

Monitoring visit of Ms Eva Obermueller and Mr Peter Gabko from Technical University of Wien, contractors in the project EQIBELT to University of Dubrovnik, 14th and 15th November, 2007

REPORT

Within the EQIBELT project, Mr Peter Gabko, member of the project consortium, and Ms Eva Obermueller, expert in e-learning, both from the Technical University of Wien being the contractor in the project, paid a visit to the University of Dubrovnik on 14th and 15th November, 2007. They were hosted by the representative of the University of Dubrovnik in the EQIBELT project consortium, Mrs Lucijana Leoni, who organized the working visit and meetings with members of the workgroup from the University of Dubrovnik for the EQIBELT project.

On the first day of the visit the colleagues from Wien were informed about the activities of the University of Dubrovnik, in particular the activities of the Centre for Electronic Support and the Language Centre at the University of Dubrovnik.

During their meeting with members of the new workgroup a presentation on the progress of the project was made, and a proposal for equipping one classroom with ICT equipment required for implementation of e-learning at the University, purchased from the project funds, was put forward. Furthermore, a plan on starting a pilot project within EQIBELT was set forth, relating to "Development of E-course: E-learning and Technologies in Foreign Languages". Teachers from the Language Centre of the University of Dubrovnik are going to participate in the pilot project, and a course within this pilot project is going to be developed and supported by experts from the Department for Information Sciences at the Faculty of Philosophy University of Zagreb under leadership of Doc. Sanja Seljan PhD.

Mr Peter Gabko expressed his approval of the proposed pilot project taking into consideration that interuniversity co-operation between Croatian universities would be established, the same being one of the goals of the project.

Discussion at the working meeting included several issues referring to administrative and financial reports and documents that the University of Dubrovnik should elaborate and issue within the EQIBELT project. A proposal was made to elaborate and accept the document containing mission and vision of e-learning at the University of Dubrovnik by January 2008. Upon acceptance of such document development of the strategy setting forth concrete steps for introduction of e-learning at the University of Dubrovnik within the next couple of years would follow. Ms Eva Obermueller offered her professional help and support in reaching these goals.

On the second day of the visit a meeting with Rector's Office staff was arranged. The Rector, Prof. Mateo Milković PhD greeted the colleagues from the Technical University of Wien, thanked them on their visit and gave a brief presentation of the University of Dubrovnik with particular emphasis on the goal of the University to conduct its activities in an international milieu, and in accordance with the Bologna Declaration to support all forms of educational processes that will help obtain the students' and the teachers' mobility, and consequently e-learning as well.

During the visit to the Rector's Office, a meeting with the Chief Secretary of the University Mr Dalibor Ivušić was arranged, with participation, besides the colleagues from Wien and Mrs Lucijana Leoni, of Ms Darija Vučijević, Head of the Office for Post-graduate Studies, Ms Sanja Živković, expert associate in the Human Resources Office, and system engineers Mr Tihi Bilas, Mr Karlo Tutek and Mr Gordan Nagy. During the course of the meeting possibilities were mentioned that e-learning offers in organization of lifelong education and consequently in connecting the University of Dubrovnik with regional economy and future employers.

Future development of the project was discussed, especially pertaining to introduction of a unique and advanced information system that would help upgrade the teaching activities at the University of Dubrovnik and provide for introduction of e-learning through implementation of an adequate LMS (Learning Management System). Among other issues, it was pointed out that introduction of FER E-Campus would be of great importance since it would enable a higher quality data management, a simple and safe access to all resources required for successful performance of higher education teaching process, and it would also be a valuable help in having the teachers and the students accept e-learning through a uniform access to various existing LMS tools.

Following conclusions were brought:

1. The University of Dubrovnik undertakes for the purpose of implementation of e-learning and installation of LMS system to obtain all necessary ICT equipment (servers) according to specifications so as to enable future implementation of [an integrated programme solution](#), i.e. FER E-Campus system.
2. Negotiations concerning implementation of the FER E-Campus system shall be reactivated with the representative of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing and leader of the E-Campus project, Mr Kristijan Zimmer. Value of the FER E-Campus system has been proven by various references given to the FER project team in the previous year: a contract was signed between Estonian IT Foundation in charge of implementing informatization of the Estonian state institutions and educational system on one side and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing University of Zagreb on the other side, whereby the FER's integrated software solution "E-

Campus" was chosen as the e-learning platform for the Estonian institutions of higher learning as well as schools. In addition FER E-Campus received a special reward "Vidi e-novation 2006" in the category of academic institutions and non-profit associations. Furthermore, two of its projects have recently been presented at a leading global conference on e-learning: Online Educa in Berlin.

3. In order to establish the e-learning support centre at the University of Dubrovnik during the course of the project Mr Ivan Sušac will be engaged, web administrator from the Centre for Electronic Support of the University of Dubrovnik; due consideration will be given to employment of a person that will be engaged in the Support Centre, for which reason Mr Ivan Sušac could participate in educational workshops to be organized within the project during the year 2008 at the University of Zagreb, as well as at two or three more European partner universities in the project (one of those will definitely be the Technical University of Wien).
4. Within the pilot project co-operation with the Department for Information Sciences at the Faculty of Philosophy University of Zagreb shall be initiated.

Ms Eva Obermueller and Mr Peter Gabko concluded their visit by visiting the area of the future campus of the University of Dubrovnik and expressed their wishes for a soon completion of the same, to be used to satisfaction and by the students and the University staff, but also by all the partners from Europe and worldwide that already are or will be participating within the international programmes that are taking place at the University of Dubrovnik but also those that are being planned in future.

Having thanked for the hospitality, Ms Eva Obermueller and Mr Peter Gabko expressed their readiness to participate not only in this project but also in any future projects between the two universities, the Technical University of Wien and the University of Dubrovnik.

The report has been made by Lucijana Leoni