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Montenegrin Higher Education System – Challenges for the future cooperation with German HEIs

**DAAD Erasmus+ Contact seminar: “EU-Higher Education
Cooperation between Germany and Western Balkan
region”**

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Outline of presentation

- *Main features of Montenegrin HEIs*
- *Major reforms in HE field performed/ongoing*
- *So far cooperation with German HEIs*
- *Areas for potential cooperation*
- *Challenges*



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Main features of Montenegrin HEIs

New Law on Higher Education adopted in October 2014

Autonomy of HEIs

Council of Higher Education

Higher Education Institutions

Quality assurance

Management of the public HEIs

New system of funding HEIs

Academic staff

Organization of studies



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Higher Education Structure

		DOCTORAL STUDIES 3 YEARS - 180 ECTS		8. YEAR		
				7. YEAR		
				6. YEAR		
(4+1) OR (3+2) MINIMUM 300 ECTS	MASTER STUDY 1 YEAR - 60 ECTS	SPECIALIST/MASTER STUDY 1/2 YEAR- 60/120 ECTS		5. YEAR	SPECIALIST/MASTER 1/2 YEAR - 60/120 ECTS	
	UNDERGRADUATE STUDY 4 YEARS - 240 ECTS			4. YEAR		
		UNDERGRADUATE STUDY 3 YEARS - 180 ECTS		3. YEAR	UNDERGRADUATE STUDY 3 YEARS - 180 ECTS	
				2. YEAR		
			1. YEAR			
ACADEMIC STUDY					APPLIED STUDY	



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HEIs in Montenegro

University of Montenegro – public university

University Mediteran – private university, as of 2006

University Donja Gorica – private university, as of 2010

Fields covered: economics, law, political sciences, tourism, languages, engineering studies, natural sciences, biotechnology, humanities, academies, tourism, maritime studies, medicine, pharmacy, architecture, ...



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Autonomy of HEIs

Institutions are autonomous in performing their activities in accordance with the Law on Higher Education

Autonomy reflects in the following: employ academic and other staff, define its internal organization, in accordance with the Law and statute, conclude contracts with other institutions in Montenegro, conclude contracts also with institutions at international level etc.



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Funding of Higher Education in Montenegro

State Budget

Tuition fees

Donations, international projects ...



Quality assurance

(Re)accreditation of an institution, or a study programme performed by a foreign accreditation organization authorized to determine validity and quality of study programmes and harmonization with the professional needs of the country.

Decision on engagement of a foreign accreditation organization is made by the Ministry, upon previous opinion of the Council of Higher Education.

Self-evaluation report prepared by HEI

Council of Higher Education issues certificate on the reaccreditation for the period of maximum five years;

In accordance with the self-evaluation report and performed evaluation process, report on reaccreditation has been prepared.

The report submitted to the HEIs conducting self-evaluation, to the Ministry and Council of HE.

In accordance with the report of foreign accreditation agency on reaccreditation of HEI



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Quality assurance

Restructuring of the Council of Higher Education

Enlarged responsibilities:

the procedure of determining norms for issuance, changes and divesting of a license;

the procedure for determining norms for higher education financing;

criteria for assessment of study programmes taking into account their compatibility with the professional needs and international comparability;

periodical controls of quality of licensed institutions and issue a certificate on reaccreditation;

other activities prescribed by this Law and enactment on establishment of a Council.



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Participation of HEIs in EU programmes

TEMPUS programme

Administrative capacities at HEIs considerably improved

Improvement of teaching methodologies

Modernization of equipment

Improvement of cooperation between HEIs from Montenegro and WB region, and HEIs from EU member states

Closer cooperation achieved at local level between HEIs, and increased participation of non-academic partners

Involvement of employers in the creation of curricula in accordance with the labour market needs

Increased participation of students and students organizations

Better preparedness of academic community for the next phase of participation in Erasmus + programme



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Ongoing reforms in HE

Analysis of situation in the area of the recognition of foreign educational credentials HERIC project – External evaluation of all higher education institutions

A feasibility study for establishing the system of career monitoring of university graduates (Tracer Study)

Fostering links between HE and the labour market through the Governmental programme on professional development

Center of doctoral studies reform



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Cooperation with German HEIs

Areas of cooperation through current and previous Tempus projects

- students with disabilities (UoM)

- Library services (UoM)

- energy efficiency (Faculty of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Biotechnology, Faculty of Architecture UoM)

- students entrepreneurship (University Donja Gorica)

- sustainable agriculture (Faculty of Biotechnology UoM)

- knowledge transfer, research and innovation (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering)

nanotechnologies and Advanced Materials (Faculty of Maritime)

- graduate surveys and alumni services (UoM)

- human rights (Faculty of Political Science UoM, University Donja Gorica)

mechatronic studies (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering UoM)

**Slight decrease of German partners in projects involving HEIs from Montenegro*



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Cooperation with German HEIs

Cooperation through Erasmus Mundus projects:

- University of Heidelberg*
- Humboldt university*
- University in Berlin*

Signed bilateral agreements with the University of Heidelberg and Saarland university



Priorities – Categories/Themes for CBHE

Themes Categories	Curriculum Development	Governance and Management	Higher Education and Society
A. Subject Areas	X		
B. Improving quality of education and training	X	X	X
C. Improving Management and operation of HEIs		X	X
D. Developing the HE sector within society at large		X	X



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National priorities for Joint and Structural Projects Erasmus+ KA2 - Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) Actions

Category	National priorities- Montenegro
A	<i>Teacher training and education science; Law; Life sciences; Mathematics and statistics; Computing; Engineering and engineering trades; Agriculture, forestry and fishery; Health; Personal services; Others (Multidisciplinary, Interdisciplinary)</i>
B	<i>- Learning and teaching tools, methodologies and pedagogical approaches including learning outcomes and ICT-based practices (inter alia, flexible learning paths, blended courses, virtual and real mobility, practical placements etc.) - Multidisciplinarity/Interdisciplinarity</i>
C	<i>- Governance, strategic planning and management of higher education institutions (including human resources and financial management) - University services such as support services for student and staff mobility, such as student counselling and guidance, social services, academic affairs, libraries, etc.; - Internationalisation of higher education institutions (including recognition mechanisms and mobility, international relations capacities) - Quality assurance processes and mechanisms;</i>
D	<i>- Lifelong learning, continuing education -University-enterprise cooperation, employability of graduates</i>



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Challenges for future cooperation with German HEIs

- Sustainability of funding (adequate model of financing)

Improvement of capacity of Council of Higher Education

- Further improvement of quality assurance system; increased students` and academic mobility (internationalisation); improvement of accommodation infrastructure; university facilities` infrastructure; innovation of curricula; provide adequate student support services, counseling and guidance, flexible learning paths and alternative access routes, including recognition of prior learning, development of learning outcomes;

- Reinforcement of Center for Doctoral Studies in Montenegro

- Work to enhance employability, lifelong learning through improved cooperation with employers, especially in the development of educational programmes;

Development of research capacities;

Development of joint programme



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Potential Areas of cooperation ?

Curricula reforms

Economics, Law, Sports and Physical Education, Biotechnology, Tourism, Arts, Languages - Interpreting...

Structural reforms

Doctoral studies, Framework for development of joint programmes, Students roles and responsibilities in Bologna process, Students services improvement...



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What to take into account when planning projects

Do not forget to consult national strategic documents

Pay attention to national and regional priorities

Consult so far implemented projects

Prevent overlapping

Add innovative elements to your projects



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Thank you for your attention