

REPORT ON THE MEETING WITH SCSU AND ESN NIŠ REPRESENTATIVES

9th September, 2015

General data:

A meeting of the UNI FUSE team and a UNI Vice-Rector with Student Conference of Serbian Universities (SCSU) and Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Serbia representatives from Niš, was held at the Rectorate of the University of Niš, on 9 September, 2015.

The meeting was held within WP1 - *Developing administrative and legal conditions for improved university support services and procedures*, DEV WP2 - *Fostering various support services (academic mobility support, IT support, marketing and information activities)*, DEV WP3 - *Capacity building of the teaching and non-teaching staff for better participation in EHEA*, and DEV WP5 – *Dissemination*.

Objectives:

- 1) Discussing the ways the SCSU will help carrying out various project activities (especially those in WP1, WP2, WP3 and WP5) in the forthcoming period;
- 2) Discussing the ways the SCSU, as a project partner, and ESN Serbia (Niš), as an extra-consortium institution, can collaborate within the project activity that overlaps with the activity of the ESN Serbia (Niš), namely establishing and running buddy network systems (BNSs).

Participants:

On behalf of the University of Niš

Prof. Vesna Lopičić, Vice-Rector for International Cooperation

On behalf of the UNI FUSE Team:

Prof. Biljana Mišić Ilić, the FUSE TEMPUS Project Coordinator

Dr. Vladan Pavlović, WP5 leader

On behalf of the SCSU:

Mr. Petar Debelnogić, Secretary of SCSU

Mr. Milan Videnović, SCSU Contact Person in the FUSE project

On behalf of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Serbia - Niš:

Mr. Damjan Stefanović, UNI student and president of ESN Serbia - Niš

Outcomes:

- 1) Regarding WP1 - *Developing administrative and legal conditions for improved university support services and procedures*, the SCSU representatives have made a recommendation that the students who will be actively involved in the BNSs (to be created at academic institutions) should be legally entitled to extra ECTSs; in that sense, they have agreed to inform the MESTD about this idea, so that MESTD, if it deems this idea appropriate, can take appropriate steps in incorporating this provision in the relevant national legal document(s); in addition, they have also undertaken the task of participating in defining what the basic elements of institutional support for foreign students should be and of helping those elements to also become legally sanctioned (preferably at the national, but also at institutional levels);
- 2) Regarding WP2 - *Fostering various support services (academic mobility support, IT support, marketing and information activities)*, the SCSU representatives have agreed to make a Guide for Foreign Students Coming to the University of Niš, on the basis of similar guides obtained from EU partners and examples of good practice from Serbia, which, in turn, can serve as a basis for creating similar guides at other RS HEIs;
- 3) Regarding WP3 - *Capacity building of the teaching and non-teaching staff for better participation in EHEA*, the SCSU representatives have agreed to establish a pilot BNS for in-coming foreign students at UNI, on the basis of which similar BNSs can be established (upgraded) at other Serbian HEIs; this activity is also closely related to those in WP1, as it presupposes establishment of the relevant legal procedures at the institution level as the basis on which BNS(s) can be created and run in a sustainable way;
- 4) Regarding WP5 – *Dissemination*, the SCSU representatives have presented the ways how they plan to increase the visibility of the participation of the SCSU in the FUSE project (e.g. opening a Facebook page related to the SCSU activities in FUSE within the already existing SCSU FB presentation; informing their members about the SCSU’s participation in the project during their meetings);
- 5) Regarding the overlap of the role of the SCSU in the project, on the one hand, and the activities of the ESN Serbia - Niš, on the other hand (especially the one regarding BNSs), it was agreed that the SCSU and the ESN Serbia representatives would continue their work on preventing problems that might arise from this overlap in a coordinated way and in good faith, so that the overlap can eventually be legally sanctioned (at the institutional level) in such a way that it benefits all the interested parties – the in-coming foreign students, the host students (be they members of the ESN Serbia - Niš or not), and the host RS HEIs.