

Newsletter 1

(Dec. 2013 - Feb. 2014)



The project has been started

In October 2013 the European Commission announced the selection results of the 6th Call for Proposals under the European Union programme Tempus IV.

The joint European project "Strengthening of higher education in the sphere of Finance in Siberia and Far East of Russia" (543891-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-RU-TEMPUS-JPCR) won a consortium consisting of 5 Russian and 5 European universities.

1. National Research Tomsk State University (RU)
2. Baikal State University of Economics and Law (RU)
3. University of Applied Sciences bfi Vienna (EU)
4. Umea University (EU)
5. Khabarovsk State Academy of Economics and Law (RU)
6. University of Maribor (EU)
7. Technical University of Kosice (EU)
8. Zabaikal State University (RU)
9. East Siberia State University of Technology and Management (RU)
10. University of Coimbra (EU)

The wider objective of the Project is to modernize higher education in Finance on Master-level in the remote Russian regions Siberia and the Far East

Highlights

- The project has been started
- The online conference of Coordination Council of the Project
- The 1st Coordination Meeting in Tomsk
- The project web-site has been launched





The online conference of Coordination Council

The on-line conference of the Coordination Council of the project with participation of the consortium university-members was organized on the 17th of December, 2013 at 5 p.m. (Tomsk time).

The participants discussed the first steps of the Project, such as:

- Guidelines for review of course contents in Russian HEIs and need for their reform
- Ways of labour market needs and expectations analysis
- Structure of project's web-site
- Candidates for external advisory board
- Organization matters for February meeting in Tomsk

The 1st Coordination Meeting in Tomsk

The 1st coordination meeting of the TEMPUS IV EduSFE project consortium was held in Tomsk in February 24-28, 2014.

The representatives of European and Russian universities discussed the first stage of project implementation, considered the issues related to project management and reporting procedures, argued the process of work organization intended to transform the master's degree programs and adjust the curricula.

Representatives of TSU instructed other participants about the rules of using of funding, financial reporting, tendering procedures.

The arrangements for next meeting in Kosice were made. The meeting was set for 16-18 of June 2014.

The dates of teachers trainings were set for March 2015 in Vienna (2 weeks), August 2015 in Maribor (2 weeks), August 2016 in Tomsk (1 week).

Members of The Internal Quality Control Panel (QCP) and The External Advisory Board (EAB) were selected and agreed



The project web-site has been launched

The web-site contains the general information about the Project, its objectives, participants, outcomes. The main content of every WorkPackage is described. The latest news and on-going activities and photo gallery are also put into this site.

Link:

<http://edusfe.isea.ru>



The Workpackage 1 has been done

The review of current master programmes in Finance at the participating Russian HEI's was finished in May 2014.

During this WP the analysis of curricula, teaching methods and course contents has been done at all five Russian HEI's. This Workpackage include three deliverables:

1. Review of status quo and the need for reform of master curricula
2. In-depth review of courses contents and the need for their reform
3. Analysis of the labour market needs and expectations

Three reports have been prepared in line with these deliverables.

The report on Deliverable 1.1 contains a detailed review of status quo of current curricula and the envisaged reforms on the structural level in line with Bologna process.

The report on Deliverable 1.2 describes need for reform of course contents with respect to up-to-dateness, relevance and methodology.

The report on Deliverable 1.3 summarizes findings of interview with a sample of regional companies which employ experts in finance. Russian HEI's surveyed the needs of employers in Siberia and the Far East in order to align the study programmes to labour market needs and increase the employability of students.

The project leaflet has been designed

The project leaflet contains the general information about the Project, its objectives, participants, outcomes. The electronic version of the leaflet is available on project web-site in Results section.

This leaflet will be distributed through dissemination workshops, meetings and other activities to promote information about the project among the wider audience.



Workshop in Kosice on WP2

On June 16-18, 2014 was held the workshop in Košice, Slovakia.

Objectives of the Workshop:

- to contribute to master curricula in Finance in line with the Bologna requirements modernization;
- to contribute to bilateral agreements on double degrees (DD) between Russian and EU HEIs preparation

There are some topics of workshop:

- The terminology for the purpose of ECTS Users' guide explanation;
- ECTS key features;
- Quality assurance and ECTS;
- Implementing ECTS in higher education institutions;
- ECTS key documents
- Double diploma provision –basic facts

The further steps for WP2 were agreed:

- Specific advice regarding the Bologna process will be provided by EU HEIs;
- Modernised master curricula and DD agreements are planned to be finalized;
- Quality control of the related deliverables will be undertaken by the "Quality Control Panel" of the project.



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The 2nd Coordination Meeting in Vienna

On 24 and 25 November 2014 a project consortium meeting was held at the University of Applied Sciences bfi Vienna in Austria. Representatives of all ten partner institutions from the EU and Russia took part to assess the results of the first project year and define a concrete work plan for the coming project year.

The main questions of the meeting:

- Report about the monitoring visit of the EACEA at TSU and responses from the consortium;
- Short reports on finalization of WP1;
- Report on results of WP2;
- Work plan and further steps for WP3 and WP4;
- Each partner gave short report on every WP.

