

# FINAL REPORT

MAY 2009

## Pristina Summer University 2008



UNIVERSITETI I PRISHTINËS  
UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA

*Organised by the University of Pristina*

*SUPPORTED BY SPARK*

Activity Number	: 18112
Project Country	: Kosovo
Managing Organisation/ Contractor	: SPARK
Implementing Organisation	: University of Pristina
Grant allocated	: 95.316 Euro
Agreed Duration	: 01 May 2008 – 28 February 2009

---

### *Content*

1. Executive Summary and main recommendations.....	1
2. Performance on Project Results .....	3
3 Project and Management Performance .....	5
3A) Project performance in relation to risks and assumptions:.....	5
3B) Management Performance.....	5
4. Proposals for Financial or Substantive Changes to the Project.....	6

### **1. Executive Summary and main recommendations**

Between 2001 and 2007, SPARK and the University of Pristina (UP) implemented seven multi-ethnic summer universities. SPARK's role in the project at hand (2008) was limited to financial management, securing regional (mostly Serbian) participation, limited technical assistance and the external evaluation of the event. The grant helped to reduce involvement, whilst securing responsible handover.

This report concludes that significant headway has been made in terms of promoting regional inter-ethnic cooperation (especially also with the University of Mitrovica), but as the same time highlights various challenges, especially to hand over the remaining aspects of the programme (regional promotion) to the UP and making further headway in promoting cooperation with the Kosovo-Serbian academic community given the highly complex political environment after the UDI.

The report also concludes that a significant headway has been achieved with the financial sustainability of the programme as the University of Prishtina has increased its own financial contribution to the project dramatically. Impact of the project, in relation to the objectives can be seen inter alia (as related to the project objective and only new or intensified achievements relative to the last grant period):

#### 1. To stimulate SEE regional cooperation and development of regional professional networks:

- For the first time in the PSU edition of 2008 all students were placed together at the dormitories provided by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the University of Prishtina. In the previous editions students from Serbia and Montenegro were separated due to security reasons;
- Due to synergy created between the Summer Universities in Pristina and Mitrovica, interaction universities materialized. This has led an exchange programme between in Ohrid and a leadership training in Petrovac for the best local students. This has proven to be a good platform for students to interact with other students from other ethnicities and to follow-up on ideas;
- A spin-off youth NGO was created by students from different ethnicities. The first activity was co-financed by SPARK and Kosovo Foundation for Open Society and it was a street exhibition of national dishes from all over the region (incl. Serbia) which made national news.
- Scanning of Serbian student and staff documents continued during the project period.

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

- Bologna standards have been partially introduced at the University of Pristina. ECTS was first used in the Summer University and is now implemented throughout the faculties. Quality Assurance measures were first used at the summer university and are now being implemented throughout the faculties. Examples thereof are the student questionnaires used to measure the quality of each summer university course and the fact that for each course a syllabus is designed in which a learning plan and learning outcomes are defined.

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

- Various spin-off projects have resulted. Examples include cases of visiting professors (or their universities) offering PhD programmes to UP professors, donations of books and other materials, etc.

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

- During the project period 15 course modules of the University of Pristina were updated by the local and international visiting professor through the summer university, improvements that are integrated in the regular university curriculum.

#### **Main Recommendations (as taken from Annex 1 – External Evaluation Report)**

- Look into more structured ways of evaluating the outcomes of the PSU;
- Continue assistance with regard to regional (especially Serbian) promotion and fostering relations with the UM as well as with the use of ICT applications serving summer university project management and fundraising efforts;
- Kosovo Serbian participation remains an issue and was not attained;
- Implement more specific recommendations listed in this report, as well as those described in the external evaluation report and discussed with the University of Pristina last fall.
- The quality of the courses deserves additional attention, although it has gone up since 2007;
- Assure the local UP staff on this project remains stable.
- Fundraising (also through fees for participants) to assure a sustainable school is a point of concern, although the Ministry and University have indeed increased their local contribution substantively;
- Increase the interactivity and field work in the courses;
- Better coordination between some visiting and local professors is advised
- Basic security of the dormitories remains a serious concern
- 

For more recommendations, see Annex 1.

## 2. Performance on Project Results

The following table depicts the main output indicators of the PSU since its inception in 2001. This final report deals with the period 2005/2005/2007/2008 and below each result will be described by its indicator(s).

### Output Results 2001 - 2007

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Courses	30	30	32	33	15	15	15	15
Visiting professors	33	31	33	37	17	18	15	14
Co-professors	30	30	31	30	16	15	16	15
Average ECTS	n/a	6	4	4	4	4	4	5
Certificates	494	561	576	636	253	275	265	215
Applications	3231	3200	5858	4759	2264	2310	2212	1283
Participants	550	650	742	707	342	360	374	300
Faculties involved	5	10	14	14	12	14	10	8
Recreational events organized	11	10	13	14	14	14	16	14
Forums	6	4	6	7	6	5	5	6

As is shown above, basic output indicators remained stable after the handover of the project in 2004/2005 (taken into account a planned reduction in scale of the event of 50%). This excludes student applications, which were significantly down in 2008, though. This is partially due to the UDI, which led to more students withdrawing from participation out of security concerns. However, part of this is due to a drop in intensity of the promotional campaign of the PSU. Instead of the 25 students aimed for to participate on average in a course in the end 20 students participate and in the end 215 students graduated with ECTS credits. In the 2008's edition, 215 students graduated and a total of 1075 ECTS credits were given.

### **Result 1: Coordination Office Established**

### **Result 2: Summer courses organised;**

### **Result 3: Public forums organised;**

### **Result 4: PSU Pre-Training organised;**

### **Result 5: Recreational program organised;**

### **Result 6. PSU Capacity Building Programme**

#### Indicators:

- A PSU committee was formed and met 10 times, which is far more than the planned 6 times. They collected a total of 29 course suggestions, which was 4 more than anticipated in the proposal;
- The web application system was further tailored to the needs of the PSU by SPARK and local staff was trained in its use. The staff made working plans as part of the PSU Office;
- An external Evaluation was held (see Annex 1);
- 15, 3-weeks, ECTS courses provided by about 15 international and 15 local teaching staff as planned;
- New teaching materials, reading materials and syllabi developed / purchased for courses. For each course about 20 textbooks (instead of projected 25) were 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;
- 6 public forums (4-6 were projected) organised on socio-political and economical problems in Kosovo and wider SEE;
- 2 days seminar in a hotel for 30 staff and professors was held as planned. In the end the training was held in Vermcia (near Prizren). In total: 14 logistic officers, 5 PSU Staff, 3 IRO staff and University staff, 1 SPARK, 9 local professors, 1 vice-rector attended (total 34). Two trainings were organized simultaneously: a training for logistic officers and staff (organized by the PSU) and an additional training on Bologna and ECTS was organized by the office for academic matters at UP for professors;
- Opening and closing events were held as planned, plus one more event in the middle of the PSU;

- 1-week training/work visit for 2 local PSU staff to the Amsterdam SPARK office was not organised. Due to the late availability of a contract for the PSU, and the working pressure for the PSU office locally in the run-up to the school, the training did not take place. Instead SPARK local and international staff has coached the local PSU office on a case-by-case basis ICT and management related trainings were organized in the region for the PSU staff;
- Four weekend excursions, one opening dinner & party, one closing dinner & party, one course lunch for all courses and student evenings organised. All as planned.

One of the core two roles of SPARK was securing participation regional students to the event each year (especially Slavic populations, with a focus on Serbia and Montenegro), which materialized as follows:

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008
Albania	10	10	16	20
Bosnia	4	5	12	3
Bulgaria	12	5	0	0
Croatia	5	7	5	4
Macedonia	6	6	16	12
Montenegro	3	6	4	0
Romania	5	6	0	0
Serbia	4	16	14	14
Slovenia	2	0	0	0
	51	61	67	53

Respective to 2007, the number of regional students declined. This was due to two factors. On the one hand, the UDI caused increased worries amongst regional students regarding the local security situation. On the other hand, the intensity of the general promotion of the PSU was less than in 2007, thus also contributing to the drop. Nevertheless, Serbian participation which was most difficult to secure, remained high and stable despite the political changes in Kosovo such as the declaration of independence. Kosovo-Serbian participation did not materialize and should be a priority for PSU 2009 and beyond, as will be maintaining Serbian participation at present levels. An issue to still discuss and to put effort on for the PSU office and the University of Prishtina still remains the decreasing level of the regional students. PSU has organized a promotion visit to Montenegro and that resulted to three applications which were cancelled in the end.

A returning issue was the low quality of the university dormitories and mensae in terms of service, water, and food. The external evaluation report also draws attention to the continuing security (fire) risk.

1. *Was it in time, according to planning?* Generally Yes.

2. *Was it carried out completely or partly? If partly or not at all, please explain the discrepancy between expected and actual result.* The school was fully implemented although the promotion campaign led to less students applying than previous years and a staff building visit to Amsterdam for PSU staff did not materialise due to time pressure. Kosovo Serbian student participation remains a goal to attain.

3. *If there were, which were the main problems and which solutions were proposed / would you propose?:* Additional focus on regional student participation in 2009 is warranted, especially amongst Kosovo Serbian Students. A more stable fundraising strategy would make funds earlier available and for longer periods, thus improving the human resource situation in the PSU team and make earlier planning possible. Additional training on financial management can be organised to complete transfer of this responsibility. The social programme can be even better utilised to promote the integrative aspect of the school.

4. *Recommendation (as based on internal and external evaluations, main recommendations only):*

- Look into more structured ways of evaluating the outcomes of the PSU;
- Continue assistance with regard to regional (especially Serbian) promotion and fostering relations with the UM as well as with the use of ICT applications serving summer university project management and fundraising efforts;
- Kosovo Serbian participation remains an issue and was not attained. Strong promotion in especially enclaves is recommended;
- Implement more specific recommendations listed in the external evaluation report;
- The quality of the courses deserves additional attention, although it has gone up since 2007;

- Assure the local UP staff on this project remains stable;
- Fundraising (also through fees for participants) to assure a sustainable school is a point of concern, although the Ministry and University have indeed increased their local contribution substantively;
- Increase the interactivity and field work in the courses;
- Better coordination between some visiting and local professors is advised;
- Basic security and quality of service of the dormitories remains a serious concern.

### 3 Project and Management Performance

#### 3A) Project performance in relation to risks and assumptions:

The following risks were identified in the original proposal. Below an analyses how they turned out.

##### **A. The English language level of many of the UP students and professors is insufficient**

In 2008 all courses of the summer university were held in English only and caused no major problems, although it can be assumed that this has excluded participation of some students and professors. However, the UP is committed to continuing offering only English language courses since this is considered as a good way towards promoting the importance of learning English amongst students.

##### **B. Constructive regional relations will remain possible**

Regional ethnic relations were especially strained after the UDI and made promotion amongst Kosovo-Serbs especially difficult. However, promotion amongst Serbs from Serbia was successful and numbers were the same as last year (14). It can be expected that extra effort will be needed to recruit Serbian participants from Kosovo for the PSU 2009, though.

#### 3B) Management Performance

*Monitoring conducted by both the managing and implementing organisations.*

SPARK has moved into a coaching and monitoring role for general matters including ICT facilities (on demand), whilst still providing direct assistance in terms of regional (Slavic) promotion of the PSU and financial management. A comprehensive self and external evaluation of the summer schools was also conducted, assisted by SPARK. An issue raised in the prior reporting period (PSU 2007) was high turnover of staff. It seems this issue remains actual, although outside of control of SPARK. The University of Prishtina and the local partners have committed themselves to continuing with the Prishtina International Summer University on their own. Their large increase in own budget spending is a direct strong indicator thereof.

*Financial management and reporting*

On a financial management - level and regarding reporting of cash expenditures from SPARK and other donors (UP donation excluded), cooperation between SPARK and PSU staff went generally fine, although delays in proper financial report have occurred and led to a delay in the submission of this final report.

*Fundraising*

SPARK has introduced a number of non-NLMFA donors to the project, e.g. OSCE and ProCredit Bank. The University of Pristina has taken over this role and has increased both the own contribution and that of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology. Moreover various other donors were found, as demonstrated by the financial overview below.

#### Co-funding PSU 2008

	<i>Total</i>
	€
<i>Donor</i>	
University of Pristina	45,789
Ministry of Education Sc. &	(in kind: all

Tech.	dormitory and dorm food costs)
Pro Credit Bank	15,597
ICRC	3,500
OSCE	13,071
OSI / Students / Interest	1,029
	<u>78,986 +</u> <u>dormitory/food</u>

#### *ICT applications*

Over the years, SPARK has developed software specifically designed to run summer course events. Trainings have been organized for the PSU staff to explain the usage of the online based software and the communication between SPARK ICT staff and the PSU staff has always resulted to the solving of the problems. This software will be integrally transferred to the UP. Although the software is simple, often self-explanatory and integrated into the summer university organisation handbook or manual, some coaching or training might be still necessary in using it the most appropriate and effective way remains desirable.

#### *Estimated and actual workload for the organisation*

More tasks have been transferred from SPARK to the UP, following the division of tasks and responsibilities as laid out in the new MoU signed at the beginning of 2007. No unexpected increases in workload occurred over the reporting period although especially the recruitment of Slavic students and the negotiation between the UP and UM was highly time-consuming.

## **4. Proposals for Financial or Substantive Changes to the Project**

We would like to request the following reallocations:

#### Promotion budget

The total budget for Promotion was overspent with Euro 3.766. This was mainly caused by an advertisement in the Economist to recruit sufficient qualified professors. Since no 5-day training of UP staff took place in Amsterdam, we suggest to compensate this over expenditure with the left over amounts of Result 6: Capacity building Programme (Euro 3.150) & Result 1: Equipment & Furniture SPARK Kosovo (Euro 616).

#### Labour costs Project Officer SPARK

This budget line was overspent with Euro 1.154 due to more SPARK involvement during the actual Summer Courses as planned. We suggest to compensate this overexpenditure with the amount left over under the budget line Labour costs PSU Project Officers UP.

#### Daily fees SPARK Amsterdam management

A budget neutral shift of Euro 9.180 is requested between Project Management and IT. It turned out that much less PM involvement was necessary than planned (as also the on-site training in Amsterdam did not materialize), but more IT involvement due to the updating of the Student database and making it suitable for stand-alone handover. Another shift of Euro 1.571 from Head of Finance to Finance Officer is requested, due to the fact that the Head of Finance was on pregnancy leave from December 2008 until March 2009.