEE region, particularly the relation between the University of Pristina and Mitrovica.

Furthermore, the PSU addresses the needs of higher education in Kosovo. It specifically aims:

1. To stimulate SEE inter-ethnic cooperation and development of regional professional networks;
2. To integrate the Kosovo Higher Education system into the European system by implementing the Bologna Action Lines (e.g. ECTS);
3. To foster sustainable cooperation with visiting professors and their universities;
4. To improve the quality of education (inter alia through curriculum reform);

Past situation at the University of Pristina

The process of development underway in Kosovo requires coherent and coordinated activities in all sectors of society. The educational system in general, the University of Pristina in particular, plays a critical role by educating qualified professionals and providing the research data on which many sectors of society rely. In 1990, Albanians in Kosovo set up a parallel education system. Due to the isolation, the academic community could barely maintain professional contacts with the outside world, and teacher training did not occur on a regular basis. The general situation was not beneficial to the quality of education. In the late 1990s, after tensions escalated into violent conflict and the international community intervened, the balance of power shifted. The Serbian academic community left Pristina and the Albanian staff returned to the buildings of the University of Pristina. The Serbian academic community established a university in North Kosovo, recognised in 2001 by UNMIK as the University of Mitrovica.

Section 2: Main Aims and Target Group

Strategic project goal

To improve inter-ethnic cooperation in the Western Balkans through the organisation of an international summer university programme, which serves as a platform for inter-university cooperation within the Western Balkans, while improving the quality of higher education in Kosovo and accelerating its integration into the European Higher Education Area, i.e. Bologna process.

Wider objectives

- To improve inter-ethnic relations between Kosovo-Albanian and other ethnic groups in SEE;
- To facilitate future EU integration;
- To improve the quality of higher education in Kosovo;
- To contribute to the economic development of Kosovo.

Project objectives

1. To stimulate SEE inter-ethnic cooperation and development of regional professional networks;

- Bringing senior students and teaching staff from the region together in order to discuss issues of common concern, which will lead to the development of professional networks in the region;
- Fostering, in particular, better relations between the University of Pristina and the University of Mitrovica;

2. To integrate the Kosovo Higher Education System into the European system through implementing the Bologna Action Lines (e.g. ECTS);

- Introducing recent academic developments and new teaching methodologies into the UP curriculum;
- Assisting in the development and renewal of curricula in accordance with the Bologna Declaration;
- Implementing the ECTS system and promoting the introduction of Quality Assurance methods.

3. To foster sustainable cooperation with visiting professors and their universities;

- Fostering sustainable cooperation with visiting professors and their universities by promoting the development of sustainable cooperation during and after their stay.

4. To improve the quality of education (inter alia through curriculum reform):

- Deepening and broadening the professional skills of students and academic staff of the UP, particularly those co-teaching with visiting professors, which will enable UP staff to more effectively fulfill their duties as educators of the new generations of professionals and academics in Kosovo.

Target Group

Within the context of counterbalancing the ongoing brain drain, and to foster innovative change and new teaching methods, the project aims to provide up to date knowledge and skills. The target group consists of (senior) students, as well as young and senior staff from both the University of Pristina and other universities in the region. Thus, the Pristina Summer University continues to be a meeting ground for academics from all universities in the SEE region. A total participation of 400 is foreseen. The project will aim to particularly involve young academic staff as they will form the new generation of professors the UP aims to train. This generation carries an enormous potential for innovative change and is more susceptible to new teaching methods. In addition, aiming human resource investments at young staff having a long academic career ahead will offer a high return. However, senior staff should also be closely involved, as their commitment and cooperation will be crucial to achieve structural changes. To enhance close cooperation between visiting professors and local staff, each course will be co-taught by a visiting professor together with a UP staff member in the same field of specialisation.

Section 3: Activities planned and carried out; Discrepancies between expected and actual results; Problems and proposed solutions.

Proposal Writing & Fund Raising

Proposal writing was performed by ATA in close consultation with the International Relations Office of the University of Pristina. ATA has prepared another proposal for the ProCreditbank that resulted in a contribution of 40.000 Euro. The IRO together with ATA found the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology willing to contribute 35.000 in cash as well as free accommodation and food for 300 UP and 75 Scholarship students. The UP would contribute 50.000 Euro. The leadership crisis at the UP made the MEST contribution and the co-financing part by the NLMFA uncertain, which de-motivated IRO staff to actively work for the project. A PSU donor conference is planned during the PSU 2005. A one-course-budget is made for potential smaller donors interested to fund only one or two courses.

As funding materialised only by the end of 2004 and with some initial organisation impediments caused by the leadership crisis, many project activities started later than initially planned.

Summary

1. Was it in time, according to planning (check work plan/ timeline above)?

Funds raised later than planned.

2. Was it carried out completely or partly? If partly or not at all, please explain the discrepancy between expected and actual result.

Completely carried out.

3. If there were, which were the main problems and which solutions were proposed / would you propose?

The leadership crisis at the UP made the MEST contribution and the co-financing part by the NLMFA uncertain, which de-motivated IRO staff

4. Recommendations:

Organise a PSU donor conference and a fundraising campaign as soon as the PSU 2005 (public) report is published.

PSU Committee

The PSU committee was officially installed on 18 February 2003 by the UP senate (See annex). And has started carrying out its activities. The PSU Committee was brought back to three members in March 2005. It is currently composed of the following members:

1. Prof.dr. Hajredin Kuqi, Coordinator (Head of International Relations Office);
2. Mrs. Barha Qiezi, IRO Head of Office;
3. One ATA Representative (Yannick du Pont or Michel Richter, or Steffie Verstappen)

The PSUC has only been had limited involvement due to a leadership crisis at the University of Pristina (illegal appointment of the Rector and vice rector Kuqi). New members will be appointed to join the PSUC as soon as the crisis is resolved.

Summary

1. Was it in time, according to planning (check work plan/ timeline above)?

n.a.

2. Was it carried out completely or partly? If partly or not at all, please explain the discrepancy between expected and actual result.

The PSU committee is officially installed since February 2003. It is thus fully implemented and works accordingly to the “initial definition”.

3. If there were, which were the main problems and which solutions were proposed / would you propose?

The PSUC will be able to properly function as of the start of the new project cycle, i.e. the preparations of the PSU 2006 in September.

4. Recommendations:

Select committed new PSUC members that are not related to the previous illegal university leadership.

Developing the course programme, the selection of visiting and co-professors and information project manuals provided to them

The development of courses suggestions effectively started once new project staff was hired by the IRO and funding materialised by the end of 2004, few months later than usually, even-though some preparations has started by ATA before. Also, fewer course suggestions were submitted by the faculties as 1) many faculties were sceptical about the organisation raising sufficient funds to organise the event in 2005 and 2) new project staff had to establish good working relationship with faculty staff. Eventually more than sufficient and valid course suggestions including potential co-professors were received: up to 41 suggestions by May. From these, 16 courses were selected at more than 10 different faculties or university departments (The PSUC had decided that as many faculties as possible needed to be involved).

In order to promote an optimal transfer of knowledge and expertise from international to local teaching faculty, co-teaching was introduced during the PSU 2002. In the ideal situation local academic will teach a similar course on his/ her own in the future. Like in previous years, in some cases co-professor-ship was possibly associated with prestige, seniority as well as with certain internal (and sometimes politically coloured) networks. All faculties were provided with extensive information packs translated into Albanian in order to adequately inform them (particularly the deans who officially select the co-professors and submit the course suggestions on behalf of their faculty) of PSU issues, namely the preparation of their course suggestions and the appointment of co-professors for each suggested course. This surely improved and facilitated the recruitment process for co-professors over the years and this improvement continued in 2005.

As in previous years, course suggestions were advertised in professional and scientific magazines, at the ATA website and through mailing lists, attracting about 75 potential visiting professor willing to teach, and that mainly applied through the online and yearly updated application system that ATA developed for the PSU. An updated PSU manual for visiting professors including information on living circumstances in Kosovo, the UP, teaching facilities, course preparation etc., the International Teaching Faculty Package (ITFP) was available on the ATA website. The selection was done by the faculties in conjunction with the PSUC. In making a selection the following criteria were taken into account:

- each participating faculty/ department should get one course selected (fair distribution between beta, alpha and gamma sciences);
- the quality of the co-professor in combination with the quality of the visiting professor in combination with the quality of the academic institute of the visiting professor;

- European profs above US profs (in relation to Bologna objectives and travel expenses);
- For about half of the courses VPs with PSU experience should be selected. This would facilitate the organisation of the project to some extent as the time to prepare the event was short.

Courses were mostly taught by US visiting professors as most applications were received from US professors and most faculties wished to select them. However, this should be avoided in the future as VPs from the US are more expensive in terms of travel expenses and less valuable in terms of European Integration in Higher Education in Kosovo. The following 16 courses were organised, 8 courses were to be translated into Albanian, five in English only and 3 in Albanian only.

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|--|
| 1. Psychological Basis of Teaching and Learning |
| 2. Banking Regulation and Supervision |
| 3. Financial Markets and Banking in the Global Economy |
| 4. Implementing Quality Management in Education |
| 5. International Humanitarian Law |
| 6. Ismail Kadare: His Literary Work |
| 7. Political Drama and Theatre in Southeast Europe |
| 8. District Heating (DH) and Combined Heat Plant (CHP) |
| 9. Road Transport |
| 10. MATLAB Programming for Electrical Engineering |
| 11. Crops of Kosovo |
| 12. Research Planning and Design for the Biological/Chemical and Environmental/Ecological Sciences |
| 13. The Fundamental Group: An Introduction to Algebraic Topology |
| 14. Drugs and the Impact of Drugs on the Human Body |
| 15. Integrated Solid Waste Management and Waste Water Treatment for Regional Development |
| 16. Introduction to XML Related Multimedia Technologies |

New local UP project staff has not been substantially involved in developing the course programme and the selection of visiting professors, since they were hired later than expected by IRO. It was decided that it would be more effective if ATA would practically entirely take up this phase of the project and that UP project staff would focus their involvement on the period following the finalisation of the course programme. For the PSU 2005 UP project staff will be involved and trained in the development of the courses.

Summary

1. Was it in time, according to planning (check work plan/ timeline above)?

It was carried out later than planned, but in time not delay the advertising of the programme to students.

2. Was it carried out completely or partly? If partly or not at all, please explain the discrepancy between expected and actual result.

Completely carried out as more than 15 targeted courses were organised. However, more European visiting professors should be involved.

3. If there were, which were the main problems and which solutions were proposed / would you propose?

The procedure of collecting course suggestions started later than in previous years due to above mentioned problems regarding the UP leadership and fundraising. It is expected that these problems will

not occur next year and the course suggestion and selection procedures of visiting professors can start according to schedule next year. This would also allow time to search for more EU visiting professors.

4. Recommendations

New UP project staff should be trained and more substantially involved in the development of the course programme of the PSU 2006, including the drafting of an updated ITPP;

More professors from the European Union should be selected and less from the USA to increase the relevance of the programme to assist the UP to reform according to the Bologna Action Lines.

Performance of visiting and co-professors

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Setting up a web based application system

The web based application system that has been in use since 2002 has been approved and updated each year. Only minor changes were made into the system for the PSU 2005. Training on the use of the system was provided to (new) project staff during a pre-training visit in Amsterdam and a separate training organised for ATA summer universities' staff in Skopje.

New PSU local project staff has not yet been trained in the database part that concerns the development of a course programme and the selection of visiting professors due to late preparations of the PSU 2005. This will be part of their training for the PSU 2006.

Re-opening of the PSU Office

n.a. (The PSU Office has been transferred from ATA to the new UP project staff after the PSU 2004.)

Opening and functioning helpdesk

The students' application period for courses started on 8 May. The helpdesk was opened at the beginning of May at the usual place at the Faculty of Law. In May help desk activities concentrated on providing students with information on the courses, scholarships etc and application material, while helping them to fill in paper application forms (although most students applied through the online application system at the ATA website). Helpdesk staff consisted of volunteering students that were trained by UP project staff that had worked for the PSU before. The Helpdesk was provided with all necessary facilities in order to function well.

Summary

1. Was it in time, according to planning (check work plan/ timeline above)?

Helpdesk opened according to planning.

2. Was it carried out completely or partly? If partly or not at all, please explain the discrepancy between expected and actual result.

Completely carried out.

3. If there were, which were the main problems and which solutions were proposed / would you propose?

n.a.

4. Recommendations:

n.a.

Recruiting logistics officers, interpreters, and translators

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Preparing forums programme

During the project period it was determined that twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 18.00 to 20.00, forums would be organized at the PSU with the aim of fostering interdepartmental discussions about current events and to encourage discussion between visiting professors, local academic staff and students on issues raised at the PSU. International PSU professors, as well as professors of the University of Pristina, and representatives of local and international organisations would take part. The following topics were developed by the University of Pristina by May 15:

1. European Integration/ Economic/ Speakers and date to be confirmed.
2. Missing persons
3. Empowerment of Youth in SEE,
4. Kosovo in 2005
5. University Management
6. Culture and Globalization

Preparations are ongoing in June 2005.

Preparing recreational programme

Not applicable for this reporting period. Preparations started in June.

Promotion, Preparing and distributing programme brochure, posters and flyers

A programme brochure, posters and flyers have been developed and published in April in Albanian and English. The English brochure was not printed but due to cost-saving considerations only published electronically.

The brochure contained descriptions of 16 courses, practical information on Kosovo and travelling to Kosovo, accommodation, etc., scholarships for regional students, information on the application procedure for students and an application form.

The PSU 2005 was promoted both in Kosovo and in other territories. Outside Kosovo, strong emphasis was placed on SEE -particularly Stability Pact-countries.

In Kosovo radio, TV as well as the paper distribution of posters, flyers and brochures was crucial, internationally mainly Internet was used as fast, reliable and cheap promotional tool. Non-Kosovo students could apply via the internet only. On the ATA web-site a special section on the PSU was developed in both English and Albanian. This contained course and general project information. Students could apply directly online, using a web-based database system.

The Albanian materials were distributed at faculty buildings, the Rectorate, student dormitories, cafes and bars popular among students, UNMIK and NGOs. Many live TV and radio appearances were made in Pristina by local ATA staff. The previously special produced racks for posters and flyers & brochures were used again and regularly filled.

All universities in countries for which scholarships were available, were contacted by email and/ or fax and asked if they would like to receive promotional materials on the summer university. English brochures and posters were sent to all Universities in South East Europe (all offices for international relations of all

Balkan Universities) as well as to former SEE participants from Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Macedonia and Montenegro. Local UP project staff personally promoted the project throughout the region, except for Serbia which was covered by ATA Amsterdam staff.

Alike previous years special attention in the promotion was devoted to Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia, in order to increase the number of applications from these territories in comparison to last year.

ATA staff from Amsterdam was closely involved in designing, implementing and monitoring of the PSU promotion throughout the region.

At the end of the registration period, all promotion materials had been successfully distributed. The online database system makes it possible to closely monitor each week or day-to-day the number of applications coming for each course and from each country. Promotional activities could thus focus on those courses and countries where applications lagged behind.

2264 students applied to attend one of the PSU courses, of which 1274 from Kosovo as well as 680 from the wider SEE region.

Summary

1. Was it in time, according to planning (check work plan/ timeline above)?

Well on time.

2. Was it carried out completely or partly? If partly or not at all, please explain the discrepancy between expected and actual result.

Completely carried out.

3. If there were, which were the main problems and which solutions were proposed / would you propose?

None

4. Recommendations

None

Arranging accommodation

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Purchasing and transportation reading material & teaching equipment

Visiting professors were asked to enter the titles of books, articles etc. needed for their courses via the ATA online application forms. They could also indicate which teaching equipment was needed for their courses. Thus, for most courses this information was collected at an early stage. Unlike previous years, this information was collected and literature purchased by local UP project staff with the assistance of ATA Amsterdam.

By the end of May practically all titles had been purchased through the Dukagjini bookstore in Pristina against the most favourable price. Titles out of order were replaced and ordered via Internet if possible. Most books are expected to be delivered in June or early July.

Furthermore, all professors were suggested to compile a reader of about 75 pages containing the core texts of the reading material selected for the course. Like last year, it was preferred that these texts should

be drawn from their own work. Materials were collected in May in order to offer them for translation as of June.

In addition, a yearly modest budget of 750 Euro is available to purchase pens, paper, chalk, flip-overs, etc. In June the organisation will make an assessment of all materials needed in the courses. In order to do so, visiting professors will be asked to provide lists of materials needed for their courses.

Summary

1. Was it in time, according to planning (check work plan/ timeline above)?

A bit behind schedule.

2. Was it carried out completely or partly? If partly or not at all, please explain the discrepancy between expected and actual result.

Completely

3. If there were, which were the main problems and which solutions were proposed / would you propose?

n.a.

4. Recommendations:

n.a.

Selecting students

Immediately after the closing of the application period on 8 May, students were selected for the courses. The University of Pristina took responsibility for selection of the student selection in Kosovo (350). ATA pre-selected self-financing students (48) as well as scholarship students (116), after which these were reviewed and approved by the University of Pristina. In the end, final selection results were announced on May 23. Numbers of the selected students are higher than slots, as traditionally, rather high drop-out numbers can be expected.

The selection of international (regional) students was made by ATA Amsterdam in close consultation with UP project staff, so that they are able to take over this task during next editions. UP students were selected by the co-professors based on automated pre-selected lists from the database. Both selections were approved by the PSU Committee.

Students selection was based on the average mark combined with a score on an English quick placement test taken by the organisation. In addition, the field of study had to match with the subject matter of the course students applied for.

In June selected students still need to confirm their participation. Students that do not are replaced by students that were put on waiting lists.

The final numbers of selected and participating students, as well as the number of student that have received certificates can be provided in the next interim report

Summary

1. Was it in time, according to planning (check work plan/ timeline above)?

Proceeding according to planning.

2. *Was it carried out completely or partly? If partly or not at all, please explain the discrepancy between expected and actual result.*

Completely and timely.

3. *If there were, which were the main problems and which solutions were proposed / would you propose?*

None.

4. *Recommendations:*

none

Organising PSU Pre-Training

More than previous years - because of the transfer of the project - the PSU pre-training is particularly important in three respects: Firstly, it provides opportunity to prepare organising staff for their tasks. Secondly, it services team building, and thirdly, it contributes to the sustainability of the project.

The training is divided in two separate programmes;

- One Week Training Programme in Amsterdam (Netherlands) for all core Summer University Staff of the UP;
- 2-day Training Programme in Kosovo for all core Summer University Co-ordination staff, co-teachers and logistics officers. This training will be discussed in more details during the next reporting period as it did not as of yet take place.

UP staff trained in Amsterdam

Between 14 and 18 March, Fidan Hamiti and Florian Qehaja, two newly hired staff by the University of Pristina for implementation of the PSU were trained at the ATA Amsterdam Offices. During their stay of one week, they were trained in general project management, implementation skills and the use of the online database. Moreover, concrete tasks were performed on the implementation of PSU activities together with the ATA Amsterdam project manager. A special training on the online summer university IT management system was held. Furthermore, the pre-training was an excellent possibility to jointly design a strategy for the regional promotion of the project and to prepare a concrete work plan regarding forthcoming activities.

Summary

1. *Was it in time, according to planning (check work plan/ timeline above)?*

Amsterdam training was implemented according to time planning.

2. *Was it carried out completely or partly? If partly or not at all, please explain the discrepancy between expected and actual result.*

Amsterdam Training Completely; Kosovo training still in preparation phase.

3. *If there were, which were the main problems and which solutions were proposed / would you propose?*

None

4. *Recommendations:*

None

Preparing welcome packets

Not applicable for this reporting period.

Certificates and ECTS

Not applicable for this reporting period

Section 4: Project and Management Performance

4A. Project Performance

1. Project performance according to Indicators of Progress as mentioned in the project proposal:

Number of programme brochures and posters (and Flyers) distributed

General information was distributed through general (electronic) mailings, including calls for Professors and Applicants. Detailed programme brochures in Albanian, as well as Flyers (in English and Albanian) and Posters (in English and Albanian) have been printed by the UP and fully distributed before and during the opening of the application procedure on April 18. The UP this year, for the first time, also printed Posters in Serbian language. English flyers and posters were distributed to all universities in the region during a regional promotion visit by UP Staff and through mailings by regular postal services. The UP undertook personal visits to Albania and Montenegro and coordinated the full promotion effort in Kosovo. ATA focussed on Bosnia, Serbia and Macedonia. Numerous local TV and radio stations reported on the project on the occasion of the opening of the application period. During the reporting period, both UP and ATA web-sites contained separate sections on the PSU including online application systems for students and professors was updated continuously, i.e. announcing new or filled course suggestions for potential visiting professors and announcing new courses and updated course information to students interested.

Application and selection of courses, professors and students

41 course suggestions were received from more than 10 faculties/ departments. For each suggested course, the dean of the respective faculty had determined a co-professor in consultation with his faculty staff. In the end, 16 courses were accepted into the programme. About 75 applications were received from potential visiting professors. In the end, 18 of them were selected by the deans and the International Relations Office of the UP (IRO/ UP).

2264 students applied to attend one of the PSU courses, of which 1274 from Kosovo as well as 680 from the wider SEE region. Directly after the closing of the application period on May 8, students were selected for the courses. The University of Pristina took responsibility for selection of the student selection in Kosovo (350). ATA pre-selected self-financing students (48) as well as scholarship students (116), after which these were reviewed and approved by the University of Pristina. In the end, final selection results were announced on May 23. Numbers of the selected students are higher than slots, as traditionally, rather high drop-out numbers can be expected.

The organisation of 6 forums and numerous recreational events was still ongoing as planned. For the Forums, six topics were determined by the University of Pristina.

Literature purchased and Readers compiled

During the project period, the University of Pristina started purchasing books and compiling readers (in consultation with the professors) for the courses. By the end of May practically all titles had been purchased through the Dukagjini bookstore in Pristina against the most favourable price. Professors responded generally positive to the suggestion to provide readers. Materials were collected in May in order to offer them for translation as of June.

PSU Committee installed

The PSU committee continued to function during the project period.

PSU office and help desk re-opened

The PSU Office was open throughout the period and located at the Law Faculty. On the 1st of January 2005, the University of Pristina took over full effective control. The PSU help desk for participants was opened simultaneously with the opening of the application procedure for UP students on 18 April. Deadline for applications was May 8.

UP staff trained in Amsterdam

Between 14 and 18 March, Fidan Hamiti and Florian Qehaja, two newly hired staff by the University of Pristina for implementation of the PSU were trained at the ATA Amsterdam Offices. During their stay of one week, they were trained in both general project management and implementation skills. A special training on the online summer university IT management system was held. Concrete tasks were performed on the implementation of the Pristina Summer University.

2. Project performance according to Outputs, as mentioned in the project proposal:

1. Summer University Courses

- 15, 3-weeks, ECTS courses provided by about 15 international and 15 local teaching staff;
- New teaching materials, reading materials and syllabi developed / purchased for courses. For each course about 25 textbooks are made available (to students, co-professors, sit-in professors and the department's library). In addition each course features a syllabus and course plan as well as teaching equipment.

During the project period, 75 applications were received from potential visiting professors. 41 course suggestions were received from more than 10 faculties/ departments. In the end, 16 courses were accepted into the programme. To these, 15 local co-professors and were matched with 18 international visiting professor. One vacancy for a local co-professor remained open. Most visiting professors came from the United States and Albania, three from the European Union. During the project period, the University of Pristina started purchasing books and compiling readers (in consultation with the professors) for the courses. By the end of May practically all titles had been purchased through the Dukagjini bookstore in Pristina against the most favourable price. Professors responded generally positive to the suggestion to provide readers. Materials were collected in May in order to offer them for translation as of June.

Directly after the closing of the application period on May 8 students selection started. The selection was announced on May 23 and consisted of Kosovo (350), self-financing students (48) as well as scholarship students (116). Numbers of the selected students are higher than slots, as traditionally, rather high drop-out numbers can be expected.

2. Public Forums

- 6 public forums organised on socio-political and economical problems in Kosovo and wider SEE

During the project period it was determined that twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 18.00 to 20.00, forums would be organized at the PSU with the aim of fostering interdepartmental discussions about current events and to stimulate discussion between visiting professors, local academic staff and students on issues raised at the PSU. In total 6 forums are planned to take place.

3. PSU Pre-Training;

- 2 days seminar in a hotel for 30 staff and professors;
- Relevant modules for co-professors on Bologna Action Lines, Modern Teaching Methodology provided by 3 international / regional instructors and ATA staff;

Planned for June.

- 1-week training/work visit for 2 local PSU staff to the Amsterdam ATA office.

Between 14 and 18 March, Fidan Hamiti and Florian Qehaja, two newly hired staff by the University of Pristina for implementation of the PSU were trained at the ATA Amsterdam Offices. During their stay of one week, they were trained in both general project management and implementation skills, and concrete tasks were performed on the implementation of the Pristina Summer University. A special training on the

online summer university IT management system was held. This training programme was organised by ATA Project Manager Steffie Verstappen, coached by ATA co-Director Michel Richter.

4. Recreational program organised;

- *Four weekend excursions, one opening dinner & party, one closing dinner & party, one course lunch for all courses and student evenings organised.*

Organisation of the recreational programme took place after the reporting period.

3. Other project performance indicators:

Changes in the humanitarian and security situation.

During the reporting period, no major changes occurred in the humanitarian and security situation.

Co-ordination with other relevant Projects, UN Agencies and/or NGOs.

Good relations with other organisations in the field of higher education were maintained during the preparation and organisation of the PSU 2005. Special good relations were forged with the International Red Cross, who appeared interested to provide a modest contribution to the PSU. Other good partners remained, the World University Service, the Kosovo Education Centre at the UP as well as the local representative of the Dutch Government have all been informed of and consulted about the project. Relations with UNMIK were scarce and only focused on the worrisome relations between MEST and the Rectorate (see further section on Management Performance). The Pro Credit bank kept work to sponsor the project with 40.000 Euro. MEST, despite the worsening relations with the UP insisted it would put up its promised 35.000 Euro in cash and accommodation and food for 300 UP and 75 scholarship students from SEE. The UP kept word on its 50.000 Euro contribution.

Project progress according to schedule.

The project is on schedule. All deadlines have been met.

Modification of target group.

Target group remains the same.

Achieving original aims, and reach intended target group.

All aims relevant to reporting period met.

Financial or substantive risks involved in completing the project.

At present, no other financial or substantive risks exist which could obstruct the completion of the project. However, the deteriorating relations between MEST and UP could eventually lead to freezing of the UP contribution by MEST (who controls the bank account of the former), or withdrawal of the earlier pledge by MEST to the project. This in turn, might lead to withdrawal of the Pro Credit Bank as donor to the project. However, throughout the reporting period, both MEST, UP and Pro Credit Bank kept consistently backing their earlier pledges and stated that the leadership crisis at the UP should not interfere with the implementation of the PSU.

4. Project performance in relation to risks and assumptions:

1. The English language level of many of the UP students and professors is insufficient

Although English proficiency is increasing amongst student and professors at the UP, still 8 courses were planned to be translated into Albanian. Five courses are planned as English only and 3 in Albanian only.

2. The political situation in Pristina/Kosovo remains relatively stable and non-violent

During the reporting period the situation in Kosovo was (relatively stable), especially compared to last year, when violent riots took place in March. The departure of former Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj

to the Hague on March 9 did cause some (limited) unrest, but not to levels endangering the implementation of the project.

3. Regional Inter-Ethnic Relations

Although regional inter ethnic relations remain strained, they did not worsen in the project period. As students from Serbia continued to apply, regional participation is to be expected. The only category which is rather impossible to reach at the moment is the Kosovo Serbian student population. This can also be attributed to the continued tenure of Rector Papovic and the fact that ATA has not (yet) established a credible presence in Mitrovica to win over confidence of that segment of the (student) population.

4B. Management Performance

Response to any changes in the humanitarian and security situation.

During the reporting period, no major changes occurred in the humanitarian and security situation. The departure of former Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj to the Hague on March 9 did cause some (limited) unrest, but not to levels endangering the implementation of the project.

Monitoring conducted by both the managing and implementing organisations.

This year, for the first time, main coordination and implementation of the PSU was handled by the University of Pristina. Regular meetings between the ATA local representative and the International Relations Office of the UP, assured maximum co-ordination and monitoring of progress. As the number of new UP project staff was involved in the implementation, ATA's role varied from assisting to co-implementation, e.g, on the development of the course programme.

In addition, through a subcontract ATA and the UP had agreed on regular financial and narrative reporting schemes that were conditional for forwarding instalments of maximum 15.000 Euro at once to the IRO office of the UP.

Co-ordination with the other parties involved in implementation of the project, and possible amendments of the previously agreed division of tasks and/or responsibilities.

Cooperation with the main organiser, the University of Pristina, was good during the project period. A clear shift in work-load between UP and ATA could be observed.

A clear division of tasks and responsibilities was laid down in a Memorandum of Understanding and a subcontract between ATA and the UP. No amendments in the division of tasks and/ or responsibilities occurred. Naturally, local ATA staff assisted local UP staff in fulfilling certain tasks. However, in the end, this proved to be a still too substantial time involvement. For an overview of the division of tasks, please see the MoU and/or subcontract.

ATA strives to transfer all tasks and responsibilities by the end of 2007. In 2005 the development of the courses was still very much a task performed by ATA. Next year local UP project staff will be involved in all parts of the project implementation, and will receive further training these particular tasks.

Furthermore, the conflict between MEST and the UP over the rector's elections of October 2004 (see last interim report PSU 2002-2004) created a complicated (political) environment for the PSU organisation as well as its transfer. The uncertainty of actual MEST funding, and consequently, co-funding by the NLMFA delayed several inception activities such as the contracting of new PSU staff by the IRO.

Moreover, the aim of avoiding the project to become associated with the UP leadership for as long as this dispute persists, conflicts with the aim of making the UP the owner of the project on all levels. This situation is expected not too last longer than a few months. However, if it would last into the second project cycle, i.e. the PSU 2006, it would seriously impede the process of transferring the project to the UP. Activities related to the transfer of the project now concentrate on implementing staff at the IRO and at the PSU Office, rather than on the management of the university.

Estimated and actual workload for the organisation

Workload was higher than estimated, especially for project management. Almost all project management days were used in the reporting period until May 31st. ATA expects to thus make a high number of 'pro bono' days in the forthcoming period, especially during the implementation of the PSU.

Section 5: Proposals for Financial or Substantive Changes to the Project

No substantial or financial changes were proposed during the reporting period.

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