



Monitoring visit #1 to Moldova

April 2013

Monitoring team: *Victoria Reinhardt (UL), Lukas Bischof (CHE Consult)*

Visited Partners: *State University of Moldova (SUM), State University „Alecu Russo“, Balti (USB), State University Cahul (SUC), Technical University of Moldova (TUM), State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (SUMPh), Tiraspol State University (TSU), Ministry of Education of Moldova (MEM), student representatives of all Consortium’s universities*

Additional activity: *financial workshop*

The monitoring visit revealed a high satisfaction of partners with the project. All the foreseen activities have been implemented, people are highly motivated, the political situation seems to be favorable to the implementation of the project. Consequently also the expectations towards the Consortium are increasing.

The Ministry of Education has recently developed an organic law on the establishment of an Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Moldova and has asked us to render an expert opinion on it. The plan of the Ministry is to have this law adopted by the end of 2013 at latest and to start to develop the necessary basis for the activity of the agency.

The project’s management is considering the possibility to organize the expertise through the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders, which has comparable approaches with the ones in Moldova (system oriented, small country and rich experience in its work with HEI), is very much involved in policy discussions and has all the documentation in English. In the meantime the training in Moldova will offer the possibility to collect and discuss opinions from all the members of the consortium (for instance from AQAS) not only on the legal framework for the functioning of the agency, but also on the ways we can/should contribute within our project to the activity of the agency (pool of experts, pool of students representatives, documentation, experience through the accreditation of the three selected study programmes, etc.). The Ministry is very much willing to further develop the guidelines for QA within our project and to take them as basis for its future activity. This links in our project the national level with the institutional one, at which the internal evaluation should be conducted on the basis of the new guidelines for QA.

Also at the level of universities the main expectations are related to accreditation of the selected study programmes. Due to the lack of a national body for accreditation for such a long time many universities are under an enormous time pressure (graduates from study programmes that are not accredited cannot work outside the country as their diplomas cannot be recognized, students that cannot follow their mobility tracks because their credits are not accepted by other universities, etc.). Some universities are about to organize the accreditation of their strategically important study programmes outside the country (in most cases by the Romanian Accreditation Agency) and are very much interested, that the future national agency for QA and Accreditation will recognize the respective accreditation certificates. The same applies in fact also to the accreditation certificates within our project. In this respect there is a clear need for the development of common standards between the Ministry of Education of Moldova and our Consortium on the one hand. On the other hand this is an example for the obviously necessary amendments to the organic law developed by the Ministry, which does not stipulate anything with regard to the recognition of the accreditation certificates issued other accreditation agencies (such as the Romania one)



